

Population

City Limits 7,206

The population is from the U. S. Government census report for 1950. The Census Bureau estimates the nation's population grows since 1950 at 1.7 percent per year, which means Kings Mountain's 1954 population should approximate 7,600. The trading area population in 1945, based on election board registrations at the Kings Mountain office, was 15,000.

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School Trustees Select Stowe Site For Elementary School



WHAT'S FOR CHRISTMAS — The Charlotte Observer recently carried the picture above after Staff Photographer Jimmy Dumbell made it at Ivey's annual Christmas party for children of the Gaston Orthopedic hospital. The young girl with the querulous expression is Jane Wallis Yates, two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh

Yates, of Kings Mountain. The child has been a patient at the Orthopedic hospital since she was ten months old, and is receiving corrective treatment and surgery for disability of the right arm and leg. Already she has undergone two major operations. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Dumbell.)

City To Pay Mauney \$300 For Easement

The city board of commissioners voted Monday night to pay Paul Mauney \$300 for right-of-way for a sewer line into the new sewage treatment plant, accepting Mr. Mauney's offer, on the request for easement.

The right-of-way calls for a 1,200-foot strip into the plant.

The board also voted to purchase a Sherman ditcher from Hardin-Dixon Tractor Company, of Shelby, for the gas department, at cost of \$4,185 plus \$126 for an additional bucket. The city had advertised for bids on an Everett ditcher. Hardin-Dixon was low bidder on the Everett machine by more than \$500 and its bid on the Sherman machine, which the board voted to buy due to its all-purpose features, was also well under the bids of other companies on the Everett ditcher. Other bids were: R. & A. Tractor Company, Gastonia, \$4,500; Con-

Gas Deposit Fees

The city board set deposit fees for natural gas service Monday night as follows: residential one-family unit, \$5; small commercial and industrial, \$10; all other, \$25.

tractors Service, Inc., Charlotte, \$4,560.58. The board bought the Sherman machine over objections of Gas Department Superintendent Vincent Bechtman, who said he preferred the Everett machine.

In other actions the board:

- 1) Employed Joe Goforth as city hall janitor, replacing John Kilgore, at \$30 per week.
- 2) Deferred action on a bid of a Gastonia concern for city scrap, instructing Public Works Superintendent E. C. Nicholson to seek at least two additional bids for the scrap.
- 3) Voted permanent employment at \$25 per week for Mrs. Mildred Falls, who had been on temporary duty as day shift desk sergeant in the police department. Mrs. Falls fills a department vacancy created by resignation of R. R. Carrigan. She had been on temporary duty due to illness of some policemen.
- 4) Voted installation of outside city gas taps, when and if permission is obtained, at cost on time and material basis, which will include cost of high pressure regulator.
- 5) Set the city Christmas holiday schedule, for all departments except police and fire and a few employees in public works for December 24 and 25.
- 6) Authorized two-weeks extra pay for Supt. Nicholson, in lieu of vacation time.
- 7) Authorized re-roofing of old part of water works building at \$745 by Kings Mountain Sheet Metal Works, if funds are available.
- 8) On recommendation of committee, voted to pay J. W. Webb.

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St. Luke's Christmas Story

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, into the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go over unto Bethlehem, and see this thing, which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

(St. Luke 2:1-18)

Merchants Gear For Final Push

Kings Mountain merchants were ready for the last-minute big rush of Christmas shopping Tuesday after a brisk weekend of purchasing.

Virtually without exception Kings Mountain merchants reported heavy sales beginning last Friday and continuing through the first days of this week.

With three shopping days remaining before Christmas merchants expected their sales starts — even though heavily augmented with extra personnel — to be heavily pushed to handle the expected volume of purchases.

Stocks are still in good shape most merchants reported, some aided by last-minute arrivals of express and parcel post containing Christmas season goods.

For grocers, traditionally busiest the final three days before Christmas, the big push was just beginning, as they loaded their shelves and counters with specialties for Christmas dinners. Turkeys and hens were in large demand, along with the customary big rush for fruits, nuts, and other taste tempters.



