

The population is from the U. S. Government census report for 1950. The Census Bureau estimates the nation's population gain since 1940 at 1.7 percent per year, which means Kings Mountain's 1954 population should approximate 7,808. The trading area population in 1945, based on ration board registrations at the Kings Mountain office, was 15,000.

Local News Bulletins

X-RAY UNIT Cleveland County mobile X-ray unit will be in Kings Mountain Thursday (today) in front of Belk's Department store from 10 o'clock until 12 noon and from 1 until 4 p. m., it has been announced.

ARP SERVICE Regular morning church services at Boyce Memorial ARP church will be held Sunday with Dr. W. L. Pressly, the pastor, to deliver the message at the 11 o'clock hour. Dr. Pressly has been attending a meeting of the Institute of Theology at Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.

UNION SERVICE Sunday night's union service for five city church congregations will be held at Boyce Memorial ARP church with Rev. P. L. Shore, Jr., pastor of Central Methodist church, to deliver the message at 8 o'clock.

LIONS MEETING Kings Mountain Lions club will hold their regular meeting Tuesday night at 6:45 at Masonic Dining hall. A program entitled "What Lions Can Do In The Kings Mountain Club To Better The Community and City We Live In," will be presented by Lions Sam Stallings, Richard Barnette, and Earl Marlowe.

Drama Pleases First - Nighters

By Elizabeth Stewart Kings Mountain's historical outdoor drama, "The Sword of Gideon," opened its fourth season Thursday night to small audiences with first-nighters viewing a good play. Quality of the performance indicates a successful 1955 season.

Lead roles in the drama are portrayed quite successfully by Susan Moss who has the role of Sally, the young mountain girl, and Biff Leonard, who takes the role of Reece MacDermott, the rugged young man who aroused the American forces to action against the British.

Both Miss Moss and Mr. Leonard, the latter of Lexington, gave outstanding performances, as did Dr. P. G. Padgett and Mrs. M. A. Ware who play the comic roles, Doug Swink, who portrayed the daring British commander, Patrick Ferguson, and Meek Carpenter, again in the role of Whitacre, the villain who plotted to kill MacDermott before the American forces could be alerted.

Dr. Padgett gave a good portrayal of Billy Rover, combination medicine man, good samaritan, and horse "borrower," as did Mrs. Ware in the role of Widow Smith.

Dr. R. N. Baker was the Indian chief, Atta-Culla Culla; Jimmy Heavner was the whiskey-measuring Indian, His-Mouth-Stretches; Patsy Curley, of Dallas, was Ailee Murray, MacDermott's unfaithful sweetheart; and Becky Tudor had the role of Virginia Paul, Ferguson's mistress. Each gave creditable performances.

Gene Mauney dances an intricate Indian hoop dance in an Indian scene, Dale Dixon has the role of Charles McDowell, and Mrs. Ed Tudor plays the role of McDowell's wife.

Bill Young, of Bessemer City, narrates the story in the voice of a man named King who lived in a cabin at the foot of Kings Mountain, and a number of children participate in the drama while a host of other performers are British and American soldiers and officers, mountain men, and participants in crowd and dance scenes. Many in the 90-member cast maintain a variety of off-stage duties. Staging and lighting are handled adeptly with only brief pauses taken to make scenery changes. There was little revision in the script but more realism than in previous showings was effected in several scenes. "Sword of Gideon," written by Florette Henri, New York author and playwright, is an adaptation of the book, "Kings Mountain," and is directed by Dan Bly, of Asheville. It is the fifth presentation of a battle drama by Kings Mountain Little Theatre and by citizens of surrounding cities, staged in the amphitheatre of Kings Mountain National Military Park. The play is a colorful and professional appearing production commemorating the Kings Mountain battle of October 7, 1780 which Thomas Jefferson termed the turning point of victory against the British in the Revolutionary War.

