

Board Adopts Annual Budget, Sets \$1.80 Tax Rate

Two Postal Employees Face Federal Charges

Local News Bulletins

VFW MEETING
 An important meeting of the Johnnie W. Blackwell Post 2269, Veterans of Foreign Wars, is scheduled for Friday at 7:30 at City Hall. Full attendance is requested.

TOURING CANADA
 Rev. J. H. Brendall, pastor of Central Methodist church, and Mrs. Brendall left Sunday for a two-weeks tour of Canada.

METER RECEIPTS
 Parking meter receipts for the week ending at noon Wednesday totaled \$133.94 according to a report by S. A. Crouse, city clerk.

CLUB STAG NIGHT
 Regular monthly Stag Night will be held at the Kings Mountain Country Club Monday night, it was announced this week. Members are requested to make reservations by noon Monday by phoning 302-4.

UNION SERVICE
 Sunday night's union service will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran church at 8 o'clock, with Rev. L. C. Pinnix, pastor of First Baptist church, delivering the sermon.

BUILDING PERMITS
 Building permits were issued Wednesday to G. L. Wright, for construction of a new dwelling on West King street, \$5,000, and Sam E. Smith, for construction of a new three-room dwelling on First street, \$1,400.

ATTENDS CONFERENCE
 Mrs. J. N. Gamble, executive secretary of the Kings Mountain Chapter, American Red Cross, is attending a secretaries conference at Asheville. Attending are Red Cross secretaries from Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. She will return Friday.

KIWANIANS HAD PICNIC
 Members of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club were scheduled to hold a family picnic at Lake Montona Thursday evening at 7 o'clock. Members, their families and guests were to attend.

HAMBRIGHT REUNION
 Descendants of Col. Frederick Hambright, Revolutionary War hero at the Battle of Kings Mountain, will gather for the annual Hambright reunion Sunday at noon at Antioch Baptist church near Grover.

GRACE METHODIST
 Boyce Huffstetter, who is entering college as a ministerial student in the fall, will conduct morning services at Grace Methodist church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. The pastor, Rev. G. W. Fink, is conducting services out-of-town.

NO SUNDAY SERMON
 Regular 11 o'clock Sunday morning services will not be held at Boyce Memorial ARP church Sunday. The pastor, Rev. W. L. Presley, is attending Institute of Theology at Princeton, N. J., for a three-week course. Sunday school will be held as usual.

METHODIST SPEAKER
 Rev. Yoelp Benjamin, native of Persia and former missionary to Persia and Russia, will deliver the sermon at the 11 o'clock service at Central Methodist church in the absence of Rev. J. H. Brendall. A noted speaker who has delivered sermons to some of the largest churches in the south, Rev. Benjamin will also speak to the Men's Bible class at 10 o'clock. A cordial invitation is extended to all denominations to hear this forceful speaker.

Charges Against Ramsey, Willis Shock Community

The facts in the cases involving dismissal and indictment of two Kings Mountain postoffice employees, as gathered from Postmaster W. E. Blakely, charges preferred by Postal Inspector R. E. Hartigan, and the two men involved are:
 (1) Charles Ramsey, 29-year-old postoffice charman and substitute clerk-carrier faces charges of theft and rifling of a "test" letter containing currency in the amount of eight dollars. The theft allegedly occurred on Friday, July 8.
 (2) J. K. (Jim) Willis, contract mail messenger for the past several years, is charged with tampering with mail matter, theft of two magazines and a catalog. These charges arose from alleged infractions taking place in February.

According to Postmaster Blakely, the tampering charge against Mr. Willis resulted from inspectors' allegations that Mr. Willis opened, then sealed, a "test" special delivery letter containing money. The money, however, was not removed and the letter placed in the proper channels. A part of Mr. Willis' duties was the delivery of special delivery mail. Theft of the magazines and the catalog are more "book" charges than serious infractions, it was indicated, since the two magazines allegedly stolen came from the "throw-back" file, which meant they were undeliverable and scheduled for burning. On the catalog charge, Mr. Willis allegedly glanced through a mail order catalog at the postoffice, and returned it to its proper slot. Mr. Blakely said he did not know whether the inspectors charged that the test letter had been sealed when opened.

Mr. Ramsey admitted to the charges preferred, Mr. Blakely said, after the planted bills, sprinkled with powder transparent only under special light, and with serial numbers copied, were found in his possession in a general search of personnel by the postal inspectors.

Mr. Ramsey, arrested Friday, waived hearing before U. S. Commissioner John P. Mull, of Shelby, and was bound over to the October term of federal court under \$500 bond which was made.

