

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 CENT

Kings Mountain Herald

Kings Mountain's Reliable Newspaper

12 Pages Today

Area Schools Consolidation Is Now Consummated

City Board Has Assumed Operating Costs

By MARTIN HARMON

The Kings Mountain area is married schoolwise, consummation of a courtship which began ten years ago and which witnessed the formal ceremony on May 14, 1960.

Physical consummation became effective Saturday.

Plans call for consolidation of Kings Mountain, Bethware and Grover high schools for the term beginning September at Kings Mountain's central plant, and for Compact and Davidson high schools at one of the other plants. Indications are that the Compact plant will be utilized. Involved in the merger are the five plants of the former Kings Mountain district and the merging areas. Geographically, the Kings Mountain city school district now includes virtually all of Number 4 Township as well as a portion of Number 5 Township. Also effected by the merger are more than 100 Negro students who have been attending Washington school near Waco.

State statute provides that deeds to the several properties in the annexed areas be conveyed within ten days after the merger, Supt. B. N. Barnes said. Meanwhile, the county superintendent, J. H. Grigg, has notified insurance carriers and utility companies that Kings Mountain board of education is responsible for these accounts effective July 1.

Following a state survey team recommendation in May 1951 and prior to subsequent school construction bond issue in 1953, Grover school officials suggested a marriage of area schools. The movement proved abortive when Bethware patrons declined by a large margin to abandon the split term summer session and Compact patrons voted against a merger.

Bethware later abandoned the split term, with the demise of cotton production in the area, and subsequently re-launched April 20, 1959, the marriage movement which resulted in patrons of the adjacent county areas voting themselves into the Kings Mountain district May 14, by 1120 to 873. The voters also accepted the district's supplemental school tax of 20 cents per \$100 valuation.

Litigation by dissidents to the merger was quick to follow and, though a temporary injunction was quashed, the July 1 legal requirement to effectuate the merger physically had passed and Judge P. C. Proneberger, with additional legislation pending, ordered maintenance of the status quo, as far as operations were concerned.

Up until the 1932-33 term, Bethware high school students came to Kings Mountain high school. The minutes of July 31, 1932 read, "The Bethware school board met with the local board, in the interest of a high school at Bethware. Mr. Wayne L. Ware presented the matter to our board, stating they could not have a high school student without the cooperation of our board."

These minutes also quote from a letter then-city Supt. Claude Grigg was to write the Kings Mountain high school patrons of the Bethware area, which said: "The Trustees of the Kings Mountain City School are in sympathy with the movement for the simple reason that we cannot continue to serve indefinitely surrounding territory as we have done in the past. We soon will have reached the capacity of our building. . . . We are therefore cooperating with the County Board of Education and with the Bethware board to the extent that we are suggesting that you attend the newly organized district for the school year 1932-33."

Tentative Tax Rate Again \$1.50

Kings Mountain's 1961 tax rate has been set tentatively at \$1.50 per \$100 valuation, same rate in vogue since 1957. Breakdown of the tax rate for specific funds, capital, general, and debt service, has not been indicated, pending final results of 1960-61 operations and final adoption of the current year's \$697,000 budget, though the rate is sure to include the five cents per \$100 tax for recreational purposes, city officials say.

Reaction Mixed On Food Tax But Complications Are Many

Businessmen Busy Studying Sales Tax Law

Every agency, the State itself, public schools which are the chief beneficiary, as well as citizens, began paying the state's three percent sales tax Saturday, but principal talk among individuals was the new tax on foods.

Actually, the tax on foods isn't completely new, but sales tax "on the home table" was removed just 20 years previously. From 1933 to 1941, all foods were taxable except a few items, meat, lard, coffee, sugar and flour.

The Herald was unable to contact many grocers Tuesday, due to the July 4 holiday, but these reactions were gleaned:

Said one grocer, "I've had only a few complaints, in fact, less than I thought I would."

Yet another reported, "It's about 50-50 with me and, of course, some accused me. On previously taxable articles we stocked, we've been absorbing the tax. It should save us a little money to be now charging it on virtually everything we sell."

From the business management standpoint, it appears druggists have the more complicated problem. Drugs sold on prescription aren't taxable, but drugs sold to physicians for their own use, to hospitals, or drugs compounded but not on medical prescription are taxable.

Grady Howard, hospital administrator, said he was looking for some clarifications on how to bill patients for drugs sold them on doctors' prescriptions.

