



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

Kings Mountain Herald

Kings Mountain's RELIABLE Newspaper

12 Pages Today

VOL. 63 NO. 53 Established 1889 Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, December 31, 1953 Sixty-Third Year PRICE FIVE CENTS

Local News Bulletins

OUT WITH FLU
 Red Layton, city recreation director, was out from work this week with a case of influenza.

METER RECEIPTS
 A total of \$144.37 was collected from the city's meter receipts Wednesday morning, according to a report from the city treasurer's office.

BANK HOLIDAY
 First National Bank will observe New Year's Day as a holiday, according to an announcement by F. R. Summers, president.

TO INSTALL DEACONS
 Installation and ordination of newly elected deacons at First Presbyterian church will be held Sunday, January 3, at the 11 o'clock service. To be installed are Hall Goforth, Charles Neisler, Luther Cansler, George Thomasson, and Lawrence Lovell.

MERCHANTS VOTING
 Members of the Kings Mountain Merchants association are being urged to return their ballots in the current mail election to determine association officers for the coming year. Mrs. Queen said deadline set for returning the post card ballots is Friday, January 1. Slightly more than half the membership has returned ballots thus far.

FIRE ALARMS
 Kings Mountain firemen answered four fire alarms during the week, according to a report Wednesday morning. An auto blaze and a grass fire was extinguished on Thursday, and firemen extinguished a blaze from a Christmas tree and a grass fire on Christmas Day, last Friday. No damages were reported.

Bank To Sponsor Oratory Contest

The First National Bank is inviting high school students of Number 4 Township to participate in a statewide oratorical contest.

The township participation by First National is a part of the Cleveland County and state-wide contest by the North Carolina Bankers Association, which is offering more than \$6,000 in prizes to statewide winners.

F. R. Summers, president of First National, said prizes would also go to local winners, and he urged students of Bethware, Grover, and Kings Mountain high schools to make plans to participate.

The contest called the "Big Change" — is designed to call attention to North Carolina's progress since the turn of the century, and to cause high school students to devote some thought to how this progress may be continued in the future.

The contest will begin with high school eliminations during the first week of March, 1954. The winners from each high school in the county will compete on March 10 to determine the

Shelby Firm Buys Harmon Property

Ratterree Bid For Harmon Lot Was Not Raised

The T. N. Harmon Estate property at the corner of Battleground avenue and Falls street is being conveyed to Western Carolina Properties, Inc., of Shelby, of which D. W. Royster, well-known Shelby businessman, is president.

Bidding on the property, sold under commissioner's sale procedure beginning last May, was finally concluded Tuesday, end of the legal bid-raising period, with B. D. Ratterree, Kings Mountain realtor, the successful bidder at \$11,130.

Mr. Royster said he was not ready to announce plans for use of the property, which is occupied by a two-apartment frame dwelling. However, he indicated that he would have an announcement concerning the property in the near future. Mr. Royster, a Gulf Oil Company distributor, said he does not anticipate using the property for erection of a service station.

The property fronts 100 feet on Battleground avenue, 230 feet on Falls street and 105 feet on Cherokee street. It was officially "sold" ten times by Martin L. Harmon, Jr., commissioner, in process of settling the T. N. Harmon estate.

Heirs of the late T. N. Harmon are: M. L. Harmon, Sr., Mrs. T. P. McGill, Mrs. Minnie H. Crawford, Mrs. J. M. Lackey, and Mrs. Giles Sellers, all of Kings Mountain; Mrs. Knox Hardin, Mrs. Riddle Goode, Mrs. J. L. Wolf, and Frank Harmon, all of Shelby; Mrs. Hoyle Starnes, Monroe, Mrs. Carl Stroupe and Mrs. Claude Henderson, both of Mt. Holly, N. C., and the Ella Harmon Estate.

Other tracts in the estate previously were sold to Fred Wright and Hal S. Plonk.

Treasure Chest Total Is \$272

Last Thursday's Christmas Eve Treasure Chest winner was Mrs. Cettie Lingerfelt, and the total in the Treasure Chest for today's drawing, to be conducted at 3:30 in front of Cooper's, Inc., is \$272.

Today's drawing, last of the year, finds the Treasure Chest at its peak.

