

Saturday At Depot Center

## Citizens Urged To Attend Meet



The Kings Mountain Depot Center

Photos By Tom McIntyre

The Ole' Timey Town Meeting is drawing near.

This Saturday from 9 a. m. until 4 p. m. citizens of Kings Mountain are invited to join together for some "old fashioned fellowship", according to committee chairman Norman King.

"This outing should be a lot of fun for our citizens," King said. "There will be band music and workshops where our people can learn what the future has in store for them and their city."

King said that Kings Mountain merchants have also gotten into the spirit of the town meeting by making items available to be awarded as door prizes during the day-long event.

"We will have places for citizens to register, then later they must be on hand when the stubs are drawn in order to win," King said.

Rev. Kenneth George, who was named manager of the Kings Mountain Depot Center during Monday night's board meeting, said there will be a kiddie party beginning at 3 p. m. at the caboose meeting places in front of the depot.

Refreshments will be served and entertainment provided for the youngsters.

"We are urging citizens to pack picnic lunches and stay with us right through the day," King said. "The city will provide beverages at the lunch break."

At 11:15 a. m., Mayor John H. Moss said the ceremony will begin to dedicate the Kings Mountain Depot Center to the citizens of Kings Mountain.

State, County and local officials have been invited to participate in the program.

The Depot Center, which was leased by the city from Southern Railroad, has undergone complete renovation inside and out during the past year. Offices have been constructed to house the city's aging program, under the direction of Rev. George, the Kings Mountain Development Office, a health center facility, and the proposed Kings Mountain Natural and Historical Museum.

The center also has kitchen facilities and a large meeting area, which includes two levels of floor space and a large chimney for open log fires.

The Chimney was constructed of eight tons of native stone, 8,000 bricks and three yards of concrete by Bill McMurray of Kings Mountain.

Mayor Moss said that during the past year city crews as well as volunteer groups have put the finishing touches on the depot center.

## Bickley Going To Scotland

Brian Bickley is scheduled to be flown to Scotland to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh for treatment by Dr. Hugh Miller.

Dr. Miller, according to a Charlotte Observer story by Kays Gray this week, has had success with an experimental drug for heart patients. The drug is unavailable in America because it has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. Donald Hall, cardiologist, and Nurse Jeannette Branch are scheduled to accompany Bickley to Edinburgh. Dr. Hall said he would pay for his and the nurse's trip and make arrangements for recompensation for expenses later.

Dr. Hall hopes the drug will forestall cardiac arrest and correct the dysrhythm of Bickley's heart.

Bickley, 41, has spent the last six months attached to a heart monitor in the Dickson Heart Unit at Charlotte Memorial Hospital. He suffered his first heart attack in November 1976 and was confined at Kings Mountain Hospital. Since that time he has spent a total of five weeks out of hospitals and has suffered countless cardiac arrests.

Several weeks The Mirror-Herald published the story of the hardships the Bickley family has suffered since Bickley was confined to hospital care. Mrs. Marilyn Neisler made arrangements for First Union National Bank to set up a special account for donations in Bickley's name to pay on the mountain of medical debts.

Last weekend the Kings Mountain Country Club held the Brian Bickley Benefit Golf Tournament in which \$3,800 was raised for Bickley.

Polly Pfifer, who handles the FUNBank special account, reported Wednesday that the account now has a total of \$9,113 including the golf benefit receipts.

Still, this amount will not make a dent in the debts facing the Bickley's, so the account will remain open to all citizens. And all donations to the account are tax deductible.

While Bickley is in Scotland for treatment, his wife, Pauline, and their three sons will remain in Kings Mountain - waiting for his return.

