

# 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 gains since 1950 at 1.7 percent per year, which means Kings Mountain's 1954 population should approximate 7608. The trading area population in 1945, based on nation board registrations at the Kings Mountain office, was 15,000.

# Kings Mountain Herald

Kings Mountain's RELIABLE Newspaper

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Sixty-Fourth Year

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## Local News Bulletins

**ON DEAN'S LIST**  
 Miss Faylene Falls, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Falls, was listed on the Dean's list for the fall term at Appalachian State Teacher's college, Boone. A senior, Miss Falls is majoring in physical education.

**AT CITY HALL**  
 Mrs. Gary Sarvis, of Battle-ground ave., has been employed by the City of Kings Mountain as a stenographer in the business offices. She began her new duties last week.

**FIRE ALARM**  
 City firemen answered a fire alarm Thursday to Kings Mountain Beverage Company. No damage resulted from a motor flare-up at the company, firemen reported Wednesday.

**OPTIMIST CLUB**  
 Kings Mountain Optimist club will hold its regular meeting Thursday night at 7 o'clock at Kings Mountain Woman's Club, according to an announcement made by Neal Grissom, president.

**METER RECEIPTS**  
 Net meter receipts from city's parking meters for week ending Wednesday at noon were \$143.55, according to Mrs. Frances Sarvis, of city clerk's office.

**TAG SALES**  
 A total of 327 city auto licenses for 1955 had been sold through Wednesday morning, according to Miss Grace Carpenter, of city clerk's office. One hundred and ten of the total had been sold this week, she said.

**MASONIC MEETING**  
 An emergent communication for work in the first degree will be held by Fairview Lodge A. F. & A. M., 339 on Saturday night at 7:30 at the Masonic Lodge, Secretary J. H. McDaniel, Jr., has announced.

## JC's To Name DSA Winner Tuesday

The Junior Chamber of Commerce will announce its "Young Man of 1954" at the regular meeting of the club at Masonic Hall Tuesday, with Lambert Swartz, Charlotte businessman and 1953 DSA winner in that city, to make the feature address of the occasion. The dinner meeting is to begin at 7 p. m.

R. G. Plonk, Jr., chairman of the club's distinguished service award committee, made the announcement and the program was arranged by Dr. N. H. Reed.

Chairman Plonk also pointed out that nominations for Kings Mountain's "Young Man" will be accepted through Friday and may be made by anyone in the city. Nominees must be between the ages of 21 and 35 inclusive and do not have to be members of civic clubs. Nominations should be made to Mr. Plonk.

Several nominations have already been made, he said, and the winner will be chosen by a secret local committee of men over 36. Names of nominees, other than the winner, will not be announced.

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

The project is a part of the club's observance of National Jaycee Week, which begins on Friday.

## Child Little Hurt When Hit By Car

Gene Martin, five-year-old son of Tommy Martin, of South Piedmont avenue, received slight injuries as a result of being struck by a car Saturday morning, around 10 o'clock, on W. Mountain street. The car was driven by Everette Lee Hill, of route 2, Park Yarn Mill.

The child, reported by police to have run in front of the car, was dismissed by Dr. J. E. Anthony after receiving first aid-treatment for injuries to the lip and foot.

The accident was investigated by Officers P. A. Hawkins and R. G. Ware.



**LITHIUM CORPORATION OFFICIALS** — On hand to formally open the new Bessemer City plant of Lithium Corporation of America last Thursday were, left to right, Herbert W. Rogers, president, Walter M. Fenton, sales manager, and Fremont F. Clarke, vice-president and production manager. All are of Minneapolis, Minn. (Photo courtesy of Gastonia Gazette.)

## New Lithium Plant Begins Production

### Official Says Annual Payroll To Top Million

Lithium Corporation of America's new \$7,000,000 chemical plant on Bessemer City road was officially put into operation last Thursday, in a ceremony at which Herbert W. Rogers, president, presided.

