

**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 1960.

# Kings Mountain Herald

Kings Mountain's Reliable Newspaper

**14 Pages Today**

VOL. 72 No. 6      Established 1889      Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, February 9, 1961      Seventy-Second Year      PRICE TEN CENTS



**FIRE RAZES KEETER ESTABLISHMENT IN GROVER** — Fire broke out about 10:45 at the Burris Keeter stores in Grover Monday night, completely destroying the buildings in a loss estimated at \$50,000. It was the second time in a decade the Keeter firms has suffered a fire loss.

## Local News Bulletins

**REVIVAL**  
 An old-fashioned revival service will begin Sunday and continue through Feb. 18th at Gamble Hill Baptist church on Kings Mountain. Gastonia highway. Rev. O. B. Hammond is the visiting evangelist and services are at 7 p. m. nightly.

**SPECIAL PROGRAM**  
 A program on Missions, featuring a film, will be given Friday evening at 7 p. m. at Dixon Presbyterian church, according to announcement by the pastor, Rev. J. S. Mann.

**CARSON MEMORIAL**  
 A Christian motion picture, "Teen-age Rock" will be shown at Carson Memorial church in the Crowder's Mountain community Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. The interested community is invited.

**METER RECEIPTS**  
 Parking meter receipts for two weeks ending Wednesday at noon totaled \$124.21, including \$104.21 from on-street meters, \$15 from off-street meters and \$5 from over-parking fees, City Clerk Joe McDaniel reported.

**LEGION DANCE**  
 Otis D. Green Post 155 is sponsoring a dance for members and guests Saturday from 9 until 12 p. m. at the Legion Hall. Music will be furnished by Stogie Glenn and tickets are \$1 per couple.

**BAKE SALE**  
 The Kings Mountain Hospital Auxiliary will sell homemade cakes, pies and candies at Phifer Hardware Saturday morning beginning at 9 a. m. Proceeds will be used to purchase a radio to be used at the hospital.

**WINS PROMOTION**  
 Garland E. Still, Jr., member of the USAF Reserves, has been promoted to Captain, effective December 16, 1960. Capt. Still is a member of the 997th Air Reserve Squadron at Charlotte and a son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Still of Kings Mountain.

**HOSPITALIZED**  
 Charles Moss, Jr., who underwent a stomach operation two weeks ago, is recuperating nicely. He is a patient at Veterans Hospital, Croxey Avenue and 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Moss, expect to leave for New York today to visit him. The Charles Moss, Jr. family, former residents, now live in New Jersey.

## Grover Buildings Destroyed By Fire

**Keeter Loss \$50,000; Second In Ten Years**

Plans are indefinite for rebuilding the R. B. Keeter grocery and dry goods stores, completely destroyed by fire Monday night, Mrs. Keeter said Wednesday.

The Keeter firms razed by fire Monday night about 10:45 were leveled by fire in September, 1950. The Keeters had rebuilt by Christmas, 1950, adding a partition to divide the new self-service grocery and dry goods establishment.

The two one-story brick buildings, completely destroyed, were an estimated \$50,000 loss. They are the first two stores on the main block of the town of Grover again hit by fire. The two other major fires in Grover destroyed the old masonic building which housed the Tate drug store and a dry cleaning establishment.

Had the wind been blowing in the opposite direction Monday, the flames could have seriously threatened even other buildings. The R. E. Hambricht Hardware and Grocery, adjacent to the two Keeter firms, was damaged by smoke and fire.

Over 80 firemen from surrounding towns and 50 emergency vehicles were summoned Monday as firemen battled the flames in just above freezing weather. The fire alarm was sounded about 10:45 by two truck drivers passing on nearby U. S. 29 who noticed flames rising through the roof of the dry-goods store.

There was some speculation that the fire, which apparently centered in the dry-goods store, may have been started from an oil heater located in the back of the store.

The R. B. Keeter family opened its grocery business in Grover in 1936, and other members of the Keeter family have been business citizens of Grover for more than 35 years. Mr. Keeter is Grover Postmaster.

**NO BIDDERS**  
 The 1942 Dodge truck the city offered for sale at auction last Saturday attracted no bidders. Later a dealer offered \$50 for it, but the offer was rejected. City Clerk Joe McDaniel said the city may retain the truck which was, until recently, the city's Number 2 fire-wagon.

# Mayor Bridges Seeks Fifth Term

## Commission To Get Request For "White Way"

The city commission will be asked Thursday night to consider a new "white way" for the business district.

