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**Population**

Greater Kings Mountain 21,914  
City Limits 8,465

... Greater Kings Mountain figure is derived from the special United States Bureau of the Census report of January 1966, and includes the 14,950 population of Number 4 Township, and the remaining 6,964 from Number 5 Township, in Cleveland County and Crowder Mountain Township in Gaston County.

# Kings Mountain Herald

Kings Mountain's Reliable Newspaper

**14 Pages Today**

VOL. 83 No. 9      Established 1889      Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, March 2, 1972      Eighty-Third Year      PRICE TEN CENTS

## In Wake Of Trouble, "Get Tough" Policy At KMHS



**"SURPRISE" OPENS FRIDAY** — A Kings Mountain Little Theatre cast of 12 will present the two-act comedy, "Surprise" Friday and Saturday evening and again on March 10-11 in Park Grace School auditorium. Joe Ann Walker McDaniel, right above, portrays the lead character, retired actress Ella Winsley. At left is Nan Jean Grant who portrays Mrs. Winsley's housekeeper Pearl Dubbins. Both Mrs. McDaniel and Mrs. Grant are veteran Little Theatre performers, both as directors and performers. (Photo by Jim Belt)

### KM Little Theatre Play Opens Friday

**"Surprise" Cast Of 12 To Stage Two-Act Comedy**

"Surprise", a rollicking two-act comedy with a surprise finish, will open for first of four performances by the Kings Mountain Little Theatre Friday night at 8 p.m. in Park Grace school auditorium.

A 12-member cast is rehearsing nightly this week for the show which will play also on Saturday at 8 and on next weekend, March 10-11.

Joe Hullender, Jr. is directing the production.

Joe Ann Walker McDaniel, veteran of the Little Theatre as a director and performer, has the lead role of Ella Winsley, retired actress at whose home, Vermont Inn, all the action takes place. Mrs. Winsley, who never lets anyone forget her stardom as an eight-year-old, is mistaken for a chiropractor's mistress and complications really occur when the doctor develops amnesia and his wife arrives on scene along with Ella's granddaughter, her hippie boyfriend, and a patient from a local rest home. Ella further complicates things when she attempts to hide the doctor in a large built-in ottoman until he recovers from his amnesia.

Supporting roles are played by Steve Enby as the doctor; Sylvia Hanes as a New York author who is a guest of Ella's; Ella's

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### Bill Bates UF Chairman

Bill Bates, director of school-community relations for the Kings Mountain schools system, was elected chairman of the 1973 United Fund at the annual UF awards banquet Friday at the Royal Villa Motor Inn.

Marvin Teer, vice-president of First Union National Bank, was elected president and Becky Seaman, secretary in the city schools, was named secretary-treasurer.

Several individuals and companies were presented awards for their participation in last year's fund drive. Those included Mickey Bell, Bill Bates, Larry Mor-

### N. M. Farr Completed Duties Monday After 32 Years As City Fireman

N. M. Farr retired Monday after 32 years as a member of the Kings Mountain fire department.

Farr, who joined the fire department in 1940, said he now will work part-time with Harris Memorial Home.

A native of Traveler's Rest, S. C., Farr moved to Kings Mountain from Swannanoa, N. C. in 1935. He served on the city police force for 13 years and was

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### Plonk Withdraws From House Race

**KM Realtor Won't Seek Seat In House**

Hal S. Plonk, Kings Mountain realtor, said Tuesday he has asked the chairman of the county board of elections to withdraw his name as a candidate for a seat in the N. C. House of Representatives from the 49th District.

Mr. Plonk, in a prepared statement, gave "personal and business reasons" as his reasons for withdrawing from the race.

He said:

"I sincerely appreciate the encouragement and support of many of my friends throughout the District when I announced for this office. For various business and personal reasons I have found it necessary to withdraw my name from consideration and ballot at this time. I would like to thank all the people who pledged support and gave me encouragement in my candidacy."

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### Champion Leases City Stadium

The city has granted a lease on City Stadium to Carl Champion for use for slow-pitch softball from March to September.

The dollar-for-the-season provides, among other things, that Mr. Champion will arrange his schedules to accommodate the Otis D. Green Post Legion baseball schedule, that Mr. Champion will prepare grounds and maintain city stadium and otherwise assist the city recreation department in preparing and maintaining other ballparks, that Sunday games will not begin before 2 p. m. and must be concluded by 5:30 p. m. with suspensions of play during Sunday funeral services at Mountain Rest cemetery, and that Mr. Champion will pay utility costs.

Lease details were devised by a city commission committee, headed by Commissioner Jonas Bridges, in cooperation with Mr. Champion.

Mr. Champion said his softball team would play "the leaguers" of slow-pitch softball and that several tournaments are planned. Among the competition are teams who are past national champions.

The board voted to re-zone, on recommendation of the zoning board, 9.8 property northeast of Maner Road from suburban residential designation to two-family designation, on petition of J. Wilson Crawford, owner.

The board also voted to advertise for bids for a 1090-gallon pumper for the fire department.

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### 55 Have Signed Petition Seeking Atkinson Ouster

By ELIZABETH STEWART

A petition was being circulated yesterday by "Concerned Citizens" calling for the dismissal of High School Principal Jake Atkinson.

