

Population

Greater Kings Mountain 10,320
City Limits 7,206

The figure for Greater Kings Mountain is derived from the 1955 Kings Mountain city directory census. The City Limits figure is from the United States census of 1950.

Kings Mountain Herald

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Sixty-Eighth Year

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Polio Fund Campaign Starts; Goal Of Drive Set At \$3,535

Bridges Lists Drive Plans; Quota Reduced

The 1957 March of Dimes campaign is underway in Kings Mountain with various fund-raising projects already planned for the drive.

Jonas Bridges, co-chairman of the drive in the city, announced Wednesday that several civic and other organizations plan to aid volunteer workers in helping the city and its surrounding area reach its \$3535 goal.

Kings Mountain Moose Lodge will handle the solicitation of business firms throughout the area. A roadblock, similar to the one last year, will be conducted by the Kings Mountain Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The Junior Woman's Club will again be in charge of the Mother's March on Polio to be held sometime prior to the January 31 closing date of the drive.

Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club plans to hold a radio auction sale again this year, and Otis D. Green Post 155, American Legion, will conduct the annual Blue Crutch Sale.

Charles Dixon is in charge of school solicitations and Ollie Harris, co-chairman of the local drive, will handle industrial gifts.

Mr. Bridges pointed out that the quota this year is some \$1,500 below that of last year. This drop is due largely to the successful use of Salk Vaccine and fewer number of polio cases during the past year, he added.

Money raised in this annual drive is used by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to fight polio throughout the nation.

It was mainly through the use of March of Dimes money that the Salk polio vaccine was perfected and put into use. This vaccine has cut the number of new cases radically, but there are thousands of victims already affected by the disease that still require treatment and care.

Extended Coverage Changes Reported

Kings Mountain insurance agents along with others throughout the state have been notified by the Commissioner of Insurance of a change in rules governing extended coverage clauses.

Under the new ruling, effective January 1, agents report, all coverage for windstorm and hail storm damages will be written henceforth at \$50 deductible, meaning that the first \$50 of damages will not be paid when a result of these hazards.

The new rule is mandatory and will be applied to all new business and to policy renewals as they occur.

It was also noted that a new policy covers insurance protection of television antennae. Antennae are not covered under general extended coverage clauses, but may be separately covered. Again the \$50 deductible clause will apply.

New Scout Troop Being Organized

Kings Mountain boys interested in joining a Boy Scout troop being organized at Resurrection Lutheran church should contact Rev. Douglas Fritz, pastor of the church, who said boys, age 11-14, are eligible.

Sherman Perry will serve as scoutmaster of the new troop, Mr. Fritz noted. Interested boys should contact Mr. Fritz at telephone number 825-R.

Hearing on Lithium-Steelworker Union Question To Be Wednesday

The National Labor Relations Board will conduct a hearing in Charlotte next Wednesday on the claim of the AFL-CIO Steelworkers union that it has sufficient members at Lithium Corporation of America to qualify as bargaining agent. The union petitioned for an election last month.

Bruce Thorburn, personnel manager of the Lithium firm, said the company had been notified the hearing will be conducted at the post office building in Charlotte on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Thorburn said his company would deny the union claim.

City Auto Tags Now On Sale

City auto licenses went on sale here Wednesday as North Carolina plates went on sale in Raleigh at the Motor Vehicles Department and at various spots throughout the state.

The city tags sell for \$1 and are obtainable at the City Hall office or police department office.

Assistant City Clerk Joe McDaniel said first-day sales were brisk.

Hungary Relief Quota Is Met

Kings Mountain area citizens contributed \$500 to the Hungarian relief fund in a recent drive conducted by the American Red Cross.

Some contributions are still to be received but Mrs. J. N. Gamble, executive secretary of the Kings Mountain Red Cross chapter, said the chapter's quota of \$500 had been obtained.

Grover area citizens donated \$115, Mrs. Gamble reported. Mrs. W. F. Cockrell served as chairman of the Grover campaign.

Mrs. Gamble expressed appreciation to all contributors and workers in the campaign. Goal of the American Red Cross in the campaign is five million dollars.

Bunch Foote Purchasing Agent

Kelly Bunch has assumed the duties of purchasing agent of Foote Mineral Company here, it was announced by Neil O. Johnson, general manager.

