

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.

Kings Mountain Herald

Kings Mountain's Reliable Newspaper

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VOL. 72 No. 20 Established 1889 Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, May 25, 1961 Seventy-Second Year

Kelly Dixon, Three Commissioners To Take Oaths

Manager System Vote Likely Soon

Abbreviated Board States Its Intentions

An abbreviated city board of commissioners, on recommendation of retiring Mayor Glee A. Bridges, adopted resolutions of intent Wednesday morning to:

- 1) Conduct an election on the city manager form of government under the legislative act of 1959, and
- 2) Order a new registration of voters, preferably employing a card index system or some other permanent-type registration system.

Present for the meeting to canvass the votes from Tuesday's run-off election were Commissioners Ray Cline, T. J. Ellison and Ben H. Bridges. The resolutions were unanimous. Boyce H. Gault arrived a few moments later.

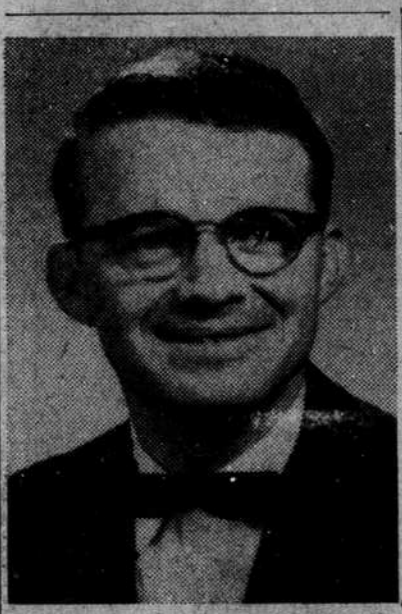
The board then adopted another resolution of the technical kind, when City Attorney J. R. Davis informed the commission that the state required a copy of the resolution conveying the authority to the state. This resolution had not been adopted previously.

Suggesting the city manager vote and new registration, Mayor Bridges said he had previously stated that the vote should be conducted. He pointed out that the new registration should be handled prior to the city elections of 1963, to assure Kings Mountain's first new registration since 1939.

The 1959 legislative act which would enable the city to call an election on the manager system provides, if adopted, an optional type manager system whereby the elected Mayor could also be designated city manager or someone else could be named city manager, the decision within the province of the board of commissioners.

After the act was passed, at the instance of Bridges Administration IV, the administration (Continued on Page Eight)

Dixon To Push White Way, Sidewalks, Sewage Disposal



TO GET DEGREE — William K. Rhea, of Kings Mountain, is to receive the degree of Graduate in Theology from Tennessee Temple Bible school Monday.

Rhea To Receive Theology Degree

William K. Rhea, son of Mrs. Dora Rhea, Route 2, Kings Mountain, North Carolina, is a candidate to receive the Graduate in Theology diploma from Tennessee Temple Bible School, Chattanooga, Tennessee, at the commencement exercises on May 29, 7:30 p. m.

While attending school, Mr. Rhea has participated in various Christian activities. He plans to enter full-time Christian work.

Mr. Rhea is married and has two children.

Mrs. Blalock's Rites Conducted

Funeral rites for Mrs. Fairy Whisnant Blalock, 79, wife of Lawson Goforth Blalock, were held Tuesday at 4 p. m. from El Bethel Methodist church of which she was a member.

Mrs. Blalock died Sunday night in the Kings Mountain hospital after an illness of two days. A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt Whisnant.

In addition to her husband, whom she married in 1897, she is survived by six sons, Wyatt Blalock, Charles Blalock, George Blalock, Herman Blalock, Frank Blalock, all of Kings Mountain; and James Blalock of Forest City; and four daughters, Mrs. Fred Wright, Sr., and Mrs. Robert Kale of Kings Mountain, Mrs. Buett White of Gastonia and Mrs. Guy Marshall of Bessemer City. Also surviving are 18 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

The final rites were conducted by Rev. Bruce Norwood, assisted by Rev. Norman Brown and Rev. Herbert Garmon. Interment was in the El Bethel cemetery.

Bridges Plans Work, Fishing

After completing eight busy years as Kings Mountain's Mayor Thursday morning, Glee A. Bridges, ousted from office Tuesday by the narrow margin of 116 votes, expects to get in some fishing, do some work, and otherwise take life easier.

"After all," Mr. Bridges laughed, "I'm nearly 67."

Mr. Bridges will hang his working hat for part-time duty at Bridges Hardware, a business he sold to his sons, some years ago. He expects to do a lot of fishing, both with grandchildren and Mrs. Bridges, also an expert with rod and reel and line.

He told his successful opponent, Kelly Dixon, Wednesday morning, "I congratulate you and wish you well."