Funds in the chest are supplied by participating merchants. It is possible for a person to win up to 50 percent of the total in the chest, depending on the percentage ticket which carries his name.

Last week's drawing was worth \$53 in trade certificates, spendable at any of the participating firms, to Mrs. Lingerfelt.

Under rules of the contest, a person must be present to win, though a husband may answer for his wife, or vice versa.

Tickets are available at all participating firms and one may be signed on each visit to each firm.

Broken Toy Almost Put This Nick In Jug

The newspapers have recorded the plight of the father who discovered on Christmas Eve the empty train box.

It's almost as bad, or can be, School Band Director Joe Hedden relates, when father breaks a toy while placing it under the tree.

Mr. Hedden decided a broken toy would be worse than no toy at all, and, at 1:30 a. m., ventured to his band quarters at Central school for mending materials, and was happily working away when a husky voice shouted, "There he is. Grab him!"

Author of the intrusion was the city police detail who had awakened Supt. B. N. Barnes to report a prowler in the school house.

After recognition signals were passed, everyone had a good laugh and went to bed.

"You don't know how close I came to spending Christmas behind bars," Mr. Hedden notes in relating the story.

March Of Dimes Plans Formulated

Plans are being completed this week for launching of the annual Kings Mountain March of Dimes campaign with the goal for this year's campaign \$5,000.

George Thomasson, co-chairman, said Wednesday morning that the Kings Mountain area campaign would formally begin on January 10.

Funds collected in the annual campaign are used to aid victims of infantile paralysis, as well as in research to discover methods of preventing the disease.

The county goal for 1954 is \$26,000.

Charles Neisler is co-chairman of the Kings Mountain campaign, along with Mr. Thomasson. Mr. Neisler will handle the industrial gifts division, Mr. Thomasson said.

The county Infantile Paralysis Foundation held a dinner meeting at Shelby Tuesday night, with virtually all sections of the county represented. It was pointed out that Cleveland County holds an exceptional record of giving to the infantile paralysis fund, and that aid to the county's own polio victims has been invaluable in restoring them to health.

Co-chairman Thomasson said the Kings Mountain drive committee anticipates holding a Mother's March on January 21 and on distributing the familiar March of Dimes cards to school children on January 22. The P-T-A organizations will handle this phase of the campaign, he added.

Registration For Bond Vote Ends Saturday

Registration books will close Saturday for the city's January 16 bond election, when the citizens will determine the course of a proposed \$600,000 bond issue.

Saturday will be the third and final Saturday that the several election registrars will be at the five ward polling places to accept new registrations and to handle transfers.

Registration has been anything but brisk, partially due to the Christmas holidays, partially because most citizens are registered already.

All citizens who expect to vote must be registered.

The voters will determine:

- 1) Whether the city shall borrow \$250,000 for water system improvements.
- 2) Whether the city shall borrow \$200,000 for sewer system improvements.
- 3) Whether the city shall borrow \$150,000 to use for providing a recreation plant.
- 4) Whether the city commissioners shall be authorized to levy a tax of five cents per \$100 valuation for operating a recreation program.

B & L Dividends Total \$22,595.65

Kings Mountain Building & Loan association dividends paid during 1953 totaled \$22,595.65, according to announcement Wednesday by Ben H. Bridges, secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Bridges said year-end semi-annual payments totaled \$12,293.14, as follows: on optional savings shares, \$4,724.38; on full-paid stock, \$6,000.93; on installment shares, \$1,567.83.

The total for the year was divided as follows: on optional savings shares, \$9,196.04; on full-paid stock, \$11,831.78; on installment shares, \$1,567.83.

Tag Sales

A total of 298 Kings Mountain motorists have purchased 1954 city auto license plates, according to a report from the city clerk's office Wednesday morning. Purchase price of the tag is one dollar.

Housewives were purchasing blackeyed peas and hog jowl for the traditional good luck piece of resistance on the New Year's Day menu, and numerous other citizens were getting ready for the customary New Year's Eve revelry.

Private parties are the order of the day for Thursday evening, with the arrival of the New Year's signaling the end of the current holiday season.

Majority of Kings Mountain citizens resumed regular duties Monday though others had still another week for rest and relaxation.