Mr. Bunch, formerly assistant purchasing agent at Foote's Sunbright, Va., plant, assumed his new duties Monday. He succeeds F. Scarr Morrison, who resigned several weeks ago.

A native of Virginia, Mr. Bunch and his family lived at Big Stone Gap. He and his wife have four children. They expect to establish residence here as quickly as suitable quarters can be obtained.

Jury Exonerates Driver Of Truck

A Connelly Springs, N. C., truck driver, William Ennis, Jr., has been cleared of all blame in the highway accident deaths of Vester Gillespie and his son, William Gillespie, near Clover, S. C. on December 19.

A coroner's jury heard evidence in the accident on December 28, and returned a verdict that the Gillespies died as a result of their own negligence.

Testimony heard indicated that the Gillespie car was parked on the highway and that the lights of the parked car blinded the truck driver. The dead men were said to have been standing beside the parked vehicle when the truck struck them.

Mrs. Nell Reynolds Short, former Kings Mountain resident, suffered a fractured right knee and bruises in the accident. Her two small children, who were in the parked car, were not injured.

York County Coroner A. Y. Leslie, Jr., presided at the hearing. D. D. McCarier served as foreman of the jury.

Herald Headlines Record History Of City For '56

Kings Mountain citizens wrote "the end" to 1956 Monday at midnight and could reminisce over a large number of news events during the year just closed.

Files of the Kings Mountain Herald reveal a wide range of activities, some happy, some tragic.

Among the top news events of 1956 in Kings Mountain (not necessarily in order of importance) were: 1) The presidential election, in which Number 4 township returned a majority to the Republican candidates for the second consecutive time; 2) the C. S. Plonk safe robbery; 3) the confirmation of Charles L. Alexander as permanent postmaster; 4) conviction of Cecil Cook, former citizen, for the murder of Dan Holloman; 5) union activity at Foote Mineral Company, Massachusetts Mohair Plush Company and Lithium Corporation of America; 6) industrial wage increases, first due to the new federal minimum wage, later due to the general textile increases launched by J. P. Stevens Company; 7) the Pearsall plan election; 8) the winning for the first time in history of the conference championship by the undefeated, once-tied Kings Mountain football team.

A number of Kings Mountain citizens were honored during the year by being elected to important offices in civic, church, and trade organizations. They include: Mrs. Aubrey Mauney, named president of the state Federation of Women's Clubs; J. Ollie Harris, named president of the state Funeral directors and embalmers examining board; H. Tom Fulton, elected president of the national Walking Horse association; C. D. Blanton, elected president of the North Carolina Pharmacy association; Aubrey Mauney, elected vice-president of the United Lutheran Brotherhood in America; Martin Harmon, elected secretary-treasurer of Associated Non-Dailies of the North Carolina Press association; and Dr. P. E. Hendricks, elected president of the Cleveland County Medical society.

Among prominent citizens removed by death were B. S. Peeler, Sr., D. C. Mauney, and Mrs. J. E. Anthony. Citizens and former citizens who died by accidents were Airman Ranny Arnette, Nick A. Moss, W. E. Blakely, Mrs. W. E. Blakely and Mr. Blakely's sister.

A review of major Herald headlines of 1956 follows:

JANUARY
Coralee Fabrics expanding pilot operations; Nicholas A. Moss suffocates in Staten Island fire; Aubrey Mauney acting executive secretary of Lutheran Brotherhood; Neil O. Johnson named new Foote Mineral Kings Mountain manager; Fred W. McClure, Traveler's Rest, S. C., Cleveland County's first highway fatality, killed instantly in motorcycle accident.

Phillip Whetstone, local Akers' truck driver, killed in truck-train crash; James Rotan named superintendent of Burlington Industries Phenix plant; City to launch major tax collection drive February 1, foreclosure, garnishment, levying mapped; Polio Drive has raised 20 percent of quota; R. L. Spencer new president of Montonia Club; City spends 60.6 percent of budget in first six months, revenue running high.

Grady Howard named Young Man of Year for 1955; City firemen answer 17 calls in first half of January; Baptist pastors form own area ministerial organization; Kings Mountain Jaycees list long activity program for past year; Several projects being planned for March of Dimes drive.