GOP Mayor To Downplay Partisanship

Incoming Mayor Kelly Dixon said Wednesday he will recommend to the board of commissioners installation of a new business district lighting system and broadening of the public recreation program.

"It appears," he continued, "that the city is over the hump on street-paving and perhaps we'll be able to give more prominent place in the future to sidewalk work and other improvements."

On the question of Sunday operations, Mr. Dixon remarked, "I thought I was pretty clear on that. I don't intend to recommend disfranchising one enterprise while others are allowed to operate."

He repeated a campaign statement in stating, "I still regard the city operation as a non-partisan one, as far as national partisan political parties are concerned."

He added, "I shall be at the service of the people as much as is feasibly possible."

On possible major long-term improvements, Mr. Dixon commented that he hoped it would be possible to improve the city's sewage disposal facilities during his administration.

Asked if he ran with anticipation of being a full-time mayor, Mr. Dixon smiled, "I thought that's what I was running for." Mr. Dixon had answered the question affirmatively on a radio broadcast during the campaign.

MEETING

There will be a special Session meeting Sunday morning, 10:30, May 28 to receive new members at the First Presbyterian church.

CALLLED MEETING

Kings Mountain School Board will hold a called meeting Thursday at 12:15 p. m. at Central School.

ARP-Catholic Transfer Begins

Dr. W. L. Pressly, pastor of Boyce Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian church, has vacated the Piedmont avenue manse and the Roman Catholic church, which is purchasing the ARP plant, has begun renovating the church sanctuary.

Dr. and Mrs. Pressly moved Monday to the Stallings residence on Meadowbrook Drive.

The ARP congregation will hold services Sunday in the ARP educational building and will vacate this part of the plant on completion of the transaction.

The congregation has made arrangement to rent West School until it can erect and occupy new quarters on Edgemont avenue.

GRADUATION STARTS FOR 185

Graduation exercises for 185 students in all township schools begin Sunday and continue through next Friday.

Baccalaureate services for seniors in Kings Mountain, Bethware, Grover, Compact, and Davidson schools will be held Sunday. With exception of Davidson and Compact, where programs will begin at 3 p. m., the other schools have arranged exercises at 8 p. m. The Grover baccalaureate sermon will be delivered by Rev. Richard Hobson at Shiloh Presbyterian church. All other programs will hold their programs in the school auditoriums.

Rev. H. D. Garmon, pastor of Central Methodist church, will make the baccalaureate address to 104 Kings Mountain high school seniors Sunday. Other ministers of the community will participate on the program. Commencement exercises will be held next Friday, June 2nd.

Diplomas will be awarded to 29 Grover seniors Tuesday night at 8 p. m. when members of the class will present the graduation program. Finals exercises at Compact will also be held Tuesday night with the address to be made by Lewis C. Dowdy, dean of the School of Education at A&T college at Greensboro. Rev. Samuel Geiger of Winston-Salem will deliver the Sunday baccalaureate sermon.

Bethware finals will be held Wednesday night at 8 p. m. and senior class members will con-

Glynda Lynn, Top Speller, To Capitol

Glynda Lynn, East school seventh grader, leaves Saturday for Washington, D. C., to participate in the national spelling bee which will crown a champion speller next week.

Miss Lynn is the third Kings Mountain student to participate in the national contests as representative from the regional spelling bee sponsored by the Charlotte Observer. Jan Williams of Central went to Washington last year and Bobby Early, now a Belmont Abbey sophomore, advanced in the finals when an eighth grader at West school.

Miss Lynn will be accompanied to Washington by her mother, Mrs. Roy Lynn, and by Miss Hannah Miller, reporter for the Observer.

The Lynns will return home Saturday, June 3rd.

POPULAR DAY SALE SET FOR SATURDAY

Wear a poppy on Poppy Day Saturday!

This is a suggestion from Otis D. Green Post, 155, the American Legion Auxiliary, which will sponsor on Saturday the annual Poppy Day, a memorial to the nation's war dead.

Women from the auxiliary will offer for sale to the public these red crepe paper flowers which are made by veterans themselves. The street-sale will be conducted all day and funds will go directly to disabled veterans and their families, help educate war orphans and provide financial assistance to needy children.

Mrs. Paul Mauney is chairman of Poppy Day.

SENATE BILL 308 OPPOSED

A bill to amend the so-called Cleveland County school act of 1935, introduced by Senator Hummer of Pitt on May 16, has features objectionable to local school officials, they said this week.

Meantime, Senator Robert F. Morgan, of Cleveland, told the Herald by telephone Wednesday afternoon he is a member of a sub-committee of the Senate finance committee which has agreed to recommend that the bill (Senate Bill 308) apply to Pitt county only.

Senator Morgan added, however, it is possible the committee may recommend that the bill be passed as permissive legislation only.

