

## Governor Hunt Breaks Ground For Sulzer Plant

BY ELIZABETH STEWART  
Co-Editor

GROVER-North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt broke ground for Sulzer Brothers, Inc. \$20 million plant Tuesday afternoon as a large crowd looked on and attempted to take cover from the brilliant sunshine under the oaks on what the Governor called "a beautiful site on rolling hillside in Western Piedmont."

Sulzer corporate executive Walter Schneider and County Commissioner Jack Palmer joined the Governor in taking a shovel and donning "hard hats" to officially break the ground for the new industry on N.C. 29 near the Grover city limits.

Prior to the groundbreaking,

Governor Hunt used the occasion to reflect on the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain and praised the mountaineers who came forward in 1780 to soundly defeat the British and turned the tide for victory in the Revolutionary War. He also praised local government leaders, Mayor John Moss, Commissioner Palmer, for their efforts in bringing new industry to Cleveland County, noting that during a 60 day period this summer three major corporations announced plans to locate in Cleveland County with a \$50 million investment and 1130 new jobs for citizens, Copeland, Union Carbide and Sulzer Corporations.

The Governor told Mr. Schneider that "nothing will please me more than to hear that Sulzer will become completely wrapped up in Cleveland County and the Kings Mountain area will become its most productive and profitable plant."

Schneider, in accepting a gift from the Governor, and subsequently presenting a gift from his country to Governor Hunt, noted that Sulzer employs 34,000 people worldwide and its main product is the Sulzer weaving machine which it will manufacture here. He said that 99 percent of the Swiss product is exported, 20 percent to the U.S. "I am confident", he said, "that this new plant will keep us in closer contact with our U.S. customers and will build additional friendships between our two countries. Good jobs and friendships are the basis of our business."

Governor Hunt said that one third of the manufacturing work force in North Carolina is in textiles and "it just makes sense for us to get in the business of manufacturing textile machinery. Today is the first example in the state of this effort." The Governor said that North Carolina has 163 foreign-owned manufacturers and Sulzer is a great example of diversification to the North Carolina industry and economy.

"You're on the move in Cleveland County," he told the crowd present.

The Governor said Sulzer will employ 230 people and offer higher wages than the state average paid in textile plants. Local employees will be trained through Cleveland Technical College who will work with trained personnel from Switzerland.

"Today is a special day in the advancement of this area", said the Governor, "and I am proud to be a part of it."

Rev. Bobby Gantt, pastor of Grover First Baptist Church, gave the invocation and County Commission Chairman Jack Palmer presented Governor Hunt.

After the groundbreaking ceremonies, the Governor was honored by the Cleveland County Democratic Party at a reception at the Historical Museum in Shelby.



Photo by Lib Stewart

**GROUNDBREAKING** - Sulzer executive Walter Schneider, North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt, and County Commissioner Jack Palmer, right, participate in groundbreaking ceremonies for the new plant of Sulzer Brothers at the site near Grover.

## Board Approves Fix-Up Campaign

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Co-Editor

City commissioners approved Monday night a Clean-Up, Paint-Up, Fix-Up campaign to begin immediately and run through Oct. 3, kickoff date for Celebration activities commemorating the 200th celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Comm. Norman King, chairman of the campaign, told the board that since many prominent visitors will be present for the Celebration that the impression "we make on visitors at this time will have a lasting effect" and asked all citizens to participate in the effort to "make our community one of outstanding neatness and cleanliness".

The board passed a resolution declaring the period Sept. 22 to Oct. 3 as Clean Up Week.

In a related action, the board approved a resolution declaring Oct. 7th, date of the 200th anniversary, as a holiday for all city personnel and urged "all citizens of this region to join us in honor and memory of the hardy pioneers who gave so unstintingly of themselves for our benefit."

Mayor John Henry Moss told the board that plans are well underway for the mammoth celebration and thanked the commissioners and committees

of 1,500 citizens for their "tremendous help in this major undertaking which historians tell me will be the most important and largest historical celebrations in the history of western North Carolina. I sincerely hope that it will go down as the most meaningful one."

Moss, as chairman of the event, heads a five-state committee for the Celebration which begins Oct. 3 and culminates with a parade and possible address by President Carter on Tues., Oct. 7.

Mayor Moss said he "looks forward to the Celebration, and city commissioners concurred. "People will be coming from faraway places to Kings Mountain", said Comm. Jim Dickey. Mr. Dickey said that a large delegation of DAR members from Georgia and a Sons of Revolution unit from Indiana are among a large group of out of state people expected to attend who have already made motel reservations in the area.

"I see our signs in other cities and I hope that's a good indication that people will be coming to Kings Mountain", said Comm. Bill Grissom.

