

Population

Greater Kings Mountain 10,320
City Limits 8,008

This 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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Seventy-Second Year

PRICE TEN CENTS

Parkdale Mills Buys Long-Idle Textile Property

Plan For Use Of Property Not Definite

BY MARTIN HARMON
Parkdale Mills, Inc., of Gastonia, this week purchased the Whitington Manufacturing Company property, known more familiarly here as the old Phenix or Loom-Tex property.

The transaction was completed Monday at a purchase price of \$70,000.

The new owners, General Superintendent M. R. Adams said Wednesday, as yet have no definite plans for use of the buildings but intend to make their plans known as quickly as they are completed.

Parkdale Mills manufactures knitting yarns and have a reputation in local textile circles as top grade manufacturers of high grade yarns.

Mr. Adams said the new owner is clearing the railway spur track into the plant and the warehouse for immediate use for cotton storage.

Spangler Realty Company, of Shelby, represented the sellers in the transaction.

The plant has been idle for seven to eight years and has been owned by several different firms, including Burlington Industries, during the past 20 years. After sale to DuPont Mills, Inc., the plant later went into bankruptcy and was subsequently purchased by the Lester Martin Textile interests, in the name of Loom-Tex Corporation. It was subsequently sold to another Martin textile firm, Consolidated Textiles, Inc., and again was transferred to yet another Martin corporation, Whitington Corporation. Mr. Martin died several months ago.

In 1955, virtually all of the machinery, valued for tax purposes at \$151,000, was removed, and houses owned by the company were sold to individuals.

Mr. Adams said the Parkdale acquisition included "what's inside the fence", a tract of about 6.5 acres with buildings providing about 86,000 square feet of floor space. The buildings include one occupied by Phenix Store and Phenix Barber Shop.

Before it suspended operations, the plant had provided employment for more than 200 persons.

Mal A. Spangler, Sr., of Shelby, head of the realty firm representing the selling firm, guessed he had shown the property to a minimum of 50 prospective buyers during the several years he had represented the owners as agent.

Officers of Parkdale Mills, Inc., are W. L. Robinson, Gastonia, president and treasurer, and W. D. Kimbrell, of Gastonia, secretary and assistant treasurer.

Parkdale Not Craftspun Owner

Parkdale Mills, Inc., is not the new owner of Craftspun Yarns, Inc., another Kings Mountain textile firm of which ownership recently changed.

New ownership of Craftspun hasn't been revealed.

Asked to comment on rumors that Parkdale was also the new owner of Craftspun, M. R. Adams, Parkdale general superintendent, replied, "No."

He said Parkdale officials had been aiding the new Craftspun ownership in plans for revamping the operation, but that the Gastonia firm is not the owner.

Craftspun, officials reported recently they're making good progress on renovating the mill. Much of the machinery has been removed, some being sold and some being junked. Meantime, work on the building is underway to ready it for air-conditioning.

Craftspun representatives announced plans in December to renovate and modernize the mill extensively, with hopes to get into production by April 1.

It was stated that the mill would be outfitted with a machinery of 75 percent new machinery.

TO MINISTERS MEET
Rev. W. D. Garmon, pastor of Central Methodist church, attended an evangelistic mission for the ministers of the Western N. C. Conference in Charlotte last week. Mr. Garmon is a member of this board and district director of evangelism.

Legal Tangles Could Delay High School Bond Election

City And County Report Heavy Tax Collections

Cash flowed heavily into city and county coffers during the past week, as citizens rushed to pay taxes before the penalty period begins Thursday.

Collections Wednesday morning, City Tax Collector M. H. Biser reported, totaled \$150,333 for the fiscal year, including \$128,111 of the 1960 current levy of \$163,429. The 1960 collections represented 78.4 percent of the levy.

Total city tax payments during January were \$31,394, Mr. Biser reported, including \$24,595 on the 1960 levy and the remainder for 1959 and prior years.

Fiscal year collections to date were about \$200,000 over collections during the comparable period last year.

Robert Gidney, county tax collector, said he didn't have immediately up-to-date totals on county collections, but that collections of the current \$1,838,000 levy approximated 78 percent, the past three days exceeding with especially heavy collections of \$50,000. "We're still opening to day's mail, and more tax payments are being credited," he added.

He estimated January county tax collections are more than \$200,000 and said he felt the total was a record January collection.