Mr. Willis, arrested Saturday, also waived hearing before Commissioner Mull, and was bound over to the October term of Federal court under bond of \$500, which was made.

It was evident Friday afternoon that something unusual was under way at the Kings Mountain post-office.

About 5:30 in the afternoon, the only postal employee available for window service was Miss Freelove Black, money order clerk. Millard Prince passed through the main lobby, followed by a postal inspector, who, in turn, was followed by Edwin Moore, substitute rural carrier. Miss Black told window patrons no clerk was immediately available and that she was not allowed to attend to regular clerk duties. Asked if postal inspectors were present, she said they were.

Postmaster Blakely said that in (Cont'd on page four)

Many Seeking Textile Training

John Floyd, instructor in the new textile school recently approved by the Veterans Administration, said Thursday that a total of 69 applicants had sought admission to the school.

Since only two classes of 20 students each have been approved by the Veterans Administration, Mr. Floyd said potential enrollees represented an excess of 29 persons. The school will get underway as quickly as the applicants receive certificates of eligibility from the Veterans Administration. Mr. Floyd said students will be notified of the starting date of the classes, to be taught at the Velma-Craft building on York Road.

King Traffic Signal System Synchronized

City Engineer J. S. Evans, Jr., said yesterday that installation of traffic signal lights on King street were completed this week.

The three traffic lights at the corners of King-Battleground, King-Piedmont and King-Gaston are synchronized, Mr. Evans said, and can be "made" by motorists traveling east or west at a speed of 20 miles per hour.

The installation was completed by J. J. Jerry, engineer of the Crouse-Hinds Company, manufacturers of traffic signal equipment. Mr. Evans said completion of installation of the signal system at the intersection of Battleground - Piedmont - Parker street still awaits receipt of permission from Southern Railway for installation of a pole on Railway property.

TV-Dance Show At Gym Friday

A large crowd of square dancers and spectators is expected to attend the Mountaineer Club folk dance exhibition at the high school gymnasium Friday night. The dance is scheduled to get underway with a television premiere showing from Station WBTB, Charlotte, at 7 p. m.

The famous Cramerton Gingham Team, a group of 12 dance couples, will give an exhibition of folk dancing beginning at 8:30 p. m. and dancing is scheduled to follow. Arthur Sprouse and His Melody Drifters will furnish music for the event. Dan Huffstetter is chairman of arrangements for the sponsors.

The television premiere is an added free attraction and is being sponsored at the gym by Stowe Radio Service and Western AAuto. Several sets will be televising until the end of the WBTB program at 10:30 p. m.

Admission for the folk dance and square dance spectators, general admission, will be 30 and 60 cents. Dancers will be charged an additional 25 or 50 cents.

Proceeds from the event will be used to send the high school football team to Brevard College for a week's pre-season training trip in August.

Television sets installed at the gymnasium will include General Electric, sold jointly by Stowe Radio Service and Western Auto, and Westinghouse, sold by Stowe Radio. Skimp Stowe is in charge of the television display.

Logan And Houser Dissolve Partnership

W. B. Logan announced this week dissolving of the partnership between him and C. H. Houser who have been trading as Arcadia Roller Rink. The effective date was July 1.

Under terms of the transaction, Mr. Logan received the vacant lot on Battleground avenue adjoining the building occupied by Arcadia Roller Rink, and Mr. Houser retains ownership of the business and building and lot occupied by the firm.

Six-Term Mayor Wiley McGinnis Succumbs; Funeral On Friday

Wiley H. McGinnis, 69, former mayor of Kings Mountain for six terms, died at his home this morning around 8 o'clock of a heart attack after an illness of some 40 minutes.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 4 p. m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran church conducted by Rev. W. H. Stender, pastor, and Rev. Herman Fisher, former pastor. Interment will be in Mountain Rest cemetery. The body will lie in state at the church for a half-hour prior to the service.

A former bank and building and loan official, he retired from the automobile business in 1947. He was first elected mayor of the city in 1917 and was re-elected the following term, resigning in June 1920. He was elected in 1921 for a two-year term and again in 1925, serving three straight terms until 1931.

He was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran church and at the time of his death was a teacher in

Citizens Fight Zoning Change; Action Delayed

The city board of commissioners, meeting in regular monthly session Wednesday afternoon, tabled final action on the requested change in the city zoning ordinance whereby a portion of a lot on York road would be transferred to the industrial zone from the residential zone.

At the opening of the meeting, Attorney W. Faison Barnes presented the board a petition opposing the change from 12 residents of the property adjacent to the lot.

Action on the matter was to table for further conference with the appeal board, which had approved the requested change. J. T. McGinnis had requested the change for the purpose of constructing a garage on the lot owned by Ervin Allen, Jr., and Harold Hunnicutt.