School Group Named To Study Court Ruling

Sword Of Gideon Season Underway

Larger Crowds Are Expected This Weekend

"The Sword of Gideon," the outdoor battle drama commemorating moves into the second of five weekend showings Thursday night, with officials hoping for favorable weather and anticipating large audiences. The drama at Kings Mountain National Military Park amphitheatre played to larger crowds last Friday and Saturday evenings, after opening Thursday to one of its smallest audiences in history. Rains in Kings Mountain, York, S. C., and other neighboring towns shortly before the 8:15 p. m. curtain time cut the crowd to less than 100 persons. As frequently happens, an official noted, "Not a drop fell at the amphitheatre."

This weekend's showings will be the fourth, fifth and sixth of a scheduled 15-performances, ending on August 13.

Ed Smith, drama publicist, said viewers last weekend included heads of the drama departments of Winthrop College and William & Mary college, both of whom were complimentary in their comments on the excellence of the production. Also in the audience and prising in their comments were Mr. and Mrs. George Spence, both for eight years members of the cast of "The Lost Colony," now in its fifteenth season at Manteo.

Noting that county school will begin six-week summer terms on Monday, Mr. Smith announced that special admission rates are available to school and other juveniles who attend in groups of 20 or more. Advance arrangements can be made by contacting the Little Theatre office at the Woman's Club.

Regular admission fees are \$2 for reserved seats, \$1.20 for general admission, and 60 cents for children under 12. "Sword of Gideon" is the dramatization by Florette Henri of the events leading to the Battle of Kings Mountain, fought on October 7, 1780, by the mountain men against the British forces of Col. Patrick Ferguson. The mountain men defeated the British, leading to subsequent victories by the colonists and final surrender by the British at Yorktown.

KIWANIS MEETING Members of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club will hold their weekly meeting at Masonic Dining Hall Thursday evening at 6:45. Speaker of the evening will be Morton B. Kurtz, executive director North Carolina Council of churches, Durham.

Thieves, Foiled Here, Get Drugs, Cash At Bessemer City Pharmacy

No new developments have been reported concerning the break-in of Central Drug store in Bessemer City Sunday night, Cone C. Carpenter, Bessemer City police desk sergeant said Tuesday afternoon. A large quantity of narcotics and between \$800 and \$700 in cash were stolen from a safe.

Police theorized the party or parties who entered the Bessemer City store could have been responsible for the attempted break-in of Kings Mountain Drug Company Saturday night. The methods of seeking entry were said to be similar. C. D. Blanton, co-owner of Kings Mountain Drug Company, said the would-be intruders were evidently frightened away. Entry to Kings Mountain Drug Store, he said, would have been a simple matter compared to that of the Bessemer City store. The break-in was attempted from the back door of the store. Efforts had been made by the would-be robbers to break the lock and pry the door open. Entry to the Bessemer City Drug store was gained through a back door. A strip from the door was removed and the door pulled outwards. To gain entrance to the main quarters, a similar method was used to pry open a se-

Coroner's Jury Rules Ramsey's Death Accidental

A six-man coroner's jury ruled after an inquest last Friday that Willie A. Ramsey died from a gunshot wound inflicted accidentally. The verdict, returned by Foreman Milton Rutz, reversed the previous finding of Coroner J. Ollie Harris, who had ruled Ramsey's death — which occurred the afternoon of July 4 — a suicide. Coroner Harris called the inquest on request of several members of Ramsey's family, who said they felt their father's death accidental.

Serving on the coroner's jury were Foreman Ruth, D. C. Hughes, Menzell Phifer, Charlie Campbell, Bright Ratterree, and John Lewis. Since the jury had to be sworn in the presence of the body, which had to be exhumed, Carl Blanton and Robert Goforth were sworn as extra jurors, in event one or two of the group had not been able to serve.

Bethware School To Open Monday

Bethware school will open Monday morning at 8 o'clock with classes to operate on summer schedule from 8 until 1 o'clock beginning Tuesday. School will be open until 12 noon Monday.

