

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.

## Flash Fire Guts Saunders And Stowe Firms

### Glee E. Bridges Sanford Manager

### Local News Bulletins

**NO PERMITS**  
No building permits were issued this week by city officials.

**KIWANIS**  
Girl Scout Troop 3, under direction of Mrs. J. B. Simpson, will present the program Thursday night for members of the Kiwanis club. The civic group meets at 6:45 at the Wman's club.

**CONFERENCE**  
Sunday School superintendents and the Men's Council from Kings Mountain Presbyterian will meet at First Presbyterian church here Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p. m. Jake Burgin will preside at the Sunday School conference. Dr. David Stratton and Dr. J. B. Kuykendall, Jr., are the leaders.

### Eagle Alteration Sale To Begin

Eagles Stores, Kings Mountain business citizen for over 30 years, is celebrating the grand opening of its modernized quarters on Battleground avenue.

L. C. Miller, District 1 Superintendent for the Eagles chain in North Carolina and Tennessee, here Wednesday, said the store has been modernized via use of new shelving, a new glass front, improved lighting, a new paint job throughout, plus what he termed a vastly enlarged assortment of merchandise which he says "is twice as much as offered before." "With our new and enlarged facilities, we will be able to stock an even larger supply than ever before," he continued.

Eagles' customers will use a "selective service" style of shopping. The customer will be offered the clerk's assistance in her selection and/or she may desire to serve herself, then pay the clerk for the product.

The remodeling program includes air conditioning.

Mrs. Sue Young has managed the Kings Mountain store since she rejoined Eagles' in 1952. Eight employees make-up the sales staff. Until her death several years ago, Miss Pearl Hicks was the oldest employee of the Eagle chain, having been a member of the sales staff here for 30 years.

The local store participates in a training program whereby young men are trained for store manager positions.

The Kings Mountain store is celebrating its grand opening with a three-day sales event Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. "Only item missing is our front sign," Supt. Miller said. He explained that bad weather had detained shipping from Charleston, S. C.

### Life-Saving Crew Brings Baby Home

Three-month-old Kim Laura Ruppe is at home from Walter Reed hospital, thanks to efforts of Cleveland County Life Saving Crew.

The youngster, ill with a back ailment since birth, was brought from New Market, England, to the Washington Army hospital. Her father, Oren Ruppe and Mrs. Ruppe were living in England when their daughter was born and Mr. Ruppe was in service.

Air Force doctors had told the parents to bring the child back to Walter Reed for an operation when she reaches the age of 12 months.

Capt. Corbett Nicholson of the Cleveland Crew arranged the relay trip which brought the child from Washington to Salisbury and home to her Kings Mountain grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ruppe.

### Annual Banquet Of Retailers Monday Night

A capacity crowd is expected to fill the Woman's club Monday night at 7 o'clock for the annual employee-employer banquet of the Kings Mountain Merchants Association.

Feature of the event will be an entertainment program by Joe Franklin and his Highlights from WAVY-TV in Portsmouth, Va. President Jonas Bridges has arranged the program and will present the group of entertainers.

Other features will include a prize drawing for the ladies, reports on the past year's work by association officers and installation of new officers for 1960-61.

Richard Barnette, a past president, will install Charles Blanton as president and Wesley Bush as vice-president. New directors, with terms expiring in 1962, include J. Kennon Blanton, Harry Page, Thomas Tate, and W. S. Fulton, Jr. Hold-over directors are James Crawford, Denver King, Eugene McSwain, and J. C. Bridges. Outgoing directors are Lewis Dellinger, J. T. McGinnis, Jr., Paul McGinnis and K. E. Morrison.

Mrs. I. B. Goforth, Sr. will serve the meal. Rev. Marion DuBose, pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist church, will give the invocation.

Banquet tickets may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Luther Joy, association secretary.

### Local Delegation Attend Meet

Seven delegates from the local unit of the North Carolina Education Association in addition to B. N. Barnes, Superintendent of City Schools, and Miss Alice Averitt, school supervisor, left Wednesday afternoon to attend the annual state convention of the association in Asheville.

The convention will last through Friday.

Attending from Kings Mountain are Harry E. Jaynes, principal of Central school; R. H. Bryant, principal of North Elementary school; R. M. Kennedy, principal of East Elementary school; Miss Kittie Lou Sutton; Mrs. Juanita Logan, Mrs. Margaurite Powell, and Miss Jacqueline Blanton.