Other officials present from the Minneapolis, Minn., home office of the company were Fremont F. Clarke, vice-president and production manager; Walter M. Fenton, sales manager; Dr. F. B. Elstead, director of research; Richard A. Hughes, comptroller; and John W. Douglas, director of purchases.

In a press interview prior to the ceremony, President Rogers outlined plans of the company for operation of the new plant, announced management personnel assignments, and praised the building contractors for their diligent work in erecting the huge plant in the short period of four months.

Vice-President Clarke said the company would employ about 125 people in its chemical plant and estimated an additional 75 would be used in mining operations and in office work. He estimated the potential payroll in excess of \$1,000,000. He said that Lithium Corporation completed December 31 its business year which had been "our best year" in history.

Lithium Corporation is a corporation with authorized capitalization of one million shares of common stock, of which 727,500 are outstanding. It had no preferred stock, with none authorized.

Mr. Clarke said Lithium Corporation owns or leases 24 properties in the Grover-Lincolnton area.

## City To Tap Natural Gas Pipeline This Weekend; Deposits Invited

The city board of commissioners held a long, but largely routine, regular monthly meeting last Thursday night, with many items of business relating to the natural gas system, which Engineer Gilmore reported about 35 percent completed.

The board also named Harold Phillips to a one-year term and I. H. Patterson to a two-year term as trustees of the Fireman's relief fund, and approved fire department election of Chief Pat Tignor and Assistant Chief Hunter Allen as trustees from the department. J. H. Thomson is the public representative, appointed by the State Commissioner of Insurance.

On the gas work, the board passed a technically required resolution confirming sale of the natural gas bonds, changed specifications on its gas system

### Bloodmobile Visit Set For Grover

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will make its next Kings Mountain area visit at Grover, chapter blood program officials were informed Tuesday.

The Bloodmobile will visit Grover on January 31, under sponsorship of the Grover Lions club, chapter officials here reported.

Mrs. E. W. Griffin, publicity chairman, said Kings Mountain people will be urged to donate blood during the Grover visit, as well as Grover citizens. She said arrangements will be made for transportation, if needed.

Further announcement concerning the visit will be made in the near future.

### Retail Group Naming Officers

Members of the Kings Mountain Merchants association are currently balloting in a mail election to choose officers for 1955.

Nominees for president are Fred W. Plonk and Sam Collins. Nominees for vice-president are Paul McGinnis and Fleete McCurdy.

Director nominees, from whom members are to vote for four, are Jonas Bridges, Dan Weiss, Bill Jonas, Fred Halthcox, Charles Dixon, W. L. Plonk, Richard Barrette and Richard Spencer.

### Presbytery

Rev. P. D. Patrick, R. G. Plonk, and Dan Wells will attend a meeting of Kings Mountain Presbytery in session at First Presbyterian church, Shelby, on Tuesday. They are delegates from First Presbyterian and Dixon Presbyterian churches.

Contract to provide for use of 400 different brand meters, cancelled an option on an additional 400 due to an unfavorable price differential, and agreed to contract with Smith Welding Company for repairing damage to streets. Engineer Gilmore, of Barnard & Burk, had stated that Smith Welding had released A. P. Warlick from contract for the work and would pay the city to handle it. The board also agreed to allow J. W. Webster, gas installation inspector, to work with Gilmore up to three hours daily in inspecting lines and tap-ins. Barnard & Burk is to pay for the service. In addition, the board members received a boiled down version of requirements relating to operation of the gas system. In other actions, the board: 1) Voted to employ Mrs. Frances Sarvis as city clerk.

## Red Cross Names Harris; Neisler Fund Chairman

J. Ollie Harris was elected chairman of Kings Mountain Chapter American Red Cross and Henry Neisler was elected fund chairman at the annual meeting at City Hall courtroom last Thursday night.

Mr. Harris succeeds I. G. Patterson. Mr. Neisler succeeds W. K. Mauney, Jr.

Other officers elected were Miss Mary McGill, recording secretary, succeeding Mrs. Grady King, who has been recording secretary for Kings Mountain chapter for the past 17 years; and Ben H. Goforth, Jr., disaster chairman, a position which has been vacant for several years.

