

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.

VOL. 70 No. 31

Established 1889

Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, August 6, 1959

Seventieth Year

PRICE TEN CENTS

All Lithium's Operations To Be At Local Plant

Local News
Bulletins

KIWANIS
Kiwans President George H. Mauney will give a report of the Kiwanis International convention held in Dallas, Tex., at the regular Thursday night meeting of the local civic club.

KIWANIS MEMBER
Sherman Perry, historian at Kings Mountain National Military Park, was received as a new member in the Kiwanis club at a recent meeting.

BUILDING PERMIT
City Inspector J. W. Webster issued a permit to J. Wilson Crawford to build a one-story residence at 709 Linwood Road at the estimated cost of \$11,000.

FAIRVIEW LODGE
Regular communication of Fairview Lodge 339 AF & AM will be held Monday, August 10, 7:30 p. m. according to an announcement by secretary T. D. Tindall.

ON DEAN'S LIST
Miss Butch Houser, senior at Wake Forest college, was listed on the dean's list for the past semester.

SLIGHTLY BETTER
Mrs. J. W. Webster, wife of the city tax collector, was reported slightly improved Wednesday. She is a patient at Charlotte Memorial hospital.

FIRES
City firemen were called to douse two blazes Tuesday, the first at Elmer Lumber Company at 7:35. The blaze was caused by defective wiring.

HOMECOMING
Homecoming services will be held Sunday, August 16, at Oak View Baptist church on York road.

HOSPITALIZED
Mrs. John E. Gamble, fifth grade teacher at West Elementary school, underwent successful surgery at Charlotte Memorial Hospital this week and is progressing satisfactorily.

Powell Bill Aid Report Is Filed

The city maintains 36.26 miles of city streets qualifying for the annual Powell aid appropriation.

Rotary Club To Hear Maxwell
Robert M. Maxwell, executive secretary of the Cherryville Chamber of Commerce, will address Kings Mountain Rotarians at their Thursday meeting.

Bloodmobile Unit At Grover Monday
The Red Cross bloodmobile will be in Grover all day Monday, and donors will be processed at First Baptist church.

Petition Asking Widening Of King Street

King Residents And Businessmen Seek 74 Retention

Numerous Kings Mountain citizens who either reside or operate business establishments on King street have appended their names to a petition asking the State Highway commission to widen King street, retaining it as U. S. Highway 74.

The commission, last month, committed funds for a by-pass. Subsequently, W. F. Babcock, commission director, said nothing "is fixed, or finalized" pending making of surveys.

Since Mr. Babcock's visit here, he and other highway commission officials have stressed the imminent hold-up to the state's federal-state roadbuilding projects.

The U. S. 74 project would be a joint federal-state project, though on a 50-50 basis.

Following is the text of the petition now being circulated among King Street citizens, businessmen and property owners:

"We, the undersigned, are all citizens and residents of Cleveland County, in the City of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, and also, have homes and businesses located on King Street, within the City of Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

"It is our understanding that the State Highway Department is considering one of two propositions: to either by-pass Kings Mountain with Highway No. 74 or run Highway No. 74 by way of East King through Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

"We the undersigned, are desirous of Highway No. 74 being widened along East King Street within the City of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, as we feel that it will be advantageous to our businesses as well as to the well-being of our community."

Privilege License Sales Total \$4654

There was a rush last weekend at City Hall as business firms beat the penalty deadline for buying privilege licenses, but all the city's firms didn't get under the wire.

City Clerk Joe McDaniel reported purchases during the week of \$894.50, bringing the total for the new 1959-60 licenses to \$4654.50.

Mr. McDaniel noted that penalty of five percent per month accrues after July 31.

City Gas Take Tops Outgo By \$53,895

Kings Mountain's Natural Gas System has assets totaling \$584,348.33, according to a report by A. M. Pullen & Company, Charlotte auditors.

The audit covers the fiscal year ended June 30, 1959. The sinking fund, covered cash on deposit, investment in stock, and monies due from revenue fund, totals \$87,476.26 while the revenue fund, covering cash on deposit, investment in stock, and accounts receivable, totals \$85,379.95.

Renewal and extension; reserve fund, taking in cash on deposit, investment in stock, and monies from the sinking and revenue funds, totals \$50,000 and the plant fund, composed of fixed assets, land easements, transmission lines and distributing system, service line installations, general equipment, office furniture and equipment, and vehicles, totals \$351,492.12.

Gas sales during the period grossed \$132,167.11 and other revenue totaled 1,749.77. Operating expenditures totaled \$80,021.53.

The audit showed a total of 529 gas consumers, an increase of 97 over last year. Residential consumers number 441; small commercial, 63; large commercial and industrial, 4; interruptible, 1; and schools and public buildings, 20.

