

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 gain since 1950 at 1.7 percent per year, which means Kings Mountain's 1954 population should approximate 7,900. The trading area population is 19,448, based on ration board registrations at the Kings Mountain office, was 15,000.

Local News Bulletins

MAKES DEAN'S LIST

Miss Lois Ann Spake, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Spake of Kings Mountain, has earned a position on the Dean's List just released for the fall term at King's Business College in Charlotte. Miss Spake, who is taking the Advanced Secretarial course, entered King's in September, 1954.

LEGION MEETING

Regular monthly meeting of Post No. 155, the American Legion, is scheduled at the Legion Hall on East Gold street Friday at 8 p. m. All members of the post are urged to attend. Commander James Bennett said.

MOOSE MEETING

The regular meeting of Moose Lodge No. 1748 will be held Thursday night at 8:15 at the lodge on Bessemer City road.

METER RECEIPTS

Net meter receipts from city's parking meters for week ending Wednesday at noon were \$148.03, according to Miss Grace Carpenter, of city clerk's office.

FIRE ALARMS

City firemen answered a call Thursday at 6:30 p. m. to East King street where they extinguished a truck blaze and on Friday extinguished an oil stove blaze at Victory Chevrolet Co. No damages were reported.

CITY BOARD

Regular January meeting of the city board of commissioners is scheduled for City Hall Thursday night at 8 o'clock. Mayor Glee A. Bridges said he anticipated a short agenda.

MOVE HERE

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Bridges and children, Susan and Archie, Jr., moved here from Shelby last Friday and now reside at 209 S. Gaston street. A native of Kings Mountain, he is manager of Spangler's Ready-Mix Concrete, Inc., and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Bridges of Shelby.

Methodists Set Opening Services

Formal opening of the new educational building will be observed at Central Methodist church during the week of January 23-30.

Program for the week is not complete but is expected to include eight services with two former pastors to take part. Rev. Phil Shore, pastor, announced this week.

Polio Campaign To Be Organized

Kings Mountain civic leaders will meet Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock at the Kings Mountain Building & Loan association to organize the city's 1955 March of Dimes fund campaign.

Ben H. Bridges, Jr., and W. J. Fulkerson are co-chairmen of the campaign, and will enlist the aid of various citizens and civic groups.

Number 4 Township has a campaign quota of \$6,000. The fund drive is scheduled to begin January 14.

Legislators Get Bill To Change Discount Period

The city has furnished the county's legislative delegation for General Assembly action a proposed amendment to state statutes which would make the city's tax pre-payment system conform with the system used by Cleveland County and the City of Shelby.

City Attorney J. R. Davis said Wednesday he had mailed a copy of the desired legislation to Rep. B. T. Falls, Jr., and Senator Robert Morgan with request for action.

Under the proposed amendment, city citizens would get the full allowable two percent deduction on city taxes provided their bills are paid during the month of August.

Under present statute, taxes paid in June to qualify for the full two percent discount.

The board of city commissioners passed a resolution to seek the change several months ago, on recommendation of C. E. Carpenter, city tax supervisor, who said the variance in county and city systems caused confusion among the taxpayers. In addition, the June pre-payment date sometimes required refunds for over-payments or billings for under-payments, since tax rates are not finally set until July.

An Act Fixing Discounts For Prepayment of Taxes In The City of Kings Mountain.

"The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

"Section 1: G. S. 105-345 as amended is hereby further amended by adding the following subsection at the end thereof:

"However, subsections 1, 2 and 6 hereby shall not apply to tax levied by the City of Kings Mountain and should any taxpayer of the City of Kings Mountain make payment of his taxes in the month of August through October following the levy thereof, he shall be entitled to the following discounts:

"If paid before or during the month of August a deduction of 2%.

"If paid during the month of September, a deduction of 1%.

"If paid during the month of October, a deduction of 1/2 of 1%.

"Taxes levied by the City of Kings Mountain shall be payable at par during the months of November, December, and January next after same shall have become due and payable.

"Section 2: All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

"Section 3: This act shall become effective from and after its ratification."

LAKE MONTONIA

Annual meeting of stockholders of Lake Montonia Club, Inc., is scheduled at the City Hall courtroom Tuesday at 7:30 p. m., according to Harry E. Page, secretary-treasurer. Annual reports will be given and officers will be elected.

City Election Four Months Away, But Politicking Outwardly Quiet

The city will hold its biennial election in May, and though the election date is only four months distant, there has been thus far little outward evidence of political activity.

