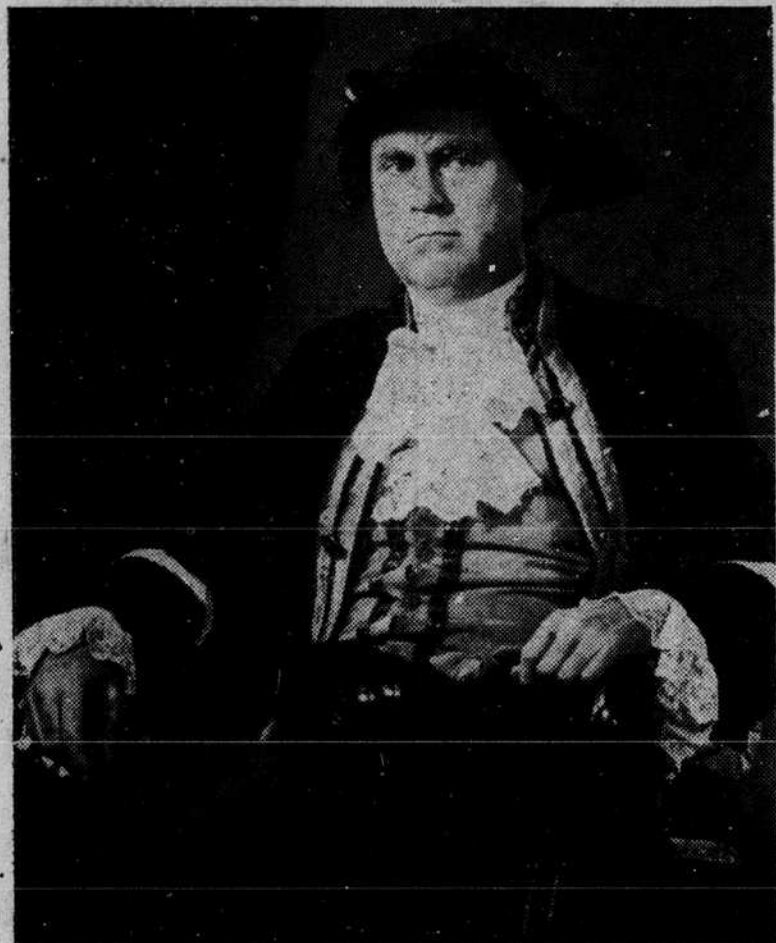


The population is from the U. S. Government census report for 1950. The Census Bureau estimates the nation's population gains since 1950 at 1.7 percent per year, which means Kings Mountain's 1954 population should approximate 7600. The trading area population in 1945, based on nation board registrations at the Kings Mountain office, was 15,000.

Drama In Fourth Weekend; Attendance Figures Mount



BATTLE DRAMA COMIC — Dr. P. G. Padgett, Kings Mountain physician, plays the lead comic role in the outdoor battle drama "The Sword of Gideon." Playing Billy Rover, combination medicine man, horse thief and wit, Dr. Padgett fills the role for the fourth consecutive year.

Drama Schedule Calls For Finale On August 13th

"The Sword of Gideon" will be presented Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings in the fourth of five scheduled weekend showings. The commemorative drama of the Battle of Kings Mountain in its fifth and last season unless a new producer is found prior to 1956 is underway at the amphitheatre of Kings Mountain Military park with weekend showings at 8:15 p. m. Crowds last weekend were reported good on Friday and Saturday evenings, with audiences of approximately 250 each evening. Thursday evening's audience was small, but hardy. Rain began to fall but the cast continued the performance and the visitors remained in their seats. Crowds are expected to increase as the final performance date — August 13 — approaches. Thursday night's audience will be swelled by a group of South Carolina youngsters from near-by Camp York, Ed Smith, publicist, said several other groups, Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops and Sunday school classes, attended the drama last weekend. He reminded that group rates are available to organizations of this kind when they attend in groups of 20 or more. Regular admission fees are \$2 for reserved seats, \$1.20 for general admission, and 60 cents for children. The 90-member cast is presenting Florette Henri's "The Sword of Gideon," which brings to life the drama of the Revolutionary period through the fictional medium of a revolutionary band and Sally, his mountain girl sweetheart. Biff Leonard plays the role of McDermott, while Susan Moss plays Sally. The drama is presented on the site of the famous Revolutionary War battle, now Kings Mountain National Military park, by the Kings Mountain Little theatre.