Penalty of one percent applies on unpaid 1960 tax bills Thursday. An additional one percent penalty applies in March.

Accident Fatal To Christopher

Arlan A. Christopher, 27-year-old Shelbiana, was killed instantly Sunday night at 10 o'clock when his car struck a tractor-trailer being operated by John E. Holleyman, of Alabama.

Ironically, Christopher was on his way to borrow another car in which to drive his infant son, Gary Lee, to Duke hospital where the child was to undergo heart surgery this week.

The Christopher car was hit by a Bowman Transportation Co. truck in the northbound lane of the highway at what Christopher apparently thought was a divided traffic section. For several miles the divided highway is narrowed to two lanes with traffic traveling in each direction.

Cleveland County Coroner J. Ollie Harris ruled the accident unavoidable.

Mr. Christopher died of a fractured skull and multiple injuries, according to the coroner's report. Investigating Officer A. D. Kimbrell said a witness, David V. Myers, of Gastonia, reported the Shelby car passed him "just this side of the York road bridge on the wrong side of the road."

The wreck occurred 3.4 mile north of the Dixon school road spot about 2 1/2 miles south of Kings Mountain where accidents previously had claimed the lives of four.

Funeral rites were held Wednesday at 3:30 p. m. from Highland Baptist church of Shelby, interment following in Sunset cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, his mother, one son, three brothers and three sisters.

855 TAGS SOLD
A total of 855 city automobile license tags for 1961 had been sold Wednesday morning, City Clerk Joe McDaniel reported. The tags are required to be displayed on autos by February 16.

MEM'S MEETING
Boyer Memorial ARP Men of the Church will hear an address by John Kimmons, of Statesville, recently returned from Pakistan, at a supper meeting at the church Monday night at 7 o'clock.

Thrift To Enter Second Degree Guilty Plea

Ben Thrift, Pleasant Hill community farmer, is expected to plea guilty to a second degree murder charge in Cleveland Superior Court Thursday for the alleged August 23 shotgun slaying of his wife, Dona Jolley Thrift.

Thrift is represented by court appointed attorney Lynden Hobbs.

Solicitor B. T. Falls, Jr., said he would accept the plea.

A charge of second degree murder, on conviction, carries a 2-to-20 year sentence.

The slaying, witnessed by the Thrift couple's 13-year-old daughter Katherine, reportedly stemmed from a family squabble.

Deputy Sheriff George Allen, at the time of the arrest, said Thrift had been drinking and "rowdy" the morning of the slaying and had slapped his wife.

Mrs. Thrift packed some clothes and told her husband she was leaving.

She was standing on the front steps of her home when her husband came around the corner of the house and discharged the weapon.

Mrs. Thrift died instantly.

Action taken by Cleveland Superior Court in Wednesday session included:

Billy Stevens, 23, aiding and abetting a robbery and assault, 12-18 months.

Earl Sanders, carrying a concealed weapon, six months or costs — public drunkenness and resisting arrest, prayer for judgment continued.

Kings Mountain defendants not yet called include John Dawkins, assault with a deadly weapon; law; Curtis Green, public drunkenness and using profane language; John Roosevelt Adams, bigamy; Jimmy B. Harrison, breaking and entering; Mack E. Johnson, breaking and entering; and Walter J. Riley, crime against nature, and assault on a female.

I. W. Ledford's Rites Conducted

Funeral rites for Irvin William (Bucky) Ledford, 64, were held Sunday at 3 p. m. from Second Baptist church, interment following in Mountain Rest cemetery.

Mr. Ledford succumbed Friday morning of a heart attack. He had been in ill health the past several months.

A retired master mechanic at Burlington Mills, Mr. Ledford was a native of Cherokee county, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Ledford. He was a member of Liberty Baptist church at Murphy.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ruth Henson Ledford; three daughters, Mrs. M. L. Chaney of Rocky Mount, Mrs. Charles Worthan of Douglasville, Ga., Mrs. C. L. Henderson of Salem, Oregon, and four sons, Wilson and Jerry Ledford of Kings Mountain, Jack Ledford of Charlotte and Edward Ledford, student at Wake Forest college.

Also surviving are three brothers, Charles Ledford of Gastonia, Lester Ledford of Murphy, Elmer Ledford of Fitzburg, Mass., and three sisters, Mrs. J. M. Taylor of Tuttleton, Tenn., Mrs. S. H. Reid and Mrs. Guy Eller of Murphy, and 14 grandchildren.

