

POPULATION
In City Corporate Limits 6,574
Immediate Trading Area 15,000

Kings Mountain Herald

16 Pages Today

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Board For Mayor-at-Large Proposal, Against Other Changes

Local News Bulletins

SCOUT QUOTA EXCEEDED
Information reaching the Herald yesterday was that the \$2,500 quota of the Kings Mountain Boy Scout district fund campaign was exceeded. Further details will be published next week.

G. E. Myers, of Charlotte, was taken over the duties of watchmaker at Sterchi's Jewelry department. It was announced this week by E. C. McClain, manager of the firm, Mr. Myers has been with Sterchi's for several years.

JAYCEES MET
The Kings Mountain Junior Chamber of Commerce held its regular semi-monthly dinner meeting Tuesday night at the Woman's Club. The members held a business meeting, adopted the nominating committee method of choosing club officers, and voted to set up a member-at-large status. A nominating committee appointed by President Hoyle McDaniel includes Vernon Crosby, James Anthony, Garrison Goforth, George Peeler and Dickie Tate. Guests at the meeting were Joe Hedden and E. S. Peeler, Jr.

SUMMERS DUE HOME
F. R. Summers, president of the First National Bank who recently underwent an operation at Memorial hospital, Charlotte, is expected to return to his home here over the weekend. His condition was described as satisfactory Wednesday.

GOFORTH REPORTS
Eugene Goforth, Kings Mountain pitcher, left this week for Pensacola, Fla. where he was to pitch for the team.

CHURCH OF GOD
Special services are to be held at the Church of God Saturday night at 7 o'clock. It was announced this week. A sermon and special singing will feature the services.

KIWANIS TO SHELBY
Members of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club will hold an inter-club meeting with the Shelby organization Thursday night at 7 o'clock at Hotel Charles. At that time, the group will hear an address by DuPre Rhame of Furman university, Greenville, S. C., Carolina district governor. Persons not having transportation should be at the Woman's Club by 6:30. It was announced. Arrangements for the joint meeting were made by Joe Lee Woodward, chairman of the club's inter-club relations committee.

King Winter On Late-Season Binge

King Winter, perhaps in celebration of John L. Lewis agreement to accept the Supreme Court's mandate and allow his miners to work, went on a bender Wednesday to give the Kings Mountain area its latest blanket of snow in years. With spring officially only two days around the corner, citizens awakened after a sunny day—before to find quite gray, snow-filled clouds. And by 9 o'clock the big white flakes were falling swiftly. Meantime, Coal Dealer Claude Hambricht was keeping telephone wires busy checking on some 15 overdue cars of coal. His supplies were virtually exhausted and he didn't know how long the latest cold spell would last.

Local Citizen's Father Succumbs

Funeral rites for W. I. Wright, 79, father of Mrs. L. Arnold Kiser of Kings Mountain, were held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Ingold Methodist church, Interment following at Clinton. Rev. Mr. Barnes, of Releigh, conducted the rites. Mr. Wright died at Rex hospital, Raleigh, on Saturday, his death following a heart attack after two weeks previously. A retired farmer, he had been in ill health some time.

Legion Oratory Contests Won By Jean Webb

Miss Jean Webb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Halbert Webb, will represent Cleveland county in the district division of the American Legion oratorical contest in Shelby Monday night, following her victory in the county contest held at Shelby last Friday afternoon.

Miss Webb, who was declared winner of the local contest, held last Thursday morning, received a \$25 war bond as a prize for the county championship. She will be awarded a medal by Otis D. Green Post 155, American Legion, for winning the local contest.

Judges of the local contest were Col. Peyton McSwain, Shelby attorney, Robert Abernethy of Kings Mountain and Gastonia, and Mrs. Aubrey Mauney of Kings Mountain.

The district contest, bringing together county champions of Lincoln, Catawba, Mecklenburg and Gaston, was originally scheduled for Hickory, but was changed Monday. It will be held at the Shelby American Legion hall.

The contest is based on two parts, a 10 to 12-minute prepared oration on the Constitution, and a second speech of four to six minutes on the Bill of Rights. The second speech is given extemporaneously after the contestant draws a subject on the first ten amendments to the Constitution, from a hat.

Miss Webb took the county honors with her oration entitled, "History of the American Constitution." Miss Carol Warwick, of Belwood high school, came second. Don Cabanis, representative of Lattimore high school, was not present for the contest due to illness.

Martin Harmon, post oratorical contest chairman, expressed his appreciation to school officials for their aid in conducting the contest and congratulated Miss Webb on her success.

