

Tuesday

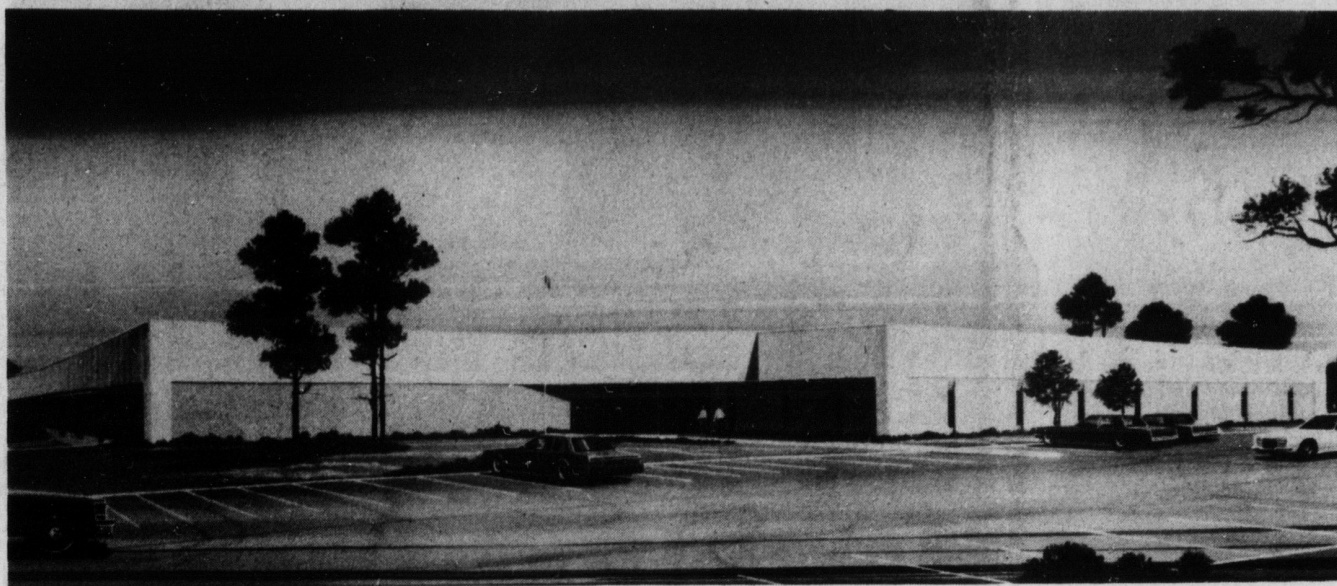
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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA



RELiance TO BUILD — Here is a photo of a drawing of the 211,000 square foot Reliance Electric Corporation, which will be built near Bethware School on Highway 74 West of Kings Mountain. The \$33 million industry was recruited for

Cleveland County through the County Commissioners, City of Kings Mountain, the North Carolina Department of Commerce and Governor Hunt.

Reliance To Build

By GARY STEWART
Co-Editor

Governor Jim Hunt closed out his first term in office Friday by announcing that Reliance Electric of Cleveland, Ohio, will build a \$33 million electric motor and generator plant near Bethware School.

The 211,000 square foot plant will be located on a 53-acre site previously owned by McSwain Nursery. It will be Reliance Electric's sixth plant in North Carolina.

State, Cleveland County, Kings Mountain and Reliance officials were in Raleigh for the 11 a.m. announcement in the Governor's Office.

"Reliance Electric symbolizes a new wave of more diversified companies locating in our state," commented Hunt. "Last year electrical and electronics machinery was the second leading industrial category in terms of new jobs announced. Those new kinds of companies are providing more skilled jobs for our people."

The recruitment of Reliance has been a four-year effort by officials of Cleveland County, the City of Kings Mountain, and the State Department of Commerce.

"We're real pleased that Reliance has chosen Cleveland County," said Jack Palmer, chairman of the county board of commissioners. "It will help the working people of the county and will keep younger people here instead of them having to re-locate."