Principal John H. Rudisill made the announcement. Teachers in the elementary department include Mrs. Hal Morris, Mrs. Hugh Ormand, Mrs. Bryan Hord, all of Kings Mountain, Mrs. Katherine Moss, of Blacksburg, S. C., Miss Kathleen Wray, Mrs. Hal Dedmon, Mrs. Ray Tiddy, all of Shelby, Mrs. J. K. Willis, Kings Mountain, and Mrs. Randolph Lowery and Frank Sherrill, both of Shelby.

In the high school department, William Powell, of Shelby, will serve as coach and will teach science, Mrs. Ed Hamrick of Shelby will teach English and social studies, Mrs. W. R. Craig, Kings Mountain, will teach English and French, Miss Nancy McGinnis, of Ellenboro, will teach Home Economics, and Myers Hambricht, of Kings Mountain, will head the agriculture department.

Mrs. W. K. Crook, Mrs. Macie Souther, and Mrs. Ruth Hallman will teach in the Patterson Grove school system.

Moore Holding Dixon Revival

Rev. Park H. Moore, Jr., pastor of Armstrong Memorial Presbyterian church, Gastonia, a former pastor of Grover's Shiloh Presbyterian church, will conduct a revival beginning Sunday at Dixon Presbyterian church.

Services are at 8:15 p. m. nightly through July 30 with Bible school classes for all ages to be held at 7 p. m. each evening Monday through Friday. George Grissom, assistant pastor, is serving as superintendent of the school.

Annual City Audit Work Is Underway

J. M. Maness, of A. M. Fullen & Company, Charlotte certified public accountants, arrived here Monday to conduct the audit of the city's financial operations for 1954-55. Mr. Maness is first auditing the records of the city natural gas department. He will subsequently audit the general city books.

Square Dance Series Planned

The Kings Mountain Lions club and City Recreation commission will co-sponsor a series of Saturday night square dances at the high school gymnasium, beginning this week. J. W. Webster, chairman of the Lions club committee, said the sponsors have booked a good band for Saturday night's dance, which will start at 8 p. m. Admission will be 50 cents per person. Mr. Webster urged Lions, their wives, and the public to attend the dances. Tickets are on sale by members of the Lions club.

Board Stands Pat On Movie Issue, Sets Budget, Tax Rate

Final Budget Up \$3,165 Over First Estimate

The city board of commissioners adopted finally the 1955-56 budget last Friday morning and enacted the tax rate ordinance calling for a gross levy of \$1.70 per \$100 valuation. In finally adopting the budget the commissioners estimated that revenues and disbursements will balance at \$498,963.33, a slight increase of \$3,165 over the tentative estimate adopted last month. The whole amount of increased revenue estimate came from one source. The city school district will supply the \$3,165 to redeem the last remaining bonds of a 1925 school building issue. This issue supplied funds to build the central auditorium. Though the bonds are technically obligations of the city, the school district has supplied payments for their retirement.

Minor departmental budget shifts plus the \$3,165 bond refund enabled the city to establish in its new budget a \$4,592.52 to take care of emergencies and mis-estimating, if any. Among the shifts were: Removal of \$1100 appropriation for salary of city court solicitor and appropriation of \$900 for Jacob S. Mauney Memorial library; transfer of \$400 previously earmarked "general department, miscellaneous" to the contingency fund; paring of the \$4200 appropriation for salary of the public works superintendent by \$350, made possible by the vacancy in the position until August 1.

The new budget provides for payment of all department heads at the rate of \$350 per month, an increase of \$15 per month each. It also provides a raise for paid firemen from \$53.20 to \$55 per week. Under the new budget, the various city departments will spend \$415,009.56; debt service will require \$66,361.25; \$13,000 is earmarked for capital outlay; and \$4,592.52 is earmarked for the contingency fund.

The tax rate of \$1.70 per \$100 valuation on real and personal property is prorated: general purposes, \$1.11; debt service, 45 cents; capital outlay, nine cents; and recreation, five cents. It is the first year the city has levied a tax for recreational purposes. Authority for the levy was granted in the election of January 1954. The city again is levying a poll tax of \$2 on men between the ages of 21 and 50.

