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THURSDAY'S KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR HERALD

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Transformer Also Destroyed

Fire Destroys Wiring At New KM City Hall

Seconds after the primary panel switch in the mechanical room at the new city hall was closed fire leaped through the circuits destroying panel, primary wiring and a transformer Monday.

Two members of Caldwell Electrical Co., sub-contractor of the new building on S. Cherokee St., were in the mechanical room when the panel exploded. Neither man was hurt, according to KM Fire Chief Gene Tignor.

Tignor and several members of the fire department had been invited to the site earlier to see a demonstration on how the electrical system functioned. "It was some demonstration," Tignor said. "One of the electrical workers closed the switch and the next thing we knew they were racing out of the building."

Firefighters quickly smothered the flames, but not before the surge of power on the primary line caused by the explosion inside had caused the transformer outside to explode and burn.

The explosion and fire occurred about 10:30 a.m. Monday and caused a power outage in the area. Tignor said the outage was indirectly responsible for at least one private residence fire two hours after the incident.

"George Wilson of 908 Southwood Dr. had been cooking in his kitchen when the outage occurred," Tignor said. "He waited for awhile, then went down to his basement den where he fell asleep. He had forgotten to turn his range off. When the power came back on the grease in the frying pan on the range cooked until it caught fire."

Wilson was unaware of the fire in his kitchen, which did an estimated \$6,000 damages, and was alerted to the fact when firemen banged on his door and awakened him.

The fire at the new city hall, although quickly extinguished, caused some smoke damage in other areas of the building. Alvin Moretz,

city engineer, said, "The damage was not as bad as it could have been had any extensive painting been done."

The electrical contractor has been tracing the wiring and examining the main panel to determine what exactly caused the fire. At presstime the cause had not been determined.

Moretz said new switching gear is now being especially made to replace the destroyed unit and a new transformer is being sought.

Moretz said the secondary wiring and switching panels were not harmed in the fire and are still functioning. He said the primary unit has been operational about four months prior to Monday's fire.

This Saturday

Students Will Dance

To Raise MD Funds

Kings Mountain Senior High students, with more than 350 expected to participate, will dance in a 12 hour Dance-A-Thon Saturday

from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. for benefit of the Muscular Dystrophy campaign.

Events, which get underway with a Key Club Push-a-car-athon at 7 a.m. will include Bible Club water bombing, teacher dunking, French club-sponsored monopoly-a-thon, skateboard-a-thon, FHA Rock-a-thon and disco dancing with area disc jockeys to provide entertainment, plus many more activities.

Steve Baker, high school faculty sponsor for the benefit, said that 80 students from Future Business Leaders of America chapter and Fellowship of Christian Athletes sponsored a weekend 20-mile Bike-a-thon and a 10-mile walk-a-thon and received pledges totaling over \$3,000. Last year KMSHS students earned more than \$6,600 and the local student body raised the highest amount in the state for muscular dystrophy.

"This year 325 students have signed pledge sheets to participate in various events all day Saturday", said Baker, a good indication, he said, that this year's event will again attract record participation and pledges. More than 200 students will be dancing, 50 students will be rocking and more than 20 students will be skating in events slated for the KMSHS gymnasium.

"We invite the community to join us in these activities (see schedule in this section) and to dance along with the dancers for a donation of \$1", said Baker.

Mayor John Henry Moss has proclaimed this week as "Muscular Dystrophy Week" in Kings Mountain.

Muscular Dystrophy is a disease that strikes children, young and middle-aged adults alike, causing muscle fiber to deteriorate so that afflicted muscles are no longer useful.

"Our students will be dancing for others who cannot but who will be special guests during the day and evening," said Baker.

Donations Sought

Mayor John Moss will name a committee to handle donations of shrubbery, plantings and other mobilia for the Governmental Services Facilities Building property on Mar. 13.

The mayor said he would like to see at least two trees of the same type donated for planting on the W. Gold and S. Cherokee St. sides — the trees to be decorated at Christmas.

Any citizen interested in donating to this project is asked to call the mayor's office — 739-2536.