Symphony Plays Here March 31

The Little Symphony of the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra will appear in Kings Mountain on March 31 with programs for both children and adults. By the time they have reached Kings Mountain, the players will have given 54 concerts in the State. And there will remain yet 9 concerts to go between March 31 and the close of the Little Symphony season on April 3rd.

There will not be much rest for the musicians, however, for rehearsals for the Full Symphony will begin the following day, April 4th. After several days of intensive rehearsals, the large orchestra will launch its tour with a concert in Reidsville on April 9th.

The orchestra will play a children's concert at the Central school auditorium at 2:30 in the afternoon of March 31, and will play an evening concert at 8:30.

Mrs. Aubrey Mauney, Kings Mountain Symphony Society chairman, announced this week the orchestra children concert program. It will include: Miniatures from "Linz" Symphony—Mozart.

Polonaise and Badinage from B Minor Suite—Bach—(featuring flute soloist.) Audience songs—Home on the Range.

Skip to My Lou, Mock Morris—Grainger. I Danced with a Mosquito—Lladov. Fanfare—Bizet. Jamaican Rhythms—Benjamin.

McCLAIN IS UNHURT IN AUTO-BUS SMASH
E. C. McClain and D. L. Humphreys of Shelby had a narrow escape yesterday afternoon when the car in which they were riding skidded on the slick pavement at the Belmont crossing on Wilkinson Boulevard and smashed into a school bus. Mr. McClain was on the passenger side of the Buick automobile, and narrowly escape possibly serious injury as the car hit the back of the bus. The top was damaged, the windshield smashed and the side window broken. Except for the shake-up and damage to the car, however, there was no other damage or injuries.

City Fathers Toss Problem Back In Laps Of Assemblymen Weathers, Mull

Tossing the matter back in the laps of Representative Odus M. Mull and Senator Lee B. Weathers, where it had been since Saturday, the city board, in special session at the City Hall Tuesday night, passed a resolution approving an amendment to the city charter to elect a mayor-at-large, but favored retention of the present form of government.

The board reconvened to take its action after officially adjourning with no action at 9 o'clock. At the first meeting a delegation of citizens had appeared. One group favored the petition asking changes in the charter, circulated several weeks ago and reportedly signed by over 1,300 citizens. The other group favored the administration action on the matter.

Those making remarks indicating support of the administration action were: George W. Mauney, Fred W. Plonk, J. E. Herndon, and G. A. Bridges.

Those appearing in support of the petition were: E. A. Harrill, H. C. Wilson and Frank Roberts. City officials present were Mayor Thomson, Councilmen W. K. Mauney, M. A. Ware and D. L. Saunders, City Manager H. L. Burdette, City Clerk Carl Sawyer, and City Attorney J. R. Davis. Councilman W. M. Gantt was absent.

Others present, but who took no part in the general discussion, were Charles F. Thomason, Jr., Ned McGill and C. E. Neisler. Martin Harmon represented the Herald. Mr. Neisler indicated in side remarks that he favored the city board's position on the matter. The one-hour-and-twenty-minute discussion was, in general, conducted in good spirit, with only a few

remarks reaching the heated stage. In virtual chronological order the discussion ran like this:

Mr. Harrill told the board he saw the petition at the insistence of a group of citizens who had first approached a Shelby attorney to handle the matter. Mr. Harrill said the Shelby attorney, whom he did not name, had in turn approached him suggesting they split fees on the proposition. Mr. Harrill said he declined, and the attorney remarked that Mr. Harrill would later handle the matter for nothing.

He said the matter had been brewing since the voting on the city bond issues last summer. "The sovereignty of the people is the question," he said, "and they won't be satisfied until this change is made."

Mr. Harrill charged that the present city manager form of government is illegal, because it was not approved by the people. There have been two stabs at bringing suits, and they would have been brought had not the bond issues of last summer been withdrawn, he continued, adding that a suit can be brought under two items, (1) for recovery of the amounts of money paid the city manager, and (2) the amount of money expended by the city on the city stadium. He said the 1939 amendment to the charter struck out section 6a of the original charter which empowered the city board to employ city personnel.

"These people (the petitioners) are asking for a simple democratic process. I have no right to compromise on what 1300 or more people want. I don't see how you can ignore the wants of these people. You can do as you wish and let the chips fall where they may. The

town has growing pains. If bond issues are presented, which are needed, I believe they would be passed under the proposed set-up."

Councilman Ware then asked about the second petition (providing a mayor-at-large, four wards, and retaining the vote-for-one-councilman provision.) Mr. Harrill replied that changes could not be obtained for the second, indicating that the people were suspicious of it.

Admitting that he helped work out the present charter, Mr. Harrill said he would not in the future attempt to work out any further governmental plan unless it were to be presented to the people for vote.

