



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

Kings Mountain Herald

Kings Mountain's RELIABLE Newspaper

20 Pages Today

VOL. 63 NO. 52 Established 1889 Kings Mountain, N. C., Tuesday, December 22, 1953 Sixty-Third Year PRICE FIVE CENTS

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY UNDERWAY FOR MANY

Local News Bulletins

FRIDAY SERVICE
 A special Christmas morning service will be held at the First Presbyterian church on Friday at 10 o'clock. Rev. P. D. Patrick will bring the message on "The First Christmas and Christmas 1953." The public is invited to attend.

PROGRAM SUNDAY
 College students will present a special program on Sunday, December 27th, at First Presbyterian church. The program will be held during the morning worship hour. The public is invited to attend.

OFFICE CLOSED
 The office of the Selective Service Board, of Shelby, will be closed until January 4th in order for the clerk of the board to take earned holiday leave. Announcement was made here Monday.

CURTIS WRIGHT
 TREASURE ISLAND, Cal. — Dental Technician 2/C Curtis R. Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kossie Wright, of route 2, is now at the U. S. Naval-Receiving Station, Treasure Island, San Francisco, Calif., awaiting further assignment to another naval unit.

ON HONOR ROLL
 Joyce Biser, Betty June Boyd, and Eugene Sweezy, all of Kings Mountain, have been listed on the fall term honor roll at Appalachian State Teacher's College, Boone, according to announcement by Registrar H. R. Eggers.

ON HONOR ROLL
 Miss Vicki Jenkins, daughter of Mrs. Helen Jenkins of Kings Mountain, is on the honor roll for the six weeks just completed at the Sacred Heart Academy in Belmont, where she is a member of the sophomore class.

LEDFORD REGISTRAR
 Paul Ledford has been named registrar for Ward 4 for the forthcoming city bond issue election, replacing C. P. Goforth. Mr. Goforth, veteran Ward 4 registrar, is a patient in Kings Mountain hospital and had to relinquish his duties due to illness, it was stated.

WHISNANT OUT
 E. G. Whisnant, Kings Mountain electric appliance repairman and owner of Home Service Company, is confined to his home with a case of mumps. He has been away from work since last Saturday and is not expected back on duty until after January 1.

Treasure Chest To Total \$265

The Treasure Chest of Kings Mountain Appreciation Day merchants will total \$265 for Thursday's Christmas Eve drawing, to be conducted at 8:30 on Railroad Avenue in front of Cooper's, Inc. In addition to the Treasure Chest fund, several merchants are adding consolation prizes.

Last Thursday, Theodore Bridges, 37 Spruce street, was the lucky winner on a five percent ticket. It was worth \$11 in trade certificates, spendable at the participating stores.

Winners of consolation gifts from several merchants were: Therman W. Green, Sally Hughes, Jerry Ross, Esther Ray, and Cal.

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Merchants Ready For Final Rush

Kings Mountain Retailers Say Stocks Are Ample

Kings Mountain merchants, after a busy weekend, were expecting record sales totals through Christmas Eve, as last-minute shoppers purchase final gifts for the annual Christmas holiday.

Stores were still well-laden with Christmas-type merchandise and some merchants had received late shipments of specialty items to fill into stocks which had begun to show breaks in size ranges and other evidence of heavy sales inroads.

But most folk could count on late gift-shopping with confidence that they would not be left in the lurch. If their shopping lists had any fluidity at all — whether it be toys, jewelry, cosmetics, furniture, or other gift — then it could be had in Kings Mountain.

Grocers were expecting usually heavy traffic on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and anticipating extra heavy purchases of holiday meats, poultry, candies, fruits, nuts, and other treats of the season.

Toy merchants report that their business has been good, but that their stocks are still in shape to handle a considerable quantity of buying.

Stores were thronged Monday, in spite of inclement weather. Shoppers donned raincoats, and

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Next Herald Appears Last Day of Year

The next issue of the Kings Mountain Herald will be published on Thursday, December 31, last day of 1953.

Today's edition, published two days earlier than the customary Thursday appearance, replaces the issue which would normally be dated December 24.

