

POPULATION

City Limits (1940 Census) 6,574
Immediate Trading Area 15,000
(1945 Ration Board Figures)

Kings Mountain Herald

16 Pages Today

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Kings Mountain, N. C., Friday, September 3, 1948

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Voters Retain Present Form Of Government

Taxi Driver Gets Life For Blanton Murder

Draft Registration Going Well Here; 337 Listed In Three Days

Local News Bulletins

Proposed Forms Badly Beaten In Charter Vote

COURT ON TUESDAY
City Recorder's Court will not convene Monday as regularly because of the Labor Day holiday.

KIWANIS MEETING
Members of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club were to hear an address by Dr. Z. P. Mitchell, county health officer, at the regular meeting of the club Thursday night at 7 o'clock at the Woman's Club.

CANNERY OPEN FRIDAYS
Announcement was made yesterday that the Bethware cannery will operate on Fridays only until further notice.

ALLEN GRADUATED
Among the 123 graduates at State College August 20 was George William Allen, Jr., of Kings Mountain. He was graduated with a bachelor of science in textiles.

JAYCEE MEETING
Regular meeting of the Kings Mountain Junior Chamber of Commerce will be held Tuesday night at 7:30 at the Woman's Club according to an announcement by W. S. Fulton, Jr., president.

METER RECEIPTS
Parking meter receipts for the 17th week of operation, which closed Wednesday, totaled \$155.99 according to a report from the office of S. A. Crouse, city clerk.

TO LENOIR-RHYNE
Four Kings Mountain students will be members of the Lenoir-Rhyne college student body when the fall semester opens September 13. They are Gene Mitchem, Dickie McGinnis, David Mauney, and Joe Rhyne.

BUILDING PERMITS
Three building permits were issued at City Hall during the past week. On Wednesday permit was issued to C. M. Randall for construction of a new four-room dwelling on Monte Vista drive cost \$3,000.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Volunteers are needed to help with the registration for Selective Service and anyone who can help next week is asked to call Mrs. B. N. Barnes and offer to serve.

Wednesday School Opening Doubtful

The county board of health was meeting at 4:30 Thursday afternoon to take action on the petition and E. N. Barnes, superintendent of schools was quite dubious that city schools would be able to open on September 8th as tentatively scheduled.

Kings Mountain voters went to the polls in not-too-great numbers on Saturday and voted to retain the present form of government.

The vote as canvassed by the city board of commissioners on Monday was as follows:

For retaining the present charter, 308.

For the manager-council-mayor charter, 158.

For the mayor-council charter, 92.

The total vote of 558 represented approximately one-sixth of the registration.

The ballot was arranged to give voters a second choice but few availed themselves of the opportunity.

Three second choice votes were counted for the present form of government, eight for the manager form, and 12 for the mayor-council form.

In no way did the second choices affect the total vote, proponents of retaining the present form scoring a clear majority.

Activity in Saturday's election, a hot day which some thought cut down the voting, was limited principally to the group supporting the present form.

Several workers were in the field and polling place workers were distributing cards which read "Vote For Present Form."

The administration had gone on record as supporting the manager-council form of government, and were victorious only in Ward 4, where 56 votes were recorded for this form, 20 for the manager-council form, and only 31 for the present form of government.

In all other wards, the total showed a wide preponderance in favor of the status quo.

Principal issue involved in the charter vote was the change in school administration provided for in the two new proposed systems.

Had either of these charters been adopted, school trustees would have been elected for two-year terms, rather than six-year terms.

Another issue involved was the change provided in the proposed charters which would have given Kings Mountain so-called "home rule." Under these provisions, future charter changes would have come about by election called after petition by 25 percent of the registered voters.

Under the present form, charter (Cont'd on page eight)

FIRE ALARM

City firemen extinguished a fire at the home of Charlie Fulton on Mountain street at 8 o'clock Wednesday morning. Chief Grady King reported that the fire started from a defective stove flue and that damage was very slight.

Mrs. Howell Does About Face, "Confesses," Denies Shooting

The Betty Smith murder case took several new twists and turns this week, all centering around Mrs. Pratt Dover Howell, wife of Robert Howell, one of the men charged with the crime.

At Recorder's Court in Shelby Wednesday, Mrs. Howell testified she had nothing to do with the shooting of the young red-headed girl.

On Sunday, three days before, she had visited Coroner Ollie Harris here and had calmly written a statement "confessing" that she had killed the Smith girl.

Mrs. Howell did her about-face on the stand, stating that her husband had cajoled and threatened her into making the "confession" statement.

Howell, free under bond of \$10,000 was present at the Wednesday hearing before Judge L. T. Hamrick. Hamrick, in turn, ordered Mrs. Howell placed in protective custody at the county jail.

Trial of Howell and Ray Sellers, also charged with the crime, is scheduled for the November term of Cleveland Superior Court.

