

City Limits 7,206
The population is from the U. S. Government census report for 1950. The Census Bureau estimates the nation's population gain since 1950 at 1.7 percent per year, which means Kings Mountain's 1954 population should approximate 7,698. The trailing year population in 1945, based on nation board registrations at the Kings Mountain office, was 15,000.

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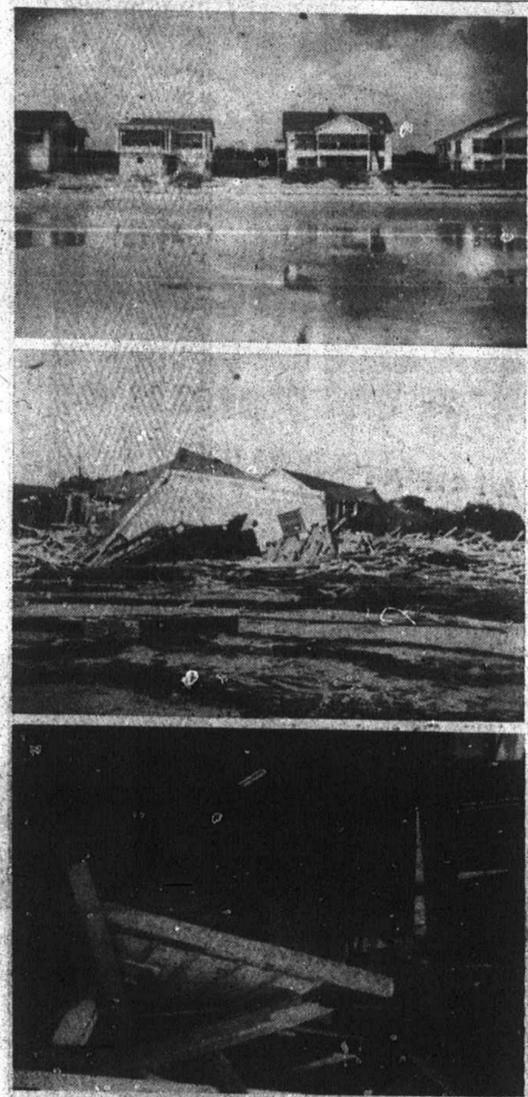
Established 1889

Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, October 21, 1954

Sixty-Fourth Year

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Second Letter By Cooke Minimizes Original Criticisms



BEFORE AND AFTER HAZEL — Hurricane Hazel wrecked homes of four Kings Mountain citizens in the South Carolina beach area last Friday. Pictures at top show normal beach serenity before Hazel. Left to right are a portion of an unidentified home, Mrs. Hayne Blackmer's cottage, the Paul Neisler home, and the home of E. T. LeGrande, of Shelby. The pictures at center and below show the destruction Hazel wrecked on these homes. Center picture shows the remains of the three homes, all the debris piled together. The cottage left standing was on the second row. Bottom photo shows the interior of the Neisler home after Hazel struck and passed on. (Hurricane photos by Otis Tomes.)

Four Lose Homes In Friday Storm

Other Citizens Barely Escape Tragedy In Blow
Four Kings Mountain citizens suffered loss of beach homes during Hurricane Hazel's terrible visit last weekend, and numerous others had narrow escapes when caught in the hurricane area of the two Carolinas.

Local News Bulletins
LODGE MEETING
A communication of Fairview Lodge 339 A. F. and A. M. for work in the third degree will be held at Masonic Hall Monday night at 7:30, Joe H. McDaniel, secretary, announced.

Bridges, Phillips In Verbal Joust

City Purchasing Subject Of City Meeting Flare-up
Mayor Glee A. Bridges and Commissioner Harold J. Phillips joined in a heated verbal battle at Monday night's city board session, which had been set to discuss gas installation problems. The meeting waxed explosive when Mr. Phillips charged the mayor with channeling too much city purchasing to Bridges Hardware, a charge heatedly denied by Mayor Bridges.

Condemnation Bid Favored
Paul E. Monroe, clerk of Superior Court of Gaston county, ruled with the City of Kings Mountain last Friday after a two-hour hearing on the city's petition to condemn 2.56 acres of land belonging to Paul Mauney.

City-Bridges Account
J. C. Bridges, partner in Bridges Hardware Company, addressed a letter to the editor of the Herald Wednesday, concerning his firm's account with the City of Kings Mountain. Mr. Bridges wrote: "We understand that during the discussion at the last city council meeting the City's account with us was mentioned."

Second Baptist and Oak Grove Hosts To Association Session
Two Kings Mountain churches, Second Baptist and Oak Grove Baptist, will be among the host churches this weekend for the 104th annual convention of the Kings Mountain Baptist association.

School Board Speeds Plans For New Plant

Members of the Kings Mountain school board were interviewing architects yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon in an effort to speed up plans for construction of an elementary school building in the north section of the city. Superintendent B. N. Barnes said representatives of five firms had agreed to meet with school officials yesterday. One firm is to be retained by the board in connection with construction of the new unit, recommended by a state school board survey team.