KIWANIS SPEAKER — The Rev. Andrew B. McLeilan, minister of the West High Church of Scotland at Kilmarnock and guest minister of the summer at Covenant Presbyterian church in Charlotte, will address members of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club at the Thursday night meeting at Masonic Dining hall at 6:45. Mr. McLeilan previously visited the United States five years ago as preacher appointed by the British Council of Churches.

Ware Declares Job Situation "Pretty Good"

Kings Mountain's employment situation "looks pretty good", Franklin Ware, manager of the Kings Mountain branch of the North Carolina Employment service said Wednesday, commenting on figures included in the report for July. Resumption of three-shift operation at Kings Mountain Manufacturing Company, other textile hirings, and beginning of paving of the Highway 29 by-pass contributed to the improvement, Mr. Ware said. The Kings Mountain office received only 52 new applications for employment during the month, and placed 73 persons in employment. A total of 88 job orders had been received. Meantime, the office processed 1319 claims for unemployment compensation for the four-week period ending July 25. However, Mr. Ware said the total was swelled by some 300 due to July 4th week spot points. Three companies declined to designate the week stoppage as a "holiday" enabling their employees to obtain compensation for the week's stop-off. Unemployment benefits are charged to employer's unemployment compensation reserve funds.

Cornwell Re-Hired By Board Monday



PROMOTED — Zeb Plonk, Kings Mountain native, has been transferred to Boston, Mass., from Atlanta, Ga., by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and promoted to the position of assistant vice-president and assistant manager of the company's underwriting service.

Negro Officer Returns To Duty On 3-2 Vote

In a meeting requiring only about three minutes, the board of city commissioners voted 3 to 2 Monday night at a special session to re-employ Laymon P. Cornwell as a city police officer. Cornwell, first Negro officer to serve on the Kings Mountain police force, had been dismissed two weeks previously in a three-person cutback of the force, which the administration attributed to budget limitations. Monday's special session, which probably set a record for brevity, found Commissioner J. H. Patterson moving the re-employment of Cornwell, with Commissioner W. G. Grantham seconding, and Commissioners T. J. Ellison and O. T. Hayes, Sr., opposed. There was no discussion, as the commissioners acted with a full delegation of Negro citizens in attendance. The board met in the courtroom which was filled to capacity. Following Cornwell's dismissal, 90 Negro citizens had petitioned the commissioners to re-employ him or some other qualified Negro as a policeman. Cornwell had been praised by Mayor Glee A. Bridges, Recorder Judge Jack White, Chief of Police Hugh Logan, Jr., and many Negro citizens as a "good officer". Cornwell returned to duty shortly after the board action. He, along with Officer Bill Bell and Mrs. Juanita Falls, desk clerk, had been dismissed with pay to August 1. The cutback of the roster had been dictated when the commissioners approved a budget which included a smaller appropriation for the police department. Cornwell receives top officer pay of \$250 per month, paid to policemen who have put in 18 months of service. The police roster now numbers 12 men, including Chief Logan.

Park Sets July Travel Record

Kings Mountain National Military Park reports a new all-time monthly travel record for July and distribution of a new folder about the famous site of the Battle of Kings Mountain. Ben Moomaw, superintendent, reported that 24,822 persons visited the park during July, jumping the total since January 1 to 95,756. Visitors last month came from 37 states, the District of Columbia, Ontario, Formosa, Germany, Japan, Poland, Scotland and Thailand, he said. Between one-third and one-quarter of the visitors entered the museum located at the foot of