New directors elected were C. G. White, George Houser, Dr. P. G. Padgett, and I. G. Patterson.

Retiring directors are J. L. McGill, Henry Neisler, E. E. 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. P. G. Ratterree, treasurer, J. H. Thomson, auditor, Mrs. J. N. Gamble, executive secretary, and B. S. Neill, fund treasurer.

Hold-over directors are Mrs. J. E. Herndon, Eugene Patterson, V. L. Neal, of Grover, Dr. D. F. Hord, Mrs. C. D. Blanton, Mrs. J. E. Mauney, Mrs. Harry Page, and Aubrey Mauney.

Miss Antoinette Beasley, Red Cross field representative from Southeastern Area office, Atlanta, Ga., was guest speaker at the meeting. Opening prayer was by Dr. P. G. Padgett, Mrs. King, retiring recording secretary, read the minutes, and a report of the treasurer was made by Mrs. Ratterree. Reports were also made by Dr. Padgett, chairman of Red Cross Blood program, Donald Crawford, chairman of Red Cross life saving, and J. Neal Grissom, chairman of Red Cross first aid.

Mrs. J. E. Herndon gave the nominating committee report. The meeting was closed with prayer by Dr. W. L. Pressly.

## Darracott Plans Woodruff Firm

J. G. Darracott, Kings Mountain citizen since 1938, will go to Woodruff, S. C., soon, where he will open a new wholesale auto part firm.

Mr. Darracott said he completed arrangements for renting a building at 17 N. Main street, Woodruff, on Tuesday and expects to open Darracott's Auto Parts about February 1.

Mr. Darracott came to Kings Mountain from Abbeville, S. C., to open a Western Auto Associate store in 1938. He sold this business to Haywood E. Lynch in 1950 and has been associated since with Bridges Auto Parts.

At Tuesday night's meeting of the Lions club, Mr. Darracott, a past president, was presented a gift from the club in token of his long service in which he compiled a record of perfect attendance over almost 17 years, and held various club offices and committee posts. He is also a past president of the Kings Mountain Merchants association.

Mr. and Mrs. Darracott will live in Woodruff at Poole Apartments, West Georgia street.

## Rastus B. Dixon Rites Wednesday

Rites for Rastus Bettis Dixon, 78, of route 2, were conducted from Bethlehem Baptist church Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Services were conducted by the Rev. R. E. Robbins, pastor of the church, assisted by the Rev. W. G. Camp. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Mr. Dixon, a retired farmer, died Monday at 12:10 p. m., at Kings Mountain hospital after an illness of three weeks. He was a son of the late Walter and Sally Bridges Dixon. His wife, the former Ella Blanche Blacklock, died several years ago.

He is survived by one son, Walter B. Dixon, of Cramerton; five daughters, Miss Emma Dixon, of the home, Mrs. Dixie McDaniel, Mrs. Edgar Bell, Mrs. Charles Lail and Mrs. Delia Howell, all of Kings Mountain; five brothers, Ben Stroupe, of Cherryville, Ga.; Clarence Dixon, and D. A. Dixon, both of Charlotte, and Kelly Dixon, of Roanoke Rapids; three sisters, Mrs. Ida Watterson, and Mrs. Harvey Funderburk, both of Charlotte, and Mrs. Nora Ford, of Waco; 22 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

# Postmaster Blakely Resigning Position Effective January 15

## First National President Sees "Good 1955"

First National Bank enjoyed a prosperous year in 1954 and anticipates a "good 1955", President F. R. Summers reported Tuesday at the annual stockholders meeting.

Following reports of officers, stockholders re-elected all directors who include Mr. Summers, B. S. Neill, P. M. Neisler, M. A. Ware, Dr. L. P. Baker, G. A. Bridges, W. K. Mauney and R. L. Mauney.

Following the stockholders meeting, directors re-elected all officers, who include, in addition to Mr. Summers, B. S. Neill, executive vice-president, R. L. Mauney, vice-president, R. S. Lennon, vice-president and cashier, James C. McKinney and Mrs. Helen R. Blanton, assistant cashiers.

