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# Is An Airport In KM's Future?

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Editor, Mirror-Herald

Is there an airport in Kings Mountain's future?

It's possible if the city can be included in the National Airport Systems Plan; if a feasibility study proves positive; and if application for federal and state funding is approved.

According to data gathered by Phillip L. Stanley, president of Landmark Engineering, the cost of constructing an airport today is about \$1 million. Maintenance costs for the first two years would run between \$7,500 and \$8,000. After that period the cost would run approximately \$5,000 annually.

Presently, according to Stanley, there are approximately 15 general aviation airports in North Carolina operating on a self-supporting basis. These airports sale fuel, rent hanger space and fixed base operations. There is also the taxes derived from aircraft based at the airport.

In Tuesday's board meeting Mayor John Moss said Landmark included a general design concept of a small airport for the city to consider. "If we were to construct an airport in Kings Mountain it would be done in two-phases. The first would be a 5,000 foot runway and the second step, a 1,000 foot runway," the mayor said. There would be approaches of 1,000 feet at either end of the runway about 450 feet wide."

The mayor said the city would need about 130 acres of land and that four potential sites are being looked at now. He did not disclose the locations of either site.

Cost of the airport construction, according to the mayor, would be funded through federal and state sources. About 87.5 percent of the cost would come through those sources. The 12.5 percent to come from the city could be taken from Community Development funds, according to the mayor.

"We have begun working on application for funding today," the mayor said.

Members of the city's airport study committee were asked for comment Tuesday night. The committee includes Dr. Frank Sincov, J. C. Bridges, Tommy Bridges, Commissioners Jim Childers, Bill Grissom and Corbet Nicholson. Mayor Moss serves as ex-officio.

Dr. Sincov, J. C. and Tommy Bridges, all commented that an airport in Kings Mountain would be a big attraction to industrial corporations looking for new operations bases.

Dr. Sincov, said, "A committee first began 13 years ago looking into an airport for the city and the question still remains what will it do for the community. He said the purpose of an airport here is not to help the people who fly planes here now. Corporate flying and possible school classes in aviation would also use the airport. Of course there are a lot of unknowns in what it will do for the community. But if an airport is here it will be used more and more."

In answer to a question from Jimmy Dickey, Jr., Dr. Sincov said an airport such as the one being discussed would handle prop planes that could carry 10, 12 to 20 passengers. "It would handle the

type of aircraft that would normally come to any small airport," he said.

Jet commercial liners would not use the field nor would it be encouraged because of the non-feasibility of size and stocking of jet fuel.

The first step in the process is to get the city included in the National Airport Systems Plans. The city will have to supply such data as the time required to travel from the heart of Kings Mountain to both the Gastonia and Shelby airports; the number of aircraft that would be based at the local airport if it were constructed (about 10 is the number); and the number of takeoffs and landings per day that each airplane would make if the airport were constructed.

## Work On City Hall Is 30 Days Behind

Construction on the Kings Mountain Governmental Services Facilities Building (city hall) is about 30 days behind schedule.

Architect Moody's Clary made this comment at Tuesday's commissioner meeting in answer to a question from Commissioner James Childers.

The Charlotte architect whose firm, Peterson-Clary, designed the facility said the weather and some unsatisfactory soil encountered on the site have caused the delay in the construction schedule.

Chip Cell, representing Cecil's, Inc. of Spartanburg, S. C., general contractor on the project, said, "We are ready to begin the brick work as soon as we get a break in the weather. We lost about 20 days in November and 12 in December because of the weather, but our company will press this job, take advantage of breaks in the weather and even try to get ahead of schedule."

Clary said that contractors on the job have requested time extensions on their contracts, "but that is still open for discussion."

In general comments concerning the job, Clary said construction actually began on September 20 and that now the foundation is about 80 percent complete. "Coming up out of the ground is the slowest part of construction work," he said. "Next the contractors will begin erecting steel and the citizens will see

more tangible evidence of the building underway."

Cecil told the board there have been no material shortages to date on the job. He said the structural steel is manufactured in other plants and "that steel is about due from the plants now. We see no hitch in getting what we need."