Liberty Mutual Promotes Plonk

Zeb O. Plonk, Kings Mountain native, recently was promoted by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company to the position of assistant vice-president and assistant manager of underwriting service. Mr. Plonk, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Plonk, recently moved to Boston, Mass., to assume his new duties. He had lived in Atlanta, Ga., since 1940, where he had held successively with Liberty Mutual the positions of assistant division claims manager for the southern division, assistant to the vice-president and division manager, southern division, and division manager of underwriting and related functions. The Kings Mountain native joined Liberty Mutual Insurance Company on July 7, 1930, following his graduation from North Carolina State college, first being assigned to the claims department of the company's Boston office. He was transferred to the Baltimore, Md., office as claims adjuster in 1931, returned to Boston as special claims adjuster in January 1934 and was promoted to claims supervisor shortly thereafter. In 1935, he became chief adjuster of public liability claims in the New York office. The promotion to the Atlanta position followed in 1940. In 1933, Mr. Plonk was married to the former Miss Gale Walraven, of Baltimore. They have three children. Don Plonk, age 20, is a rising junior at Middle Tennessee State college, Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Glenn Plonk, 18, will enroll in September as a freshman at Tufts college, Medford, Mass. Jane Plonk, 16, is a rising high school junior. The Plonk family resides at 42 Oxford Road, Medford, Mass.

Board To Convene Thursday Evening

The board of city commissioners will meet Thursday night at 8 o'clock at City Hall for the regular August meeting. Mayor Glee A. Bridges said the agenda will be light. One question possibly to be considered will be a decision on whether to squeeze the city budget to provide for an additional policeman, or whether to dismiss a present member of the force. The problem results from Monday night's action, at a special meeting, when the board re-employed Negro Officer Laymon Cornwell. Mayor Bridges said he didn't know what course the board would take. Though the re-employment of Cornwell over-staffs the department budget-wise, it is possible the city will have greater receipts than anticipated. Income improvement would make possible revision of the budget later in the year. Commissioner Sam Collins has indicated he prefers to leave the police force complement at its present number of 12. Another item expected to be considered is a proposal for the city to lease property off Cherokee street for a metered parking area. Advanced at a prior meeting, the proposal was tabled for investigation by a committee including Commissioner Collins, chairman, and Commissioners T. J. Ellison and W. G. Grantham. The paved area is jointly owned

Speech School Underway Here

The Cleveland County Chapter of the North Carolina Society For Crippled Children and Adults is sponsoring a five-weeks speech clinic at Central high school auditorium. Announcement was made by Dr. N. H. Reed, chairman of the county chapter, and Rowell Lane, high school principal. The course began Monday. Charles Graham, speech instructor at both the Rocky Mount city schools and the Tarboro Health Department, is conducting the course. Mr. Graham received his master's degree from the University of Virginia and does summer work in speech instruction with the Easter Seal society. Persons who wish to enroll may contact Mr. Graham in the first grade classroom under the auditorium at Central school Thursday and Friday, it was noted. Dr. Reed added that Kings Mountain has some 45 to 50 school children who have speech difficulties. He noted that the service includes a hearing test with audio-meter furnished by the Easter seal society. All other materials for the course are being furnished by the chapter. Plans to sponsor speech clinics in other county locations are being arranged, Dr. Reed said.

Retailer Outing Next Wednesday

The Kings Mountain Merchants association will hold its annual employer-employee summer outing next Wednesday afternoon at Lake Montona. John H. Lewis, chairman of the committee on arrangements, said he anticipated a record crowd for the barbecue dinner and asked that reservations be made at the Merchants association office by Thursday. Dinner will be served by Silver Villa Grill at 6:30. Lake Montona swimming and other recreational facilities will be available to the group. Tickets are \$1.50 per person.

Postal Receipts Declined In July

Receipts at Kings Mountain postoffice declined in July, according to figures reported by W. T. Weir, acting postmaster. Total receipts for July were \$4,537.53, compared to sales of \$5,314.55 for July 1954. The decline was \$777.02. Mr. Weir attributed a major portion of the decline to lowered deposits on metered mail.