Palmer, Shelby realtor John Barker, who handled the land transactions; Kings Mountain Mayor John Moss; Josh Hinnant, chairman of the Kings Mountain Industrial Committee; and Bobby Rogers, President of the Greater Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce, represented Cleveland County at the announcement.

State officials present included Governor Hunt, D.M. Faircloth, secretary of the Department of Commerce; Victory Barfield, Deputy of the Department of Commerce; Alvah H. Ward Jr., Director of the Industrial Development Division; and Harold R. Love, Industrial Development Representative.

Representing Reliance were Emory Orahoad, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Dr. P.J. Tsivits, Group Vice President; Bill Woolard, Manager of Large Motor Operations; Bill Hendrix Jr., General Manager of Mechanical Group; Karl Hein, Manager of Construction, Properties and Facilities; and Ray Snyder, Manager of Corporate Marketing and Communications.

Groundbreaking and grading for the plant is expected to begin in March with operations scheduled to begin in late 1982. The company will employ 100 persons initially and will ultimately grow to over 400.

Reliance officials indicated they would utilize Cleveland Tech for skilled training.

Kings Mountain's role in recruiting of the new industry includes supplying water, sewer and gas for the plant.

Mayor Moss said the plant "will mean much to the economic growth of the area. Reliance and its parent company Exxon represent two of the most successful corporations in American Industry and we're very proud to have Reliance become an industrial citizen. Reliance's new facility will offer excellent job opportunities for area citizens and will continue to assist in broadening the horizon with regards to the development of diversified and technical industrialization."

Moss credited the successful recruitment of Reliance to the foresight of Kings Mountain citizens, who overwhelmingly passed water and sewer bond referendums years ago.

"The recent location of several diversified and technical industries in the Kings Mountain area is a result of the citizens' willingness to vote bonds to develop a water and sewer system," he said. "Personally, I feel it is a compliment and tribute to the citizens' foresightedness and willingness to do something themselves to assist in the economical development of Kings Mountain for the present and future generations."

Governor Hunt added, "I want to commend Cleveland County officials for working so hard to attract Reliance. Leaders like Jack Palmer are picking up right where they left off last year. Through their strong efforts, Cleveland County attracted Union Carbide, Sulzer Brothers and Copeland Corporation last year, with a combined investment of \$52 million for those companies alone. Those companies will provide over 1,100 new jobs for Cleveland County citizens. Cleveland County had one of the best years last year of any county in attracting quality, diversified industry. Reliance is continuing the fine record."

"The new plant will be near Community of Excellence Award-winner Kings Mountain," Hunt added. "Its Mayor, John Henry Moss, is one of the most outstanding leaders in this state. We certainly appreciate his role in making this announcement possible."

"Without people like John Henry Moss, Jack Palmer, John Barker, Josh Hinnant, Bobby Rogers and others, economic development in this state would be nowhere near the record pace of recent years," Hunt said.

Commissioner Election

Recount Is Ordered

By GARY STEWART
Co-Editor

The State Board of Elections ruled Friday in Shelby that votes cast for county commissioner during the November General Election be re-counted.

The state board, which voted for the action unanimously following a two-day meeting at the Law Enforcement Center, ruled that the re-count should take place as soon as possible so that the three commissioners may be sworn in by February 1.

The meeting was the result of a protest filed by write-in candidate Bobby Crawford following the Nov. 4 election, in which three write-in candidates supported by the Association of Cleveland County Taxpayers (ACT) collected over 8,000 votes each and came within 2,000 votes of unseating incumbent commissioners Jack Palmer, Coleman Goforth and Hugh Dover. Duran Johnson and John Caveny were the other two write-ins.

Crawford claimed that several irregularities occurred in voting and vote-counting, and asked the Cleveland County Board of Elections to either re-count the votes or call for a new election. The county board ruled that any irregularities were not great enough to make a difference in the outcome and Crawford appealed to the state board.