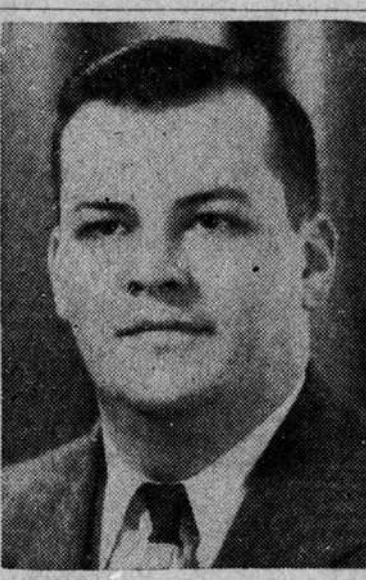
Charles Blanton, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and other civic club officials are expected to present the proposal along with the request that the commission consider the proposal for the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Blanton said this week that the Chamber of Commerce board of directors has indicated interest in the project and pointed out "we have a pretty dark business section."

The present "white way" was installed well over 30 years ago. Other matters scheduled on the commission's Thursday night agenda are:

- Opening of bids for sale of a portion of the city's power lines, serving 33 Lake Montonia road residents.
- Conducting of a public hearing on a petition to re-zone for business use property at the corner of E. King and Gaston streets.
- Conducting of a hearing on confirmation of certain street improvements assessments.
- Discussion of the Kings Mountain National Guard Armory project.

## City May Issue Bonds For Armory



**OFFICER—Dr. D. F. Hord, Kings Mountain dentist, has been elected vice-president of Cleveland County Citizens for Better Schools.**

Dr. D. F. Hord, Kings Mountain dentist, was elected vice-chairman of the Cleveland County Citizens Committee for Better Schools at an organization meeting Monday night.

Other permanent officers elected were Harold Love, of Shelby, chairman, and Mrs. Bill Latimore, of the Shanghai community, secretary.

The elections were by acclamation, following an address by Raymond A. Stone, executive secretary of the state citizens committee.

Mr. Stone outlined the functions of the citizens group, stating the committee should become informed about all phases of school operations, should be a cooperative group, yet independent from the schools and representative of the particular county.

He suggested the committee might concern itself with school buildings and equipment, adequacy of personnel, guidance counseling, administration and organization, finance and curriculum, as well as other school needs. He added it is not in the province of the committee to concern themselves with teaching methods.

Mr. Stone cited several reasons North Carolina citizens need a greater public awareness of the needs of the schools and the job the schools have ahead of them. He stated that the average North Carolina student completes only eight years of secondary schooling. Last year, he said, there were approximately 48,000 graduating seniors in the state's high schools, the number graduating comparing to 97,000 students entering the first grade 12 years previously.

"We're wasting our human resources," Mr. Stone declared, "and they're our most valuable

## All 'A' Students To Be Feted

Kings Mountain High School's 36 "straight A" students are to be feted by the National Honor Society chapter in the cafeteria this week.

Guests will be students who logged all A's for either the third six weeks period or the semester period.

Straight A students include: Seniors: Pattie Huffstetter, Mary Ellen Stroupe, Martha Sue Welch, Sue Jean Wright, Billie Jones and Ann Broadwater.

Juniors: Carol Jean Goter, Sara Rose Lennon, Bill Ramseur, Kay Broadwater, Robert Whisnand, and Jean Harlow.

Sophomores: Paul Smith, Pettie Lynn, Pattie Howard, Mack Stewart, Paula Neisler, Jewel Robbs, Barbara Cable, Marilyn Dixon, Janie Cox, and Sara Hendricks.

Freshmen: Joan McClure, Priscilla Padgett, Carol Ramseur, Michael Royster, Johnny Dye, John Tria, Mary Wright, Virginia Goforth, Rebecca Stowe, Betty Styers, Patsy Welsh, Sylvania Lockridge, Judy Johnson, and Margaret Hambricht.

## Penalty Day Near On City Auto Tags

Unless the city sells a great number of auto license plates by next Wednesday, a large number of city auto owners will be flirting with fines.

Sales through Wednesday totaled 1063, considerably short of the 1700 or more the city customarily sells each year.

City statute provides that car owners who fail to purchase and display the tags on their autos by February 16 are subject to citation to court, and, if found guilty, further subject to a fine of \$5 and costs of court.

The tags are on sale at the city hall office at \$1.