However, the subject is cropping up in some conversations, usually in the vein, "Isn't this election year?" and "Who's going to run?"

Generally speaking, it is anticipated that majority of the incumbents will seek re-election, in spite of some indications to the contrary by some of the members of the Bridges administration, now nearing the end of its first term of office.

Mayor Bridges himself is publicly non-committal. To a question on his plans, he said, "I better think about that a little bit yet."

Two years ago, Mr. Bridges had already filed notice of candidacy at this date.

W. S. Fulton, Ward 1 commissioner, made no definite statement of his election intentions. He added he offered two years ago because of a dearth of candidates.

Ward 2 Commissioner J. H. Patterson and Ward 5 Commissioner W. G. Grantham are expected to offer again.

Park Sets Another Attendance Mark

143,694 Visited Military Park During 1954

Kings Mountain National Military Park logged in 143,694 visitors during 1954, another record in total visitations for the ninth consecutive year.

Visitors to the park during 1954 exceeded last year's total of 110,615, by 33,079 persons.

In announcing the figures, Superintendent Ben Moomaw said that Kings Mountain park is the only military park in the federal system which can boast a new record of attendance since the end of World War II.

In addition to thousands of United States citizens, from each of the 48 states, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone, and District of Columbia, citizens of many other countries stopped to visit the historic shrine during 1954.

The park staff reported visitors from Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia, Canada, from Cuba, Costa Rica, and El Salvador, from North Africa, Japan, Jordan, Indonesia, the Philippines, India and Korea, and from England, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, France, Ireland, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Switzerland, and Holland.

Church Group To Give Plays

The Senior High Fellowship of First Presbyterian church will present two plays, "The Marriage Proposal" and "The Doctor In Spite of Himself", Saturday at 8 p. m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

A famous farce, "The Doctor In Spite of Himself" is written by the French dramatist, Moliere and translated by Barrett H. Clark. It is presented in two scenes by the following cast: Mike Houser, "Sganarelle"; Elaine Goforth, "Martine"; Buddy Smith, "M. Robert"; Nick Smith, "Valere"; Dick Huncutt, "Lucas"; Derice Weir, "Jacqueline"; Jackie Arnette, "Lucinde"; Sammy McCarter, "Geronte," and Bobby Houser, "Leandre."

Written by Anton Tchekoff and translated by H. Baukhage and B. H. Clark the farce, "A Marriage Proposal" includes the following cast of characters: Donald Ford, "Stepanovitch Tschobokov"; Jane Osborne, "Natalia"; and Flem Mauney, "Ivan Lomov." It is presented in one act.

Georganna Moss is prompter and Carol Barber and Harold Jackson are in charge of scenery.

D. W. Swink, high school English teacher, directs the plays. No admission will be charged and the public is invited to attend.

TAG SALES

A total of 217 city auto licenses for 1955 had been sold through Wednesday morning, according to a report of Miss Grace Carpenter, of city clerk's office. Seventy-one of the total had been sold this week, she said.

Skirts Purloined, Off Cars That Is

Police, this week, received two complaints of fender skirts stolen from cars by thieves.

Mearl Valentine, of route 1, reported to police, that between 7:30 and 9:30 the night of December 30, while his car was parked near Joy Theatre, someone removed from his car the fender skirts and a cigarette lighter.

Tuesday, D. J. Ferguson, of 1410 Main street, Roanoke, Va., reported to police the theft of fender skirts from his car.

Mr. Ferguson stated his car had been parked both in Bessemer City and in Kings Mountain beside the B & B Soda Shop, and behind City Hall.

Merchants Banquet To Be January 31

Officers and directors of the Merchants Association at their meeting Tuesday set January 31 as the date for the 1955 employee-employer banquet, appointed chairman for the annual event, and nominated several candidates for association officers.

Rites Friday For Mrs. Flum

Funeral rites for Mrs. Annie Raechel Flum, 98, who died Wednesday morning at her home on route 1 after a three-week illness, will be conducted Friday at 3 p. m. from Sisk Funeral Home, Bessemer City.

Rev. Hugh Barringer, pastor of Grace Lutheran church, Bessemer City, will conduct the rites, interment to follow in Mountain Rest cemetery.

Merchants Resume Mid-Week Closings

Majority of merchants of the city resumed their customary Wednesday afternoon closings yesterday.

The stores had been open on full six-day week schedules since the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving with the exception of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday period.

Under by-laws of the Merchants association the half-day closing policy will be continued into next November.

