

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.

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Kings Mountain, N. C., Wednesday, December 31, 1958

Sixty-Ninth Year

PRICE TEN CENTS

## S & L Dividends Again Set Record

### Local News Bulletins

#### '58 Payments Up \$25,000 Over Last Year

Kings Mountain financial institutions will pay holders of savings accounts \$91,373.96 on Wednesday.

Year-end and semi-annual dividend payments by the city's two savings and loan associations again set record highs.

Home Savings & Loan Association will pay shareholders \$46,166.47, and Kings Mountain Savings & Loan association shareholders will receive \$41,207.49.

On June 30, Home Savings & Loan paid shareholders \$45,676.36, while Kings Mountain Savings & Loan savers received \$38,028.66.

First National Bank will be paying interest on savings accounts totaling \$4,000, a comparable figure to the June 30th payment.

Home Savings and Loan's dividends for the year will be \$91,842.83, compared to \$79,364 last year, and Kings Mountain Savings & Loan 1958 total of \$79,236 compares to the \$66,833 paid last year.

The aggregate increase for 1958 approximates \$25,000.

For both associations, the year-end dividends payable on optional shares and those payable on full-paid shares were approximately the same. However, A. H. Patterson, secretary-treasurer of Kings Mountain Savings & Loan association, said payments on optional shares topped full-paid payments for the first time.

Full-paid shares dividends are payable in cash. Optional shares dividends are credited to the accounts.

#### Former Citizen Writes Book

Miles O. Thornburg, former resident now of Gastonia, is the author of "The Thread of My Life", a book published recently.

Mr. Thornburg's book went on sale recently in Gastonia.

Born in Kings Mountain in 1891, Mr. Thornburg is one of 12 children. Now secretary and a director of Groves Thread Company, Gastonia, he has been associated with that company since 1922.

"The Thread of My Life", Mr. Thornburg recounts in unaffected style his life as a farm boy, student, soldier, lay leader in the Baptist church, traveling salesman, and business executive. Reviewers say "Here is a book that will appeal to all who like honest humor and comment."

#### Southern Bell Petition Would Up Some Phone Bills, And Cut Others

Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company has filed a revised petition with the Utilities commission to reclassify certain exchanges and to extend some base rate areas.

If approved, Kings Mountain's base rate area would be more than doubled and the Kings Mountain exchange would be classified as Group IV, rather than Group III. Grover's base rate area would also be extended considerably and it would be classified as a Group IV exchange when the Grover patrons had a minimum of 10,001 toll-free stations available for calling.

Floyd Farris, manager of the Kings Mountain exchange, said the proposals would raise the telephone bills of some customers and would lower the bills of some others.

Majority of Bell residential subscribers not now in the base rate area (Kings Mountain's city limits) would get lower charges. While their base rate would increase slightly by \$2.40 annually for one-party residence service, they would no longer be assessed a mileage charge. In turn, mileage charges to non-base area subscribers would be pared by the extension.

The increase to present base area business phone subscribers would be \$6 per year. Business service subscribers not now in the base area would also benefit by elimination of the mileage charge.

Kings Mountain subscribers now have 10,214 toll-free stations available for call.



**HEADS STAFF** — Dr. Kenneth H. McGill was elected December 22 president of the Kings Mountain hospital medical staff. He succeeds Dr. Paul E. Hendricks.

#### McGill Hospital Staff President

Dr. Kenneth H. McGill has been elected president of the medical staff of Kings Mountain Hospital.

He succeeds Dr. Paul E. Hendricks.

Other new officers elected for the coming year are Dr. George W. Plonk, vice-president, who succeeds Dr. John C. McGill; and Dr. Paul V. Nolan, secretary-treasurer, who succeeds Dr. Plonk.

The new officers will assume their duties Thursday.

#### Anderson Youth Is Polio Victim

Coleman Anderson, seven-year-old son of Mrs. Fanny Anderson of route two, is Kings Mountain's and the county's first paralytic polio patient.

Young Anderson was admitted to Asheville Orthopedic Hospital on Saturday after being hospitalized here since December 16 with muscular weakness of the back and shoulder and some stiffness of neck muscles.

Dr. John C. McGill, the attending physician, said the illness had passed the acute stage and could now be classified as "sub acute." The degree of permanent impairment of muscles in the affected area, he said, could not be determined at this time.