More than 80 percent of the bank's outstanding stock was represented at the meeting, either in person or by proxy, a modern record, Mr. Summers said.

In his report, published in brochure form for distribution to stockholders, other banks, industrial and business firms, Mr. Summers called attention to the great growth of the lithium industry in the Kings Mountain area, the construction of a modern brick and tile company, and other industrial development.

He also noted bank service improvements during the year, including inauguration of walk-up window service, and said the bank is installing an IBM proof machine and a Burroughs Micro Twin photo machine to further speed accounting service to depositors.

He reported that the bank had made 1,924 loans in the installment loan department and 3,307 loans for general business needs during 1954, with total outstanding at December 31 of \$1,172,320.26.

During 1954, the bank showed net income of \$25,798.55, representing earnings of \$2.58 per share, and paid dividends of \$10,000, or \$1 per share. More than \$15,000 was added to the bank's undivided profit and reserve fund, to bring this total to \$105,913.43.

He reported that salaries and wages claimed 42 percent of the bank's gross earnings, while taxes claimed eight percent, dividends eight percent, depreciation three percent, and other expenses 17 percent. Sixty percent of earnings were derived from interest on loans, 30 percent from investments, and the remaining ten percent from other sources.

The bank's year-end statement showed total assets of \$4,266,028.62, deposits of \$3,910,115.19, capital, surplus and undivided profits at \$330,913.43, investments of \$1,801,099.07, and a contingency reserve of \$25,000.

During 1954, the bank handled more than 740,000 checks representing transactions in excess of \$50 million.

"The definite business upturn in the past three months, the lessening of world tensions, and the striking business improvement abroad, especially in Europe, give promise of a good 1955," he concluded.

## Tilman Pearson Lives In Ward 2, Not 3

Tilman Pearson, reported last week as a likely candidate for a commission in the coming city election, was inadvertently listed as a possible candidate from Ward 3. Mr. Pearson lives in Ward 2.

He called to note the error and to state he was receiving encouragement to run in many quarters.

Mr. Pearson's brother, former Commissioner Olland Pearson, resides in Ward 3, and is also reported to be a likely candidate in the spring elections.

**KIWANIAN MEETING**  
 Members of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club will hold their regular weekly meeting at Masonic Dining Hall Thursday evening at 6:45 p. m. Major W. B. Lentz, executive officer of North Carolina State Highway patrol will be guest speaker.



**PLANNING POLIO CAMPAIGN** — W. J. Fulkerson, left, and Ben H. Bridges, Jr., right, are shown looking over some of the publicity materials as they begin work on the 1955 March of Dimes campaign. The two are co-chairmen of the Kings Mountain area fund-raising effort.

# Polio Fund Drive To Begin Friday

## Solicitation Organization Is Announced

Kings Mountain annual March of Dimes campaign for the benefit of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis will begin Friday.

Ben H. Bridges, Jr., and W. J. Fulkerson, co-chairmen of the fund-raising effort, this week completed a large organization which will handle the campaign. Goal in the township is \$6,000.

Chairman at Grover is Charles Harry, while Hill Lowery is handling the Bethware community campaign.

Mr. Bridges, who is in charge of business and individual donations, said Wednesday that several organizations and individuals plan special functions to raise funds. The Kings Mountain Junior Chamber of Commerce will conduct its roadblock on January 23, and will sponsor a benefit Gospel Sing on January 30. The Kings Mountain Optimist club will handle business district so-

litations, and the Junior Woman's club will conduct the familiar Mother's March. The city schools P-TA council will conduct the campaign through the schools, and Dr. Nathan H. Reed will handle solicitations among professional men.

W. J. Fulkerson, in charge of the industrial division, announced these committee chairmen for individual industrial firms: B. S. Peeler, Jr., Elmer Lumber Company and J. E. Herndon Company.

Memberships in First National Bank's 1955 Christmas Savings club totaled \$10 this week, with a potential pay-out to members next December of more than \$100,000, President F. R. Summers said Tuesday.

