

# Merry Christmas

## Kings Mountain Herald

16 Pages Today

### Population

City Limits ..... 7,206  
Trading Area ..... 15,000  
(1945 Nation Board Figures)

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Sixty-Second Year

Kings Mountain, N. C., Monday, December 24, 1951

Established 1889

PRICE FIVE CENTS

# CITIZENS PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

## Four Badly Injured In Saturday Wreck

### Local News Bulletins

**LIBRARY HOLIDAY**  
Jacob S. Mauney Memorial Library will be closed until Thursday, according to announcement by Mrs. Charles G. Dilling, librarian.

**STUDENT SERVICE**  
The December 30 Sunday evening service at First Presbyterian church will be conducted by college student members of the church, according to announcement by the pastor, Rev. F. D. Patrick.

**CHRISTMAS SCENE**  
First Presbyterian church, again this year, is presenting a live Christmas scene on the lawn of the church. The final presentation of the season will be given tonight from 7 to 8 o'clock.

**LIONS WON'T MEET**  
Members of the Kings Mountain Lions club will not meet Tuesday night, due to the Christmas holiday, according to announcement this week.

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
A candlelight worship service will be held at the Resurrection Lutheran church on Christmas Eve at 11:00 p. m. The young people of the church plan a Christmas caroling.

**KIWANIANS WON'T MEET**  
The Kings Mountain Kiwanis club, as is its customary policy, will not meet Thursday night. The club regularly cancels its Christmas-week meeting. Next meeting of the club will be January 3, when officers for 1952 will be installed.

### Briggs' Death First In City Since 1947

Kings Mountain missed its fourth consecutive year without an in-city traffic fatality by 19 days.

The death on December 12 of William Briggs, aged Kings Mountain Negro, brought to an end a period of over four years in which the city escaped a traffic death.

Briggs was struck by an auto at the intersection of West King street and Railroad avenue on December 9. He died of injuries at Shelby hospital three days later.

The last previous highway death occurred on November 24, 1947. Oliver Martin, of Bostic, was almost instantly killed in an auto-truck collision at the corner of King street and Piedmont avenue in a driving rain storm. He died before an ambulance could get him to a Gastonia hospital.

Prior to that fatal accident, the city had escaped an auto death for almost two and one-half years. One person was killed in an accident inside the city in July, 1945 according to police records.

The city received traffic safety awards for the years 1946, 1948, 1949 and 1950.

### First Set Of Twins Born At Hospital

The first set of twins to be born at Kings Mountain hospital arrived Sunday morning. The twins, a boy and a girl, were born to Mr. and Mrs. James Shelby, of route 2. The boy was born at 8:30 a. m. and the girl at 8:38 a. m.

Dr. F. O. Padgett was attending physician. The hospital opened April 2.

### '49 Ford Sedan Was Stolen Car, Police Report

One person remained unconscious at noon Sunday and three others were seriously injured as the result of a head-on collision of two automobiles, one reported as stolen, Saturday night shortly after 8 o'clock at the city limits on Grover road.

Robert C. Poole, of Gastonia, a native of Gaffney, S. C., was in an unconscious state at Kings Mountain hospital at noon yesterday and his condition was listed as "critical."

Mrs. E. B. Woods, of 619 Robertson avenue, Charlotte, is in a very serious condition at the hospital. She suffered head injuries and two fractured ribs.

Her husband and son, Kenneth Dale, age 18, are also patients at the hospital where their condition is reported as serious. Mr. Woods suffered severe facial cuts and head injuries and his son suffered a fractured collar bone.

Police Chief S. R. Davidson reported early Sunday afternoon that the automobile driven by Mr. Poole, a 1949 Ford Tudor, was listed by Sgt. Green of the Gaffney, S. C., police department as a stolen vehicle. Sgt. Green told the local officer that the auto was reported as stolen Saturday at Gaffney by W. D. Fowler, of Gaffney route five, who said he was the owner of the vehicle.

Mr. Poole suffered fractures in both legs and very serious head injuries, hospital officials report.

Highway Patrolman W. D. Sawyer, who investigated along with Police Chief S. R. Davidson, said that a 1949 Ford driven by Poole and traveling north on U. S. 29 went out of control at the Superior Stone Co., switch-track crossing and smashed into a Buick occupied by the Woods.

### Carl Bennett Dies Suddenly

Funeral services for Carl W. Bennett, 54, well known machinist who died at his home suddenly Friday afternoon, were held at St. Matthew's Lutheran church Sunday afternoon at 2 p. m.