Mrs. Howell gave the following story on the witness stand:

"At about midnight on the night of the killing, Robert came into the house. He was drunk. He had a black pistol in his hand. He said, 'Damn you, Pratt, you'd better be (Cont'd on page eight)'"

Albert L. Brooks, Chattanooga, Tenn., taxi driver, was sentenced to life imprisonment in Georgia's Walker county Superior Court Tuesday morning for the shotgun slaying last March 24 of Hugh E. Blanton, of Forest City.

This information was received here by C. D. Blanton, brother of the slaying victim, shortly after the sentence was handed down by Judge Claude Porter.

The jury, which went out Thursday morning, August 26, had returned a finding of guilty of first degree murder with recommendation of mercy.

The body of the Forest City man was found at the foot of Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tenn., last March, and a large sum of money known to be in his possession was missing.

Police investigation linked the cab driver with the case and it was later determined that the shotgun which had fired the fatal shell had been in the possession of Brooks.

At the time, Blanton was en route to Mississippi and had stopped over in Chattanooga.

The case was prosecuted by Georgia District Solicitor E. J. Clover and his assistant Horace Clary.

Brooks denied on the witness stand that he had been to Lookout Mountain "since he was 10 years old." The crime took place just over the state line in Georgia, and the taxi driver had been arrested on a murder charge shortly after the killing.

C. D. Blanton and another brother, Robert Blanton of Forest City, were present for the trial.

Speeding Fines On The Increase

Twenty-two cases were tried in regular weekly session of City Recorder's court held at City Hall Monday, Judge O. C. O'Farrell presiding.

Only five defendants were convicted on charges of public drunkenness.

The case against Zeb Helpher, charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, was dismissed.

Harley Painter was fined costs after conviction on a charge of temporary larceny of a motor scooter.

Herbert M. Peavey, of Dallas, was fined costs for disposal of mortgaged property.

Jim Avery, on a drunk and disorderly charge, was fined \$10 and costs.

Wilford Hartsoe, charged with public drunkenness, and Austin Bailey Barrett, charged with assault on a female, each requested a jury trial. They will be tried in Cleveland county Recorder's court.

Robert Neal, of Bessemer City, for speeding, was fined \$5 and costs.

Edwin G. Herndon, of Grover, for driving without a drivers license, (Cont'd on page five)

Petitions Being Circulated On U. S. 74 Plans

Petitions requesting the North Carolina State Highway Commission to re-route U. S. Highway 74 to the North of Kings Mountain are being circulated among property owners and residents of King street, according to an announcement yesterday by Marshall Heavener, one of the interested property owners.

The petition reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned citizens, property owners, and residents who live on Highway 29 and 74, known locally as King Street, extending through the center of the City of Kings Mountain, have been informed that it is the purpose of the Commission to widen said street through said City for an additional width of 10 feet; we have also been informed that it is the purpose of the Commission to continue to route truck traffic over this street regardless of the hazards to the school children who have to cross said street as often as four times a day during the period of nine months of the year. We most respectfully call your attention to the fact that it is one of the most heavily traveled streets in the State due primarily to the fact that it carries the North and South traffic for National Highway 29 and State Highway 74.

"We are signing this petition to enter our protest to your further burdening this street with traffic, and we most respectfully ask that you consider routing all through traffic around or on the outer edge of said City, where we are informed that a way can be had with little expense and traffic hazards can be lessened."

Mr. Heavener said citizens of the Oak Grove community had expressed the desire for a paved road through their area since this area is several miles distant from hard-surfaced roads.

Bethware Fair Premium List Out

Some 239 items are listed on the premium list for the Bethware Community Fair to be held September 16, 17, and 18 at Bethware school, according to Myers Hambright, manager of the event being sponsored by the Bethware Progressive club and the Bethware Veteran Farmer Training class.

Some 150 persons, including fair officials and surrounding area businessmen, attended a barbecue supper at Bethware school Wednesday night at which time premium list and rules and regulations booklets were distributed.

Mr. Hambright announced that premium lists can be secured from any of the fair officials and urged citizens to plan now to enter the competition for awards.

Departments are listed as follows, with department heads named: Agriculture-Boyd Harrelson.

Horticulture-Wayne L. Ware.

Livestock-J. C. Randle, general; Jack Ware and John Phifer, hog; and Herman Goforth, sheep.

Canned fruits and vegetables-Mrs. Frank Ware, Mrs. C. S. Falls, and Mrs. Lee Deveney.

Preserves-Jellies, and Jams-Mrs. Evelyn Herndon and Mrs. H. A. Goforth.

Pickles and Meats-Mrs. C. C. Whisnant and Miss Pinkie Lee Randle.

Pantry and Dairy Supplies-Mrs. Hal Morris, Mrs. William Bell, and Mrs. Odessa McSwain.

Household Arts-Mrs. Lamar Hern.

Mr. Barnes expects to announce the opening of his offices within the next few days.

Fifth Annual Lions Horse Show To Top Labor Day Holiday Menu

The Kings Mountain Lions Club will present its fifth annual Labor Day Horse Show at City Stadium Monday, with a classy field of top-grade horseflesh scheduled to vie for more than \$1,000 in prize money and additional handsome trophies.