Crawford and his attorney, Jeff Guller of Gastonia, argued for a new election, and Crawford was not overjoyed with the re-count decision.

"I feel the voters of Cleveland County deserve a new election," Crawford said following the hearing. "This was the second best alternative."

Although the state board called for a re-count, it tacked on several guidelines for counting, including:

- On machine-counted ballots, if names were written in but the box provided to indicate write-ins were not marked, the write-ins will count.

- If three write-ins names were written in the wrong place, but the voters showed an intent to write-in, the write-ins will count.

- If the voter indicated a straight Democratic ticket and wrote in less than three names, the votes will not count.

- On paper ballots, if the voter did not vote a straight party ticket and wrote in names, even if they were written in on the Republican side, they will count.

- If a voter voted a straight Democratic ticket and wrote in names on the Republican side of the ballot, but indicated an intent to vote for the write-in by drawing an arrow or some other indication, the votes will count for the write-in. If no arrow or other indication is shown, they will count for the incumbents.

"If they would count every ballot with our names on it, we



MADE APPEAL — Bobby Crawford, center, talks with supporters at Friday's public hearing by the State Board of Elections at Shelby. Crawford, a write-in candidate for county

commissioner in the November General Election, protested the vote because of several voting and ballot irregularities. The board ruled that a re-count must be held.

could win the election," Crawford said. "If our names are on the ballot, the voters' intent is clear, and we could win on a re-count."

Thirty witnesses were called during the two-day public hearing, including registrars, judges precinct workers, county election officials, and others. In most cases, precinct workers told of different methods of counting write-in votes.

Gay Champion, supervisor of the election, told the board that training was provided for precinct workers and Charlene Webber, a representative for Martel Systems Electronics, which manufactures the voting tabulator machine which was used in six precincts, said training was provided for the use of those machines.

However, the machine malfunctioned in two precincts, and Crawford's attorney claimed the space (three-eighths of an inch) provided for write-ins on the machine ballot, was not sufficient.

In many precincts, voters were given black felt tip pens to write-in the three names. Using a felt tip pen in a three-eighths inch area, Guller showed it to be near-impossible to write-in three names clearly.

Ms. Champion blamed the insufficient space on the printers, Fayetteville Office Supply, and testified that she tried to have new ballots printed after she learned there was not sufficient write-in space. She said the printers agreed to print more

ballots, but when they arrived in the mail, they were unchanged and it was too late to do anything about it.

Ms. Webber testified that in her nine-plus years with her company, no voting tabulator machines had malfunctioned.

The machine used at the West Kings Mountain precinct malfunctioned after it was shaken and a petition which separated counted ballots and those placed in the area to be hand-counted fell down.

Guller asked Ms. Webber why a machine should be shaken?

"Normally," she said, "it is not necessary. But I was told there was going to be a very large write-in campaign and I felt there could be a lot of ballots in the front section. I suggested they gently shake the machine to pack down the ballots."

State Elections Board chairman Kenneth Babb asked Ms. Webber if shaking the machine could have caused the break down.

"I've tried" to break one down by shaking it. "They must have been shaking it severely," she said.

Crawford, the last person to be called, explained to the board why he and the other two men ran for county commissioner after the primary had already been held.

"All property in the county was re-evaluated," Crawford explained, "and after we got the appraisal, several people, including myself, appealed the appraisal. Words were said to me 'don't

worry about the appraisal, the tax rate will be lowered'."

Crawford went on to explain that the tax rate was not lowered, and that when county residents received their tax bills the amount went up "from 25 to over 400 percent. The people were very upset," he said. "We have the support of the people. If our names had been on the ballot, we could have carried three or four to one."

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READS DECISION — Kenneth Babb, right, chairman of the North Carolina Board of Elections, reads the board's decision to call for a re-count of county commissioner votes follow-

ing a two-day public hearing Friday in Shelby. Seated with Babb are some of the other members of the state board.