Revenue bonds, series 1954, outstanding amount to \$400,000. First payment of 10,000 is due October 1.

In general liability insurance the department has \$50,100 thousand limits for bodily injury; \$50,000 for property damage; aggregate operations, \$100,000; aggregate protective, \$100,000; and aggregate contractual, \$100,000.

Limits of \$50,100 thousand are carried on bodily injury and \$50,000 for property damage in the public liability policy.

Completing the insurance coverage is workmen's compensation, \$100 deductible for collision or upset, and comprehensive fire and theft.

Jaycee Paper Pick-Up Sunday

Kings Mountain Jaycees will conduct a waste paper pick-up Sunday afternoon, beginning at 2 o'clock.

Bob Goforth, chairman of the project, suggested that persons with large quantities of paper or persons wanting the paper gathered prior to Sunday should call him at 723-J or Bill Moss at 1175-M.

Otherwise, citizens are asked to place their waste paper on the curb in front of their homes.

Mr. Goforth also announced the Jaycee pick-up schedule for the forthcoming months as follows: Sunday, August 9; October 4; November 29; January 31, 1960; and March 26, 1960.

Falls Restrained By Court Order From Interfering On Interstate 85

The State Highway commission obtained a court order Saturday from Superior Court Judge P. C. Fronberger to restrain Mr. and Mrs. Craig Falls from interfering with work on the Interstate 85 project.

The order was served on Mrs. Falls Saturday and on Mr. Falls Wednesday.

Sam Stallings Is Chairman Of United Fund Organization

Bridges, Bush, Lennon Named To Other Posts

Sam Stallings will serve as chairman of the local United Fund, in Kings Mountain's first effort to combine its numerous charitable money-raising campaigns.

Other officers named are J. C. Bridges, vice-chairman; Wesley Bush, secretary; and R. S. Lennon, treasurer.

Four directors have also been named. They are Ben Grimes, manager of Phenix Plant of Burlington Mills; Grady Howard, Kings Mountain hospital business manager; George H. Mauney, Mauney Mills official; and Ollie Harris, owner of Harris Furniture Home.

The United Fund organization became official at a launching session last week.

On Thursday, the group will hold what is termed a "working" session on operational details with Mike Stenstrom, manager of the Greater Gastonia United Fund.

Under usual plans for organizations of this type, charitable agencies are invited to join in a cooperative, one-time-per-year fund-raising effort.

Mr. Stallings, associated with Mauney Hosiery Company, Inc., and Carolina Throwing Company, has been active for many years in civic affairs.

Vice-President Bridges is a partner in Bridges Hardware. Secretary Bush is associated with C. E. Warfield Insurance Agency and Treasurer Lennon is vice-president and cashier of First National Bank.

Adams' Shingle Out In Grover

Dr. Charles Adams, first Grover resident doctor in 20 years, started general practice in the nearby community July 17.

Dr. Adams was named a staff member of Kings Mountain Hospital last week.

The new Grover physician is a graduate of Greenville, West Virginia State College and West Virginia University and holds the degree of doctor of medicine from the university of Virginia.

He is a veteran of a medical unit of the Korean War.

Dr. Adams, his wife, and infant daughter moved to Grover on June 27.

He has been practicing out of his doctor's bag and awaiting completion of his new office building on Stonewall street. His office is expected to be finished this week.

Ardent efforts on the part of many Grover citizens and the work of the 32 Civic Community Development Council paid off when Dr. Adams began practice.



HEAD FIRST UNITED FUND ORGANIZATION - Pictured are officers of Kings Mountain's first United Fund organization which will attempt to consolidate several of Kings Mountain's annual charitable fund-raising campaigns into one aggregate appeal.

Tax Prepayment Month Is Here

City and county taxpayers may pre-pay their 1959 tax bills during the month of August and obtain the maximum discount of two percent.

R. M. Gidney, Cleveland County tax collector, said he would follow his customary procedure and would mail notices within the next week to taxpayers who pre-pay their county taxes in 1959.

The city, on the other hand, will accept pre-payments now, though tax notices haven't yet been prepared, partially due to the fact the city didn't finally adopt its budget until July 28 and partially because of the serious illness of Mrs. J. W. Webster, wife of the city tax collector.

City Clerk Joe McDaniel said temporary receipts will be issued to person and firms pre-paying their taxes, with permanent receipts to follow as quickly as they are prepared.

Plonk School Plays Friday

The Plonk School of Creative Arts will present its summer performance, including three one-act plays, at the school auditorium Friday evening, beginning at 8 o'clock.