The final rites were conducted by Rev. Albert Hastings, assisted by Rev. C. C. Parker and Rev. Earl Oxford.

Postman Retiring After Long Service

Lloyd Phifer, Kings Mountain postman for more than 40 years, retired this month.

Erwin Hughes is now carrier on rural route three.

A rural mail carrier since November 1, 1920, Mr. Phifer celebrated his 70th birthday January 19th and he was mandatorily retired from service as of January 31st.

Commenting on Mr. Phifer's retirement Postmaster Charles L. Alexander said, "It is with regret that the local post office gives up one of its rural carriers who has served his route for more than 40 years. During his tenure he has handled his job well and in a manner that reflects honor upon the service. Many people have commented on the friendly and efficient way in which he served his route."

Armory Problems Still Unsolved

New Estimate On Local Funds Lowered \$1400

Probabilities of fruition of Kings Mountain's National Guard Armory project were not enhanced during the past week.

The problem continued to hinge on obtaining sufficient local funds to deposit with the state by June 1.

Meantime, the city, which has committed itself to provide \$20,000 for the project, was hitting a few stump-holes, too, in efforts to raise the money by the contract-award date.

Already, the city has queried the attorney-general's office on borrowing some funds for the armory project from another unexpended city balance and had been told the borrowing would not be legal.

Another route envisioned by the city was a small bond issue, under state law empowering local government to borrow, without a vote of citizens, up to two-thirds of the government unit's net debt retirement of the previous year. The city's 1959-60 net debt retirement was \$29,000, which would make it possible for the city to issue bonds of \$19,000. Net from this source, after expenses, might leave about \$18,000.

However, on inquiry, John T. Morrissey, general counsel for the North Carolina League of municipalities, wrote Mayor Glee A. Bridges that the North Carolina attorney-general has consistently ruled that funds for armory construction is a necessary governmental expense.

"However," the attorney continued, "to the best of my knowledge the North Carolina Supreme Court has not specifically held Armory purposes to be necessary expenses. The bond attorneys would probably require a test case before approving bonds for this purpose."

He suggested further that a specific inquiry be forwarded to the attorney general.

Necessity for a test case before the Supreme Court, City officials say, would probably prevent use of this route to obtain funds by June 1.

One slight and beneficial change was noted in a letter to Capt. Humes Houston, guard company commanding officer, from Adjutant-General Capus Waynick.

The general, in reviewing the prior actions and future timetable on the Kings Mountain Armory project, wrote that the local share (17.5 percent) of the construction costs will be determined at the time bids are opened. He estimated these funds at \$24,500, or \$1400 less than previous estimates and reiterated that the funds must be in state department hands prior to awarding contracts.

There was still no succinct answer to the Mayor's prior inquiry regarding delay of the project into the 1961-62 fiscal year. However, the adjutant-general stated to Capt. Houston,

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World Day Of Prayer Program Scheduled

Kings Mountain's World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday, February 17th, at 3:30 p. m. at First Baptist church.

Plans for the program are under sponsorship of the Kings Mountain Council of United Church Women. Women from the various churches in the community will participate in the service.

Theme of the program, "Forward Through the Ages" will emphasize the 75th anniversary of World Day of Prayer and offering will be used for the migrant ministry in the U. S.

Mrs. Paysour's Rites Conducted

Funeral rites for Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Baxter Paysour, 86, widow of B. R. Paysour, were held Saturday at 2 p. m. from Central Methodist church, of which she was a member.

Mrs. Paysour succumbed at her home on Cleveland Avenue Thursday afternoon. She was the daughter of the late Peter and Baxter Paysour.

She is survived by two sons, B. Glenn and J. Baxter Paysour, both of Kings Mountain; three brothers, K. C. Baxter of Hanover, Pa., Carl A. Baxter of Gastonia and William D. Baxter of Valdese. A grandson, James Baxter Paysour, Jr. also survives.

Rev. Herbert D. Garmon, assisted by Rev. W. C. Sides, conducted the final rites. Interment was in Mountain Rest cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Floyd Payne and Robert Payne, Kings Mountain; Jack Payne of Gastonia, Cone and Paul Howell of Cherryville and Blaine Baxter of Shelby. They are nephews and cousins of Mrs. Paysour.