MASONIC MASTER — James B. Simpson was installed Monday night as master of Fairview Lodge AF & AM 339. Mr. Simpson succeeded Boyce Gault.

Masons Install New Officers

Officers for the coming year of Fairview Lodge 339, AF & AM, were installed Monday night at an emergent communication at Masonic Hall.

Past Master Paul W. Owens as marshal, and Past Master C. J. Gault, Jr., served as installing officer.

The officers installed were: James B. Simpson, master; Lester A. Harmon, senior warden; Thomas D. Tindall, junior warden; O. T. Hayes, Jr., treasurer; J. H. McDaniel, Jr., secretary; O. Fred Weaver, senior deacon; T. C. McKee, junior deacon; I. C. Davis, senior steward; Frank Ballard, junior steward; and J. A. Walker, tyler.

Citizens Ready For Yule Holiday

Most Retailers Decide To Take Extra Holiday

Kings Mountain citizens readied for Christmas this week in busy fashion, endeavoring to complete their Christmas shopping in time for the annual holiday period, which, generally, will be a short one here this year.

Majority of industrial firms are suspending operations for a shorter - than - sometimes period, with many textile firms taking only a two-day respite.

Majority of the city's retailers have also upped their holiday schedule by deciding to close from Christmas Eve through Monday, December 27. They will re-open for business on Tuesday morning, December 28. According to John H. Lewis, president of Kings Mountain Merchants association, a telephone check of several business firms indicated that virtually all types of retail business would close on Monday with the exception of hardware dealers. Mr. Lewis said that Western Auto Store indicated it would be open as usual and Blalock's Park Inn said it would be open Monday. Closing for the extra day, he said, would be department stores, variety stores, jewelers, some grocers, and several of the auto dealers and garages. The holiday schedule of dry cleaning firms will coincide with the long weekend of the merchants, while Finger Laundry expects to close Friday day at noon, also re-opening Tuesday morning. Drug stores will be *Continued On Page Eight*



HEADS MINISTERS — Rev. Phillip L. Shore, Jr., pastor of Central Methodist church, was recently elected president of the Kings Mountain Ministerial association for the coming year. He succeeds Dr. W. L. Pressly.

Shore President Of Pastor Group

Rev. Phillip L. Shore, Jr., pastor of Central Methodist church, was elected president of the Kings Mountain Ministerial association for the coming year at a meeting of the organization December 13.

Mr. Shore succeeds Dr. W. L. Pressly, pastor of Boyce Memorial ARP church.

Other officers elected are: Dr. W. P. Gerberding, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran church, vice-president; Rev. A. J. Argo, pastor of First Wesleyan church, secretary-treasurer; and Rev. Douglas Fritz, pastor of Resurrection Lutheran church, radio chairman.

Expressions of appreciation were made to the retiring president and other retiring officers for the service during the year, and to Rev. H. Gordon Weekley, pastor of First Baptist church, who leaves next week to assume the pastorate of Providence Baptist church, Charlotte.

It was announced that the January meeting of the association would be a breakfast meeting.

Ballard Buys Phenix Store

Frank Ballard has purchased the business known as Phenix Store from Floyd Payne and assumed operation of the firm on Monday.

Mr. Ballard, a veteran of about 25 years in the grocery business as owner and operator of Ballard Grocery, said he would operate both businesses, with Mrs. Ballard as manager of Ballard Grocery. He will manage the new firm under the same trade name it has carried under other owners, Phenix Store.

R. R. Carrigan, former city policeman, has been employed as clerk for Ballard Grocery.

Mr. Payne has owned and operated Phenix Store for the past seven years. He has not announced his future plans.

Kings Mountain Telephone Users To Pay Higher Rental Rates Soon

Kings Mountain telephone subscribers will pay higher rentals for their service in the near future as a result of a decision of the North Carolina Utilities last week.

Top increase on Kings Mountain residential users will be 25 cents per month, while top business rate increase here will be 90 cents per month, both figures exclusive of federal excise tax, which is now ten percent.