Of the several provisions of the bill the one listed as objectionable by Chairman Fred Plonk, of the board of education, and Supt. B. N. Barnes would set our procedure whereby 10 percent of the voters of any contiguous area in a school district may petition that such area be separated from original school district and be annexed to another contiguous school district, with annexed area to be taxable for payment of all present and future indebtedness or annexing school district and will continue to be taxable for payment of then outstanding indebtedness of original school district.

The original 1935 bill relates to issuance of school building bonds in behalf of school districts and special bond tax units and levying of taxes for these purposes.

Several counties other than Cleveland were included in the original bill, among them Pitt, Alamance, Burke, Franklin, Gates, and Orange.

OFFICIAL RETURNS

City Run-off Election, May 23, 1961

	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Totals
FOR MAYOR						
Kelly Dixon	115	157	290	294	257	1113
Glee A. Bridges	121	176	141	182	377	997
WARD 2 COMMISSIONER						
Eugene Goforth	123	187	232	249	307	1098
Boyce H. Gault	114	144	189	223	299	969
WARD 4 COMMISSIONER						
Ben H. Bridges	181	202	260	227	452	1322
Norman King	54	133	167	249	176	779
WARD 5 COMMISSIONER						
J. E. "Zip" Rhea	129	229	263	271	483	1375
R. Coleman Stroupe	108	198	162	202	147	727

County-wide Unit Opposed "At This Time"

BY DAVID BAITY

"We favor a county-wide plan for financing schools. It is North Carolina's plan. But we feel a county-wide merger of schools should be studied and not rushed into," said Supt. B. N. Barnes Monday night before some 200 school patrons who had met at the new Shelby High School gymnasium for a discussion of the pros and cons of a county-wide school consolidation.

Mr. Barnes was summing up his views following a report by Citizens Committee for Better Schools administration sub-committee chairman Lloyd Bost.

Barnes noted that he thought the county-wide merger has merit, but that it should be studied. He pointed out he felt it would not be feasible at this time since certain areas of the county have already effected consolidations and the abrupt change would wipe out plans for buildings in these areas.

Mr. Bost, in presenting a report of his committee's findings through a two month survey noted many advantages and disadvantages of a merger.

Merging the units would create a unit large enough to provide a good program at reasonable cost, eliminate boundary line and annexation problems, provide uniform facilities throughout the county, uniform service and tax rates, facilitate long-range planning and prevent duplication of facilities. Negro patrons have requested one or two large high schools. Elimination of boundary lines would help provide them, Bost said.

On the other hand, countywide consolidation would not reduce the total administrative and supervisory staff. It might close some schools which serve a community centers. Rural areas might be unwilling to support supplemental school taxes. Early years of consolidation might produce indecision and confusion.

Bost's report included trends in school administration as prepared by the Institute of Government, as well as local facts and figures.

From answers to questions posed by citizens, the consensus of school and lay leaders on the panel with Bost was that a one-unit county school system must be approached gradually. However, the group expressed high hopes for financing schools in the present separate districts by countywide bond issues.

Panel members for the information session along with Bost included Supt. Barnes, Max Ham-



Mayor KELLY DIXON



Ward 2 Commissioner EUGENE GOFORTH



Ward 4 Commissioner BEN H. BRIDGES



Ward 5 Commissioner J. E. (ZIP) RHEA

Ben Bridges, Rhea And Goforth Win

Poppy Day Sale Set For Saturday

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Dixon Edges Glee Bridges; Rhea Is High

An unusual and unpredicted turnout of voters cast ballots in Tuesday's run-off election and, with a lone exception, completed the face-changing at City Hall begun on May 9.

Kelly Dixon, Republican challenger for Mayor, overcame a first race deficit of 287 votes and went on to outrun Mayor Glee A. Bridges, four-term incumbent by 1113 to 997, a margin of 116 votes.

Eugene Goforth, flooring contractor, 203 votes behind Boyce H. Gault, two-term incumbent, on May 9, polled 1098 votes to edge Mr. Gault by 129 votes for Ward 2 commission seat.

Another newcomer, J. E. (Zip) Rhea, who led incumbent R. Coleman Stroupe in the May 9 voting by 254, widened his margin in the Tuesday run-off. Rhea polled 1375 votes to lead the ticket, while Mr. Stroupe polled 727, same number of votes he won on May 9. The Rhea margin was 648 votes.

Ben H. Bridges, Ward 4 commissioner, will be the lone hold-over from the present administration. He easily withstood the challenge of Norman King, Southern Bell serviceman. Comm. Bridges received 1322 votes against Mr. King's 779. The winning margin was 543.

A total of 2132 citizens cast votes Tuesday, a record for a municipal run-off, and only 95 votes less than 23 candidates attracted May 9.