The December 31 edition will be in the nature of a bonus edition to Herald mail subscribers. Through a freak of the calendar, there are 53 Thursdays in the year 1953. The next edition of the Herald will be the 53rd and final one for the year.

E. A. Harrill Hurt In Wreck

E. A. Harrill, Kings Mountain attorney who was injured in an automobile accident late Saturday afternoon, was reported "better" late Monday.

Mr. Harrill suffered considerably from shock on Sunday. He sustained a broken left knee cap and may undergo an operation on Tuesday.

The accident occurred on North Camlier street at 5:40 p. m. Saturday and was investigated by Officers P. A. Hawkins and B. P. Cook.

Mr. Harrill was driving a Buick which collided head-on with another vehicle, travelling south on N. Camlier, driven by John Adams, Jr., of route 3. Officers reported that the Adams' vehicle was off the road at the time of the collision.

On Sunday morning at 7:30 a. m., a car driven by Eugene Smith McGinnis of Cherryville ran into the rear of a vehicle operated by Mrs. C. C. Oates, Mrs. Oates, getting an early start on a visit to her parent's home in Boone, had stopped at a traffic light at the corner of Gaston and E. King streets. No injuries were reported.

A collision between cars driven by E. C. Cooper and Christen Lynch Perkins, both of Kings Mountain, at the corner of Mountain street and S. Piedmont ave. on December 16 was also reported. No damage was given.

Open House Set For Nurses Home

The county hospital board of trustees will hold open house at the newly constructed Kings Mountain hospital nurses home on January 10.

The board of trustees, in meeting last week, set January 10, a Sunday, for the open house and are urging attendance of county citizens at the event.

The new adjunct to the hospital plant here can accommodate 13 nurses. Grady Howard, hospital manager, said furnishings for the home had arrived recently.

Fireman Bruce McDaniel Answers Alarm To Find Own House Aflame

Volunteer Fireman Bruce McDaniel, visiting at the home of his parents-in-law, heard the wall of the fire siren for the second time Sunday afternoon about 3:30 and rushed to his car to make his second three-dollar fee for the day.

Following the truck, Fireman McDaniel was surprised to find the big wagon stopping at a familiar location — his East Ridge street residence.

Needless to say, the fireman's primary instruction to be cool in the face of all situations was put to a stern test.

Mr. McDaniel, a paint salesman, entered the house from the backdoor and rushed into the hot, blazing living room. Finding it "too hot", Mr. McDaniel ran through the burning room to the front door, grabbed a hot door handle and found the door locked. He sustained hand burns and face burns before he could get out.

Firemen soon brought the blaze under control and extinguished it. Indications were the fire started from a defective wall socket in the living room. The living room and furnishings were badly damaged and the rest of the house suffered some heat and water damage. The residence is owned by Mrs. G. F. Lattimore. Both Mr. McDaniel's furnishings and the residence were insured, C. E. Warlick Insurance Agency reported.

The earlier Sunday afternoon fire was a grass blaze at 12:50 on Dilling street. Fireman Jim Lybrand reported no damage.

On Thursday, firemen were summoned to Slater Brothers textile plant on York Road to extinguish a roof fire, originating from a defective furnace flue. Damage was minor, Mr. Lybrand said.

Bell Officials Here On Monday Checking Service

Two Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company district officials were in Kings Mountain Monday, visiting patrons for interviews and otherwise checking on service given to telephone customers.

B. B. Brown, Gastonia district manager, and W. B. Wade, district traffic manager, were checking on complaints of bad service as related originally in letters from Mayor Glee A. Bridges, and other citizens.

"What we want to know is whether service is really bad, and, if so, how bad. We have no dial service in our hip pockets, but we can improve any bad service," they said.

The city board of commissioners recently passed a resolution asking Southern Bell to install dial service here, and the Kings Mountain Merchant's association board of directors also wrote a similar request. Both based their requests on questionable service.