At City Hall, City Clerk Joe McDaniel, Jr., said the principal difficulty there will be on supplies and equipment purchased from out-of-state firms. The law appears to require that the city pay this tax on its own, then apply for refund next year on both this amount and sales tax paid to North Carolina firms.

Church treasurers will have another chore upcoming next year in applying for refunds, as will managers of orphanages, non-profit corporations and non-profit private schools.

The city clerk said it appeared to him that agencies and institutions previously exempt and now in the refundable class will require an extra invoice of all billings to facilitate substantiation of their sales tax refund claims.

Aging Program Is Organized

Plans to organize a recreation program for senior citizens of Kings Mountain were formulated last Thursday night by representatives of numerous civic and service organizations.

The project is being spearheaded by the Woman's Club and the first meeting at the Woman's Club was attended by representatives of virtually all clubs and other organizations in the city.

Mrs. George Houser, Woman's club president, presided.

After voting unanimously to begin a recreational program for senior citizens, the group present set the date of a second or organizational meeting for July 2 at 8 p. m. at the Woman's Club.

The Woman's club will provide the meeting place, refreshments and games for a recreational program until the program becomes enlarged and future plans are developed.

At the July 20 meeting of the organizational group, report will be heard from Golden Age clubs in other towns and slides showing these clubs at work will be a feature of the program.

Names of "prospective" members for a local "Golden Age" club are being given to pastor of the various churches and they in turn are reporting their lists to the committee.

Members of the Woman's club committee-for-aging are Mrs. George Houser, Mrs. Paul Hendricks, Mrs. Paul Mauney, Mrs. O. W. Myers and Mrs. Aubrey Mauney.

B. A. Harry's Rites Conducted

Funeral rites for Benjamin Audy Harry, 70, of Grover, were held Monday at 4 p. m. from Shiloh Presbyterian church, of which he was a member.

Mr. Harry died Saturday night in the Kings Mountain hospital after suffering a heart attack about 5 o'clock that afternoon. A native of Cleveland County, he was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. David F. Harry.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Bessie Howard Harry; five sons, Donald Harry of Charlotte, Thomas Harry of Grover, B. A. Harry of Miami, Fla., J. F. Harry of Tampa, Fla., and Philip Harry of the USAF in Germany; and two daughters, Mrs. W. W. McCarter of Grover and Mrs. Don Woods of Myrtle Beach, S. C. Also surviving are a sister, Miss Margaret Harry of Greenville, Ga., a half-sister, Mrs. Edward Erwood of Valdese, and a brother, Rev. W. G. Harry of Warm Springs, Ga. Fourteen grandchildren also survive.

The final rites were conducted by Rev. Richard Hobson, assisted by Rev. Fred Crisp. Interment was in the Grover cemetery.

Dissidents Seek Writ To Force Vote

Supt. B. N. Barnes and members of the Kings Mountain School Board are to appear in court July 17 to file answer to a complaint brought against them Friday by dissident school patrons call for a writ of mandamus.

The writ, if granted, would force the group to call an election on abolishing the 20 cents per \$100 valuation supplementary school tax in the area annexed to the city school unit on May 14, 1960.

The suit was filed after action by the board Thursday rejecting a petition by the dissident group calling for the election.

The board ruled the petition invalid, acting on advice from the state attorney general, T. W. Bruton.

The petition, containing signatures of 93 alleged residents of the area, called for an election only in the outlying area and alleged to show the signatures of 25 per cent of the qualified voters of the district.

The attorney general, in a letter to Supt. Barnes ruled that the Kings Mountain administrative unit is one complete, cohesive unit and any election must concern the entire unit.

He further stated that 25 per cent of the voters of the entire unit must petition for such an election to make an election order mandatory.

The suit was filed in Superior Court Friday by W. A. McSwain and H. A. Dover for themselves and residents in the former Grover, Bethware, Park Grace, and Compact school districts who favor abolishing the 20 cents supplementary school tax.

Defendants listed are Supt. Barnes and school board members Fred W. Plonk, H. Otto Williams, Phillip Padgett, Holmes Harry, and Mrs. Lena W. McGill.

It asks the court to issue a writ of mandamus to force the school board to call the election. A writ of mandamus is an order of the court requiring public officials to perform an act.

The complaint alleges that the defendants refusal to call an election deprives plaintiffs and petitioners of fundamental rights essential to the concepts of justice and violates the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution and also Article One, Section Seventeen, of the North Carolina Constitution, depriving them of equal protection of the laws subject to their rights of self-government as to taxation.

The petition rejected by the board Thursday was first presented to the county board of education. The county board turned it down on the grounds that the annexed area was no longer under county jurisdiction.