No Mere Septic Tank, Hair Says

Marion S. Hair, of the city's engineering firm W. K. Dickson & Company, Inc., addressed a letter to Mayor Glee A. Bridges Monday stating that the city's proposed sewage treatment plant on McGill Creek is "no mere septic tank". Mr. Hair's letter follows similar testimony he gave as a witness for the city in last Friday's hearing before the Gaston court clerk in the city's effort to obtain property from Paul Mauney for the plant site.

Demetriades Given Suspended Sentence

John Demetriades, pleading guilty to 13 charges of issuing worthless checks, was handed a six months suspended sentence by Judge Jack White, Friday afternoon in City Recorder's court. Demetriades' sentence was suspended on condition that he reimburse prosecuting witnesses the amount of checks issued, and paying costs of court.

Kiwanis To Hear Fred A. Henniger

Fred A. Henniger, Kiwanis district commissioner on Key Club work, will address members of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club at their Thursday night meeting.



LEES-MCRAE YOUNG DEMOCRATS — Pictured are officers of the Lees-McRae college Young Democrats club. Left to right are Miss Vangie Whited, Swords Creek, Va., secretary-treasurer; Dean Westmoreland, Kings Mountain, president; and Charles Gouge, Spruce Pine, vice-president. Westmoreland is a Grover high school graduate.

Water Supply Rate Of Decline Slows

Consumption Fell Heavily In Past Week
If we can get by until November 1 — and I think we can — we'll be o. k., was the assessment E. C. Nicholson, public works superintendent put on the city's short water supply Wednesday. Mr. Nicholson reported the Davidson Creek reservoir level has reached the base intake valve and that the pipe line into the Gold Mine shaft has been extended to its maximum depth of 265-266 feet. He estimated the present flow from this source at 300 gallons per minute.

Registration To End Saturday

Registration books, open at all polling places for the November 2 general election, will close Saturday afternoon. The registrars will be at the polling places to handle transfers and accept new registrations all day Saturday and are reminding eligible but unregistered voters to get their names on the books.

Mrs. Carl Mayes Is Top Winner At Woman's Club Floral Event

Mrs. Carl Mayes was top winner in the Woman's club's 51st annual floral fair, "Autumn Harvest" Wednesday afternoon, receiving both the sweepstake award for winning the most blue ribbons in the show and a tri-color seal for submitting the best entry in the arrangement division. Miss Elizabeth Anthony won the tri-color seal awarded to the best entry in the horticulture division. She entered an arrangement of gerbera, and Mrs. Mayes' winning entry was a dried arrangement.

Cooke States Procedures Are Improved

Auditor Robert H. Cooke, Shelby certified public accountant, addressed a second letter on the 1953-54 City of Kings Mountain audit report to the mayor and board of commissioners Tuesday, the second letter minimizing criticisms of city bookkeeping procedures contained in Auditor Cooke's original letter of September 14.

Mr. Cooke's September 14 letter first became public in a news story in last week's Herald.

The text of the October 19 letter from Mr. Cooke, delivered to the Herald by Mayor Glee A. Bridges and Commissioner W. G. Grantham Tuesday, follows:

"BUDGET OVEREXPENDITURE — During the current year under review, the City sold bonds in the amount of \$600,000 to provide funds for Water and Sewer and recreational facilities. The budget could have been amended to include this amount as anticipated revenue. In spending a certain amount of this money during the year which had not been budgeted, an overexpenditure of the budget resulted. This matter may be in the classification of a technical matter which definite determination would require legal interpretation.

"PRESENT BOARD — It was ascertained by me that the present Mayor and Board have been in office a year. From criticisms of predecessor Auditors it would appear that the operation of the City had been most deplorable in prior years. It would not therefore be possible for an administration to revise and correct all the previous mistakes made in the short course of time which your Board has had. THERE WAS NOT the slightest intimation nor indication that there were any financial irregularities nor defalcations in my report in connection with either the Mayor or Board, nor the City Clerks and Office Personnel. To the contrary I commented that there had been improvement in the Internal Control during the year, as compared to conditions as commented upon by predecessor Auditors. In addition thereto, part of the recommendations which were made by me were put into effect even before the audit report had been delivered. This would indicate your willingness to further improve the Internal Control and Accounting Procedures, as time would permit. I do congratulate you upon your revision of some of the policies immediately, which were recommended by me. There are as I said, grounds for additional improvement in the Internal Control and Accounting procedures which takes time to accomplish.

"COMMENT ON BOND MONEY AND POWELL BILL MON- EY — There was no indication in my report that any irregularity had occurred in connection with the expenditure of Bond money nor Powell Bill money. The purpose of this comment was to impress upon you the importance of continuing in line in connection with this matter, and other matters regarding ear marked funds.

"PUBLICATION OF SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS — It would not be expected that the City governing body would prepare and publish a Summary of Receipts and Disbursements the day after receiving the report. This takes time to prepare and reasonable time to present; same to the Publisher. Certainly thirty days would not be an unreasonable time. I know of no time limit in the requirement, however.

"AUDIT REPORTS — PUBLIC PROPERTY — While the audit reports are public property and can be seen by any citizen I know of no reason that publication should be made that the report is finished, nor the necessity of calling any one by telephone nor contact by letter, nor otherwise, that the report is available.