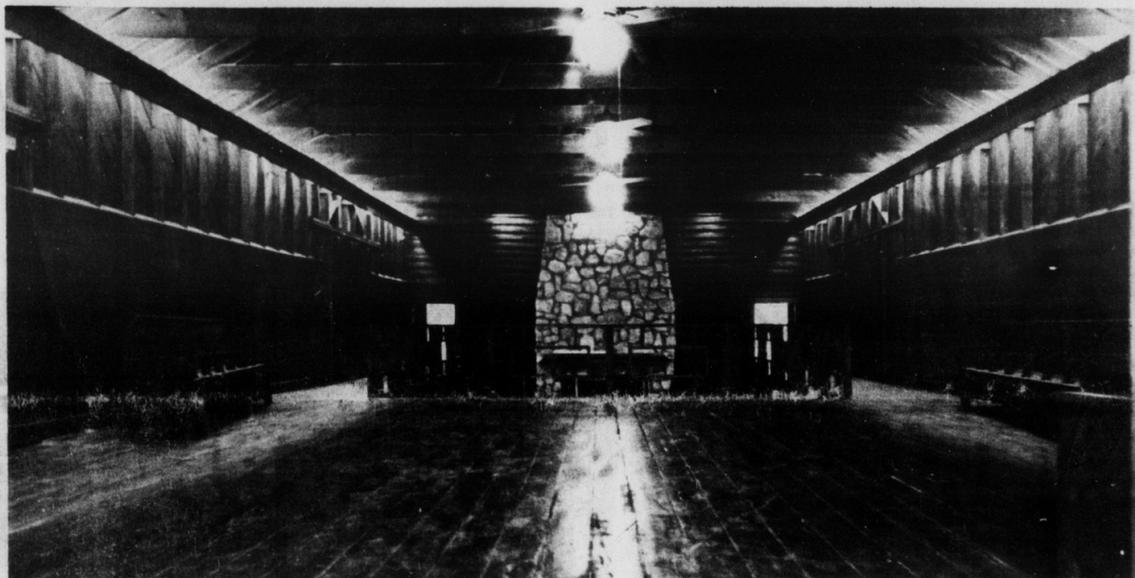
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To Mirror-Herald, Brian, Pauline, Lee, Guy and Brian Charles deeply appreciate your help in our hour of need.

Also we would like to thank everyone who has given generously to the Brian Bickley Fund at First Union National Bank.

We will remember each and everyone of you in our prayers.

THE BICKLEYS  
Kings Mountain



Depot Center Meeting Room (former Baggage Area)

## Pay, Classification Plan Set

Monday night the city commissioners adopted a pay and classification plan for city employees submitted by the personnel committee.

Chairman Humes Houston said the plan is designed to run for six years. At that time a merit pay program will be established.

"Broken down simply," Houston said, "the pay and classification plan will offer city employees a five percent increase each year for the next six years. However, based on productivity, the employees can earn their increases in small increments on a monthly basis instead of waiting for the entire increase at the end of the year."

There are now 32 salary grades set up for city employees. The lowest base salary is \$4,784 and the highest is \$22,500.

Houston said, "No one is penalized by being placed into one classification or the other. The whole plan is

set up as an incentive program for our employees.

"Each employee will know exactly what his earning potential is and how much he must produce in order to earn his pay," Houston said.

The chairman said the city has already established a personnel policy and an affirmative action plan and this latest program is a continuance of a plan that is both beneficial to the city and to the employees.

In other action Monday night the commissioners held a second public hearing on the proposed 1977-78 city budget.

The \$6,368,748.15 budget will go through a third and final reading and will be adopted on June 27, according to Mayor John H. Moss.

Commissioners also held a public hearing on the proposed \$130,000 revenue sharing proposed use plan for 1977-78. This covers the expendi-

tures by departments for equipment during the next fiscal year.

Commissioners concluded a third public hearing Monday in which there were no comments for or against a rezoning request from Franklin Brackett.

Brackett had requested rezoning of 1012 N. Piedmont Ave. which is adjacent to his residence property, from R8 to GB for the establishment of a used car lot.