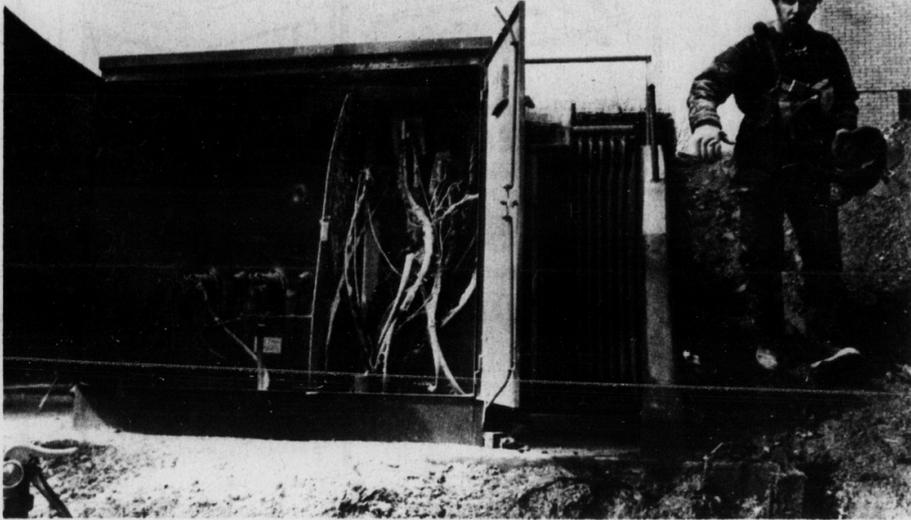


Photo by Tom McIntyre

AFTER THE FIRE — Firefighter Joe Leftwich is shown coming down from the upper level of the new city hall where he had been checking for further damage Monday. The main switch

panel in the mechanical room exploded and burned Monday morning. The transformer at left was also destroyed when the panel and wiring burned.

Grover Board Squabbles

Over Police Radar Purchase

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

GROVER—Some citizens in the audience at Monday's Town Board meeting took exception to Comm. Harold Herndon's statement that "we don't need a radar unit in Grover nor a police officer to run down speeders."

The issue surfaced after Police Commissioner Martha Byers announced that a new radar unit for Police Chief Lionel Barnes had been purchased at cost of \$1200.

Comm. Herndon had asked Mrs. Byers, "if it's in the budget can a department head spend the money as he sees fit without bringing it before the board?" and Mrs. Byers

had replied, "I'd think so, certainly."

Mrs. Byers told the board that the radar unit had been purchased at "considerable savings of \$680" from a \$2000 allotment in the police budget for equipment. "We are expected to live by the laws", she

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Assets Reach \$20-Million

During February Kings Mountain Savings and Loan reached \$20,000,000 in assets.

"February was a continuation of growth in service of the association," said Gary Whitaker, executive vice president and managing officer. "Reaching this milestone further broadened the base available to customers of Kings Mountain Savings and Loan."

Whitaker said the association is proud of the confidence shown in it by the residents of Kings Mountain and area "and we pledge to continue in the future to provide the highest degree of safety, service and

security available."

The Association was founded in 1907 and in eight years had assets of \$38,488.00. Continuing to grow, 1955 found the firm over the million dollar mark with assets of \$1,680,877.00. Modest compared to today's achievement but impressive nevertheless.

The Association is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank, The United States Savings and Loan League, The North Carolina Savings and Loan League, The Savings and Loan Foundation, and its depositors funds are insured by the Federal

Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation to the full legal limit.

The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) coverage is perhaps one of the most important services provided customers. The FSLIC is an agency of the federal government provided by an act of congress to assure depositors that there is no safer place for their funds.

Whitaker said the directors, officers and staff are proud of the \$20-million mark and are even more determined to provide the service "that will say thank you."

Weekend Rains Rack Up KM Property Damage

Sunday's heavy rains caused some flooding and property damage in Kings Mountain.

The damages also brought out cries for help from some citizens, who feel the city has not done all it can to make sure surface waters does not wash them away.

James E. Cole of Belvedere, Cir. called The Herald Monday to tell about the surface water destroying his driveway and to complain that he has "asked the city to do something about drainage in that area for several years."

G.L. McDaniel, 304 Juniper St., had a similar complaint about lack of action on the city's part concerning surface drainage.

McDaniel did not lose a driveway, but a two-tier, eight inch concrete

block wall along side his driveway was knocked down by the couring water Sunday.

Like Cole, McDaniel said, "I have been preaching storm drainage for years, but it doesn't seem to do any good."

Cole's drainage problem was looked into, according to City Engineer Alvin Moretz. "We extended drainage pipe on down below Mr. Cole's property. The problem Sunday was the unusual amount of rainfall. The pipe just could not hold all of the surface water."

In McDaniel's case, he says his problem is surface water hitting his property from behind his home and from the street side. "With the construction of Home Savings and Loan Association three blocks up

and the new apartments on Gold Street, the surface run off has grown stronger," he said. "And it's always the same. The city says it can do nothing on private property."

Moretz said there are numerous complaints on file now since Sunday's rains. "There are incidents of basements being flooded, furnaces being shorted out, lawns being eroded and yards standing in water," he said.

The engineer said city crews have been out driving all over town since the rain, clearing clogged drains and drainage pipes.

"We have had reports of drainage problems in the city in areas where they have been no problems before under normal rainfall," Moretz said.

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Photo by Tom McIntyre

SURVEYS WATER DAMAGE — G.L. McDaniel of 304 Juniper St. surveys the damage to a concrete block wall following Sunday night's heavy rainfall. Surface water damage was high all over the city due to the abnormal downpour.