Under purchased the Jewel Box and re-named it Alexander's Jewelry; Radio Station WKMT opened in March; the Cash Brothers leased their two motion picture theatres to Stewart & Everett, Inc.; and Claude Hambricht sold his Quality Sandwich Company to A. E. Walker. E. Marlowe organized a new corporation, Marlowe's, Inc., to purchase the Dodge Plymouth dealership from Warren E. Reynolds.

Survey Party Getting Data On Highway 74 By-Pass

City, County Tax Listing To Get Underway

The annual January job of listing properties for city and county taxes gets underway partially on Saturday, and fully on Monday, January 4.

Clarence E. Carpenter, city tax lister, said he would not start accepting city listings until Monday, though Conrad Hughes, the Number 4 Township tax lister, will begin work Saturday, working at Grover at Roundtree's hardware.

Mr. Hughes will join Mr. Carpenter at City Hall on Monday, and, as is customary, citizens of the city will be able to list for both city and county at the same time.

The city listing schedule will be from 8:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily, except:

Saturday afternoon, January 9; Saturday all day, January 16; Saturday afternoon, January 23.

On the Saturday dates listed, Mr. Hughes will again be at Grover. At all other times, including the closing day, Saturday, January 30, both Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Hughes will be on duty at City Hall courtroom.

Both are urging early listing, pointing out that those who list early will undoubtedly save time.

Both noted that the law requires all property owners to list their properties during the month of January. Males between the ages of 21 and 50 are required to list for poll taxes.

Chief Logan Reports Quiet Yule Season

Only two "lock-ups" were made here on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Chief Hugh A. Logan reports.

The small number of arrests was probably a record, he added.

"On behalf of the police department, I want to express our appreciation for the nice conduct of the citizenry. It was very quiet here and no bad wrecks occurred," Chief Logan said.

Citizens Readying Annual Welcome Of New Year With Traditional Rites

Kings Mountain citizens were preparing this week to welcome the arrival of the New Year, A. D. 1954.

Housewives were purchasing blackeyed peas and hog jowl for the traditional good luck piece of resistance on the New Year's Day menu, and numerous other citizens were getting ready for the customary New Year's Eve revelry.

Stores To Be Open As Usual Friday

Kings Mountain merchants will be open as usual on Friday, New Year's Day, though they have already resumed the customary Wednesday afternoon half-holiday.

Due to the long Christmas weekend, the Merchants Association board of directors recommended suspension of the New Year's Day holiday and majority of firms have indicated they will be open for business as usual.

The First National Bank will close for the day, but the building & loan associations will be open.

Shooters To Be Here Thursday

Cherryville's famed "New Year Shooters" will visit Kings Mountain for the first time as the group continues its 200-year old tradition this season. Rodney Black, secretary-treasurer of the group, announced this week.

The "Shooters" have scheduled a visit here at 9 o'clock Thursday morning to fire their ancient Confederate muskets as a welcome to the New Year.

Police Chief Hugh A. Logan, Jr., said that South Railroad avenue, between West Mountain and West Gold streets would be blocked off for the exhibition.

The visit is one of several planned Thursday by the 38-member group. On New Year's Day the organization will spread the annual good cheer throughout Gaston County, firing their weapons, loaded with powder only, as a salutation to the New Year and to bring prosperity to those in earshot of the gunfire, Mr. Black said.

A speech is delivered by a member of the club for anyone who requests it, Mr. Black continued, and after each of the four traditional speeches is made the gun-bearers fire their weapons. If a speech is made for an individual or a group, legend has it that the recipient will have peace, prosperity, health and friendship during the coming year.

This year marks the first time the "Shooters" have extended their area of performance.

King's Condition Reported Critical

The condition of Grady W. King, veteran Kings Mountain mechanic and fire chief is reported as critical, his physician, Dr. J. E. Anthony, said at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. King, who has been in declining health for the past several months, lapsed into a partial coma in the past 24 hours, Dr. Anthony said.

Phone 600 For Fire Alarms Exclusively

Citizens were urged this week to use the city's fire phone, No. 600, to report fires only and not tie up this important telephone with routine calls.