In other actions, the board approved during a short meeting:

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## Then Conquer We Must Opens Friday At Park

"Then Conquer We Must", the historical drama commemorating the Battle of Kings Mountain, opens Friday evening for the first of eight performances at the Amphitheatre of Kings Mountain National Military Park.

Officials of the Battle Celebration Committee are expecting record crowds and encourage citizens to purchase their tickets early since the Park Amphitheatre will accommodate only 500 persons for each show.

Jerry King, Company Manager, said that good seats are still available for all performances and that tickets can be obtained at the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce, in the old City Hall on Piedmont Avenue, in his office, the city's Economic Development Office, upstairs in the new City Hall or may be ordered by mail to his office at PO Box 792. Ticket prices are \$2.50, general admission, and \$3.50 reserved seats, for Sept. 26, 27, 28 (this Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and the same rates apply on Oct. 3, 4, 5, and 6, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, while tickets for the Oct. 7th closing performance, at 9 p.m., are \$4 for general admission and \$5 for reserved seats.

Drama Producer Bill Briggs points out that parking facilities will be available in the parking area near the new museum, near the amphitheatre, at the visitor center, and along the roadway and that four policemen will patrol the area and assist with parking. Briggs said that special facilities are provided for the aged and handicapped and they will have reserved parking facilities.

Members of the cast have been hard at work for several weeks completing work for Friday's opening and several dress rehearsals were held this week. A special performance for students will be held this evening

during the final dress rehearsal for the drama.

The late Robert Osborne wrote the original script and it was produced successfully by the Kings Mountain Little Theatre 29 years ago this October. Thomas McIntyre, of Gastonia, former editor of the Kings Mountain Herald, revised the script. Dr. Charles Hannum of Limestone College is directing a large cast in re-enacting the battle story of 1780.

Playing the lead roles of Virginia Salter and Col. Patrick Ferguson are Suzanne Amos Grabus of Kings Mountain and Rob Bigalke of Gaffney, S.C.

Three of the original cast of the drama return in different roles for the 1980 production. Joe Ann (Boots) McDaniel, Judge Sam Mendenhall and Producer Briggs were all members of the original cast. Briggs, president of Limestone College, which is co-sponsoring the production, is a Kings Mountain native and played the role of Col. Campbell in the first production. Mrs. McDaniel and Judge Mendenhall, who appeared as a young boy and girl in the first play, are husband and wife in this year's drama as Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Storey.

A large number of Kings Mountain area citizens are involved in non speaking roles, working behind scenes to help create the setting, costuming, and crew for the pageant.

Dr. Charles Hannum, the director, is beginning his second year as Director of Theatre at Limestone College. He began his career in outdoor theatre by playing the lead role in "The Legend of Daniel Boone."

Vicki Pennington, assistant director, has recently been named Fine Arts Coordinator at Limestone College in Gaffney.

Mrs. Grabus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Amos of Kings Mountain, has appeared in "Horn In The West" and

"Wilderness Road" and also choreographed the dancing for the drama. She is an Administrator-in-Training at KM Convalescent Center.

A veteran of the stage in such roles as "Our Town", "Life With Father" and "The Odd Couple", Robert Stratton (Alexander Andrews) is president of the Board of Governors of Gaffney Little Little Theatre.

Greg Madera (Clayborn Andrews) is a native of Marion, S.C. and a senior theatre major at Limestone College. He has appeared in "Ghosts", "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "Man of LaMancha."

Rob Bigalke (Major Ferguson) is a newcomer to Gaffney who is associated with WFGN Radio and has appeared in "Twelfth Night", and "Born Yesterday."

John Brock of Shelby (Cornwallis) is a former newspaperman and has appeared in productions with the Shelby Little Theatre and Charlotte Little Theatre.

Mary (Mrs. Charles) Neisler of Kings Mountain serves as property mistress, Tommie Storms of Gaffney as chief lighting technician and Jane Dixon of Kings Mountain as costume mistress. Makeup coordinator is Nan Jean Grant of Kings Mountain and house managers are Mrs. Frank Sincos and Mrs. John Plonk. Mrs. Emma Blalock is boxoffice manager, all of whom are ably assisted by large crews of local citizens.

Director Hannum states that "Then Conquer We Must" is not a reenactment of the actual battle. "Our goal is to illustrate the events leading to the Battle of Kings Mountain, to suggest the battle itself and to recreate the atmosphere of pride and hope which was born on Oct. 7", said Hannum.

The outdoor drama is being presented to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain and is only part of a week long celebration that will take place Oct. 3-7.



Photo by Vic Crowley

**DRAMA OPENS FRIDAY** - Rob Bigalke, of Gaffney, S.C., as Major Patrick Ferguson, and Suzanne Amos-Grabus of Kings Mountain, as Virginia Salter, portray the leading roles in

the historical outdoor drama, "Then Conquer We Must," which opens Friday for eight performances.