Yelton, New Public Works Chief, Has Spent 27 Years In Road Work

Grady Yelton, the city's new superintendent of public works, assumed his duties Monday. His office is located at the city garage on City street and the garage telephone number is 1178. Mr. Yelton, who succeeds E. C. Nicholson, brings to the public works superintendency 27 years of experience in construction work, expected to be valuable in his management of four major city departments — sewage, sanitary, water and street. A native of Gaffney, S. C., Mr. Yelton and his family have resided in Kings Mountain for many years, though Mr. Yelton himself has been a "weekend" citizen. He first went to work for Lavender Brothers, of Earl, as timekeeper and commissary

Octogenarians Take First Train Trip

A Kings Mountain couple, octogenarians, went on their first train ride last week. Price Harmon, 89, and his wife, who is 87, visited a granddaughter in Reidsville all last week, making the round-trip by train. While in Reidsville they toured scenic spots in Virginia.

Tax Advertising Is Now Underway

Advertising of property for sale due to unpaid 1954 tax bills is underway. Published this week is the first of a series of four advertisements by the county tax collector prior to actual sale of the properties on September 5. City tax advertising for the September 12 sale will begin next week, City Collector Clarence E. Carpenter reported.

Local News Bulletins

ON CRUISE Lt. G. E. Bridges, U. S. Naval reserve, left Saturday for a two-week cruise out of Charleston, S. C., naval base.

METER RECEIPTS City parking meter receipts for the week ending Wednesday at noon totaled \$175.45, according to a report from Miss Grace Carpenter of the city clerk's office.

FAIRVIEW LODGE Regular communication of Fairview Lodge No. 339 A. F. & A. M. will be held Monday night at 7:30 p. m. at Masonic Hall, Joe H. McDaniel, Jr., secretary, announced.

SOCIAL SECURITY A social security representative will be at City Hall July 15, Joseph P. Walsh, district manager of the Gastonia office, has announced. The Gastonia office services an area comprised of Gaston, Cleveland, and Lincoln counties.

BREAKS HIP Mrs. J. O. Plonk suffered a broken hip in a fall at her home on July 27. She is a patient in Gaston Memorial hospital where she is reported recuperating satisfactorily.

CRAWFORD HOME Harold Crawford returned home Wednesday from Charlotte Memorial hospital, where he had been receiving treatment for a kidney ailment.

UNION SERVICE Sunday night's union service for five city church congregations will be held at First Presbyterian church with Dr. W. P. Gerberding, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran church to deliver the message at 8 o'clock.

ARP SPEAKER Rev. J. L. Maloney, president of Bon Clarcken, will speak at morning services Sunday at 11 o'clock at Boyce Memorial ARP church, Dr. W. L. Presley, the pastor, has announced.

COMMUNION SUNDAY A special communion service will be held in St. Matthew's Lutheran church Sunday at 9 a. m. There will be no sermon. Sunday School and Morning Worship will be held as usual at 9:45 and 11 a. m. The pastor, Dr. W. P. Gerberding, will preach at the Union Service at 8 p. m. at the Presbyterian church.

Barnes Reports Five Vacancies On School Staff

City Schools Superintendent B. N. Barnes reported the resignation of two teachers during the past week, bringing to five the number of vacancies in the teacher faculty for the year starting August 30. Recent resignations received were from Miss Mary Bess Plyler, of Great Falls, S. C., who was a second grade teacher at Central school, and Miss Elizabeth Goode, of Cliffside, Central school piano teacher. To complete the faculty complement, the schools require two Negro elementary teachers, two white elementary teachers, and a teacher for piano at Central. Mr. Barnes said he has several applications for the positions and hopes to be able to present recommendations to the board of trustees at the August 15 meeting.

License Buying Zoomed Monday

Purchases of city privilege licenses zoomed upward Monday, as business firms rushed to beat the deadline and the concurrent five percent penalty. A total of \$1008 in privilege licenses were sold to business firms Monday. The Monday sales brought the total for the year to \$4,836.25. The city estimated it would receive \$6500 in revenue from this source. Penalty of five percent per month applies to late purchasers after August 1. Meantime, payments of street assessments slowed, Mr. Mitcham reported. Payments during the past week totaled \$241.40, bringing the total for the year beginning July 1 to \$6,347.95. Interest on unpaid portions of street and other public improvements assessments accrues at the rate of one-half-percent per month.