Clary commented that, following recommendations from the Economic Development Agency, Cecil's has made every effort to employ as many local people as possible on the city hall job, "but this effort has not been entirely successful."

Mayor John Moss asked the architects to schedule a work session to make final decisions on the color scheme for the various offices in the new city hall for sometime within the next few days.

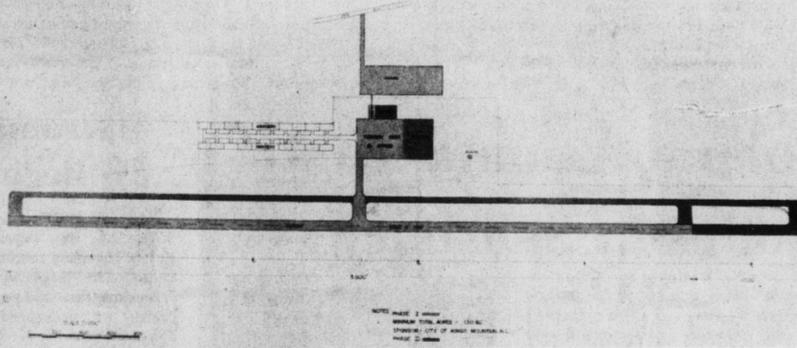
The Governmental Services facilities Building is being constructed on the former Bonnie Mill property on the south side of W. Gold St. The building will contain approximately 30,000 square feet and will house the administrative and business offices, a council chambers and offices for some city department heads, plus quarters for the fire department personnel and equipment.

Clary said the building was designed to blend with the community and to attract citizen traffic through construction of a park-like plaza off the main en-

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## PROPOSED KINGS MOUNTAIN AIRPORT

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA



### Non-EMT For Rescue Squad

## Board Okays Hiring

Tuesday the Cleveland County Commissioners approved Kings Mountain Rescue Squad hiring a non-Emergency

Medical Technician (EMT) as a replacement.

County Manager Joe Hendrick said as long as Kings Mountain has an EMT and an ambulance driver on duty, there will be no problems.

"We are finding it harder to get EMTs than we thought it would be," Hendrick said.

The non-EMT replacement for the Kings Mountain Squad is expected to enroll in EMT classes next month, according to Hendrick.

The non-EMT replacement is Bill Hannah, who has been serving as an ambulance attendant for the local rescue unit. Hannah has already been through EMT classes and will take the exam in February for his EMT classification.

Hannah is replacing Lt. Mike McDaniel, who is transferring Jan. 16 to the communications department in the county.

Capt. Raymond Galloway said he is at "a loss" to explain the reasoning behind Larry Revels of the county emergency services bringing up the costs of transport trips to the commissioners Tuesday.

Revels told the county board there had been some misunderstanding by the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad on charging for the transport of patients picked up outside Cleveland County and brought back here. Revels said the KM Squad is charging for a round-trip. The

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## Tax Office Is Busy

Busiest place in town this week was the tax office at City Hall where early listers were taking advantage of the holiday to list their taxes.

County taxlister Edwin Moore and his assistants, Joann Hauser and Betty Ballard were enjoying a brisk business in Council Chambers where they began the annual chore Tuesday.

Citizens can avoid last-minute rush difficulties by visiting the tax office Monday through Friday through Jan. 31 from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m.

All property owners are required to list their properties, both real and personal. Taxable properties include real estate. Personal properties include dogs, firearms, radios, TV sets, stereos, autos and trucks, household equipment and any property of value.

Grover taxpayers can list their taxes on Saturdays from 8:20 a. m. until 1 p. m. at the Grover Rescue Building on Jan. 7 and Jan. 21 from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m. at the Grover Rescue Building.



TOMMY P. BRIDGES  
... commission candidate

## Bridges Seeking Election

Tommy P. Bridges has filed to run for the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners in the May 2 primary.

This is his first attempt to seek a county board office, but not his first efforts at serving the public as an elected official. In 1977 Bridges completed a six year term on the Kings Mountain Board of Education.

A native of Cleveland County, Bridges attended elementary school in Shelby and graduated from Fallston High School. He attended Gardner-Webb College, majoring in business.

