

# Kings Mountain Citizens Are Using Their Public Library

The Kings Mountain Public Library, the place we all visit when we want some way to spend a few happy hours without any cost, is two years old. It observed its Cotton Anniversary on February 18 as it spends every day taking an active part in the general activity of the Best Town in the State. However, that was not very quietly, for every day an average of 90 books are loaned by the library to the citizens of Kings Mountain free of charge. The library is open only four hours per day, which averages about 23 books each hour or over three books every minute the library is open. Maybe this figure isn't quite so astounding to you, so look at it this way: Nine out of ten people read for pleasure and the majority of the books taken from the Public Library are fiction, so approximately ninety good souls are being made by the public library each day. Now ninety happy people out of about six thousand is a good part to be made happy by just one little library.

The fact which is most astounding this that the library has grown so much within the past two years from its humble beginning. The library first opened in the old town hall down on Charlotte Street. In a

Miss Ida Mae Davis, the librarian, was usually surrounded by a mob of book-seekers. That little room housed the library until the new town hall was completed. Then it moved into its present quarters, and began to grow.

Nothing is more pleasant to the average person than sailing through the pages of a good book with a beautiful heroine or a dashing hero, made thus by the mastermind who created her or him. The records of the public library prove this fact. Out of our population of 5,632, 2,133 are members of the public library. In fact, there are more members than there are books. At present there are 1850 books in the library, not counting the magazines. Now what would happen if all the members came for a book one day? The librarian could take the rest of the day off, after all the books were gone, and put up an SRO sign over the door.

The best interests of the library are looked after by a board composed of persons who have always been

KINGS MOUNTAIN'S MAYOR



J. E. Herndon, now serving Kings Mountain for the sixth consecutive year as Mayor, Mr. Herndon is identified with many civic activities and has been tireless in his efforts toward a bigger and better city. Under his able administration many new developments have appeared.

first in the upbuilding of it. Haywood E. Lynch, chairman of the board; Mrs. Hunter Neisler Rev. W. M. Boyce, and Mayor J. E. Herndon were pioneers in the movement to obtain a library for Kings Mountain, and they now guide its destinies. J. R. Davis, local attorney, was the first person to contribute a book to the institution.

Miss Ida Mae Davis, librarian since the day it opened, is very efficient, knows what the readers like, and is much more familiar with the wants of the members than most librarians. The librarian is paid by the WPA, and the town of Kings Mountain contributes \$25 each month for books, magazines, etc.

No matter what the reader likes, he is sure to find something to suit his taste in the local library. There are 1150 fiction books, 213 magazines, 485 Junior books, and 215 non-fiction, covering all subjects. The library had a circulation of 21,967 books all told for 1937. In 1938 the total circulation was 27,921, showing an increase of 6,914. Of these, approximately 66 percent were read by adults, and the remainder by juniors.

Hours the library is open are: Each day from 2:00 to 6:00 P. M. and Saturday morning also from 9:00 to 11:00.

## FORWARD! Kings Mountain

Keeter's Department Store has and always will be indented with any progressive movement on the part of Kings Mountain. We are proud of OUR TOWN and ITS GROWTH, proud of the small part we may have contributed to its upbuilding.

Much of our success, we feel, is due to the fact that we have always given our customers the most quality for the least money possible. We invite your patronage and your closest comparison of values.

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We are proud to be a part of this community and to share in the glory that is hers in this fifty years of growth and progress. As the years pass we hope it will be our privilege to play an even greater part in the further growth of this thriving city.

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