Objection to the everybody-vote-for-everybody system was voiced by George W. Mauney, who said it would make elections too easy to fix and would eliminate a general city-wide responsibility on the part of the candidates.

Mr. Bridges asked if the citizens in a particular ward didn't know their candidates better than the citizens of another.

Mr. Wilson replied that four candidates received a total of only 164 votes in the 1945 election.

Mr. Harrill then admitted that any situation could degenerate into politics of the lowest sort. "But Mr. Williams' campaign talk of last spring was that he would change the city government and you see what happened," Mr. Harrill continued. (Ed. Note: Charles S. Williams opposed Rep. Mull for the state legislature, defeating Mr. Mull in Kings Mountain precincts by 3 to 1. Mr. Mull's county majority, however, was 3 to 1.)

Mr. Bridges then remarked he favored the petition insofar as the (Cont'd on page eight)

Mull, Weathers Get Petition On Voting Set-up

A delegation of five men went to Shelby Saturday and presented the petition circulated in February to Senator Lee B. Weathers and Representative O. M. Mull asking changes in the city charter.

The petition, signed by more than 1300 persons, asks these changes:

(1) Election of a mayor-at-large.

(2) Election of five aldermen by the people at large, with the ward system to be retained only insofar as residence of candidates are concerned.

The five-man delegation included Attorney E. A. Harrill, who drew the petition and who has been spokesman for a citizens group interested in making the changes, Hunter Neisler, Frank Roberts, P. D. Herndon and H. C. Wilson.

Mr. Harrill told the Herald that Mr. Mull urged the group to settle its differences at home, offering the opinion that it could be settled under existing statutes.

Mr. Harrill said Mr. Weathers told him to draw a bill amending the present city charter and send it to him, but that Mr. Weathers telephoned him Sunday recommending that the matter be presented to the city board for action. Mr. Harrill said Mr. Weathers told him he had telephoned City Councilman W. K. Mauney and Mayor Joe H. Thomson and had offered the advice that "1300 people can't be ignored."

Mr. Harrill said he wrote Senator Weathers Wednesday concerning action of the board.

Blalock's Buck Allran Injured In Collision; Improvement Shown

The condition of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Blalock and A. A. (Buck) Allran, who sustained serious injuries in an automobile wreck on the Shelby road about 10:30 Monday night, was described as satisfactory by Gaston Memorial hospital officials Wednesday afternoon.

The wreck occurred near the Price Harmon service station when a 1935 Ford, pulling another car, collided with Mr. Blalock's 1946 Plymouth.

According to City Officer Haywood Allen, Constable W. L. Blackburn, who investigated, said that the Ford, driven by 17-year-old Anderson Brown and owned by James O. Slate of Stoneville, N. C., was moving West on the wrong side of the road and ready to pass a car. When he saw Mr. Blalock's car approaching, he moved to the right, but the second car swerved into the Blalock vehicle.

Young Brown is reported to be free on bond from Cleveland county jail, pending outcome of the accident.

The Blalocks and Mr. Allran were returning from the home of Charlie Whisman, uncle of Mr. Blalock, where they had been visiting.

Mrs. Blalock, thought most severely injured, suffered a broken leg, broken arm, a broken jaw, and severe lacerations of the throat. Mr. Allran suffered a deep concussion and a skull fracture.

Mr. Blalock was released from the hospital about 4:30 Tuesday morning, but was re-admitted later in the day. At that time, examinations revealed a fracture of the knee. He also suffered lacerations.

GLADDEN INSTALLED AS VFW COMMANDER

Frank Gladden was installed as commander of Johnnie W. Blackwell Post 2208, VFW, at a meeting of the post held at City Hall Tuesday night.

Bub Gold, past commander of the Grover post, was in charge of installation services and along with Mr. Gladden, the following officers were installed: Lyndon Barton, senior vice commander, John Moss, junior vice commander, Frank Glass, quartermaster, Floyd Payne, post advocate, Harold Plonk, post surgeon, Ray Kirby, one-year trustee, Hal Plonk, two-year trustee, and James Smith, one-year trustee.

John Moss was re-elected as business manager of the semi-pro baseball club sponsored by the post and members pertaining to the club were named.

Red Cross Fund Reaches \$4,018

J. W. Milam, Kings Mountain Red Cross chairman, reported Wednesday afternoon a total of \$4,018.02 in contributions to the fund campaign by Number 4 township business firms and citizens.

The total reported by Chairman Milam, represents almost two-thirds the \$6,205. quota. It includes, he said, relatively incomplete returns from Grover, Kings Mountain industrial employees, Kings Mountain residential sections, and the colored division.

Mr. Milam continued to express confidence that the quota will be met, but he urged all solicitors to make every effort to complete their reports this week.