Southern Bell Telephone Company will realize \$1,084,710 per year from the increased rates, after paying state and federal income taxes.

Kings Mountain subscribers will feel the impact of the new rates with their January bills, Floyd Farris, group manager said. The new rate schedule, which also includes slight increases in long distance toll charges — were effective Tuesday.

Here are the new rates compared with the former rates for the Kings Mountain exchange, as reported by Mr. Farris:

	New	Old
Business one-party	\$9.50	\$8.60
Business two-party	\$8.25	\$7.35
Business four-party	\$7.25	\$6.35
Business rural	\$4.45	\$4.25
Residence one-party	\$4.20	\$3.95
Residence two-party	\$3.45	\$3.25
Residence four-party	\$2.95	\$2.75
Residence rural	\$2.95	\$2.75

*Outside city limits only
(All rates are quoted without the addition of the ten percent federal excise tax.)

In contrast to being pleased by the commission decision granting the higher rate schedule, Southern Bell, which did not receive its fully requested increase, expressed disappointment at the decision. J. S. Stone, North Carolina general manager said, "While the new rates will not provide earnings comparable to the earnings of other industries, we will continue to make every reasonable effort to provide each person in our area with the kind and amount of telephone service he wants."

Mr. Stone said the commission authorization falls short of providing the earnings we need.

Schools Buying Marlowe Lot For West Plant

Kings Mountain's board of school trustees voted to purchase the Stowe property as the site for the proposed new North elementary school building, voted to purchase at \$8,000 additional land for West school, and completed plans for re-lighting Central school building at the regular monthly meeting of the group held at Central school Monday night.

The selection of the Stowe site — located south of McGinnis street between North Piedmont avenue and Ramsaur street — cleared the way for Architect T. W. Cothran, of Van Wageningen & Cothran, Shelby architectural firm, to begin work on plans for the proposed 12 to 16-classroom building.

Mr. Cothran signed a contract with the board calling for a fee of five percent of the cost of the new building.

The board has been discussing merits of two proposed sites for the new building, recommended by the state school board after a survey team report of a study of the Kings Mountain schools on July 7. The survey team recommended the Stowe site as being near the center of pupil population.

The other site under discussion was at the corner of North Cassler and Walker streets.

Superintendent B. N. Barnes reported that the state school board had approved plans for construction of a 12-16 classroom structure. The board, with all members present, discussed the two sites and future expansion of the city system and unanimously agreed on the Stowe site.

The board instructed Mr. Cothran to proceed with sketches for a building which could be made into an 18-room plant and to begin work on detailed plans for construction of 12 rooms.

Mr. Barnes reported that he and Trustee Fred W. Plonk had secured options on most of the property and had agreements from all adjacent property owners to sell land needed for the school. Some 15-20 acres will be purchased for the site.

The board voted unanimously to purchase property on S. Waterson street adjacent to West Elementary school from E. E. Marlowe at a cost of \$8,000. The property measures 85 feet by approximately 400 feet.

The board voted to advertise for bids for re-lighting Central school after completed plans for the project were submitted by M. M. Packard, Shelby engineer, and approved by the board. The state school board tentatively approved the plans on October 14, with recommendations, and final approval was made on November 15. Mr. Packard met with the group Monday night and the board approved his final plans. The project was begun over a year ago and Mr. Packard retained to draw the plans. Slim-line fluorescent fixtures are to be used in the re-lighting.

The board agreed to accept bids calling for immediate completion of re-lighting the primary department at the school, with the remainder of the work to be started on June 1, 1955.

The board is advertising for bids on the project this week, the notice appearing on page 5, *Continued On Page Eight*

Today's Herald One Day Early

Today's Herald is published one day in advance of regular schedule.

The annual Christmas week edition, it includes specially prepared Christmas greetings from majority of the city's retail firms and service establishments, a large quantity of Christmas feature material, the paper's regular features, up-to-the-minute news developments in Kings Mountain and advertisements from local merchants with last - minute gift suggestions.