Serving as flower bearers were Mrs. Y. F. Throneburg, Mrs. Floyd Payne, Mrs. Edith Goforth, Mrs. M. H. Biser, Mrs. Nell Bumgardner, Mrs. Ralph Mauney, and Mrs. Arthur Walker.

A quartet from the church choir had charge of the music.

Mother's March Tuesday Night

The Junior Woman's Club will conduct the Mother's March on Polio Tuesday night from 7 until 9 p. m.

Club members will gather at the clubhouse to begin the canvass for funds to be used for treatment and rehabilitation of polio victims.

Kings Mountain citizens who wish to donate to the March of Dimes should leave their porch lights burning and club members will call at their homes to receive their donations.

Campaign chapter of the Cleveland County chapter of the National Association for Infantile Paralysis is \$20,000. Tom Tate Kings Mountain area chairman, pointed out. He noted that Cleveland county was hard hit by polio during 1960, numbering 41 of the state's 86 cases.

Hospital Wing To Be Inspected By State And Federal Officials

Officials of the North Carolina Medical Care commission and the U. S. Public Health Service will be in Kings Mountain Tuesday to inspect the 25-bed addition to Kings Mountain hospital.

Anticipating approval of the 50 percent addition, hospital officials say they hope to begin using the new wing about February 15 — or as quickly as furniture for the rooms arrives.

Shipment of the furniture has been made. Business Manager Grady Howard said.

While actual construction of the new wing is complete, portions of the expansion and improvement of facilities remain to be done.

Also on Tuesday, hospital directors will open bids on an emergency power generator and for air-conditioning of the hospital operating rooms.

The hospital is now operated as a non-profit corporation.

Local News Bulletins

NO PERMITS
City Building Inspector M. H. Biser issued no building permits during the past week.

TO CONVENTION
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Harmon will go to Chapel Hill Thursday where they will attend the annual Mid-Winter Institute of the North Carolina Press association.

RECUPERATING
N. F. McGill is reported recuperating satisfactorily from a cardiac ailment at his home, members of his family report.

IN FRATERNITY
James Pressly, student at Davidson college, has been initiated into the North Carolina Alpha chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, national honorary pre-medical fraternity. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Pressly of Kings Mountain.

PLEDGES FRATERNITY
James C. Blanton, Kings Mountain student at East Carolina college at Greenville, has pledged Kappa Order social fraternity. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Blanton.

ROTARY CLUB
Dr. Avery W. McMurray, representative of the Cleveland County Cancer Society, will present the program at Thursday's meeting of the Rotary club. The club convenes at 12:15 at the Country Club.

LEGION MEETING
Regular meeting of Orlis D. Green Post 153, the American Legion, will be held Friday at 8 p. m. at the Legion Hall, it has been announced.

COMMUNION
Communion will be administered immediately following the morning service this Sunday at St. Matthew's Lutheran church. This is especially important for those who will be unable to partake at the regular evening service, Ash Wednesday, February 15th.

ATTENDED CONFERENCE
Rev. Wayne Ashe, pastor of Macedonia Baptist church and Mrs. Ashe attended the Baptist Pastors' Evangelistic Conference Monday Tuesday and Wednesday of this week held at Wake, Forest College in Winston-Salem.

CAKE SALE
Young people of Boyce Memorial ARP church will sell homemade cakes at Phifer Hardware Saturday morning beginning at 9 a. m., it has been announced.

AT BEAUTY SHOP
Miss Dorothy Wells, owner and operator of Modern Beauty Shop, is returning to work after an absence due to illness. Mrs. J. B. Falls, other member of the staff, continues as its manager during Miss Wells' absence.

OPTIMISTS MEET
Jake Early, temporary president of the Kings Mountain Optimists Club, reported this week the group will meet Thursday at 7:30 at the American Legion Hall. The session will be a non-dinner meeting.

Grange Chapter Planned Here

Virgil Settle, special deputy of North Carolina State Grange, will be at Bethware School at 7:30 Thursday night to complete the organization of a local Grange unit.

Myers Hambricht, Bethware School agriculture teacher, made the announcement Wednesday afternoon and invited all local citizens to attend.

Mr. Hambricht noted that the Grange is a family-farm organization which develops rooted rural policies, contributes to good citizenship, and gets to the heart of key issues.

Its precepts are to 1) use your talents, 2) speak your opinions, 3) share your experiences, 4) exercise your influence, and 5) stimulate action.

The organizational meeting will be held in the Home economics classroom.