Music Contests At Lincolnton

Kings Mountain school musicians and musical groups will go to Lincolnton Friday and Saturday for participation in the annual district music contests.

On Friday, scheduled as band day the Kings Mountain band, under the direction of Joe Hedden, will participate in the Class D. contests. Mr. Hedden said that the band will "graduate" next year to Class C and the following year to Class B.

On Saturday, the girls' glee club will compete in the contest for vocal groups, and Miss Pauline Mauney will play in the senior high school piano contest. She will play "Allegra" by Handel, "Waltz in E Minor" by Chopin, and "Poeme" by Reed.

Miss Mauney is a pupil of Miss Mary Anne James, who is director of the girls' glee club.

WARE BROTHERS COLLIDE AT SECOND—ONE HURT

The Ware brothers—Jack and Bill sons of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Ware, of the Oak Grove community—collided on the baseball diamond at Beth-Ware school last Saturday, resulting in a broken leg for Jack.

Jack Ware was on second base and Buford, breaking for second, ran into his brother. He accidentally knocked his brother down and stepped on his leg. Both boys were broken. Jack is recuperating in Shelby hospital, where his condition is regarded as satisfactory.

State Alumni Schedule Meets

The Cleveland County Club of State College is having a Vocational Guidance Day at the Shelby high school auditorium on Wednesday March 26 at 1:30. Colonel J. W. Harrelson, who is chancellor of State College, will preside and the deans of the Textile school, school of agriculture, and school of engineering will give short talks on the vocational opportunities in those particular fields. The program will last one hour only. The meeting is open to all seniors in the high schools of the county and to the parents of these seniors. B. N. Barnes and J. E. Huneycutt of the Kings Mountain school system have received invitations to come and bring the local seniors and their families.

The Cleveland County Club is having an alumni luncheon meeting the sameday at noon at the Hotel Charles. It will be "Dutch," with plates \$1.00 each. Dean Malcolm E. Campbell of the Textile school of State college will talk on Textiles in the state and leading textile men of Cleveland county and representatives of other Cleveland county industries have been invited to attend this luncheon. A large number of the 200 alumni in Cleveland county are expected to be present along with many of the 76 student now enrolled at State, 30 of whom live in or near Kings Mountain. Cards are being issued Thursday to all alumni and students asking them to attend. Those who plan to attend should notify Max Gardner, jr., in Shelby.

Kiwanis, Farmers See State Film

Some 130 persons including club members and farmer guests attended the annual Kiwanis club Farmer's Night meeting at the Woman's Club last Thursday night and saw the Easo travelogue on North Carolina "Meet North Carolina."

The film, another in a series of films on various states and regions, has been widely hailed all over the state and was adopted as the official state film by the General Assembly. It required six months "to shoot" and 5,000 feet of film before cutting to the 31-minute feature.

It was presented by Fred Dixon, special representative, and Jesse A. Kiser, district supervisor of Standard Oil.

It was shown to some 900 school children in the afternoon. The farmers were welcomed by W. A. Williams, chairman of the committee which arranged the meeting.

RIDDLE TO ASSIST AT DIXON MEETING

Rev. George R. Riddle, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Cherryville, will assist the pastor, Rev. P. D. Patrick, in a week of evangelistic services in the Dixon Presbyterian church. These services will be held Sunday afternoon at 3:45 o'clock and there will be services Sunday night at 7:30 and each evening during the week at the same hour. These services will be held in the Dixon school house, and will continue through Friday evening.

The church feels most fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Riddle. He was one of the most beloved chaplains in the armed forces. He served with the famous 82nd Airborne division and was the first in Germany. Since being released from the armed forces he has led his congregation in Cherryville, in the completion of a beautiful stone church.

At a congregational meeting of the Dixon church Sunday afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Stewart presented them a deed for a lot for their new church. The congregation is enthusiastic over the gift and hopes to build in the near future.

Mayor Says City Operated Legally

Mayor J. H. Thomson, replying to charges made by Attorney E. A. Harrill at the city board meeting Tuesday night, said Wednesday that the city is operating legally.

In connection with the allegations, he made the following statement:

"The city is operating under the 1913 charter, with major amendments of 1939 which set up the ward system.

"The amendments of 1939 struck out section 6 of the city's 1913 charter. The 1939 charter was never in effect. It had a provision requiring an election to make it effective and no election was ever held.

"The amendments of 1939 did not strike out Section 6 of the 1913 charter, which empowered the city board to employ such officials as are deemed necessary.

"Even if this section had been deleted, the general statute of North Carolina, Chapter 190, makes ample provision for the city board to employ whatever help it deems necessary to conduct its affairs.

"As far as we know the town is being operated under the law, in this as well as in other respects."