Two programs have been arranged for the show, which is one of the most complete one-day events in the area. Twelve classes are scheduled for the afternoon, beginning at 2:30 p. m., with eleven classes in the evening, beginning at 8 p. m.

E. G. (Gilly) Gilmore, of Winston Salem, will judge the event, and Stuart Dellinger of Stanley, will serve as ringmaster.

Jimmy Harris, entries committee chairman, reported Thursday morning that total number of horses already entered for the show is 37.

Among exhibitors showing here will be Misses Evelyn and Frances Getys of Clover, S. C., Miss Barbara Ford, of Clover, S. C., Holly-Oak Farms of Shelby, and Lex Marsh, of Charlotte, all of whom are veterans (Cont'd on page eight)



NEW LAWYER - William Faison Barnes, above, Kings Mountain native, announced this week that he is beginning the practice of law in Kings Mountain. A World War II veteran, Mr. Barnes has been a resident of Pinetops, N. C. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina law school.

Barnes To Open Law Office Here

William Faison Barnes, native of Kings Mountain and World War II veteran, will arrive here this week-end to begin the practice of law.

Mr. Barnes, recent graduate of the University of North Carolina Law school, was admitted to the bar in August, following his successful standing of the North Carolina Bar examinations.

He is the son of Mrs. Lyda Faison Barnes and the late Edwin W. Barnes, a well-known Kings Mountain druggist from 1911 to 1924. The Barnes family moved to Pinetops, N. C., in 1924, and has resided there ever since. Mr. Barnes succumbed in 1937.

Entering the army in April, 1943, the new Kings Mountain attorney, spent 37 months in service, including 16 months of duty in the South Pacific area as a supply officer and company commander. He held the rank of second lieutenant on his discharge in May 1946. He now is a commissioned officer in the army reserve.

At the University of North Carolina, from which he received the degree of B. S. in Commerce in 1943, he was president of his first year law class, a member of the student legislature and debate council, and was a member of Delta Sigma Pi commerce fraternity and Delta Theta Phi law fraternity.

Mr. Barnes expects to announce the opening of his offices within the next few days.

Willis Baby Died Of Polio Saturday

The polio epidemic in the Kings Mountain area totaled two deaths and 21 cases, according to a survey made by the Herald Thursday morning.

Second victim of the disease was a 15-month-old girl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Willis, route 3, Kings Mountain, who succumbed on Saturday at the Orthopedic hospital in Gastonia. The baby had become ill two days previously and had been committed to the hospital by Dr. J. E. Anthony.

Other doctors reported no additional cases, most adding that they had seen no new polio patients in the past two weeks.

The hope, of course, was universal that the epidemic was over, and several thought that the cooler weather developing this week might aid in ending the epidemic.

WOW MEETING

The Woodmen of the World will meet Tuesday evening at 7:30 at the WOW Hall. An important business session is scheduled, according to Camp Commander W. F. England, who is urging all members to attend.

Volunteer Workers Aid Registration

The new peacetime draft got underway here Monday with 126 youths from 18-25 keeping a corps of volunteer workers on virtually full-time duty at the City Hall, courtroom registration station.

By Wednesday at the 5 p. m. closing time, a total of 337 local area youths had affixed their names to new selective service registration cards. A total of 105 had gone through their registration process on Tuesday, with an additional 106 on Wednesday.

On the average it required about 12 minutes to complete the details on each individual registrant, with the time varying slightly in the cases of youthful veterans who were asked to give their army service entrance and discharge dates, plus their serial numbers.

With the total registration here approximately one-third of the total for Cleveland County, it appeared that the registration was going exceptionally well.

The services anticipate inducting about 10,000 men from the 48 states in October, according to present plans.

The job of registration here is being handled by a number of volunteer workers, some 40 offering to aid in the task. This brought a statement of appreciation from W. B. Logan, Kings Mountain member of the Cleveland County selective service board, and in charge of the registrations here.

Mr. Logan expressed appreciation for the cooperation of citizens in aiding in the work and pointed out that the Cleveland board, late in organizing due to last minute resignations of appointed board members, would have had a difficult (Cont'd on page eight)

Lynch Opens Realty Agency

Haywood E. Lynch, well-known Kings Mountain business man and former editor of the Kings Mountain Herald, announced this week that he is opening a realty agency, with offices at No. 2, Morrison Building.

Mr. Lynch has long been active in real estate circles in Kings Mountain on a private basis, and, since 1945, has built several homes in the city, both for re-sale and on a contract basis. His experience therefore enables him to have first-hand knowledge of realty values.

"I have long been interested in the realty business," Mr. Lynch said, "and I am happy to announce that I can now enter this field full-scale."

Mr. Lynch said he would handle sales, purchases, and rentals.

Tommy Baker Adds New Model Laurels

Tommy Baker, ace with model airplanes, has now added international recognition to his growing list of laurels.

Already the holder of numerous championships throughout the South and in many other states, he emerged in second place in both the Jet and Class A speed demonstrations at the International Model Plane meet held in Detroit last week.

Mr. Baker was in competition with 542 other model plane builders at Detroit.

He also entered the National contest at Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 29.