Following college he moved to Kings Mountain in association with Bridges Auto Parts.

Presently Bridges resides at Moss Lake. He is the son of W. Paul Bridges and is married to the former Ada Wilson of Fallston. His daughter, Cindy, is a junior at Gardner-Webb College; his son, Tommy Jr., a sophomore at N. C. State; and youngest daughter, Lisa, a senior at Kings Mountain Senior High.

Bridges is a Mason and a member of First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain. The candidate paid his filing fee to seek office as a county commissioner Tuesday morning, the first day of candidate filing local for county and state offices.

In his filing statement, Bridges said, "As a citizen of Cleveland County all of my life and having resided in different parts of the county, I believe I can interpret the needs of the people. I enjoy working in local government and in serving my fellow citizens."

### Rep. Edith Lutz

## Seeks Re-Election

Rep. Edith Lutz of Lawndale filed Tuesday to seek re-election in the 40th District to the N. C. House of Representatives.

This will be her second bid for state

office, having been a successful candidate in the 1976 elections. Prior to that Mrs. Lutz was appointed to fill out the unexpired term of Jack Hunt of Cleveland County, who resigned his House seat to campaign for a seat in the U. S. Congress.

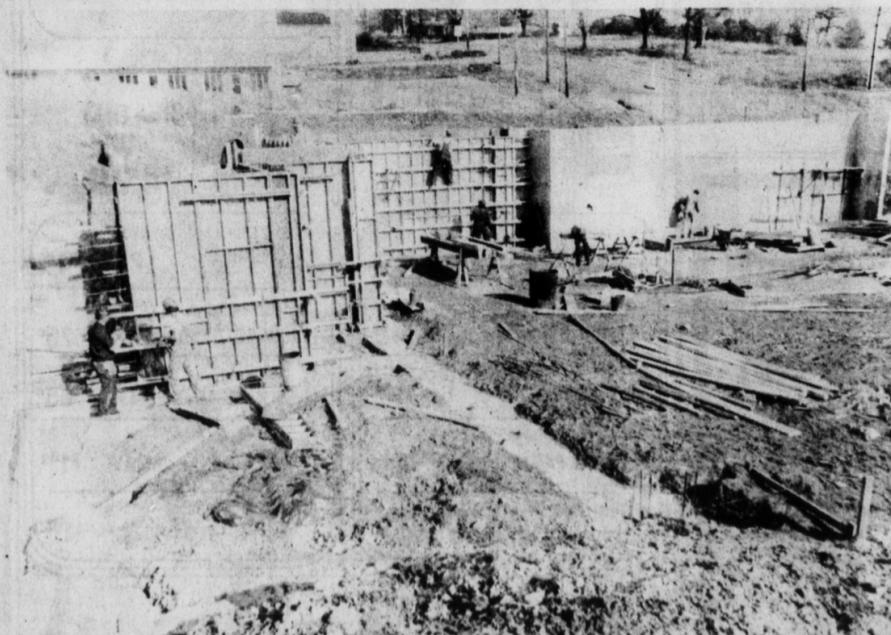
The wife of Everette Lutz, an apple grower in upper Cleveland County, the Representative is a native of the county. They have one son, Jacob, of Lawndale. "I have tried to serve the people of the district well in Raleigh," Rep. Lutz said after filing for the Democratic primary last Tuesday. "This has been a busy year and a good year."

"I am currently serving in eight committees and hold the seat of vice-chairman on two of them," she continued. "Those committees are in areas I feel helped alleviate some problems in the state. I am also serving on the state park study commission."

Rep. Lutz said, "I have maintained contact with my constituents and have tried to vote their wishes. I have tried to be a good representative and my record is open to everyone. I have nothing to hide. I look forward to returning to Raleigh as the people's representative."



REP. EDITH LUTZ  
... seeking re-election



BEHIND SCHEDULE — Weather and soil problems have caused roughly a 30-day delay in the construction schedule of the Kings Mountain Governmental Service Facilities Building on W. Gold St. The foundation work is about 80 percent com-

plete and structural steel installation is due to begin soon. Better weather will be needed before the brick and masonry work can be begun successfully.