Mr. Dixon won the election in Wards 3 and 4. Mayor Bridges led in Wards 1, 2, and 3, but his margins there were insufficient to overcome the challenger's heavy totals in his two strongpoints.

Mr. Rhea led in every ward, with a very heavy margin in his home Ward 5.

Mr. Goforth also led in every ward, but his margins were comparatively smaller than Mr. Rhea's.

Comm. Bridges led in all but his home ward, where the challenger came off with a 22-vote lead.

Ceremonies At 10:30 a. m. Thursday

Mayor Glee A. Bridges will complete eight years of official duties Thursday morning at 10:30 when he administers oaths of office to Kelly Dixon, the successful challenger, and other newly elected city officials.

The ceremonies will be held at City Hall courtroom. Subsequently, the new commission is expected to convene and organize.

Mr. Dixon, Kings Mountain builder, was the unsuccessful Republican candidate for 11th district U. S. Congressman last November. He is also an ordained Baptist minister. It was his first venture into city politics.

Other successful candidates who will take their oaths are:

Eugene M. Goforth, Ward 2 commissioner, flooring contractor, and onetime professional baseball player.

Ben H. Bridges, Ward 4 commissioner, only member of the retiring administration to win re-election. Mr. Bridges, savings and loan association executive, has been regarded as the "strong man" of the commission for the past four years.

J. E. (Zip) Rhea, Ward 5 commissioner, concrete manufacturer, who led Tuesday's balloting. Like Mr. Goforth, Mr. Rhea was a newcomer to city politics.

Already seated are two new commissioners.

Ray W. Cline, who led Ross Alexander on May 9, was sworn into office May 16, when Mr. Alexander declined to ask a run-off.

T. J. (Tommy) Ellison, a commissioner four times previously since 1947, also took office May 16, after his nearest opponent, Corbet Nicholson, declined to call a run-off.

An Editorial

New Faces Take City Hall Seats

The biennial city election entertainment is now history.

The winners are smiling happily and preparing to don the mantle of governmental responsibility for two years.

The losers are analyzing the returns, checking their weak spots, and, if not already, will decide, as the sure but unforeseen headaches begin to plague the city administration in the days ahead, that the losers may actually be the winners.

Changes of faces in public positions such as the voters dictated do not necessarily mean changes in basic direction and purpose, only in details.

That appears to be the real result of the 1961 voting.

The Herald anticipates that Mayor Kelly Dixon will work hard at his job and earn whatever salary he is paid, and that the board of commissioners will continue the policy of the past several years in getting as much operational and capital improvement mileage out of city revenues as is possible.

The Herald pledges its co-operation to the newly elected administration, congratulates the winners, and commiserates with the losers.

Optimists Plan Charter Night

Hugh Canford, past president of the Charlotte Optimist, will be featured as guest speaker Saturday night when the Optimist Club of Kings Mountain observes Charter Night at 7:30 p. m. at Kings Mountain Woman's Club.

The event will be Ladies' Night also and leaders of civic and service clubs of Kings Mountain and their wives have been invited to attend.

Also expected to attend are the city mayor and his wife, District 18 Optimist Governor Garland Murray and wife, and Lieutenant Governor of District 18 Leonard Leigh and wife.

The Gastonia Optimist club, parent organization of the local group, will present the Kings Mountain members with their charter, bell, and gavel. Ed Stowe will preside over the ceremony.

Run-off Voting SIDELIGHTS

Ward 1 voters hold the distinction of turning out in greater number (by six) than they did in the May 9 election. The ward 1 total was 243.

Other voting totals by wards: Ward 2, 337; Ward 3, 433; Ward 4, 471; Ward 5, 648. As is customary, more votes were cast for mayor than for any other office, a total of 2110 of the 2132 people voting either for Kelly Dixon or Glee A. Bridges. Just 22 either didn't like either, or had no opinion.

The run-off produced two write-ins. One Ward 3 voter wanted Buck Early for Ward 4 commissioner and Don Falls for Ward 5 commissioner.

Ward 3 holds distinction for voting in aggregate in the run-off.

The election results had hardly been posted before the more sacreligious among the voters began speculating on the locale of the Kings Mountain's 1961-63 "Tammany Hall." Back when W. G. Grantham was a commissioner, Victory Chevrolet Company was the theoretical caucusing place, then, in 1958-61, it moved reputedly to Gault's Grocery.

Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Payseur and their young son arrived at the West Kings Mountain precinct almost, but not quite, in time to vote.

Interesting reactions to the election were given by citizens seeking results via telephone to the Herald. One lady, obviously an ardent Dixon supporter, burst out crying for joy when assured she'd heard the initial report correctly.

A man, obviously favoring Glee Bridges, got a repeat on the result and commented, "I'll be damned."

Results were posted at the Herald about 7:30, two hours after the polls closed.