### Neill Breaks Three Fingers In Fall

B. S. Neill, president of First National bank, is a patient at Kings Mountain hospital, where he is recuperating from injuries received in an accident at Hickory Sunday.

Mr. Neill broke three fingers on his left hand, when he fell in a Hickory churchyard after morning services. He tripped over the blade of a scraper, which had been used to scrape snow from the church parking lot.

He was reported improving Wednesday and expects to be discharged from the hospital soon.

### Robert Hoskins To Be Speaker At Lion Farmer's Night Banquet

Robert N. Hoskins, general forestry agent, Seaboard Air Line Railroad Company of Richmond, will be guest speaker before Kings Mountain Lions club at its annual Farmer's Night banquet Tuesday.

Some 100 area farmers, in addition to county farm organization officials and county commissioners have been invited to attend.

Mr. Hoskins, a graduate of the Iowa State College School of Forestry, was formerly employed by the Florida Forest Service, and has been associated with Seaboard Railroad since 1945.

He is a recent recipient of the Merit Award given by the American Vocational Association and holds the honorary American Farmer Degree given by the National organization of Future Farmers of America. He also holds the honorary degree of State Farmer given by the North Carolina Association of Future Farmers.

Hoskins is co-author of a textbook used in many Southern states entitled "Forestry in the South," and has served on many national and regional forestry committees.

Topic for discussion at Tuesday night's Farmer's Banquet will be "Partners in Conservation."

Dr. George W. Flonk and Eugene McSwain constitute the club committee on the banquet.

### City Manager Vote Requires Petition Of Voters For Call



EVANGELIST — Dr. Eugene Poston of Boling Springs will begin evangelistic services Sunday at Macedonia Baptist church where he is interim pastor.

### Macedonia Sets Revival Series

Dr. Eugene Poston, Interim pastor of Macedonia Baptist church, will begin a week of evangelistic services at the church on Sunday.

Services will be held at 7:30 p. m. each evening through March 27.

Assisting Dr. Poston as director of music during the series will be Yates Pearson of Shelby. Mr. Pearson is well-known throughout the Kings Mountain Baptist Association as choicster for Training Union groups of the association. He is minister of music at Church Hill Baptist church, Shelby, and a ministerial student at Gardner-Webb college.

Dr. Poston is head of the department of Religious Education and teacher of Greek and Bible at Gardner Webb college.

Macedonia members recently conducted a religious census of the community in preparation for the revival and census information disclosed that cards for 750 persons were turned in. A church spokesman said that this is estimated to be a better than 90 percent census of the area and probably the most complete religious census ever taken of the community. This information has been compiled and will be used in church visitation on Sunday. Cottage prayer services will also be held during the week.

Dr. Poston issued an invitation to the community to participate in these services.

### Pastors Want City Welfare Aid

Kings Mountain ministers expect to ask the city commission to include in the budget next year a fund earmarked community welfare.

It was the major business of the ministerial association's Tuesday session.

The ministers also discussed asking the welfare committee to set up a confidential file system in what they believe will alleviate duplication of help by the various churches. They expressed themselves as feeling the need of a community welfare fund "an urgent necessity."

Ministers also went on record as unanimously favoring "immediate institution" of a Domestic Relations Court and signed a letter to the County Board of Commissioners about this subject.

Because of inclement weather, the ministers voted to extend the "March to Church" campaign through Easter Sunday, April 17. Each minister was urged to stress church attendance throughout the drive.

Plans for an Easter Sunrise Service were also discussed.

### Kesler Southeast Geological Head

Thomas L. Kesler, Kings Mountain citizen and chief geologist of Foote Mineral Company, has been elected chairman of Southeastern Section, Geological Society of America.

This division of the Geological society includes all the southeastern states.

Mr. Kesler will be installed at the annual meeting of the section, to be held this year at the University of Kentucky at Lexington March 24-26.

Mr. Kesler was also recently elected to a two-year term as director of the American Geological Society, representing the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

A Salisbury native, Mr. Kesler was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1929 and won a Master's degree the following year. He worked with the United States Geological Survey from 1936-46 and with Thomas-Weinman & Company and United States Steel Corporation before joining Foote Mineral Company in 1953.