Later in the meeting, a motion to rescind the action of the board on June 24 (which had the effect of denying the request for change) was made by Commissioner Hunter Patterson, but the motion did not get a second. Nevertheless, the board failed to approve the minutes of the called meeting of June 24, when the board approved, subject to action after public hearing on the matter, the McGinnis request.

A number of the petitioners attended Wednesday's meeting. Signing the petition were: Andrew Petrosino, Mrs. Andrew Petrosino, Mrs. Eva Mae Houston, Mrs. Dorothy D. C. Tignor, Thurman Eugene Tignor, Samuel H. Houston, Mrs. C. J. Gault, Jr., C. J. Gault, Jr., George Hull, Mrs. George Hull, Jack Clark, Mrs. Jeannett Clark.

Other principal action of the board concerned a matter which has caused much discontent on the part of citizens in the Burlington Mill village. Water lines were taken over by the city some months ago. The houses were un-metered and the city had an insufficient number of meters to serve all the houses. The former administration set a water charge of \$1.40 monthly. Commissioner Hal Ward moved that the charge be reduced to the \$1.00 minimum until the houses could be metered. Commissioner Bridges seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The board re-appointed Faison Barnes judge of city recorder's court at a salary of \$1,800 annually. Mayor Herndon informed the board that Mr. Barnes had told him he could not serve at the former salary of \$1,200 annually, since his duties as judge prevented him from practicing criminal law. There was some discussion about the \$600 increase, with several remarking they felt the judgeship is a lawyer's job. The matter was settled when Mr. Bridges moved the additional money be taken from the contingency fund. Mr. Patterson seconded and the motion carried.

After Mr. Bridges opened discussion on the current inspection fee schedule of the building code by Mr. Bridges, City Engineer Evans was instructed to investigate the full schedule of fees. Several commissioners voiced criticism, not only of the fees, but of the present policy of splitting monies from fees (Cont'd on page four)

the Sunday school, of which he was a former superintendent. Son of the late Margaret Rudisill and J. M. McGinnis, he was a native of Gaston county. He had been a resident of Kings Mountain for 44 years.

Survivors include his wife, the former Miss Minnie Carpenter; two sons, J. M. McGinnis, of Kings Mountain, and D. G. McGinnis, of Salisbury; three daughters, Mrs. C. R. Edwards of Kannapolis, Mrs. C. C. Proctor, of Salisbury, and Mrs. J. C. Caveny, of Kings Mountain; two brothers, M. L. and Charles McGinnis, of Crouse; five sisters, Mrs. R. F. Shelby, of Gastonia, Mrs. Pearl Bonsec, of St. Petersburg, Fla., Mrs. Mary Beam, of Columbia, S. C., and Miss Sallie and Miss Susie McGinnis, of Crouse; and 10 grandchildren.

Pall bearers for the service include J. E. Herndon, L. Arnold Kiser, Fred Plonk, R. L. Plonk, John Rudisill, and J. E. Aderholdt.



LEGION COMMANDER — Paul Mauney, World War I veteran and official of Neisler Mills, was installed as commander of Otis D. Green Post 155, American Legion, at the regular meeting of the post Monday night. He succeeds Ollie Harris.

Three Injured In Auto Wreck

Three of four persons riding in an International pick-up truck were seriously injured about 4 o'clock this morning, when the truck ran off the road on the curve of the Gastonia highway a few hundred feet East of Walters Flowers.

The seriously injured were: Mr. Rosenberry, of Dallas; George Graham, of Monks Corner, S. C.; and Mrs. Mildred Johnson, of Gastonia. A Mrs. Sinclair, of Clover, S. C., was given first aid treatment and discharged from Gaston Memorial hospital, where the injured were rushed by ambulance.

The truck traveled some 275 feet after leaving the road and wrapped itself around a tree. Ollie Harris, who answered the call, said there was no evidence that the truck's brakes had been applied.

The Herald was unable to contact Patrolman C. R. Wooten who, along with the patrolman on duty in Gaston county, investigated the accident.

Funeral Sunday For War Hero

Final interment for Pvt. David Charles Wray, who entered the army from Kings Mountain in 1942, will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at Sisk Funeral Home in Bessemer City, with Chaplain A. F. Phibbs in charge. Burial, with full military honors, will take place at Spindale cemetery.

Pvt. Wray, who was employed at the Cora Mill when he entered service, died on May 7, 1945, one day after his liberation from Camp Stalagolgia, Germany, a German prison camp. He was first interred at the American military cemetery, Champignuel, France, on May 8, 1945.