It was filed with the Kings Mountain Board on June 13. The board declined action on the petition until legal advice could be sought from the attorney general and from school attorney J. R. Davis, who was then ill.

Mr. Davis presented a resolution of denial of the petition to the board Thursday after summarizing up the attorney general's comments.

Supt. Barnes Tuesday was optimistic about a denial of a writ by the court, noting the attorney general's ruling in the matter.

RE-ELECTED — George W. Mauney, re-named to the board of directors of Kings Mountain hospital, was also re-elected president for a sixth consecutive term. Also elected to the board of directors was Hill Lowery, of the Bethware community.

Mauney, Lowery On Hospital Body

George W. Mauney has been re-elected president of Kings Mountain hospital for the sixth consecutive year.

Also re-elected were the other officers, Holmes Harry, of Grover, vice-president, and R. S. Lennon, secretary-treasurer.

President Mauney, along with Hill Lowery, of Bethware, were named to five-year terms on the hospital board of directors. Mr. Mauney was elected to his second five-year term, while Mr. Lowery was named to succeed Lamar Herndon.

Other members of the ten-member board and dates their terms expire are: Charles Neisler and George H. Mauney, 1962; Jack Herndon, Grover, and A. A. Barrett, Waco, 1963; Mrs. George H. Houser and R. S. Lennon, 1964; Holmes Harry and James Giberson, 1965.

The hospital board operates the hospital under dollar-per-year lease from Cleveland County.

Mrs. Plonk's Sister Dies

Funeral sites for Mrs. Lula Umberger, 52, sister of Mrs. Hal S. Plonk, Kings Mountain, were held at New London Methodist church Monday morning at 11 o'clock.

Mrs. Crowell, widow of Otha Crowell, died at 3 p. m. Saturday in a Lexington Nursing Home. She had been bedridden for six months and in ill health for more than eight years.

Surviving are her mother, Mrs. Jennie Ludwig Umberger, of Concord, three other sisters, Mrs. Frances Fisher, Concord, Mrs. Anita Cathey, Salisbury, and Mrs. Mary Belle Godthey, Christiansburg, Va., and two brothers, Wiley Umberger and Charles K. Umberger, both of Concord.

Garland Still Says City Surplus Proves Utility Rate Cuts Possible

Garland E. Still, former mayor and recent candidate for the office addressed a letter to the Herald this week in which he points to the city's anticipated surplus and re-contents the city could make cuts in utility charges.

He also says that Mayor Kelly Dixon, during the period prior to the election, along with some of the elected commissioners, agreed to pare utility rates in event the city could afford the cuts.

The letter follows: "I noticed in last week's Herald that the city will probably end up with a \$60,000 surplus. Lots of people said I was foolish for offering a 6 percent cut on utilities which would have amounted to \$35,000 per year. At that time, I knew there would be enough surplus to take care of that and more. . . In other words the \$60,000 or more surplus shows the amount the taxpayers were overcharged last year.

"In a conversation with Mr. Kelly Dixon before the Run-off, he promised me that if I supported him for a 6 percent reduction on utilities. On this basis I supported him. Before election he said he did not know whether the city could afford it or not—now he knows it can be done with half of the surplus. So we'll soon know how good campaign promises are for present administration by July 28th or adoption of Budget.

This also applies to a number of Commissioners that were also committed."

Country Club To Open Pool Clubhouse May Open By Mid-July

The new Kings Mountain Country Club swimming pool will open Saturday and officials are aiming at a July 15 date for opening of the new clubhouse.

Mrs. George Houser, a member of the house committee, said there had been a slight delay in floor work in the clubhouse but it is still possible the building will be open to members about mid-month.

Formal open house will be held later, she added.

Bob Maner is in charge of life guards at the pool who are Jimmy Plonk, Turk Falls, and Bob Munson.

The new plant replaces the frame colonial structure which had been renovated in 1947 and which was razed by fire last November.

Operating rules of the club were mailed to members recently.

The clubhouse will be open daily except Mondays, unless Monday is a holiday. Then the clubhouse will be closed on Tuesday.

The golf shop will be open daily, opening Sundays at noon Mondays at 1 p. m., Tuesdays through Fridays at 9:30 a. m., and Saturday at 8:30 a. m.

The club dining room will be open on Sundays from noon to 2 p. m., and from 6 to 7:30 p. m. It will be open, Tuesdays through Saturdays, from noon to 1:30 and from 6 to 7:30 p. m.