## Low Bids On Hospital Facilities \$36,174; Use Of New Wing Delayed

A technicality may delay briefly utilization of the newly completed wing of Kings Mountain hospital.

Business Manager Grady Howard said Wednesday that some state-federal funds are committed for additional construction—two small buildings to house an emergency power plant and air-conditioning system for the operating room, for which bids were opened Tuesday.

"Under the rules, these funds would be withdrawn, were the new construction to be used before contracts are awarded," Mr. Howard said. "It's merely a technicality. Some of the furniture hasn't yet arrived and it'll likely mean delay of use of the new wing an extra week."

Mr. Howard guesses that contracts for the additional construction will be awarded within the next ten days.

The low bids totaled \$36,174. J. S. Mitchem, of Shelby, general contract, \$6,219; L. A. Hoke, Kings Mountain, electrical contract, \$21,990; and Southern Pip-

## Attorney General Says Statutes Give Authority

One possible bar to the success of the Kings Mountain National Guard Armory project was removed this week, with a letter from Attorney General Wade Bruton stating that a city has authority to issue bonds for building of an armory.

Mayor Glee A. Bridges had in his files this week the Bruton letter which stated in part, "Counties and municipalities are specifically authorized to borrow money, and issue and sell bonds, and to raise by taxation and otherwise, to defray cost of Armory construction."

The city, when it initially committed itself for a \$20,000 appropriation for armory construction, had counted on issuing bonds for the purpose under the state statute which permits issuance of bonds up to two-thirds the amount of the previous year's debt retirement.

In 1959-60, the city's net debt retirement was \$29,000, indicating availability of borrowing authority of about \$19,000.

Should the city follow this route, a sum of \$13,000 will still be needed to bring the project to fruition by June 1.

Additional site is required and will cost \$7500.

Meantime, the county commission has indicated it will appropriate \$10,000 for the project during the fiscal year starting July 1. However, it has stated that none of the appropriation would be available before August-September.

The Mayor is expected to report on the armory project Thursday night at the commission session.

The project calls for expenditure of \$140,000, with \$104,000 already appropriated by the federal government. The state supplies 7.5 percent of the total, with local government required to furnish 17.5 percent.

Armories either under construction or contracted in nearby communities are uniformly city-county projects from the standpoint of furnishing local funds, Mayor Bridges said he had learned.

In Belmont, the city and Gaston county appropriated \$16,000 each. In Lincoln, the city and Lincoln county appropriated \$15,000 each. Spindale's new armory is to be a joint project of Forest City, Spindale and Rutherford county.



**CANDIDATES — Mayor Glee A. Bridges, above, is seeking reelection to his fifth term. Paul W. Ledford, below, seeks election as Ward 4 commissioner.**

## Nothing New On Bond Vote

There were no new developments this week on a projected district bond issue for building of a Kings Mountain district high school plant.

J. R. Davis, attorney for the board of education, said he'd had no further communications from the New York bond attorney, Mitchell, Pershing, Shetler and Mitchell, of New York city.

Meantime, there was local speculation on what amount would be available for construction should the state approve a school construction bond issue, which Governor Terry Sanford has stated repeatedly he will recommend.

While the Governor has not announced what amount he will ask, many legislators think the amount will be \$50 million, as it was in 1949 and again in 1953.

How the money will be divided throughout the state's school district is likewise unknown, there having been discussion matching funds basis and other formulae.

The 1949 school construction distributions were on basis of per capita school population. Again, by this formula, the amounts would vary, depending on the particular year chosen for the division yardstick.

Kings Mountain school district records show that the district profited by \$80,571.97 from the 1949 state bond sales, and by \$92,892.06 from the 1953 state issue. The increase reflects a gain in school population during the four years intervening.

The 1953 issue was allocated in two parts and \$50,059.09 is unspent and available for future construction, Supt. B. N. Barnes said Wednesday, and is part of an approximately \$250,000 in construction funds the Kings Mountain district now has available.

It is considered that any amount of funds from the outside sources would lower the local fund requirement of the estimated \$1,000,000 required to build a new high school plant.

The 1949 bond issue receipts and spent portion of the 1953 receipts supplied a portion of the funds for the Davidson elementary school and for the four-room addition and general renovation of East elementary school. Supt. Barnes reviewed.

There is a further possibility that a federal school aid construction appropriation will be made, in which the local district would also share.

## Rhea, Ledford Nicholson, Bagwell File

The city's biennial political season opened with a profusion of candidates this week, as Mayor Glee A. Bridges filed notice he will seek a fifth consecutive term and four candidates posted filing fees for commissioner posts.