Cleveland County Chapter of the National Polio Foundation reported there had been several 1958 cases of non-paralytic polio reported in the county but none other where there was paralysis involved.

#### POSTPONED

The duplicate bridge game at Kings Mountain Country club has been postponed until the evening of January 15th., a spokesman for the group has announced.

#### Funds In Escrow Earn City Cash

The city has earned \$2396.44 in dividends on invested escrow accounts during the past six months, City Clerk Joe McDaniel said Tuesday.

The dividends accrue from \$136,000 invested equally in the city's two savings and loan associations.

Bulk of the money belongs to the natural gas system and are earmarked for various gas department funds, per the revenue bond sales prospectus usable only for reserves against future bond payments. Gas department dividend income will total \$1610.

Added to the city's cemetery fund will be \$367.50, dividend from \$21,000 of cemetery funds spendable only for perpetual care of the Mountain Rest cemetery property.

Another beneficiary will be a special fund set up as an electrical system repair account. The city is collecting \$418.94 for this account from investment of \$24,000 in water and power consumer deposit fees. Current total in the electrical system repair account at December 31 will be \$1358.74.

# '59 Business Outlook Optimistic

## Lithium Firm Raising Hourly-Rated Employees To Get Boost

Lithium Corporation of America, Inc., announced this week that it has increased wages approximately six percent, effective December 28.

For most employees the increase will be reflected in first paychecks received after the plant resumes operation on January 3. The plant has been closed for Christmas vacations.

W. Bruce Thorburn, personnel manager, made the announcement and said the increase was made possible through improved operating efficiencies effected during the past 12 months.

Mr. Thorburn said the increase will include an across-the-board raise plus adjustments, in some job classifications.

Lithium Corporation employs more than 100 hourly-rated workers.

## New Year's Eve Parties Planned

Kings Mountain citizens were preparing this week to bid adieu to rapidly expiring 1958 and to welcome 1959 at precisely midnight Wednesday.

In addition to numerous private parties and other social events, at least two organizations have scheduled New Year's Eve fetes.

The Kings Mountain Country Club will hold its traditional New Year's Eve party, with dinner to be served members and guests at 8:30 p. m. and with dancing to follow.

Another dance will be held by Otis D. Green Post 155, American Legion, this one beginning at 9 p. m., at the post building.

Retail personnel, meantime, were anticipating a New Year's Day holiday, as majority of firms have indicated they will close for the day. Financial institutions will also be closed, as will the Kings Mountain post-office and Kings Mountain Herald. City offices will be open. City school children are still in the midst of the Christmas holiday. They and Park Grace students will return to classwork Monday. Bethware, Grover and Compact schools resumed their studies Monday.

Housewives were preparing traditional New Year's Day menus, accenting black-eyed peas for pot luck, and football fans were anticipating a big day before the television sets, with a full diet of bowl fare.

## Utility Bills Out Day Early

City utility department bills appeared in customers' Tuesday mail, partially due to the fact New Year's Day is a postal holiday, partially because the bills were posted a day ahead of schedule.

"The totals weren't in the 'Christmas present' class, as the city's consumption of utilities jumped to \$28,622 for water and power service and \$16,511 for natural gas service."

City Clerk Joe McDaniel acknowledges he had some complaints on the bills from a few individuals but said the December cold weather and short hours of daylight combined to raise the totals.

Water and power billings were up around \$22,000 from December 1957 and natural gas billings increased about \$1900.

"However, we have more customers than we did a year ago," Mr. McDaniel notes.

"No," he commented, "the city made no charge for power used in lighting the business district Christmas lights."

## Textile Picture Better; Retail Sales Are High

Business and manufacturing firms, busy Tuesday putting the finishing touches on 1958 operations, looked forward to the dawn of a New Year Thursday with quiet optimism over economic prospects for the coming months.

While there were a few exceptions that 1959 should be a solid year. Retailers, meantime, still tired from the banner Christmas business, were encouraged by the heavy gift-buying surge and expected the momentum to continue.

George H. Mauney, of Mauney Mills, Inc., said "prospects are better than they have been."

W. K. Mauney, Jr., of Mauney Hosiery Mills, Inc., said that 1958 was a "hard year", but he expressed optimism for 1959, pointing to the fact the men's hosiery manufacturer recently was successful bidder on a \$750,000 contract to manufacture socks for the armed services. The firm has ten months to complete deliveries.