Fireman C. D. (Red) Ware said yesterday that a big increase has been noted in calls on No. 600 of a routine nature. When the number rings, it sets off a loud buzzer in the fire station at City Hall and generally disrupts the place, he said, in addition to putting the phone out of action when it might be needed for an important call.

Persons desiring to contact anyone at City Hall or calling for information are urged to use the police department phones, No. 254 or No. 720.

Engineer Says No Definite Plans Yet Made

A location crew of the North Carolina Highway and Public Works commission began work this week seeking information on a possible re-location of U. S. Highway 74.

L. B. Peck, division engineer, emphasized Wednesday that the work at the moment is completely "exploratory."

"We are trying to find out what can be done toward by-passing U. S. Route 74," he stated.

Mr. Peck said that no money has been allocated by the State Highway commission for such a project and that there are no definite plans, at the moment, for such a project. The project could be set up in the commission's allocations for 1954-55, Mr. Peck added.

Generally, the survey crew is examining possible locations for a new road or street in the area from East Gold street south. The new road would pass under both S. Battleground avenue and the tracks of the Southern Railroad.

Mr. Peck said the only other work done on U. S. 74 re-location were some preliminary surveys taken in connection with the work on the U. S. 29 by-pass. Mr. Peck said the survey did not indicate that route "feasible."

The highway department would desire an 80-foot right-of-way Mr. Peck said, which would be sufficient width to build a six-lane street, same width as Gastonia's Franklin avenue. The city would be expected to pay for one-third the right-of-way costs, he added.

Map Posted

A revised map on location of the U. S. Highway 29 by-pass from Grover Road to a point on present 29 & 74 east of Kings Mountain has been posted at the courthouse in Shelby and the division highway office, L. B. Peck, division engineer, told the Herald Wednesday.

He said it is possible that grading and structure contracts will be let as early as March 1954 by the State Highway and Public Works commission.

In other actions the board:

- 1) Granted the electrical contract for West school building project to the next low bidder, L. A. Hoke at a bid of \$1,085, after Eastern Electric Co., the low bidder, failed to post bond.
- 2) Authorized an addition of \$175 to the West school plumbing contract for emergency work done by Floyd Greene, of Shelby, after discovery of a terra-cotta sewer line under the new structure, a violation of the state building code. The line was replaced with cast iron pipe during a weekend to prevent closing down of the school.
- 3) Elected Mrs. Tommy Owens as East school piano teacher on a part-time basis.
- 4) Authorized expense account for Supt. Barnes to attend the national meeting of school administrators in Atlantic City, N. J.
- 5) Voted to secure prices for erection of a 50-foot flag pole at Central school to comply with a previous board's action to finish the project started by a donation of \$7.81 by the Class of 1941.
- 6) Voted to authorize Marion D. Packard, lighting engineer, to perform a complete lighting survey of Central school building after Mr. Barnes reported that the engineer did not wish to accept less than \$100 for making a survey of the primary department only.
- 7) Supt. Barnes reported that two faculty resignations were forthcoming, from Mrs. Dorothy Finzer and Mrs. Betty Kendrick, and told the board he had been advertising for a second and an eighth grade teacher to replace them.
- 8) He also reported bids of \$1.15 by Kings Mountain Cotton Oil Co. and \$1.19 by Mr. Bridges of Shelby for contract to haul coal

School Board Pre-Christmas Session Busy

A large amount of routine business was transacted at the regular monthly meeting of the Kings Mountain district board of school trustees, held at Central school Monday, December 21 at 7:30 p. m.

J. L. Beam, Cherryville architect, met with the board in reference to the East Elementary school building program, submitting near-final plans for the construction of a new four-room building there and for remodeling of the present structure. He said that he expected to receive final approval from the state school board building planning committee at Raleigh.

The board voted to ask for bids on the new building project and the remodeling project both separately and in combination.

In a discussion of the minutes of the November 18 meeting, the board approved minutes clarifying the price of the tract of land it secured a 60-day option on from W. A. Williams.

Actual acreage of the tract was not known at the time of the meeting and the option agreement was to purchase the tract, 15 acres more or less, at \$1,000 per acre not to exceed \$15,000 for the tract, the board agreed. The tract lies on the north side of the new Negro elementary building now under construction and is to be used for a school athletic field and as a city recreation area.