Mrs. Wilson Ledford, one of three members of a committee named at Tuesday night's meeting of 200-plus citizens to discuss the recent student rioting, said 55 signatures were on the petition Wednesday afternoon and that the committee, including Bill King, William Manning and herself, were circulating the petitions and would present them to members of the board of education.

The petition reads: "We the undersigned, being residents of the Kings Mountain school district, due to the recent trouble in our school, do hereby respectfully petition the Kings Mountain Board of Education for the dismissal of the principal Mr. J. C. Atkinson of the Kings Mountain high school. We feel new policies need to be adopted and more discipline enacted in our school."

Tuesday night's meeting at times became emotion-charged with some shouting, some accusations and some verbal blasts fired back and forth between the two dozen or more speakers and parents, a half dozen Negroes, at least three high school students and spectators.

The tempers which sometimes flared didn't match the cold temperatures in the gym where the meeting was moved to the bleachers by already-scheduled activities inside and the large crowd which overflowed the community room at the Community Center.

Those supporting Principal Atkinson argued the students were at fault and that discipline should begin in the home.

Those opposing Principal Atkinson argued he had given too many privileges to students and blamed last Thursday's student rioting and brawl on lack of control and discipline.

Grafton Withers, president of the high school student body, told the group "Mr. Atkinson trusted us and we let him down. He granted us privileges some of us don't even have at home and we blew it."

Withers drew the ire of the crowd when he interjected such remarks as "check your facts", "were you there" and "When it comes your time to speak, you can take the stand." On the podium several times, he said: "You people are afraid to admit your kids can't take it. Discipline and respect have to start in the home. How many of you white parents have told your children, don't go out and associate with the niggers?"

Steve Green, another white student, said he had seen five riots at the high school and "it's no fun." He said of Mr. Atkinson: "I like Mr. A a lot. The whole school was really scared. Mr. A is a good friend and I can't see people cutting him down for no reason."

A Negro minister Rev. Scott, pastor of New Bynum Chapel church, said: "I think Mr. A's a good man but he has to go. Society looks to one man as the leader and he must gain respect of others to lead. However, mothers and fathers, you've got to solve your problems. You can't expect Mr. A to solve the problems of

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**ASSUMES DUTIES** — M. E. (Gene) White has assumed new duties as project manager for the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission.

### Gene White Project Manager

M. E. (Gene) White of Rutherfordton has joined the staff of the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission as Project Manager.

A native of Columbia, S. C., Mr. White has been associated with Winchester-Graham Realty Company in Rutherfordton for three and one-half years. He is a 1963 graduate of the University of South Carolina with major in business administration. He served four years duty in the Navy.

The White family, which includes his wife, Drucilla, and their two children, Neil, age two and one-half and Lisa, age six and one-half, expect to move to Kings Mountain in the near future.

Mr. White was a member of the Rutherfordton Kiwanis club and the family was active in First United Methodist church.

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### To 42 Students: Fly Right... Or Be Expelled

By MARTIN HARMON

A "get tough" policy has been inaugurated at Kings Mountain high school in the wake of student rioting Thursday morning, involving an estimated 200 students, with minor incidents following on Friday and Monday.

First item in the "get tough" policy was suspension of the activity period when students were free to do much as they pleased. Another dictum was "straight-to-and-from class", with no loitering.

Additionally, Principal J. C. Atkinson addressed letters to parents of 42 students. He wrote that careful investigation had revealed that the particular students were either actual trouble-makers or agitators and that further activity in either direction would result in expulsion of the students.

In turn, the Principal invited the parents to call his office for an appointment for a conference which would include themselves, their child or children involved, and school officials to discuss the problems and seek solutions.

Schools Superintendent Don Jones said Walden Deming, one of two men on the Governor's staff who maintain liaison with the State Bureau of Investigation, the State Highway Patrol, and with county and municipal law enforcement agencies throughout the state, was called immediately after trouble erupted Thursday morning.

"SBI Agent John R. Carpenter was present at the special meeting of the board of education Thursday night," Supt. Jones said, "and promised complete cooperation in restoring and maintaining order at Kings Mountain high school."

Noting he had conferred several times prior to the Thursday incident with Kings Mountain Police Chief Tom McDevitt, Supt. Jones said he had been assured at the first meeting that the department's services were available on any moment's notice for violence or threat of violence or for other causes."

Supt. Jones added that he had been further assured that the department would maintain at the school whatever manpower is necessary as long as needed. Twenty-six officers of the city, sheriff's department, and state highway patrol answered the Thursday morning call.

Only four city officers were on duty at the school Tuesday and Wednesday.

Supt. Jones defended Principal Atkinson against the charge it was a teacher who called his office about Thursday's trouble, rather than the Principal. "I wouldn't have thought much of Mr. Atkinson had he left the trouble to telephone. The teacher who called did so at Mr. Atkinson's instance."

Supt. Jones said attendance

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**PINEWOOD DERBY WINNERS** — The three Cub Scouts pictured above were winners of the annual Pinewood Derby sponsored by 26 Cubs and Webelos of David Baptist church Friday and received handsome trophies at the annual Blue and Gold banquet. From left to right, Duane Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Brown, third place winner; Kurt Camp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Camp, first place winner; and Dan Lovelace, far right, second place winner. Den leaders are Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Don Griffin. Presenting the awards is Scoutmaster Howard Swofford.