The students will present Moritz Jagendorf's "The Ghosts of Kalamazoo", What's Wrong with the Girls", a comedy by Conrad Seiler, and Myrtle McCormick Grimes' historical fantasy "Jeanne D'Arc".

In the Seiler comedy, three Kings Mountain students play roles. Sue Hunicutt plays Miss Hazel Duckworth, Sandra Plonk plays First Actress, and Ercelle Stallings plays Second Actress.

Auto Repossessor Returns City Gear

The city recreation commission's Babe Ruth league baseball equipment, which was in the hands of a Gastonia loan firm a week ago, has been returned to the city.

Jake Early, recreation director, reported to City Hall last Thursday, the equipment had been reclaimed.

Sterchi's Gives Remodeling Plan

Sterchi Brothers Kings Mountain branch announced this week a major remodeling program which will get underway Monday.

The furniture firm plans installation of a new front, with marquee, installation of air-conditioning, overhead insulation, a new ceiling in the back showroom and other improvements.

"The remodeling will make our store more comfortable for our patrons and will facilitate our displaying of furniture and appliances," J. Kennon Blanton, Sterchi manager, said in making the announcement.

El Bethel Sets Revival

Rev. Floyd G. Bottoms, pastor of Lincoln's Rhyme Heights Methodist church, will begin a week of evangelistic services Sunday night at El Bethel Methodist church.

Services will be held nightly through August 16 at 7:30 p. m. El Bethel has also announced a new service schedule beginning Sunday, August 16. Sunday School will be held at 9 o'clock with morning worship to follow at 10 a. m.

Minneapolis Operations Will Be Moved

Lithium Corporation of America will move its entire production and research facilities to its plant near here on Bessemer City Road, the company has announced from Minneapolis.

Target date for resumption of its present St. Louis Park, Minn., production operation is January 15, while the new research and development laboratories at the Bessemer City plant are scheduled for completion in April 1960.

R. L. Nielsen, plant manager of the Bessemer City operation, said, "The new production facilities are expected to be ready for operation in time to provide continued employment for a large number of the company's present North Carolina personnel even after our Government contract has been completed."

The immediate future of lithium industry production has been in doubt since the Atomic Energy commission notified the major producers—Lithium Corporation, Foote Mineral Company and American Potash Company—that their contracts for supplying lithium hydroxide would not be renewed.

Lithium Corporation's contract expires January 1. Foote Mineral Company's contract expired April 30, resulting in an approximate 50 percent cutback of employment.

Mr. Nielsen said the number of persons to be employed at the expanded facilities is not available, but that a substantial number of technical and administrative personnel will transfer to North Carolina from the firm's Minneapolis plant and offices.

The company said it has earmarked \$800,000 for the transfer of general offices to the Northeastern Atlantic area and its production and research facilities to North Carolina. It expects the change to result in a \$500,000 saving in the first year of operation and great amounts in subsequent years. It expects to recover over \$400,000 from liquidation of its Minneapolis facilities.

The \$7,000,000 Bessemer City plant has been producing lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide. Transfer of production facilities means that the local area plant will produce many other products including lithium hydride, butyl lithium, and the base metal lithium, among others, Mr. Nielsen said.

"The decision to consolidate all of our production and research facilities in North Carolina is based primarily on economic factors. In addition to its proximity to the major U. S. lithium reserves our Bessemer City plant is favorably situated to the more important lithium markets. Also important is the fact that we have found in North Carolina a most favorable business climate incorporating ample supply of power and water, a willing and able labor force and a public appreciation of the value and problems of new industries."

"When the transfer of facilities and personnel to our Bessemer City property is complete Lithium Corporation will have in North Carolina not only a mo-

(Continued on Page Eight)

Gantt Funeral Conducted Friday

Funeral rites for William McKinley Gantt, 60, well-known Kings Mountain businessman, were conducted last Friday from Central Methodist church of which he was a member.

The final rites were conducted by Rev. Herbert D. Garmon, the pastor, and by Rev. James B. McLarty, a former pastor.

The family had requested that no floral tributes be made and designated the Central Methodist church building fund for memorials in lieu of flowers.

Active pallbearers were Hilliard Black, Baxter Payseur, J. H. Patterson, Ben H. Bridges, John C. Smathers, Wilson Crawford, John Mauney and Paul Walker.

Honorary pallbearers included directors of Kings Mountain Savings & Loan association, members of the J. R. Davis Sunday school class of Central Methodist church, and R. S. Lennon, W. T. Weir, W. L. Plonk, Floyd Williams, Virgil Self, and J. C. McDaniel, all of Kings Mountain, and Sloan Morrow, of Gastonia, and Boyd Putnam, of Shelby.

Mr. Gantt's body was entombed temporarily at Sharon Memorial Mausoleum, Charlotte.