Pvt. Wray was the son of Mrs. Hattie Bowman Wray and the late W. M. Wray. He was born April 14, 1920, at Lawndale. He was a member of Company A, 11th Engineering Construction Battalion, 36th Division.

Surviving in addition to his mother, are three brothers and a sister, W. C. Wray, Bessemer City, Fred Wray, Fallston, Carl J. Wray, Spindale, and Mrs. Ruth Matheson.

Lions Hear Reports On Boys' State

Members of the Kings Mountain Lions club heard brief reports from five of the six local representatives to Boys State at the regular meeting of the club Tuesday night.

Making the reports were Delvin Huffstetter, Buddy Beatty, Richard White, Bill Allen and Harold England. Each stated appreciation for the trip to Boys State, commended it highly, and gave brief details of the week's activities.

Prior to the reports, a quartet including Dan Huffstetter, Charlie Warlock, Earl Myers and W. P. Fulton rendered several old-time vocal favorites.

Hilton Ruth arranged the program.

Nickle Pared Off Tentative Rate Of \$1.85

The city board of commissioners adopted the 1949-50 budget Wednesday afternoon, calling for expenditure of \$302,176.01, and on suspension of rules, passed the tax rate ordinance setting a rate of \$1.80 per \$100 valuation, and a \$2.70 poll tax.

The official rate was set at five cents less than the tentative rate announced last month and was arrived at after the commissioners, in informal get-together Tuesday, pared some \$2,750 off the budget.

The board, when setting the tentative budget and tax rate, had stated that it would make every effort to pare the rate prior to final adoption. The reduction will mean that citizens who have pre-paid their 1949 taxes will get a refund.

Adoption of the budget, already informally considered, started off as a routine matter. Commissioner T. J. Ellison moved adoption and Commissioner Hal D. Ward seconded. On Mayor J. E. Herndon's call for a vote, Commissioner Hudson Bridges joined Mr. Ward and Mr. Ellison in "aye," but Commissioner Hunter Patterson, remarking that he felt the budget could be pared sufficiently to cut another 10 cents off the tax rate, asked that his vote be entered opposed. (Commissioner Carl Mauney was not present.)

This development did not suit the other commissioners, who preferred a unanimous vote on the matter, and Mr. Ward and Mr. Ellison agreed to withdraw their motion for further surveillance into possible cuts. After 30 minutes perusal, no particular items were found to be conveniently removable, and Mr. Patterson agreed to change his vote to "aye," making the vote on the budget unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Ellison, setting the tax rate at \$1.80 was passed unanimously, and motion by Mr. Patterson seconded by Mr. Bridges to suspend the rules on second and third readings was passed unanimously completing action on the budget and tax rate.

In presenting the budget, City Engineer J. S. Evans, Jr., read the following letter addressed to the board:

"In presenting this budget for the City of Kings Mountain for the year 1949-50, I would like to make it known that the hard work and headaches necessary in the preparation of the budget were borne by Mr. Fulton and Mr. Brandon. They prepared a preliminary budget in March of this year based on nine months actual expenditures of the fiscal year 1948-49 and estimated the expenditures for the months of April, May and June. We now have the 1948-49 actual expenditures and based on these figures, I have modified the preliminary budget. I am glad to report that the tentative tax rate established at a \$1.85 per hundred valuation is reduced to \$1.80 per hundred valuation. I feel that no further reduction can be made.

"The total budget for the year 1949-50 is \$302,176.01 compared with 1948-49 budget of \$305,901.37 or a decrease of \$3,725.36. One would naturally wonder why the tax rate has been increased from \$1.60 per hundred to \$1.80 per hundred when the budget itself has been reduced. The entire picture can only be made after a thorough study, as you men have done in the past week, of the revenue accounts and departmental expenditures. An increase in the tax rate of approximately \$0.10 per hundred is caused by the loss of revenue from the beer and wine excise taxes. In 1948-49, this tax amounted to \$5,562.23. The additional increase in the tax rate and the reduction in the budget is caused by a difference in the amount of cash on hand as of the beginning of the fiscal year. On July 1, 1948, the cash on hand was \$15,987.30 while on July 1, 1949, it was \$3,930.21. This makes a difference of \$12,057.09.

"It is recommended that this budget be approved and the attached appropriation be enacted."

Salaries included in the budget for major officials and department heads, according to the budget control breakdown, are:

Mayor and city commissioners, \$1200 (statutory minimum for Mayor Herndon at \$50 per month and \$10 per regular meeting attended by city commissioners).
 City Engineer Evans, \$4,200; City Clerk and Treasurer S. A. Crouse, \$3,300, plus \$600 as clerk of record. (Cont'd on page four)