Annual Meeting Of Red Cross To Be Thursday

The annual meeting and election of officers of Kings Mountain Red Cross Chapter will be held Thursday night at 7:45 o'clock at City Hall courtroom.

The meeting is open to the public, and all civic organizations and clubs are asked to be represented at the meeting.

Four directors along with a chapter chairman, recording secretary, and fund chairman are to be elected.

Retiring officers are I. G. Patterson, chapter chairman, Mrs. Grady King, recording secretary, and W. K. Mauney, Jr., fund chairman.

Retiring directors are J. L. McGill, Henry Neisler, Earl Marlowe, and W. G. Grantham.

Officers with unexpired terms are Rev. P. D. Patrick, first vice-chairman, Mrs. C. E. Neisler, second vice-chairman, Mrs. F. G. Ratterree, treasurer, Mrs. J. N. Gamble, executive secretary, B. S. Neill, fund treasurer, and J. H. Thomson, auditor.

"Man Of Year" Nominees Sought

Kings Mountain Jaycees are seeking nominations for "The Most Outstanding Young Man of Kings Mountain for 1954" and deadline for nominations, which may be made by anyone in the city, is January 14.

The only restriction is that the "young man" nominee must be between the ages of 21 and 35 inclusive. R. G. Plonk, Jr., chairman of the club's Distinguished Service Award committee, cautions:

Winner of the DSA award will be chosen from the list of nominees by a secret committee of Kings Mountain men who are 36 and older and will be announced at the next meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, at Masonic Hall on January 18. Names of nominees other than the winner will be kept secret, Mr. Plonk said.

Winner of the award, to be given annually by the Jaycees, will be awarded a key and certificate and will be entered in the North Carolina DSA contest.

The project is a part of the club's observance of National Jaycee Week, January 14-21.

Chairman Plonk pointed out that although nominees must be of Jaycee age (21-35), they need not be members of the club or any other civic club. Basis of the award is listed as:

- 1) Contribution to community welfare during 1954.
- 2) Participation in all-around community activities.
- 3) Evidence of lasting contribution to community.
- 4) Exhibition of leadership ability.
- 5) Evidence of personal and business progress.
- 6) Cooperation with individuals and civic organizations.

Nominations may be made to Chairman Plonk, who asks that notation be given him of the nominee's achievement during the year.

Lithium Corporation About Ready To Begin Operations Of New Plant

Lithium Corporation of America's new Bessemer City plant is virtually ready to go into production, according to a report from the plant Wednesday.

G. A. Munson, plant manager, had not returned from South Dakota, but Fred Dixon said that Herbert Rogers, president of Lithium Corporation, and F. F. Clark, vice-president, arrived Wednesday to superintend the launching of operations.

The company had previously announced from Minneapolis, Minn., the home office, that it would employ about 150 persons when production gets underway.

The company has been receiving job applications for its Bessemer City plant, and Mr. Dixon

Cut-on Date For Natural Gas Scheduled For January 14th

Tax Listing Activity Here Reported Heavy

Kings Mountain area citizens were beating a steady path to the City Hall courtroom this week as the annual job of listing properties for taxes began.

Clarence Carpenter, city tax supervisor, and Conrad Hughes, township tax lister, said the listing work appeared off to a good start, though they were unable to estimate, after three days' labor, the percentage of listing accomplished.

Vast majority of the listings were taken from individuals, with almost all business and industrial firms still immersed in year-end inventorying and other bookkeeping duties.

Mr. Carpenter said automobile listings, which took a big drop last year, after the temporary glut of the market, would probably hold at last year's levels.

The listing officials are using the current 1955 "blue book" of wholesale values, and the listings approximate last year's scale of automobile values.

The county is introducing for 1955 a new system of inventory listing for business and industrial firms. Special forms for listing inventories were mailed, by County Tax Supervisor Max Hamrick last weekend to business and industrial firms in the county, with the notation that the completed forms should be returned to the county office at Shelby.

The firms are required to list actual values at December 31 of merchandise, finished goods, work in process, raw materials, supplies, and all other items. Of the total, 32.5 percent is to go on the tax books for assessment under tax rates to be set in July.

The policy on inventories was set by the board of county commissioners several months ago.

Other information asked of business and industrial firms includes: 1) listing of consigned or leased goods or equipment, together with address and name of owner; and 2) listing of counties other than Cleveland in which the firm has assets other than real estate.