Grace Methodist Homecoming Sundry

Grace Methodist church will observe Homecoming Day at services Sunday, Rev. W. C. Sides, Jr., the pastor, has announced. Sermon topic for the morning service is "Our Home in the Church." Dinner will be served at 12 noon and during the afternoon the congregation will visit the Methodist Home in Charlotte where they will serve a picnic supper and conduct a vesper program.

NCPA Elevates C. D. Blanton

C. D. Blanton, Sr., Kings Mountain pharmacist, has been elected first vice-president of the North Carolina Pharmaceutical association, according to results of mail balloting announced this week. Mr. Blanton, currently serving as second vice-president of the association, will be elevated at the convention of the association next May. Other officers elected were: J. W. Tyson, Greensboro, president; W. Dorsey Welch, Jr., Washington, second vice-president; Sam McFalls, Jr., Winston-Salem, third vice-president; W. B. Gurley, Windsor, three-year member of the association executive committee; W. Moss Salley, Jr., Asheville, to a five-year term on the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy; and W. A. Ward, Swannanoa, D. L. Boone, Durham, W. B. McDonald, Jr., Hickory, and W. Moss Salley, Sr., Asheville, directors.

Gantt Tops U. T. Medical Section

MEMPHIS, TENN. — Charles Herman Gantt of 13 Waco Road, Kings Mountain, N. C., placed first in his section during the Spring quarter at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis, according to grade averages compiled by Miss Kate Stanley, registrar. He is continuing his twelfth quarter course of study which began July 11.

Citizens Paying Assessment Bills

Unusually large payments on public improvements assessments were made by citizens during the past week. City Clerk Gene Mitcham reported. Payments on the assessments for the week ending Tuesday totaled \$2,654.08, bringing the total for the year beginning July 1 to \$4,256.92. The city is urging citizens owing assessments to pay them as quickly as possible, noting that the accounts bear interest at the rate of six percent per year.

Powell Bill Report Filed

The city has filed its report of street mileage with the State Highway commission in support of its claim for Powell Bill monies, which will be distributed to municipalities in the fall. The report shows a total of 33.33 miles of city-maintained streets within the city limits, an increase of six-tenths mile since the filing of the 1954 report.

Of the total the city has 19.08 miles of hard-surfaced streets, 11.85 miles of soil, stone, and/or gravel streets, and 2.4 miles of unimproved streets. The hard-surfaced street mileage showed a gain over the 16.97 miles reported last year.

On both 1954 and 1955 reports it was noted that the city has 1.63 miles of streets which are only 16-foot wide and less standard width for qualifying for Powell Bill funds. The highway commission, under state law, earmarks receipts from one cent of the state gasoline tax for municipalities. The money is divided on the basis of population and street mileage. The city budget estimate lists \$28,000 as anticipated revenue from this source. The money must be used for street work.

Moore Meeting

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

Three Police Personnel Dismissed; Duty Schedule Is Set On 3-0 Vote

As had been predicted, the city board of commissioners dismissed its three most recently employed police personnel — Officers Laymon Cornwell and Bill Bell and Mrs. Juanita Falls, desk sergeant — at a special meeting last Friday morning. The action was credited to budget limitations. Subsequently, the board approved by 3-0 vote, on motion of Commissioner T. J. Ellison and Commissioner Sam Collins' second, to retain the eight-hour day and six-day week for police department personnel, to remove all ratings in the department and to rotate the desk sergeant duty schedule. Commissioner O. T. Hayes, Sr., supported. Commissioners Patterson and Grantham abstained.