Mrs. Kesler is the former Margaret Menges. They have two children, Stephen Kesler, a UNC sophomore, and Susan Kesler, a high school junior. The Keslers are members of First Presbyterian church.

### Merger To Take 60 To 90 Days

It is expected to require from 60 to 90 days to effect the proposed merger of First National Bank of Kings Mountain and First Union National Bank of North Carolina, according to R. S. Lennon, First National Bank executive vice-president.

Under customary procedure, the recent action of the bank directors will be filed with the United States Comptroller of the Currency, together with application for tentative approval of the merger.

When tentative approval is granted, the stockholders of each bank will take action on the proposal. Approval of stockholders of both banks will result in an application for formal approval of the merger by the Currency Comptroller.

### Math Contests Winners Listed

Winners in two math high school contests were announced this week by Miss Kitty Lou Sutton, high school mathematics teacher, who conducted the examinations.

Robert Wharton won first place in the national examination of the American Mathematics association, with Noel Webster second and Nancy McClure third. All are seniors.

In the contest sponsored by the Future Engineers of America, Sara Hendricks, ninth grade was first, Carl Goter, tenth grade, was second, and Bill Rameuser, tenth grade was third. In this test, Miss Sutton said, the contest rules specified that grades be weighted on basis of age-grade of the student.



ELECTED — Thomas L. Kesler has been elected chairman of the Southeastern Section, Geological Society of America.

### Bethware Class To Give Play

The Junior Class of Bethware high school will present the three-act comedy, "No Boys Allowed" Tuesday night at 8 p. m. in the school auditorium.

Mrs. Robert Jones is directing the production.

Cast of characters includes: Dean Bowen who has the role of the prowler; Rae Falls portrays Rita Baxter, who gives the slum party; Joyce Blanton who portrays Rita's younger sister; Alice McSwain has the role of Victrola, the Baxter cook; Kenneth Rayfield as Rita's boy friend; Steve Owens as Leroy Doyle, Fred's pal; Sheila Gant as Rita's best friend; Linda Herndon as Rita's rival; Margaret Ledford portrays the boy hater; Pat Bollin as Pat Farrell who loves to eat; Norman Webster as the policeman; Kenneth Fisher as Keith Farland, Fred's rival; Johnny Jones as Keith's man Friday; Carolyn Daves as Fred's mother.

Setting of the comedy is in the Baxter home when several mischievous boys try to wreck a slumber party.

### Naming Of Tax Official Deferred; Re-zoning Request Tabled By City

The city board of commissioners considered without action Thursday six applications for the job of city tax collector.

Indication was that the commission would name a successor to J. W. Webster at a called meeting within a week or 10 days. Commissioners Boyce Gault and Ben Bridges made the motions to table the matter for more time for would-be applicants to apply.

Only other comment came from the mayor who noted that the job needed to be filled as quickly as possible. "This is a job and not a position," Mayor Glee A. Bridges pointed out. He said he would recommend a starting salary of \$300 per month, same amount Mr. Webster was paid when he began work for the city. Until his resignation, Mr. Webster was paid \$4200 annually. He also served the city as building inspector.

"I won't ask anybody to work any longer hours than I do," the mayor added.

Five formal applications have been received, and a sixth citizen, B. W. Gillespie, has indicated to the mayor he would formally apply.

Mayor Bridges said applications were from: D. L. Saunders, drycleaner and a candidate for mayor in the past election; M.

### City Attorney Says State Law Decrees Petition

The city commission hit a snag Thursday in a move it started last summer to seek a vote on a city manager form of government.

City Attorney J. R. Davis told the mayor and commissioners, "It is my understanding that a petition bearing the signatures of 25 percent of the registered voters needs to be in hand before an election can be formally called."

Mr. Davis told the Herald Wednesday that the special bill passed permitting a vote provides that the city commission may call and conduct a city manager election provided terms of Article 22 of Chapter 160, General Statutes of North Carolina are complied with. Article four of the state act provides that a petition of 25 percent of the registered voters must petition for the election.

Under the special bill, should proper petitions be presented, citizens would have the option of adopting a modified "Plan D" city manager system. In addition to appointment of several other officials, the principal modification would be to provide Kings Mountain an option of employing a city manager to manage the city or of paying the elected mayor to manage the system.

How will this action affect the commission's proposed plan? "It will kill it," Mr. Davis believes.