If the contracts are carried through, the resulting payment will much more than double the 1954 club total.

Memberships are still being accepted, and Mr. Summers said he anticipated memberships will reach 900 before the scrolls are closed.

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## Weir Expected To Get Acting Appointment

W. E. Blakely, Kings Mountain postmaster since 1936, has resigned his position, effective Saturday, January 15. W. T. Weir, Kings Mountain grocer and coal dealer, is expected to be named acting postmaster momentarily.

Mr. Blakely said he is resigning under disability retirement provisions of the Civil Service. He tendered his resignation to the postoffice department in Washington on December 27.

Mr. Blakely's resignation opens a patronage plum to the Republican party. According to present pay scales, the postmaster here receives base pay of \$5,470 per annum, Mr. Blakely said.

Under department procedures, an acting postmaster will be appointed soon and will serve until appointment of a permanent postmaster, following civil service examinations.

Republican leaders here have considered the possibility of the vacancy for several months, since the inauguration of President Eisenhower, and several have indicated that Mr. Weir has been recommended for the acting postmastership appointment.

Mr. Blakely succeeded J. S. Ware as postmaster on June 16, 1936, on appointment by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and on recommendation by the late Congressman A. L. Bulwinkle.

At the time Mr. Blakely became postmaster, annual receipts of the Kings Mountain postoffice totaled approximately \$15,000 per year. The postoffice was located in the building now occupied by Friendly Billiard Parlor. There were ten employees, including one city carrier.

Receipts for the calendar year ended December 31 totaled more than \$60,000. Today there are 22 employees, including three city carrier routes and one auxiliary route. The postoffice has been housed in its own building at the southeast corner of Piedmont avenue and Mountain street since 1940. Receipts for 1954 set a new record and kept the postoffice well into first class status, which it has enjoyed since 1950.

Mr. Blakely said he was resigning in the interest of his health. "I have been ill, and am now better, but I feel relief from the growing responsibilities of the office will assure a complete return to health," he continued.

Mr. Blakely said he expected to rest for a few weeks, then would seek private employment. He is 57, he is an elder of Boyce Memorial ARP church and a Kiwanian.

After postmasterships were placed under civil service by the Rasmack - O'Mahoney Act, Mr. Blakely scored a grade of 99.6 out of a possible 100 on his civil service examination in 1940.

Mr. Weir is a son of a former Kings Mountain postmaster, S. S. Weir, who held the office more than nine years from 1922-31, under appointment by President Harding. A one-time dairyman, Mr. Weir owns and operates Weir's Coal and Grocery, and is a partner in S. & T. Grocery. He is a Kiwanian and a member of First Baptist church. *Continued On Page Eight*

## Bank Promotes Miss Summers

Miss Virginia Summers, of Charlotte, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Summers, of Kings Mountain, was elected assistant cashier of Charlotte's Union National Bank, by the board of directors Tuesday.

Miss Summers has been associated with Union National since 1949.

Miss Summers is a graduate of the high school division, Gulf Park college, Gulfport, Miss., Salem college at Winston - Salem, and took graduate work for two years in the School of Commerce, University of North Carolina. She recently completed the course of instruction offered by the school of the American Institute of Banking.

**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.

## Board Has Busy January Meeting; Gas Matters, Other Items Handled

The deposit fees are in addition to the \$10 tap fee which the city has been collecting to run a 50-foot service line from the street to residences and farms.

The deposit fee is refundable when a person ceases to use gas service. The tap fee is not.

Tap-in by the city to the natural gas pipeline will culminate efforts to obtain natural gas begun some four years ago. City permission to sell natural gas was assured with final allocation of 1,365,000 cubic feet of gas per day by the Federal Power commission last year and subsequent issuance of a certificate of convenience and necessity by the North Carolina Utilities commission.

Natural gas proponents contend the fuel, usable for heating, cooking, refrigerating and air conditioning, is cheaper than competing fuels.

Vincent Beechum, gas department superintendent, noted that