The text of the Ellison motion, typewritten previously and handed to Mayor Glee A. Bridges for reading was: "I make a motion to keep the men on eight-hour shifts and give them their day off each week. Rotate the men on desk each month like the patrolmen. Take the stripes and bars off the men that has them. Put them on equal basis and use no partiality. Pay the men for the rest of their vacation that has not got it." Mr. Collins then submitted a duty schedule to implement the Ellison motion. It provided that Chief Logan would do regular "beat" duty on the 6 a. m. to 2 p. m. shift, provided a man for parking meter duty, regular shifts of a desk sergeant and two men, with one officer as supernumerary. The dismissal action was unanimously adopted on motion of Commissioner Patterson, with Commissioner W. G. Grantham seconding, and provided that the trio be relieved on July 15, with pay to August 1. The three were also to be paid for any vacation time due. Commissioner Patterson made his motion after Chief of Police Hugh A. Logan, Jr., had declined to give a dismissal recommendation. The Chief said he felt it useless to make a recommendation without prior indication from board members that his recommendation would be accepted. The board action followed considerable discussion, in which Mayor Glee A. Bridges, Recorder's Court Judge Jack White and a delegation of Negro citizens.

Kings Mountain School Opening To Be August 30

The Kings Mountain board of school trustees voted to set up a committee to study the Supreme Court ruling on segregation in the public schools and set August 30 as the opening date for city schools for the fall semester at the regular monthly meeting held at Central school Monday at 7:30 p. m. The board agreed that Chairman A. W. Kincaid, Vice Chairman Fred W. Plonk and Secretary B. N. Barnes compose the committee to study and recommend steps to be taken in regards to the Supreme Court ruling.

Mr. Plonk presided at the meeting in the absence of Chairman Kincaid. Trustee J. W. Webster was present for the entire meeting and Trustees J. R. Davis and P. G. Padgett attended parts of the meeting. In a major action, the board voted to invest the full amount of bond funds now available, a total of \$120,400, in short-term notes along with the county schools.

The board also authorized a survey by Trustee Webster and Secretary Barnes for additional insurance on school buildings and equipment and voted to continue school pupil's accident insurance with Pilot Life Insurance Co., at \$1.50 per student for the school year, an increase of 25 cents over last year. The board elected three elementary teachers to the faculty and declined the request of two teachers to commute while teaching here next year.

Elected to the faculty were Mrs. Willie Plonk Patterson and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Kiser, of Route 2, Newton. Mr. Kiser has some 25 years experience as a principal, many of them at Balls Creek school in Catawba County where the couple taught last year. Two elementary teachers are needed at Davidson school and another white elementary teacher is needed to complete the faculty, Mr. Barnes reported.

The board also authorized continued membership in the state school board association and approved minutes of two previous meetings. T. W. Cothran, Shelby architect retained by the board for the North school project, was present and showed the board his final preliminary plans for the building.

Rites Thursday For Dr. Pressly

Funeral services for Dr. James Hearst Pressly, 89, father of Dr. W. L. Pressly, of Kings Mountain, will be held in Statesville First ARP church Thursday morning at 11 o'clock. The minister, pastor emeritus of the Statesville First ARP church, died Tuesday afternoon at his home. He had been in declining health for several years. The father of the Kings Mountain minister was well-known here and made one of his later active appearances in a pulpit, when he took part in services installing his son as pastor of Boyce Memorial ARP church here.

Dr. James Hearst Pressly was born in Abbeville, S. C., a son of the late Dr. William Laurens Pressly. He was educated at Erskine college and Erskine Theological seminary, went to Statesville immediately after his graduation in 1892, and served as pastor of First ARP church there for 54 years. It was the only pastorate he ever held. He retired in 1946. He married Miss Mabel Lowry, of Harrels, Ala., in 1895. She died in 1942. Dr. Pressly's grandfather was founder of Erskine college and served as its president for 25 years. His father once served as president of Erskine Theological seminary.

Surviving, in addition to his son here, are ten other children: Dr. James L. Pressly and Dr. David Pressly, Statesville, Dr. Henry Pressly and Dr. Lowry Pressly, both of Charlotte, Mrs. B. L. Hamilton, Statesville, Mrs. B. L. Hamilton, Sharon, S. C., Mrs. Walter Graham, Winnsboro, S. C., Mrs. Fred Baird, Shelby, Mrs. Edward Holland, Winston-Salem, and Mrs. James Moses, Deland, Fla. Burial will be in the family plot of Oakwood cemetery, Statesville.