The city commission had tabled the matter without discussion and instructed the city attorney to "look into the matter."

Mr. Davis said Wednesday he still had further checking to do. The commission had instructed Mr. Davis in June 1959 to draw a proposed bill, which he did, to seek General Assembly action ordering the election. That bill, forwarded to Senator Robert Morgan, Representative Jack Palmer and Claude Love, assistant attorney general, modified a Plan D city manager form of government. This plan would not change the current method of electing five ward commissioners and the mayor.

Under the specific modifications, the city commission would retain authority to employ or appoint the city attorney, city clerk, city treasurer and city tax collector, recorder of municipal court and solicitor of city court. It also provides the mayor will have the right to vote in event of tie only.

H. Biser, bookkeeper at Ware & Sons; I. C. Davis, insurance salesman; Sam Collins, a former city commissioner; and M. C. Poston.

Otherwise the board accepted motion to advertise for bids on a new 750-gallon-pump fire truck at estimated cost of \$16,000, voted to buy a lawn mower for the cemetery at cost of \$675, tabled for further consideration a request for rezoning by J. H. Thomson, and proposal by Electrical Supt. Hunter Allen for an \$8,000 extension of primary power lines in the downtown area.

The rezoning matter brought protest from ten property owners who asked the board not to rezone to business designation the residential area which includes the lot at the corner of Pifer road and Mountain street, proposed site for a 50x26 brick shed for Southern Bell. Franklin L. Ware, Jr., representing the homeowners, told the board, "We chose our lot because it was a residential area, not a business district." Realtor B. D. Ratterree presented the tentative sketch for the new building and both he and Mr. Thomson reminded the property owners that the proposed building "is not for a garage as some of you may think." Signing a letter of protest. (Continued On Page Eight)

### Fire Started At Cleaners, Spread Fast To T-V Firm

A sudden flash fire erupted shortly after 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, gutting the Saunders Cleaners building on Cherokee street and spread to the Stowe T-V Repair building adjacent.

Threatened was the Bridges Hardware warehouse behind the Stowe building.

Firemen were on the scene within minutes of the alarm, but the Saunders fire already had crashed the pane glass windows.

David L. Saunders said he'd left his business establishment only a few minutes before, long enough to get home and hear his wife answer the telephone to be informed the cleaning establishment was afire.

L. P. (Skip) Stowe and his assistant, Bill Simpson, worked slightly longer than Mr. Saunders. Mr. Simpson emerged from the Stowe building to see smoke coming from the Saunders establishment. Mr. Stowe called in the alarm.

Smoke billowed high in the sky and was still billowing at 6:05.

City firemen, their hands numb from the frigid weather, fought desperately to get the blaze under control.

Mr. Saunders guessed his loss would run from \$30,000 to \$35,000, said insurance would cover no more than a third of it. Mr. Stowe declined to estimate the loss to his establishment.

Firemen retrieved cash registers in both establishments.

The fire was no immediate threat to the cause of the fire, however, cleaning solvents ignited quickly and it was presumed these spread the fire in a matter of seconds.

The buildings are owned by David Hamrick.

### This Time It's Icing

Kings Mountain citizens joined their area neighbors Wednesday in some unkind remarks about the weather prediction experts, as they painfully acknowledged their accuracy.

It was the third consecutive Wednesday in which snow, or ice, or both had visited the area and put citizens to scraping ice off windshields, re-donning heavy clothes and rubber footwear, and searching for automobile chains.

This time it was a sleety icing which began Tuesday evening. Fortunately, temperatures were above freezing by early morning and the ice on roads became slushy enough for auto traction, except on the steepest grades.

Construction men and industry put their hands to their heads and wondered when they'd get back to work. Farmers wondered, too, when they'd plant this spring's crops.

But school children, who stayed home more than a week between two major snows, went to school, where they'd returned (and happily) on Monday.

The prediction was for clearing and warmer weather on Thursday.

City hall reported the bad weather has cost three weeks' parking meter collections and forced a temporary halt in the monthly readings of water, electrical and gas meters. For those customers with later readings, the bills will likely be a bit higher than would be customary.

**CRAMERTON TALK**  
Kelly Dixon, Kings Mountain candidate for the Republican nomination for 11th district Congressman, will address the Cramerton Rotary club at its meeting next Wednesday at 12:15 p. m.