C. L. Lott, North Carolina manager, replied that dial service was several years distant for Kings Mountain, due to adequacy of current quarters, but he also promised that an immediate investigation into the complaints of poor service would be made.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Wade said they were following through on the Lott promise.

Mr. Brown noted that service on long distance calls to Charlotte probably was slow Monday, due to a Wilkinson Boulevard fire on Sunday night which leveled a service station and cut a long distance telephone cable. Repair was scheduled for completion with full service expected to be restored within 24 hours.

Harmon Property Up To \$11,130

Realtor B. D. Ratterree retained his position as high bidder for the T. N. Harmon Estate property at the commissioner's re-sale Saturday. Mr. Ratterree's \$11,130 bid topped by \$5 the bid of M. D. Phifer, at \$11,125.

M. L. Harmon, Sr., who had vied with Mr. Ratterree at previous auctions of the property did not attend the sale.

Mr. Ratterree's high bid, prior to Saturday's re-sale, was \$10,727.85, the bidding increasing the figure by \$402.15.

The property, a corner lot fronting on Battleground avenue, Falls street, and Cherokee street, first was offered for sale last May. It is occupied by a two-apartment frame dwelling.

Under legal procedure governing commissioner's sales, the bidding remains open through December 29. During that period, a five percent increase of the present high bid would keep the bidding open and require another re-sale.

Top bid at the first sale last May was \$6,300.

Temple Baptist Play Thursday

The Temple Baptist church will hold their annual Christmas play and party at 7:30 Thursday, December 24.

The play, "The King Is Born," under the direction of Bob Grigg, will be presented by the young people of the church.

At the play, gifts will be exchanged, and treats will be given to the children.

Inaction Of Utilities Body May Cost City Gas Grant

Whether the City of Kings Mountain finally obtains an allotment of natural gas depends greatly on whether the North Carolina Utilities commission grants the city a certificate of convenience and necessity for operating a gas utility.

This is the opinion of City Attorney J. R. Davis, who has the responsibility, along with Barnard & Burk, engineers, of providing the economic feasibility and necessity of the allotment at a Federal Power Commission hearing scheduled for February 8.

The City of Shelby is in exactly the same position as the City of Kings Mountain, both Cleveland county cities being faced with a reluctance on the part of the North Carolina Utilities commission to finally dispose of their request.

Thus, the recent action of the FPC in granting Kings Mountain the 1,138,000 cubic feet per day allotment, had a contingency clause which could mean the end of the city's pursuit of the natural gas addition to its utility system.

Attorney Davis said he was discussing the problem with officials of the North Carolina League of Municipalities in Raleigh, and that all possible effort is being exerted to obtain a favorable decision from the Utilities Commission.

The engineering firm, Barnard & Burk, has already re-surveyed the city by bringing up-to-date its survey on the desire of citizens and business firms for natural gas service. Working on the survey, which they completed last Friday, were Charles Barnard, A. S. Hall, and Bill Edwards.

"Unless we get the certificate of convenience and necessity, we'll have a weak case before the FPC," Mr. Davis said Monday.

Granting of the certificate has

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Citizens Cover Postal Workers With Heavy Mail

Kings Mountain postoffice was a busy place Monday as the regular staff and Christmas extras handled a peak load of both incoming and outgoing mail.

For the doughty carriers, both city and rural, it was a rough day, with the mail accumulation of both Saturday afternoon and Sunday. In addition, the messy weather added heavy rainwear to their burden.

Inside, the postoffice gave every appearance of a continuing Saturday rush-hour at a department store. Two windows were kept open, in addition to the mail order window, and stamp sales were brisk.

Postmaster W. E. Blakely and Assistant Postmaster George Ford were guessing that Monday would be the peak of the 1953 Christmas season rush for outgoing mail. Whether it would top the high level of 25,018 cancellations recorded on December 19, 1949, they declined to guess.

While mailings by Kings Mountain citizens increased noticeably as early as December 1, the Christmas rush actually began on December 14, when 9,308 cancellations were recorded. The high figure through Sunday was 15,431; for Thursday, December 17, Sunday's 3,570 was considerably heavier than the customary daily run of 2,500 pieces of mail.

