

SPORT SHOTS

BY CHARLES CARPENTER

NEW HIGH SCHOOL????

Ever since this writer returned to Kings Mountain, a plan to consolidate Central high school, Bethware high school, and Grover high school, in Kings Mountain, has been looming as an improvement that should be voted immediately.

In fact, the idea has been talked over with a number of people as early as February, 1946. Now the proposal seems to be even more imperative than it did two years ago.

If the three high schools of Number Four Township were consolidated at Central school here, better instructors could be obtained for a more varied program of studies and the athletic situation would be greatly improved with the addition of more students to choose the better performers from.

And Bethware and Grover grammar schools would be less crowded. No building would be required at these two places.

Central school could possibly be used as the centralized high school building, with the grammar and primary grades now at Central taken care of by construction of another building in the city to take care of those grades.

A peek at the population increase here in the last few years would probably give a hint that some building is going to have to be done in the school system, both in the city and at Bethware and Grover.

And the suggested program would undoubtedly cost the tax payer less money if it is planned now, with construction to get underway as possible.

At Central this year it has been reported that one group of primary students are doubled under a teacher that has another classroom and that the children in the overflow group are quartered in a room formerly used as a storage place. It was also reported that a SNAKE was killed in the room at

ter it had been seen by the pupils a number of times.

It looks like much more room is needed in the city school system for next year and some building program will be asked of the tax payer.

Aside from saving money, the above mentioned program would also give children better education, something that, in our opinion, they now lack, regardless of the high scholastic rating of the Kings Mountain high school.

With the Western Carolina league now an eight-team reality, without a local team, news comes from Gastonia way that Craftsman Mills of Kings Mountain will represent this city in a two-game per week textile league.

The new loop will probably supplant the Mid-State loop, which lost Lincolnton to the WC and hence by virtue of that company's dropping the baseball program, leaving only five teams.

American Legion officials are contemplating supporting a Kings Mountain team again if an operating fund can be raised prior to March 1 it is understood. But it was pointed out that the team must have much more support from fans than did the 1947 team, which lost around \$600 mostly due to absolutely no support from paying customers. If you're interested in this program you can help see it through this year by letting Legion officials know you want to see a team here this summer and by attending the games regularly. Without a lot of support this year the program here is doomed.

So with the two teams probably playing in Kings Mountain, local baseball fans can be assured of some diamond activity, other than the major and minor stories one can read about in the papers.

It looks like it's about time that local baseball fans should get on the ball and push a new park for the city. With conditions at games this summer looking worse than last year's, we can't see how the paying customers and citizens could bear the thoughts of another season—the 1949 season—of sitting on the bank or taking a chance of breaking a leg to get into the temporary bleachers. No hope could be held for a new park for the coming season, but now is the time for all good baseball loving folks to get on the warpath and get decent facilities for sports here. Of course the same goes for the pigskin paying customers who watch football games in the same place.

And while sports fans are after improvements, addition of larger seating capacity to the Central gymnasium should also be on the calendar. The gym holds only around 550 paying fans at present and with basketball here now gaining much ground in popularity field, additional seating room seems to be a thing to look toward doing immediately.

Perhaps another building, an armory or city recreational building on a self-supporting basis where large crowd-drawing events could be held, would fill that bill better.

Kings Mountain could well afford to grow in the sports field as in the business field.

The Naval Air Transport Service cancelled only one scheduled flight on its "Hotshot" line, which gives direct service from Washington, D. C., to San Francisco, in its first year of operation of twice-daily flights. On that occasion runways at National Airport, Washington, D. C., were so heavily iced that a landing was considered too dangerous to attempt.

Western Carolina Set With Eight;

Western Carolina Class D. baseball league was complete with eight teams and will begin its first season April 30 it was announced in Charlotte last Saturday by John H. Moss, loop president, of Kings Mountain.

Addition of Lincolnton to the league's roster of teams completed the eight-team circuit. Hendersonville had already been accepted by the remainder of the loop, provided an eighth club could be signed.

Teams listed in the circuit when it was approved for organized baseball by George M. Trautman, minor league commissioner, on Dec. 19, included Forest City, Lenoir, Marion, Morganton, Newton, Conover, and Shelby. The loop will play a 120-game card, which opens on April 30 and closes with a Labor Day doubleheader. Shaughnessy playoffs will follow. An all-star game will be played July 23 at the home park of the first place team as of July 4.

The club salary limit has been set at \$2,600, with a player limit of 17 including a specified three service veterans seven class men and seven rookies. The schedule will call for two game series on a home and home basis, according to the loop president.

Lincolnton entered the new loop from the Mid-State loop, after completion of discussions with Johnny Allen, former Tar Heel major league pitcher, who will manage the team's entry.

Hendersonville is represented by Charlie Mundy, who will be playing

manager and league director. He piloted Rocky Mount in the Coastal Plains league last year.

The entrance of Hendersonville and Lincolnton gives North Carolina 43 towns in organized baseball in 1948, a figure unequaled in minor league history. North Carolina's seven leagues in organized baseball is a state total surpassed only by New York's 10.

The club presidents and league di-

rectors, in that order (one man holding both positions when but one name is listed) are as follows:

Marion, O. L. Broyhill, Hugh Beam Morganton, J. W. Beach; Newton, Conover, Sam Rowe, Roger Saunders; Shelby, Clyde Short, Casey Morris; Forest City, Jess Hill; Lenoir, Archie Costner; Hendersonville, Oliver McMahan, Charles Mundy; Lincolnton, Buck Mauney.

Bulldogs Drop Local Independents 68-64

Kings Mountain Independents basketball team dropped a close 68 to 64 thriller in Central gymnasium Saturday night to the Gardner Webb Bulldogs.

The visitors iced the game in the final minute when they scored a field goal with the score at 66-64 in their favor.

Scruggs, 6 foot 3 inch center, was outstanding for the Bulldogs.

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