Another firm much more optimistic than a year ago is Massachusetts Mohair Plush Company, which took an abbreviated two-week Christmas holiday and is employing over-time work schedules in much of its operations.

Meantime, employment figures here continued at a static level, an employment service spokesman said.

Ben H. Bridges, secretary-treasurer of Kings Mountain Savings & Loan association, said that compilation of final figures on 1958 will reveal the association enjoyed a "good year" and he anticipated that the coming 12 months will see a continuance.

He pointed to the upswing nationally as indication that local conditions also will be favorable.

## Special Service Set By Church

"Souls In Conflict", Billy Graham's religious film, will be shown at 7:30 p. m. at Macedonia Baptist church as a special feature of Watch Night Services to be held Wednesday night, New Year's Eve.

Rev. T. A. Lineberger, pastor of the church, said Tuesday the public is invited to attend the film or any part of this service, which will last until 12:00 o'clock.

The program will include songs and praise, scripture, prayer, fun and fellowship, and testimony and dedication.

Watch Night services are scheduled for thousands of Baptist churches in the United States in preparation for an all out simultaneous revival crusade during the spring of 1959, Rev. Lineberger reported.

He further stated a special series for the television show "This Is The Answer" has been prepared to promote the revival, the first to be telecast January 4.

## City License Tags On Sale

City auto license plates for 1959 are now on sale.

The new tags, with yellow lettering on a black background, are similar in design to those used in 1958. They sell for \$1 and conform in color to the new North Carolina license tag which goes on sale this week end.

Mayor Glee A. Bridges said he would have a supply of tags on hand in the City Hall courtroom when tax listing gets underway Friday and he plans to invite in-city residents who list autos for taxes to purchase their tags then.

Otherwise, they will be available at the City Hall office during regular hours, and at all other times at the police department office — which never closes.

This year's tag was manufactured by the State Prison Department, at a saving of nine cents per tag, City Clerk Joe McDaniel said.

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## Union Is Active At Lithium Firm

Christmas trees and other Christmas - season greenery will be hauled away by the city garbage collecting crews, but should not be placed with the regular run of garbage, Mayor Glee A. Bridges said Tuesday.

Christmas trees should be placed at the front of the house near the curb, he added. There's a reason. Trees and shrub cuttings are not hauled with the same trucks and separate trucks and crews will do this chore.

R. J. Forrest, owner of the restaurant, said he imagined the gathering would be held in the Masonic Dining hall as he keeps a key for the hall and "someone is supposed to pick it up."

The Steelworkers have conducted two organizing efforts at Lithium Corporation previously. In March 1957, Lithium employees, in an NLRB election, voted against the Steelworkers as bargaining representatives. In a November 1955 election, the employees declined to name either the Steelworkers or the then-AFL Teamsters union as bargaining representative.

The 1957 vote against the Steelworkers was 75 to 42.

The vote in 1955 was 70 to 63, with 61 favoring the Steelworkers and two favoring the Teamsters.

Mr. Kirk was the Steelworker representative in charge of the 1957 organizing effort.

## Mayor Says Place Trees Near Curb

The search is on to find Kings Mountain's outstanding young man for 1958, it was announced today by George Thomasson, President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Each year, in cooperation with the State and National Junior Chamber of Commerce program, the Kings Mountain Junior Chamber of Commerce presents the Distinguished Service Award to an outstanding young man of the community between the ages of 21 through 35 for leadership and service to the community during the calendar year. The winner need not be a member of the Jaycees.

The public is asked to nominate young men for the award. Nominations should be made in writing, giving nominee's full name, date of birth, address, signature of person making nomination and a list of the nominee's accomplishments.

Selection of the winner will be made by a secret panel of judges. Judges will be distinguished community citizens—all over 36 years of age.

Nominations should be mailed at once to Bill Jonas, Chairman, 716 Jackson Street, Kings Mountain, N. C. Contest closes January 16, and the winner will be announced January 20, at the annual Jaycee DSA and Bosses night banquet.

## March Of Dimes Campaign To Start Friday; Local Area Goal Is \$3,000

The March of Dimes opens its 1959 campaign Friday, with various fund-raising projects already planned in the Kings Mountain campaign.

Wesley Bush, chairman in the community drive, has already announced that numerous civic and other organizations plan to aid volunteer workers in helping the city and its surrounding area reach its goal of \$3,000.