Charles Alexander likely to get postmaster appointment, gets GOP township committee nod; Paul Walker new Merchants Association president; Grady William Montgomery dies from injuries received in auto accident January 15; City logs 1,500th safe-driving day; Spotty layoffs at Neisler Mills division said to be temporary; Skull gang gives city taste of organized juvenile delinquency; Mining worker awarded \$6,500 judgment against Foote Mineral Company; Woodrow Jones announces retirement plans, Whitener, Wells toss hats into Congressional race.

FEBRUARY
Police round up Skull Gang members, others; for lecture, Ralph W. Gardner in Congress race; Jack White and Hal Ward named directors of Home Building & Loan association; H. C. Mayes named director of Superior Stone; Carolina Mines, Inc., stock sale halted by Securities and Exchange Commission, Kings Mountain Knitting Company opens operations here; Johnny Jones

Majority of the loss was covered by insurance. Fire Chief Pat Tignor and Mr. Barkley do not agree on the cause of the fire. Chief Tignor thinks it may have been caused by a burning cigarette. Mr. Barkley thinks it originated from defective wiring on a lighted Christmas tree.

The Barkleys are living temporarily in the Reynolds residence in the 800 block of West Mountain street.

Otherwise, the fire department had three other alarms during the holiday season. All were grass fires with no damage reported from either.

As it was the early morning fire did considerable damage before it was extinguished by city firemen. Mr. Barkley estimates the damage at \$8,000 to \$10,000.

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Businessmen Are Optimistic Over Area Prospects For '57

Mica Company Makes "Dry Run" In New Plant

Kings Mountain Mica Company is making "dry runs" at its new plant on the Charlie Moss property south of Kings Mountain.

Paul Lancaster, manager, said Wednesday he expects the new plant to be in production on or about January 15.

Kings Mountain Mica, which with its predecessor company, has operated here since 1948, expects to produce scrap mica at its new plant. Ore reserves of the Moss property have been estimated by company officials at what they term a "conservative 25 years."

The lease on the Moss property covers 200 acres, of which 30 acres have been used for three reservoirs. One of the reservoirs will be a settling basin, another a water reservoir, and the third a fresh water supply. Mr. Lancaster noted that the overflow from the reservoirs will be unpolluted and will be returned to natural streams.

"We won't be using water or ruining it for the people below us," Mr. Lancaster remarked. He said the plant would require 1500 gallons of water per minute.

The new operation will not require a large personnel. Mr. Lancaster said nine men will handle the anticipated three-shift operation. Supervisory personnel will manage both the Moss property plant and the Patterson property plant off Candler street extension.

Mr. Lancaster declined to reveal the refining process the company will employ and the potential production capacity of the new operation.

Mica mining was begun here by F. B. Hendricks in 1948. Three years later he and others formed Kings Mountain Mica Company, Inc., to continue and expand the operation.

Construction of the new plant was begun last May.

Montonia Club Meeting Tuesday

Lake Montonia Club, Inc., will hold its annual meeting Tuesday January 8, at 7:30 p. m. at city hall.

George Houser, secretary of the organization, said Wednesday that routine business affairs and the election of officers and directors is scheduled to come before the stockholders.

R. Lee Spencer of Gastonia is president of the organization.

A treasurer's report showing cash receipts of some \$5,000 and disbursements of \$5,605 has been mailed to stockholders. Included in the disbursements is \$1,254.49 in capital outlay and \$1,610 in salaries.

Capital outlay expenditures are broken down to show \$277.82 for picnic area drainage, \$157.54 for a heavy duty lawn mower, and \$819.13 for extension of the parking area.

Cash receipts included \$4,700 from membership dues, \$264.50 from the music account and \$9.50 for lights.

Home Ablaze, Four-Year-Old Wakes Father, Probably Saving Family

The five-member family of H. C. (Pete) Barkley, Kings Mountain grocer, probably owes its current well-being to the oldest child, four-year-old Bob Barkley.

At about 2:30 a. m. on Christmas night (actually the morning of December 26) the youngster awakened his father to report the Barkley's Goforth street residence ablaze.

"The smoke woke me up," the youngster relates, "I got scared."

As it was the early morning fire did considerable damage before it was extinguished by city firemen. Mr. Barkley estimates the damage at \$8,000 to \$10,000.



STORK ARRIVED HERE JANUARY 2 — Mrs. Luther Lanier smiles as she is photographed with her second son on an eight-pound, three ounce youngster born Wednesday morning at 7:04 at Kings Mountain hospital. The boy has been named Paul Amos Lanier. He is the apparent winner of the 1957 First Baby Derby being conducted by the Herald and numerous Kings Mountain merchants. (Photo by Pennington Studio.)