The Jamaica room snack bar will be open on Sundays from 3 to 9:30 p. m., and Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 5 to 11 p. m.

Accident Fatal To W. A. Harmon

W. Alex Harmon, 52, Kings Mountain farmer, died of suffocation last Thursday when a tractor-mower he was riding tilted on a bank and overturned, pinning him under it.

Mr. Harmon was operating the mower on his sisten-in-law's farm. Mrs. J. D. Harmon's farm is in the Midway Community section.

The accident occurred about 3:30 p. m. The farmer was attempting to clear a bank when the vehicle turned over. The seat of the tractor struck him in the chest, pinning him to the ground. A youth in a nearby lake saw the accident and ran to a farmhouse for help. Harmon died before assistance arrived and Coroner J. Ollie Harris said death resulted from suffocation.

Mr. Harmon, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Harmon, was a former employee of Eagle Roller Mill. He was a member of Shelby First Baptist church and Cleveland Masonic Lodge No. 202.

The funeral rites were held Saturday at 3 p. m. from Webb Chapel of First Baptist church Interment was in Cleveland Memorial Park.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mildred Williams Harmon; four brothers, Fred and Yates Harmon of Shelby, Preston Harmon of Gastonia and Flay Harmon of Spindale; six sisters, Mrs. Stacy Deedmon of Shelby; Mrs. Gladys Sheer of Erwin, Tenn.; Mrs. Nina Fite of Atlanta, Ga., and Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Lela Anthony and Mrs. Pearl Black, all of Kings Mountain.

Mr. Goforth's Rites Wednesday

Alonzo Butler Goforth, 72, of 101 Morris street, died Monday morning of a heart attack. Funeral rites were to be held Wednesday at 3 p. m. from Penley's Chapel Methodist church, with interment following in Mountain Fest cemetery.

Mr. Goforth, a native of Cleveland County, was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John K. Goforth. He was a member of Grace Methodist church and an employee of Burlington Mills.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ella Mae Caldwell Goforth; three sons, Kelly Goforth, Alonzo Goforth and Theodore Goforth, all of Kings Mountain; two daughters Mrs. Myrtle Ledbetter and Mrs. Chester Jones, both of Kings Mountain; two brothers, Crady Goforth of Grover and Dixon Goforth of Kings Mountain; three sisters, Mrs. Minnie Carroll and Mrs. Essie Burton, both of Kings Mountain; and Mrs. Bea Lattimore of High Shoals; 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Herald Will Close From July 6 To 10

Today's Herald is published one-day early, under date of July 5.

The Herald will be closed July 6-10 to provide employees a long weekend vacation.

The Herald will publish on regular schedule next week, under date of July 13.

Local News Bulletins

AT INSTITUTE

Mayor Kelly Dixon, City Clerk J. H. McDaniel, Jr. and Comm James E. Rhea attended the School for Mayors and Councilmen held at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill June 25-27. The School covered the full scope of duties of Mayors and Councilmen and was designed especially for Mayors and Councilmen just elected to office.

PRESBYTERIAN

Dr. Paul Ausley will return from vacation Sunday and will fill the pulpit at First Presbyterian church. Holy Communion will be observed during the morning worship hour.

UNION SERVICE

Boyce Memorial ARP church will conduct union services for six city church congregations Sunday night at 8 o'clock. Dr. W. L. Pressly, pastor, will deliver the message. The service will be held at Kings Mountain Baptist church. The Chancel Choir, under direction of Mrs. N. F. McGill, will sing "The Lord is My Shepherd."

ATTEND MEETING

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Childers have returned from Myrtle Beach, S. C. where they attended a five-day Roofers and Sheet Metal convention.

JOINS STAFF

Mrs. Fred Bridges, a recent graduate of the Cleveland Memorial Hospital School of Practical Nursing, has joined the nursing staff of Kings Mountain hospital.

NO FIRES

City Fireman C. D. Ware said Tuesday morning the department had had no alarms during the past week.

NO WRECKS

City police officers reported no automobile accidents within the Kings Mountain city limits during the past week.

IN NAVAL RESERVE

Jerry Cloninger and Jimmy Blanton, both of whom are Kings Mountain students at Eastern Carolina college, flew to Pensacola, Fla. Sunday for a month's duty with the U. S. Naval Reserves.

AT CAMP MEETING

Mayor Kelly Dixon attended a two-day camp meeting during the past weekend at John Wesley Camp near High Point.

COURT OF HONOR

Count of Honor for Kings Mountain district Boy Scouts will be held at Central Methodist church July 13th at 7:45 p. m.