All the commissioner candidates are challengers and one contest has already developed.

Both ex-Commissioner Paul W. Ledford and Willis B. Bagwell posted filing fees for Ward 4 commissioner.

Colet Nicholson, former city gas superintendent, seeks the Ward 3 commissioner post, and J. E. (Zip) Rhea, concrete products manufacturer, has filed for Ward 5 commissioner.

The election will be conducted on May 9, three months hence.

Speculation on the forthcoming city election has not been heavy in recent weeks, but the early filings by several challengers indicate opposition for incumbents, should they choose to offer again.

Ben H. Bridges, incumbent Ward 4 commissioner, has been rumored as a possible candidate for mayor.

"This week, he answered, 'I don't know what I'll do' on a question as to his political plans.

Should he seek re-election to a third term as a commissioner, he will face Mr. Ledford, whom he defeated both in 1957 and 1959, as well as Mr. Bagwell.

Ross Alexander, two-term Ward 1 commissioner, has commented he may not offer for re-election, but it is thought he has made no firm decision.

The same applies to the other commissioner incumbents, Eoyce Gauld, Ward 2, Luther Bennett, Ward 3, and R. Coleman Stroupe, Ward 5. All the present commissioners are completing their second terms.

David L. Saunders, who ran unsuccessfully for mayor two years ago, has been indicating he'll again seek the office for several months.

Mayor Bridges, seeking an unprecedented fifth term, said he had no formal statement Wednesday concerning his candidacy, remarking, "I'm running on my record."

In six years at the helm of city government, Mayor Bridges has served for two years as a part-time mayor and, since 1955, as mayor on a full-time basis.

In 1954, his first administration superintended the expenditure of \$400,000 from a bond issue for water, sewage and public recreation facilities and another \$400,000 in revenue bonds for a natural gas distribution system. Since he became mayor, the ad valorem tax rate was reduced to \$1.50 per \$100.

Mr. Rhea, Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Bagwell are seeking city offices for the first time.

## Schools To Ask Election Bill

The North Carolina General Assembly, which convened Wednesday, is expected to be asked to enact one piece of legislation effecting the Kings Mountain area.

It will be a bill to set up a new election arrangement for board of education members, to provide for franchise of citizens in the adjacent areas consolidated with the Kings Mountain district by election last May.

B. N. Barnes, schools superintendent, said he anticipated the present board of education will discuss terms of the bill at the forthcoming February meeting.

Terms of two school board members, A. W. Kincaid and J. W. Webster, expire in May. Both announced intentions to resign last year on effectuation of the area merger. Mr. Kincaid did resign, but was reappointed when litigation was filed seeking to abrogate the school decision. The suit delayed physical consolidation of the schools.

It is anticipated the new election act, when advanced, will retain the present six-year staggered term arrangement for members and will provide for representation and enfranchisement of citizens within the new bounds of the district.

**FAIRVIEW LODGE**  
 Regular communication of Fairview Lodge 339 AF&M will be held Monday night at 7:30 p. m. at Masonic Hall, according to announcement by Secretary T. D. Tindall.

(Continued On Page Eight)

## Blood Gifts 106 Pints

Kings Mountain area citizens donated 106 pints of blood at Monday's visit of the regional bloodbank and Red Cross officials expressed themselves as pleased with the response.

Of the total, 97 were productive donors, nine were temporary rejectees. Forty citizens gave blood for replacement of blood used by friends and relatives.

Blood Program Co-Chairmen George Houser and Mrs. O. W. Myers, in giving reports from the bloodmobile visit, said they were especially pleased with the splendid response of Lithium Corporation which provided 20 donors and supplied slightly more than 20 percent of the day's total and Massachusetts Mohair Plush Company, a newcomer to the group of cooperative firms, which supplied 11 donors from its plant. In welcoming the new firm into the program, Mrs. Myers pointed out that "it is only as industry joins in cooperating with the blood program can we hope to reach the goal toward which we constantly strive."

Red Cross officials also expressed appreciation to members of the Demolay organization who helped with loading of equipment.

The names of the donors are printed as public recognition for the support given a program which exists for the benefit of the entire community.

Donors were James L. Bennett, James E. Henson, Mrs. Eva George, Manuel L. Bridges, Luther P.

(Continued From Front Page)

**COURT OF HONOR**  
 Court of Honor for Kings Mountain district Boy Scouts will be held Thursday night at 7:45 at Central Methodist church.