REUNION Annual reunion of the descendants of the late Rufus A. Ware will be held Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Jolly, 604 N. Piedmont ave. A picnic dinner will be served.

Loan Officials Think New FHA Terms Won't Slow Building Here

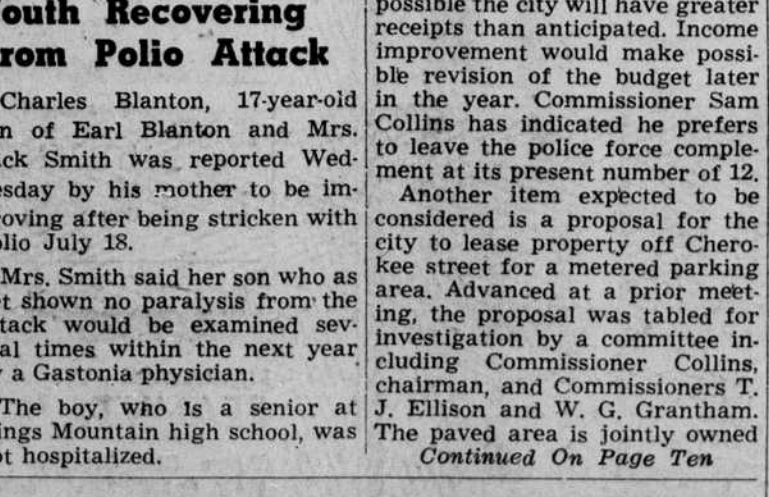
Kings Mountain's building industry does not expect a material slow-down on home construction, in spite of the increased down-payment requirements on GI and FHA-insured home loans. A partial survey of building and loan association managers and others handling FHA and GI construction loans feel the new requirements will have little effect here. Over the weekend, the FHA tightened its down payment requirements, by a general two percent increase. On GI loans, formerly obtainable at no down-payment (though fees and loan closing costs usually require a \$300 to \$350 outlay), a minimum down payment of two percent will be required, or \$200 on a \$10,000 home. Straight FHA loans will now require a minimum down payment of seven percent (formerly five) on the first \$9,000 of a home's cost, plus 27 percent on the total above \$9,000. The FHA down-payment on a \$15,000 house would be \$2,250. In addition, maximum terms of these loans have been shortened to 25 years, compared to the former maximum of 30 years, which will have the tendency to increase monthly payments. But A. H. Patterson, executive vice-president of the Home Building & Loan association "thinks the more stringent requirements will have "no effect." His firm has closed several GI loans, no straight FHA loans. Ben H. Bridges, Jr., secretary-treasurer of Kings Mountain Building & Loan association, says the effect here will be "minor, if any." Continued On Page Ten

1955 Tax Accounts Payable At Discount

August is the month for city and county taxpayers to obtain the full two percent discount on city and county tax bills for 1955. Under present schedules, as enacted by the General Assembly, tax bills may be discounted two percent if paid in August, one percent if paid in September, and one-half of one percent if paid in October. For the City of Kings Mountain it is the first year of the new schedule, tax bills formerly being required to be paid in June to obtain the full two percent discount. City Tax Collector Clarence Carpenter said tax notices will be mailed prior to the end of August.

Youth Recovering From Polio Attack

Charles Blanton, 17-year-old son of Earl Blanton and Mrs. Jack Smith was reported Wednesday by his mother to be improving after being stricken with polio July 18. Mrs. Smith said her son who as yet shown no paralysis from the attack would be examined several times within the next year by a Gastonia physician. The boy, who is a senior at Kings Mountain high school, was not hospitalized. Continued On Page Ten



POOL STAFF IN MODERN DRESS — Members of the city swimming pool staff appeared recently in modern dress—sport shirts, Bermuda shorts, and Scotch plaid long stockings. Pictured, left to right, are Ronnie Cole, Charles Bridges, Jerry McCarter and I. Ben Goforth, Jr., Mr. Goforth is manager of the city pool operations.