Paul Amos Lanier First 1957 Baby

Hospital's First Youngster Of '57 Born Wednesday

Paul Amos Lanier appears to be the winner of the Kings Mountain Herald's 1957 First Baby Contest.

The new Kings Mountain citizen was logged into the world at 7:04 a. m. on Wednesday morning, January 2, at Kings Mountain hospital by Dr. Paul E. Hendricks.

The new arrival is the second child, both sons, of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lanier, who live at 310 Parker street. An older boy, Marion Jack Lanier, was born to the couple in August 1954.

The baby's grandparents are also Kings Mountain citizens. They are Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Styers, 607 Clay street, and Mrs. Gailie Lanier, also of 310 Parker street.

The proud father is a second-shift cable twister at Firestone Textiles, Inc. in Gastonia.

The mother, the former Thelma Styers, is 20 years of age. She and her husband were married in September 1953.

The stork apparently was slow arriving in Kings Mountain this year, not making a single stop on New Year's Day. A check with Kings Mountain physicians handling obstetrical work didn't give much hope for an early arrival.

The Lanier youngster, his mother reported, arrived "early." The anticipated date was January 14.

Under terms of the Baby contest being sponsored by the Herald and numerous Kings Mountain merchants, numerous and valuable gifts await the contest winner, which will be announced next week. If no other claims to earlier birth in 1957 are filed with the Herald by January 8, Paul Amos Lanier will be declared the winner.

Retailers To Resume Mid-Week Closings

Kings Mountain merchants will resume their mid-week half holiday schedule next Wednesday.

The merchants were open all day yesterday due to the proximity of the New Year's Day holiday.

Kings Mountain retailers suspended the Wednesday half-holiday prior to Thanksgiving. They will continue the mid-week closings until next November, according to current by-laws of the Kings Mountain Merchants association.

Dividend Rates To Be Increased

Kings Mountain's two building and loan associations, as was indicated on December 24, have acted to raise dividend rates to three and one-half percent, up a half of one percent over current rates.

Home Building & Loan association directors acted December 24, while Kings Mountain Building & Loan directors took action on December 29.

Technically, the two associations did not declare a rate and won't until the next dividend payment period next summer. The actions were to declare the "intent" to up rates when the dividend declarations are made.

Shelby building & loan associations have previously escalated rates to 3.5 percent.

Deadline Saturday For Award Nominees

Deadline for nomination for Kings Mountain's Young Man of 1956 will be Saturday, it was announced this week by Ed H. Smith, chairman of the Jaycee committee handling the award work.

Mr. Smith emphasized that nominees are invited by all citizens. To qualify for the award, a man must be between the ages of 21 and 35, though he may qualify if the work performed occurred when he was 35.

A judging committee including citizens over 35 will choose the award recipient. Nominations should be filed with Mr. Smith before Saturday.

It will be the third consecutive year the Kings Mountain Junior Chamber of Commerce has presented its Distinguished Service award to the man adjudged the community's "Young Man of the Year." Previous recipients are B. S. Peeler, Jr., and Grady Howard. The award will be made January 15.

Textile, Mining Outlook Is Good; Building "Soft"

Kings Mountain business leaders generally are predicting that 1957 will be a good business year.

Some decline to guess into the future more than six months but the general outlook for the Kings Mountain area is that textiles will continue to boom. The principal soft spot as the New Year begins is in the building industry.

Here are some comments in the Herald's spot check on Kings Mountain economic prospects for 1957:

W. K. Mauney, Mauney Mills, Inc.: "I look forward to a good year generally. There is much competition in textile, but we have orders booked for several months ahead."

William Ford, general manager of Massachusetts Mohair Plush Company: "Our activity is currently good though prices, in view of rising costs of materials, are poor. However, we are continuing to install new machinery in the Pauline plant and our employees in Kings Mountain have increased in number to approximately 1,000 persons."

Neil Johnson, general manager of Foote Mineral Company: "We anticipate continuing to produce at maximum capacity."

F. R. Summers, president of First National Bank: "Business should be very good here for the first six months at least. Biggest 'if' in the general economy seems to be the question of whether governments will delay building of roads, schools, and other public works due to higher-cost money."