Next week's Herald will appear on regular schedule. It will come off the press on Wednesday night, December 29, under date of December 30.

Local News Bulletins

DIXON PLAY

Annual Christmas play at Dixon Presbyterian church will be held Thursday night at 7 p. m. A one-act comedy will be presented. The public is invited to attend.

PRESBYTERIAN

A program of Christmas music by the combined choirs of First Presbyterian church will be presented in the main sanctuary of the church Wednesday evening at 8 p. m., Tommy Eanes, minister of music, announced.

NATIVITY SCENE

A Nativity scene will be presented in the yard of the First Presbyterian church Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings between 6:30 and 7:00 o'clock. The Pioneer Fellowship is in charge.

POLICE NEEDY FUND

Persons wishing to donate to the police needy fund may still do so, as donations will be collected by the Police department until Christmas Eve, Chief Hugh A. Logan, Jr., stated Tuesday. Persons wishing to contribute are asked to call 254, 720 or Coley Freeman at 73.

WEAVER DISCHARGED

S/Sgt. Ivan E. Weaver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Weaver, arrived home Saturday from Camp Kilmer, N. J., where he received an honorable discharge after four years of service in the Air Force. Sgt. Weaver spent the final two years of his enlistment on duty in England.

ESC HOLIDAY

The Kings Mountain branch of the Employment Security commission will close for Christmas holidays on Friday, Saturday and Monday, re-opening December 28. It was announced by Franklin Ware, manager.

Two Christmas Eve Services Planned

Resurrection, St. Matthew's Events Listed

Christmas Eve 11 o'clock services at St. Matthew's and Resurrection Lutheran churches will highlight religious services in the community celebrating the annual observance of the birth of Christ.

Both candlelight services will feature religious music of the season.

At St. Matthew's, two robed choirs will sing six Christmas anthems, with Miss Frances Summers to render a solo. Congregational singing will include four Christmas hymns, and Dr. W. P. Gerberding, the pastor, will read the Christmas lessons and a short meditation. The bells will play at 10:30 and an organ prelude by *Continued On Page Five*

Postoffice Letter Cancellations Total 119,630 For 12-Day Period

Kings Mountain postoffice recorded 21,822 letter cancellations on Monday, topping last season's high mark by over 4,700, and on Tuesday at 3:25 p. m. had reached 12,525 as both incoming and outgoing mail continued heavy.

High mark last season was the 17,056 recorded on December 21. Cancellations from December 10 through 3:25 yesterday (Tuesday) totaled 119,630, with the "rush" beginning on December 14 when the average of about 4,500 for December 10 and 11 jumped to 11,826 for the day. Cancellations for December 15 and 16 continued to rise (11,870 and 13,098) to 15,134 on December 17 and dropped to 13,855 on last Saturday. Sunday cancellations during the period indicate the big jump, with 861 recorded on December 12 and 2,880 on last Sunday.

Record high daily cancellation was recorded on December 19, 1949 at 25,018 but Postmaster W. E. Blakely said that cancellations, although continuing to rise each of the past several years, are spread out better through cooperation by the public in the department's publicity urging early Christmas mailing.

No figures were available Tuesday on parcel post mailings, with the cancellation figures only including letters machines-cancelled. Parcels are cancelled by hand and no record is kept of the number of pieces mailed. Both incoming and outgoing parcel post also appeared heavier than 1953. Mr. Blakely said.

Retailers Observing Later Closing Hours

Majority of Kings Mountain retailers will be open late through Christmas Eve to accommodate last - minute shoppers.

Saturday hours have been decreased for the three days before Christmas, meaning that department, variety and jewelry stores will be open until 7 p. m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Furniture and hardware stores will close at 6 p. m., while grocers will remain open later than their regular 7 p. m. Saturday closing. One grocer said he would remain open until 8:30 through Christmas Eve.

Majority of retailers will not resume Wednesday half - holidays until January 5, it was announced, due to the decision to lengthen the Christmas period closing through Monday. Merchants will be open for business as usual on New Year's Day.