Drive-In Loot Is Recovered

Part of the loot taken by thieves in the December 29 break-in of the concession stand of Bessemer City - Kings Mountain Drive-In Theatre, located on Bessemer City road, has been recovered, Chief Hugh A. Logan, Jr., said Wednesday.

The loot, which included candy, chewing gum and nuts, was found near Third street Monday, Chief Logan said, by children whose parents notified police.

Gaston County Detective Jim Harris, who is investigating the incident since the break-in occurred in Gaston County, stated Wednesday that no arrests have been made but several persons are under surveillance.

A second incident at the Theatre which occurred Saturday night, involving the destruction of 17 speakers at the Theatre has been closed by the sentencing in a Gaston County court of five Fallston boys.

Wreck Victims Recuperating

Tom Eanes, music director of First Presbyterian church, and Mrs. P. D. Patrick, wife of the pastor of the church, were injured Saturday night in an auto wreck on the Buffalo Shoals road six miles north of Lincoln.

Eanes was reported improving Wednesday. He is receiving treatment at Kings Mountain hospital for a depressed fracture at the base of the skull.

Mrs. Patrick suffered a broken right collarbone, and was reported recuperating satisfactorily. Rev. Mr. Patrick, a passenger in the 1951 DeSoto of Mr. Eanes, was uninjured and able to fill his pulpit Sunday.

The accident occurred in heavy fog on a slippery road, when the car went out of control and overturned. Damage to the car had not been assessed Wednesday.

The group was returning to Kings Mountain from a trip to Roanoke, Va.



TO BE INSTALLED - J. C. Bridges will be installed Thursday night as president of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club for the coming year. The meeting will be a ladies' night affair.

Kiwanis Officers Will Be Installed

Officers for 1955 of Kings Mountain Kiwanis club will be formally installed Thursday night at a ladies night meeting at Masonic Dining hall at 6:45.

W. Stanley Moore, editor of the Morganton News Herald and retiring lieutenant governor of Carolina's Kiwanis District 1, will serve as installing officer.

It was noted in the club bulletin that dress for the ladies night affair will be informal.

Officers to be installed are J. C. Bridges, president, succeeding Dr. W. P. Gerberding; B. S. Peeler, Jr., first vice-president; and Harold Coggins, second vice-president.

Directors to be installed are John Cheshire, I. Ben Goforth, Jr., Ed Goter, W. S. Fulton, Jr., William Herndon, Henry Neisler and W. T. Weir. Dr. Gerberding will serve as an ex officio member of the board.

The officers and directors were elected in annual club balloting in October.

Nicholson Says East Portion Lines Ready

The city's natural gas system will begin receiving gas from the Transcontinental pipeline on York road on January 14, E. C. Nicholson, public works superintendent, said yesterday.

With the cut-on, the city will therefore be by one day its January 15, 1955, deadline for taking gas, as set in the Federal Power Commission order granting the city an allotment of natural gas.

Mr. Nicholson says that natural gas service will be immediately available to virtually all in-city residents on the east side of the Southern Railway mainline, with possible exception of some of the Whitesides development in East Kings Mountain.

Mr. Nicholson further estimated that 300 residents business and industrial firms will become natural gas users within a short time after the January 14 cut-on. One customer will be the city itself. It anticipates converting the City Hall boiler from coal to gas on January 16, Mr. Nicholson added.

The public works superintendent said that all gas lines now installed have been tested under 119-pound pressure for a 24-hour period, which is at heavier pressure and for a longer period than normally required.

Natural gas is ordinarily odorless, but is being treated with an odor-producing agent at the cut-in point by Transcontinental Mr. Nicholson said. The odorizing treatment will not be as pungent an unpleasant as the "skunk juice", with which the gas is treated for testing lines against leaks, he added.

Work on installing the system is slightly behind schedule, due to bad weather, Mr. Nicholson continued, but the construction crew has been augmented this week by arrival of another construction team.

Hospital Bid Date Nearing

Advertising for bids for the construction of a 14-bed addition to Kings Mountain hospital should begin late in January or early February.

Grady Howard, hospital business manager, said Wednesday this was his information from the architects, Ormand & Vaughan, of Shelby.

Plans and working drawings are going through minor changes at the moment, on instruction from the State Medical Care commission, and will be returned within the next few days, with approval expected immediately.

The State commission will advise the letting date, Mr. Howard said.

The project is joint federal-state - county, with each agency of government furnishing a portion of the funds which will bring the Kings Mountain institution to a 50-bed unit with regular hospital status. Plans call for the addition of an East-West wing at the front of the present building, with re-location of business office and other present facilities.

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