Goal in the Cleveland County campaign is \$17,000. In the industrial division of the '59 campaign, J. Ollie Harris is chairman of the committee in charge of fund-raising efforts. Kings Mountain Jaycees and Legionnaires will conduct special events including solicitations and a roadblock.

The Junior Woman's club will again be in charge of the Mother's March and will canvass the city sometime prior to the January 31 closing date of the drive.

Kings Mountain Jaycees are in charge of retail solicitations, and Frank Hamrick will handle Bethware community gifts. Charlie Harry is chairman of the Grover division of the drive.

Money used in this annual drive is used by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, of which J. Ollie Harris and Charlie Harry are co-chairmen of the county chapter.

## Steelworkers Launch Effort To Organize

The CIO-AFL Steelworkers union, apparently, is making another effort to become bargaining representative for employees of the Lithium Corporation of America plant near here.

Cards have been mailed to some employees, at least, by Joe Kirk, Jr., Steelworker representative, which read, "You're invited to a union meeting December 30, Time 7:30 p. m. Place B & B Restaurant, Kings Mountain. Hope you can attend."

R. J. Forrest, owner of the restaurant, said he imagined the gathering would be held in the Masonic Dining hall as he keeps a key for the hall and "someone is supposed to pick it up."

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Annual city and county tax listing will get underway here Friday.

## Tax Listing Starts Friday

Conrad Hughes, Number 4 township lister, and J. W. Webster, city tax lister, will be at City Hall courtroom daily, except Saturdays, throughout the month of January.

On Saturdays, Mr. Hughes will be at R. E. Hambricht's Store in Grover to accommodate Grover area citizens.

The listing officials reminded all citizens that they are required to list their personal properties for ad valorem taxes. Realty is automatically listed, except in instances where there have been recent exchanges or real property. Citizens who have recently purchased or sold real estate should note the changes when listing their taxes.

Personal property includes household furnishings, mercantile and industrial inventories, guns, jewelry, dogs, automobiles and television sets.

Men between the ages of 21 and 50 are required to list for poll taxes.

Both Mr. Hughes and Mr. Webster urged citizens to attend to the listing chore early.

"Past experience shows that many people wait until the last minute and thereby have to wait in line to manage the listing job," the listing officials commented.

Penalties for late listing, or failure to list for taxes, are provided by law.

## Miss Thomson's Last Rites Held

Funeral rites for Miss Eunice Thomson, of Union, S. C., sister of two Kings Mountain citizens, were held Monday at 3 p. m. from Union Baptist church.

Miss Thomson died early Sunday morning at the Wallace Thompson hospital after a brief illness.

She was the sister of Joe H. Thomson and Mrs. B. R. Willeford, both of Kings Mountain. Other survivors include two other brothers and four other sisters.

## John Smathers' Father Died

Masonic funeral rites were held Christmas Day for John Bascombe Smathers, 95, of Canton, father of John C. Smathers, of Kings Mountain.

Mr. Smathers died at 10 a. m. Tuesday, December 23, after suffering a stroke a few days previously. He lived at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Fred Trull, in Canton.

Mr. Smathers was born in the Dutch Cove community of Haywood county on October 23, 1859, a son of Manson and Mary Cook Smathers, pioneer Haywood County settlers.

He was believed to be the oldest Mason in Western North Carolina, probably in North Carolina. He had been a Master Mason of Pigeon River Lodge since December 4, 1884. For more than 50 years he served as an active trustee and a member of the board of stewards of Canton's Morning Star Methodist church. At the time of his death he was a trustee emeritus. As recently as last September he was one of 1200 persons attending his church's annual Old Folks day, an event he had never missed.

Other surviving children are McClain and Quintin Smathers, both of Canton; Mrs. Horace Coffey, Houston, Tex., and Mrs. Taylor Hardin, Canton; 14 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

## Churches Set Special Rites

Two Kings Mountain churches have arranged Watchnight services on New Year's Eve.

At Central Methodist church, the 11 p. m. service will be concluded at midnight by the Sacrament of Holy Communion followed by fellowship hour. The choir will render special music, the pastor, Rev. James B. McLarty, announced.

The Methodist service is a traditional service used in Methodist churches throughout the nation.

Macedonia Baptist church has also scheduled a Watchnight service. Rev. T. A. Lineberger has announced. Billy Graham's religious film, "Souls In Conflict" will be shown at 7:30 p. m. and the program, including songs, scripture, and fellowship will be concluded at 12 o'clock.