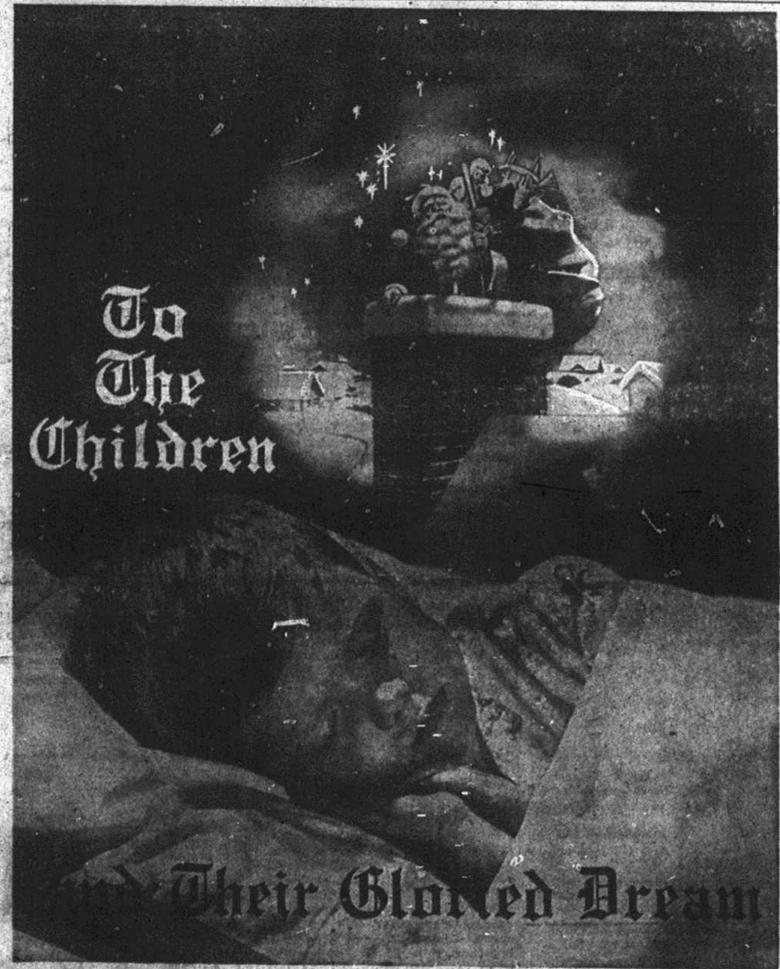
Dr. W. P. Gerberding officiated and burial was in Mountain Rest cemetery.

He was the son of the late William and Martha Brow Bennett. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Essie Smith Bennett; two brothers, Clyde T. Bennett, local contractor, and W. O. Bennett, both of Kings Mountain, and a sister, Miss Margaret Bennett of Kings Mountain.

### Lutheran, Presbyterian Services Culminate Special Church Rites

Culminating a weekend of special Christmas services in the majority of the city's churches, two church services will be held in Kings Mountain Monday evening and Christmas morning. St. Matthew's Lutheran church will present its annual Christmas Eve service, beginning at 11 p. m. First Presbyterian church will hold a special worship service at 10 o'clock Christmas morning.

At the Lutheran service, two robed choirs will open the rites with a candlelight procession. Special music will include four anthems by the senior choir, a carol medley by the junior choir, music by a girls' trio, and solos



## St. Matthew's Christmas Story

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. Matthew 2:1-19

### ON HONOR ROLL

Miss Shirley Arthur, of Kings Mountain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Arthur, was listed on the first-quarter senior academic honor roll at Peace College, Raleigh, according to an announcement by the registrar, Frances J. Golden.

### Burton Rites Held On Sunday

Funeral rites for Andrew Lee Burton, 58, of route 1, Kings Mountain, were held Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock from Patterson Grove Baptist church.

Rev. G. C. Teague officiated and interment was in the church cemetery.

Mr. Burton died at his home at 7:10 Friday night, following a long illness of eight years. He was a member of the Patterson Grove Baptist church and a former employee of the Cora mill.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Virginia Falls Burton, four sons, Dorus Burton, Clarence Burton, Doyle Burton and Harold Burton, all of Kings Mountain, four daughters, Mrs. B. D. Sellers, Mrs. J. L. Warrick, Miss Thelma Burton and Miss Shirley Burton, all of Kings Mountain, three brothers, James Burton, Rufey Burton and William Burton, all of Kings Mountain, and seven grandchildren.

The body lay in state at the church for a half-hour prior to the funeral rites.

### Christmas Parties Held At Burlington

Christmas parties were held at Phenix Plant, Burlington Mills, Inc., all day Friday.

Each department of each shift held small parties at the mill. During the time gifts that had been placed under a Christmas tree were exchanged by members of the departments who had drawn names.

Superintendent John T. Latham spoke informally to the groups at each meeting. The departmental gift exchanges ended a series of Christmas parties at the plant which included one for supervisors and a theatre visit from Santa Claus attended by some 900 employees and their families.

**SCHOOL RESUMES**  
Students of Bethware school resume their regular schedules Monday morning, December 31, following the 10-day Christmas holiday.

Christmas holidays for students of Kings Mountain city schools and Park Grass school continue until Thursday morning, January 3.

## Two Are Overcome By Monoxide Gas

### Mrs. Hammett, Mrs. Thomas In Narrow Escape

Two Kings Mountain women had a narrow escape from death early Sunday morning when they were overcome by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Still very ill at Kings Mountain hospital are Mrs. Margaret Ware Thomas and Mrs. Paul Hammett, both 23 years of age. The accident occurred during the process of getting the Hammett car out of the ditch near the railway underpass on the Grover highway.