Ten "extras" are helping move the mass of Christmas mail coming in and going out of Kings Mountain postoffice.

With Christmas, the postoffice will resume its regular schedule of hours. It will be closed all day on Christmas Day, and will be open a half-day, 'til noon, on Saturday, December 26.

Home B. & L. Pays \$20,254

Semi-annual dividends of Home Building & Loan association paid during the past weekend totaled \$20,254.34, bringing the total payments to shareholders for 1953 to \$38,088.46, according to report of A. H. Patterson, secretary-treasurer.

Both Home Building & Loan Association and Kings Mountain Building & Loan association advanced year-end dividend payment dates in order that the monies would be out before Christmas.

Kings Mountain Building & Loan association announced that checks mailed to holders of full-paid stock totaled \$6,000.92, but said tabulations on totals in other categories and for the full year had not been completed.

Mr. Patterson reported semi-annual payments as follows: on full-paid stock, \$10,745.41; on optional savings shares, \$7,540.84; on serial stock, \$1,968.09.

Home Building & Loan's totals for the year included: on full-paid stock, \$21,048.55; on optional savings shares, \$14,183.07; on serial stock, \$2,856.84.

A total of 247 Kings Mountain vehicle owners have purchased city license decals for 1954, according to report Monday afternoon by City Clerk Joe Hendrick.



MASONIC MASTER — Boyce Gault has been elected master of Fairview Lodge 339, A. F. & A. M., for the coming year. Mr. Gault, along with other officers for 1954, is to be installed at a communication of December 28. He will succeed D. E. Tate.

Masonic Officers To Be Installed

Fairview Lodge 339, A. F. & A. M., will install officers for the coming year at a communication Monday night, December 28, at Masonic Lodge Hall at 7:30.

Recently elected officers to be installed are Boyce Gault, master, Emmett Ross, senior warden, J. B. Simpson, junior warden, J. C. Keller, treasurer, and J. H. McDaniel, Jr., secretary. Mr. Keller and Mr. McDaniel were re-elected.

Appointive officers as named by the incoming master, are also to be installed.

They include L. A. Harmon, senior deacon, T. D. Tindall, junior deacon, C. W. Cradic, senior steward, Fred Weaver, junior steward, J. A. Walker, tyler, Paul B. Cole, chaplain.

TO ATTEND RALLY

Horace Kornegay, of Greensboro, state president of the North Carolina Young Democratic Clubs, has informed Jack White that he will be happy to attend an organizational rally of Number 4 Township Young Democrats, now tentatively set for January 8. Mr. White, Kings Mountain attorney, is leading the organization of a Number 4 Township YDC.

Funeral Rites Conducted On Monday For Grover Merchant T. S. Keeter

Funeral services for Thomas Simpson Keeter, 79-year-old Grover merchant who died suddenly at his home Sunday morning, were held Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock from First Baptist church at Grover.

Rev. Smoot Baker, Rev. Park Moore and Dr. Zeno Wall officiated and interment followed in Grover cemetery.

Mr. Keeter, an uncle of J. B. Keeter of Kings Mountain, succumbed suddenly at 7:50 a. m. Sunday after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. He had been ill for one week.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Calvin Keeter, he was a native of Rutherford County and had lived in Grover for the last 55 years. He was the owner of T. S. Keeter Dry Goods store. He was a member of the First Baptist church where he served as a deacon and Sunday school superintendent for many years. A Mason, Mr. Keeter was very active in the religious and civic life of the community.

Surviving Mr. Keeter are his wife, Mrs. Georgia Florence Roark Keeter; four sons, Hoyt and K. K. of Shelby and R. Burris and Tyree of Grover; one daughter, Mrs. J. L. Shirley of Grover; and one sister, Mrs. Ida Sherrill of Spindale.

Davis Says City Needs Certificate To Win Allotment

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St. Matthew's Christmas Story

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.

Saying, Where is he that is born King 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 Judaea: 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 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.

— St. Matthew 2: 1-12.

Wednesday Last Day Of Jaycee "Buy A Can Leave A Can" Project