Paul W. Walker, president, Kings Mountain Merchants association: "Business prospects in Kings Mountain look good. Retail sales should equal if not surpass 1956. Payrolls in the area are good and this indicates good volume for retailers."

A. H. Patterson, Home Building & Loan association: "We have plenty of money to lend for new construction. While we have processed a number of applications, we are having difficulty finding enough applicants with required down payments. We anticipate activity will increase during March and April. If the federal government raises the allowable interest rate on GI home loans to five percent, we will be in position to make some loans of this type."

Ben H. Bridges, Jr., Kings Mountain Building & Loan association: "At the moment we do not have a great number of loans in process. However, this is our slack season, and there is need and demand for new construction. I anticipate that there will be a heavy pick-up by spring and that 1957 will be a busy, prosperous year."

Tax Listing Reported Brisk

City and county tax listing began at City Hall Wednesday, with officials reporting a brisk start on the annual chore.

Tax listing will continue throughout the month of January. The officials will be at City Hall daily from 8 a. m. to noon and from 1 to 4:30 p. m., except on Saturdays, when County Lister Conrad Hughes will be at Hambricht's Store in Grover to accommodate citizens of the Grover area.

Charlie Ware, farm census taker, will follow a schedule coinciding with Mr. Hughes'.

A. A. Barrett, lister for Number 5 township, has announced the following schedule: January 7, at Water's Store, January 8, at Ware's Store, January 9, at Eaker's Store, January 10, at Bess Store, and January 11 and 12 at Barrett's Store. He can be reached at his home on other days during the listing period.

All persons are required to list their properties for taxes and men between the ages of 21 and 50 are required to list for poll taxes.

J. W. Webster, city tax lister, urged all citizens to list as early as possible. "We always get jammed at the last minute," he commented, "resulting in delay for the people. Early listing will save much time."

Local News Bulletins

MAUNEY BETTER

W. K. Mauney is still confined to his home with a back ailment. His condition was reported improved on Wednesday and he said he hoped to be off crutches and at work again within the next few days.

PLONK HAS OPERATION

Fred W. Plonk underwent an operation at Rex hospital, Raleigh, on Monday. His condition was reported satisfactory the following day and he expects to return home during the weekend.

LIONS MEETING

Members of the Kings Mountain Lions club will meet Tuesday night at 7 o'clock at the Woman's Club. Program feature will be a motion picture of last summer's Lions International convention, held at Miami, Fla.

BANK MEETING

Stockholders of First National Bank will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock in the bank lobby, it was announced by R. S. Lennon, vice-president and cashier.

IN DETROIT

Avery Murray, of Murray's Appliance, is in Detroit, Mich., this week for a preview showing of American Motors' new Leonard-Kelvinator appliance line.

CITY BOARD

The board of city commissioners will hold its regular January meeting Thursday night at 8 o'clock. Mayor Glee A. Bridges described the agenda as "short and routine."

JOINS STAFF

Miss Pat Staley has joined the staff of Studie's Beauty Shop, according to announcement by Mrs. Andrew Jenkins, manager.

INSTALLATION MEETING

Fred Alexander, Lt. Governor of Kiwanis District 1, will install new officers and directors for the coming year at the weekly meeting of Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club Thursday night at Woman's Club. The ladies are invited to attend this meeting.

TO INAUGURATION

Jack White and Hal D. Ward left Kings Mountain for Washington, D. C., Tuesday night to attend the January 3 Presidential Inauguration. Both were active in behalf of the nomination of Basil L. Whitener for Congress in the Democratic primaries. Mr. Whitener will also take the oath of office as 11th district Congressman on Thursday.

Jack Peterson Rites Conducted

Funeral for William Jack Peterson, 73, who died at Kings Mountain hospital December 24, were held at El Bethel Methodist church the afternoon of December 26.

Mr. Peterson, a farmer, had been in ill health for seven weeks prior to his death. He was a member of the El Bethel church. He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peterson, and his wife was the late Elizabeth Jane Brakefield.

Surviving are three sons, Robert A. Peterson, Elizabeth City, W. R. and J. T. Peterson, both of Kings Mountain; two daughters, Mrs. Arthur Blackwell, Inman, S. C., and Mrs. Fred Newton, Fayetteville; a brother, J. T. Peterson, Kings Mountain; and six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The final rites were conducted by Rev. Frank Blalock and Rev. H. G. McElroy. Burial was in the church cemetery.