Al Moretz, secretary of the zoning and planning board, told the board the Z&P Board had denied the request in a meeting on May 19. However, following a comment from Commissioner Norman King, who resides near Brackett, that he had no objection to this rezoning change, the board approved Brackett's request. The property is now rezoned to allow for Brackett's used car lot.

Commissioners approved submitting an application for \$20,418.11 to the N. C. State Economic Opportunities Office, Raleigh, to set up a two-phase summer recreation program at the Deal and Davidson pools.

Bill Grissom, chairman of the recreation committee, said the program grant would allow for hiring a director to handle the June 28-August 29 program.

Under the plan youngsters would be taught swimming, tennis, archery and other outdoor sports activities during the half day schedules.

Commissioners adopted the 1977-78 privilege license fee rate schedule as the same schedule now existing under the city codes without any increase.

The fee schedule is covered under chapter 15 and is found on pages 598-626 in the code of ordinances.

## Young Family Burned Out, Need Assistance

While the Robert Parkers were buying groceries last Thursday fire destroyed their mobile home and all of their possessions.

The Parkers are now residing with Robert's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Parker on Second St.

Friends of the Parkers, Otha and Betty Campbell, have begun a project to help the Parkers replace some of the lost items by asking their fellow Kings Mountians for donations.

"The Parkers need furniture items and clothing," Mrs. Campbell said. "Most of all they need a house or an apartment to rent."

Robert, 30, is employed at Coca Cola Bottling Co. in Gastonia. Deborah, 25, is employed at Hamrick's Sewing Plant in Kings Mountain. The Parkers have a three-year old daughter, Stacy.

"Anyone who might have a house or an apartment for rent can contact the Parkers by calling my number," Mrs. Campbell said. "Anyone who has furniture items, and clothing they wish to donate to the Parkers may also call my number and we will make arrangements to pick up the items.

The Campbell number is 739-8913.

## City Adopts Housing Plan

A housing plan for the City of Kings Mountain was presented and adopted at Monday night's board of commissioners meeting.

Presented by David S. Long, community planner with the N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources, the plan will also be used in making application for Community Development Funds for 1977-78.

Long said the plan "makes no new municipal policy, but gives the board and the Department of Housing and Urban Development a clear picture of where the city is going in planning housing for citizens."

Under housing goals, according to the accepted plan, the city will seek:

- To provide a safe, decent, pleasant and adequately sized dwelling for each citizen of Kings Mountain.

- To encourage the development of housing units and residential neighborhoods which will smoothly function as components of the total urban community;

- To diversify the city's housing stock so that various income, ethnic, age groups, etc. are not excessively concentrated in the city;

- To eliminate any existing mechanisms which either promote or force housing discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age or physical infirmity.

The report points out that according to the 1970 census Kings Mountain has a total of 2,813 housing units, 2,623 of which were occupied. The data shows that 1,674 units were

owned and 960 units were being rented.

Long also points out in his report that vacant available units in Kings Mountain are almost non-existent, especially units in standard condition.

The type of structures in Kings Mountain are predominately the single family type. A total of 2,487 or 86.8 percent of the dwelling are single family types. Multi-family units total 286 or 10.3 percent. Mobile homes constitute 3 percent or 83 units.

The city's single family units average higher than the state numbers and lower in the percentage of multi-family units. Mobile home percentage statewide are higher by 2.3 percent.

The 1970 census indicates that about 57 percent of Kings Mountain's housing units were constructed prior to 1960.

Housing conditions in 1976 shows 2,201 standard units in the city with 19 vacant for a total of 2,220 units. Deteriorating units still occupied numbered 249 with 83 more vacant for a total of 281. There were 15 dilapidated homes occupied and 18 others vacant for a total of 33.

Assisted multi-family units occupied in 1976 totaled 300 with another 90 units under construction. However, 36 of these units, designed for the aging and handicapped, have been occupied in the past week. Other multi-family units occupied in 1976 totaled 151 and there were 76 mobile homes occupied. The total occupied units in 1976 were 2,992, with 191 unoccupied.