Chairman A. W. Kincaid presided at the December meeting and other trustees present were J. R. Davis, Mrs. H. E. Lynch and F. W. Plonk, Superintendent B. N. Barnes was also present.

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End Of Korean War, New Administration, Drought, Top City News In 1953

Kings Mountain closes its books today on the 365 busy, news-filled days of 1953.

Probably the three major news events in Kings Mountain during 1953 were 1) the end of the Korean War; 2) the election of a new city administration; and 3) the drought which endangered the city's water supply and caused some measure of inconvenience and considerable cost to the city.

Other important news events included the abortive effort of township school leaders to consolidate the high schools of the township, the approval of exten-

sion of postoffice carrier service, the wreck of a Southern Railway freight and resulting 11-car pile-up near the business section, the completion of the county-wide re-valuation of property, and the Little Theatre's summer renewal presentation of the historical drama "Sword of Cleon."

Politics claimed its customary share of the headlines. A city administrator, M. K. Fuller, was discharged, and a former Cleveland county sheriff, Hugh A. Logan, Jr., became police chief. The city superintendent of public works, Tom Henry, resigned, and was replaced by E. C. Nicholson. A

hot political campaign resulted in election of a completely new city administration and the voters refused to approve a city manager form of government by a margin of eight votes. The GOP organized a township committee, headed by W. T. Wel, and, as the year ends, the Democrats are organizing with efforts to organize a Township Young Democrat club. The city has already been visited by the two leading potential candidates for United States Senator, W. Kerr Scott and Alton A. Lennon, the incumbent.

The year was not without its commercial changes. Ross Alex-

ander purchased the Jewel Box and re-named it Alexander's Jewelry; Radio Station WKMT opened in March; the Cash Brothers leased their two motion picture theatres to Stewart & Everett, Inc.; and Claude Hambricht sold his Quality Sandwich Company to A. E. Walker. E. Marlowe organized a new corporation, Marlowe's, Inc., to purchase the Dodge Plymouth dealership from Warren E. Reynolds.

Major changes in the city's so-called professional corps were the opening of a law office by George Thomasson and the resumption of practice, after an

army tour of duty, by Dr. Paul E. Hendricks.

Important personnel changes found Grady Howard the new business manager of Kings Mountain hospital; Ben H. Bridges, Jr., named secretary-treasurer of Kings Mountain Building & Loan association; and Franklin Ware promoted to management of the Kings Mountain branch of the North Carolina Employment Service.

In addition to giving record amounts for church operations and for church building.

Highway accidents cost the lives of Floyd E. Jackson, Lee Gordon, Kings Mountain Negro man who was killed shortly after U. S. Highway 74 and 29 was opened to traffic, and Leon Lawson Mitchell, Kings Mountain Negro.

William Lawrence Bridger was killed when struck by a train and Otis B. Smith was instantly killed when struck by lightning.

White, Miss Ella Harmon, Miss Bessie Simonton, Ben H. Bridges, Sr., W. A. Hawkins, Alex Shepard, G. F. Lattimore, D. C. Bookout, Ben Dixon Phifer, Dr. J. S. Norman, T. S. Keeter, J. J. Gardner, Ned W. Moss, Victor Phifer, Mrs. Mary Ann Dixon Hambricht, Mrs. C. S. Falls, Ed Bumgardner, Mrs. Otto Hehn, Mrs. Mary B. Goforth, Mrs. Amy McKinney Cash, L. E. Deese, and Hubert Herndon.

January
 Tate Elected Masonic Head; City, County Tax Listing To Begin; Glee A. Bridges Is Running

For Mayor; Mrs. Carl Mayes Is Contest Winner; Owners Of Savings Accounts Collect Dividends At Year-End Of \$32,658; City Was Ready To Welcome Arrival Of New Year In Traditional Ways; Herndon Completes In-Town Parking Lot; Laundry To Open Again Monday; Street Assessments Hearing Monday; Bridges To Head Merchants Body; Annual Polio Fund Campaign To Begin Monday; Howard, Reed Co-Chairman; Kiwanis Officers To Be Installed; Manager Recommendation Of Planning Body

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