According to Mrs. Ware, she had accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Boote Hammett to Johnny's Place at Blacksburg, S. C. When the trio started to return home, Woody Rawles asked if he might return to Kings Mountain with them. Near the railway underpass on the Grover Road, the occupants decided to make a turn and backed into a ditch.

They had summoned police officers to help them and, according to Jack Stone, sheriff's deputy, some ten men were required to lift the Hammett Chevrolet out of the ditch. The job required about an hour, Mr. Stone said.

Nothing unusual was noted and Deputy Stone said he and Deputy L. L. Hamrick had gone to Silver Dollar Grill for a cup of coffee, when Mr. Rawles rushed in to call for an ambulance. Mrs. Ware and Mrs. Hammett had remained in the car, with the motor running, while efforts were being made to remove the car from the ditch.

It was thought that the extra amount of carbon monoxide gas resulted from a clogged exhaust pipe.

Both were given artificial respiration immediately and were given emergency treatment on arrival at the hospital by Dr. P. G. Padgett.

### RUDDOCK HOME

Lt. William O. Ruddock, injured in a plane crash at Sheepsport, La., Monday night, arrived home Friday. With his wife and uncle, the Kings Mountain Korean veteran flew to Jackson, Miss., then transferred to ground transportation due to bad weather. Lt. Ruddock sustained several head cuts, a broken collarbone and severe bruises in the B-29 crash which claimed the lives of four men and injured ten others.

### NO COURT TODAY

City recorder's court will not convene Monday, with the next session of court before Judge E. A. Harrill to be held Monday, December 31, at 2 p. m.

## Annual Tax Listing Job To Begin January 1; Early Listing Advised

Annual tax listing will begin Tuesday, January 1, for both city and county, according to joint announcement this week by Clarence Carpenter and B. D. Ratterree.

Mr. Carpenter is the city list taker and Mr. Ratterree is the county list taker for Number 4 Township. Both list takers will be at City Hall throughout January with the exception that Mr. Ratterree, as is customary, will make three visits to Grover to better accommodate Grover citizens with the property listing job.

Mr. Ratterree will be at Herndon's Store in Grover on consecutive Mondays, beginning January 14. All property owners are required to list their properties, both real and personal, for taxes. In addition, all males below

## Last-Minute Shoppers Crowd Local Stores

Kings Mountain citizens were busy this weekend preparing for Christmas.

Retail stores bulged with patrons Friday and Saturday, as citizens kept busy at completing shopping lists, and merchants anticipate another busy day Monday before the Christmas holiday.

Holidays began for many citizens of the area on Saturday, and a large number will be free of regular duties until December 31. Other holidays will be shorter, as will be those of retail stores. Majority of retail stores will close two days for Christmas, reopening for business on Thursday.

Some businesses and offices took Monday as a holiday rather weekend. Included in this category are city offices, which will re-open Wednesday morning, Elmer Lumber Company and Kings Mountain Laundry.

Industrial firms to be closed all week include Park Yarn Mill, Nelster Mills, Inc., Mauney Mill, Saddle Cotton Mill, Lambeth Rope Corporation, Slater Manufacturing Company, Loom-Tex Corporation, Kings Mountain Manufacturing Company.

Craftspun Yarn Inc., and Burlington Mills' Phenix plant resume operations Wednesday, while Frieda Manufacturing Company resumes operations Thursday morning.

Closing two days for Christmas will be the First National Bank, both building and loan associations and majority of retail merchants.

New Year's Day will not be an official holiday in Kings Mountain, the Merchants association having recommended that the stores remain open as usual.

However, some firms plan to close for the day, and some will take two days for the New Year's holiday as well. Among firms closing January 1 and 2 are A & P Food Store, Baird Furniture, and several other firms.

## Postal Rush Now Subsiding

The Kings Mountain postoffice staff reported the Christmas 1951 mail storm virtually over Saturday afternoon.

In spite of the nastiest of weather and peak loads of incoming and outgoing mail, the racks were kept clear even through the heaviest of mailings.

Peak day was Tuesday, December 18, when cancellations on outgoing mail totaled 20,944. The Christmas mailing season appeared to begin, according to postoffice records, as early as December 11, when cancellations totaled 4,728, as opposed to normal daily cancellations of approximately 3,000 pieces of mail. The total then increased daily until the peak was hit this week. Friday's cancellations totaled 13,631.

Assistant Postmaster George Hord reported sale of more than 110,000 of the red two-cent stamps, the riding ticket for the big majority of Christmas cards.

The big Christmas season mailings sent postal receipts for the calendar year 1951 soaring well over the \$40,000 mark, which means that for another year Kings Mountain postoffice will continue to enjoy first-class status.

To keep the mail flowing and to assure delivery by Christmas, Charlie Ware, farm census lister.

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