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Population	
Greater Kings Mountain	21,914
City Limits	8,465

The Greater Kings Mountain figure is derived from the Special United States Bureau of the Census report of January, 1956, and includes the 14,890 population of Number 4 Township, and the remaining 6,124 from Number 5 Township, in Cleveland County and Crowders Mountain Township in Gaston County.

# Kings Mountain Herald

Kings Mountain's Reliable Newspaper

16 Pages Today

VOL. 84 No. 34 Established 1889 Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, August 23, 1973 PRICE TEN CENTS Eighty-Fourth Year

## Davis Challenging Biddix; Jonas Bridges Files

### Over 4,100 Students Report

#### Opening 'Smooth'; Grading Begins For Junior High

School "officially" began today for over 4,100 students in the Kings Mountain district. Orientation was held Wednesday morning at the district's five elementary schools, as well as Central Junior High, Kings Mountain High School and the Early Childhood Education Center at Compact.

Supt. Don Jones said that the opening was "smooth" and that he doesn't foresee any major changes due to overcrowded classrooms, etc.

One addition to the programs at three schools this year are state-supported kindergarten programs. Those programs are located at Grover and North elementary schools and the Early Childhood Education Center with 24 students enrolled in each class. Jones pointed out that it's the aim of the state board of education to have state-supported kindergarten programs for all five year olds by 1978.

Jones said that kindergarten and first grade students will be released at 12 noon each day until after the Labor Day break.

Full school days, he added, will operate during the following hours: 8:30 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. for kindergarten through grade six; 8:30 a.m. until 2:52 p.m. for Central Junior High School; and 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for Kings Mountain High School.

Meanwhile, grading work has begun at the site of the new junior high school, which is hoped to be completed in time for the start of the 1974-75 school year.

Improvements at several elementary schools and construction of an auditorium at Kings Mountain High School are also on the building plans for the near future.

Steel contracts have been let but Supt. Jones pointed out at Monday's monthly meeting of the board of education that unless the delivery date is quickened, it could delay the start of actual construction.

Jones pointed out that the board hopes to let building contracts early in September.

In addition to the three state-supported kindergarten programs, Kings Mountain will have two Title I kindergartens and two year-round Head Start programs. Jones pointed out that all of these programs combined serve approximately 50 percent of the five year olds in the Kings Mountain school district.

Curriculum changes have been held to a minimum since the schools in general, and KMHS in particular, featured many subject changes last year.

"We did a lot for us as curriculum changes last year," pointed out Jones, "so this year there will be very few changes. We may have more team teaching, but this will be left up to the individual schools and teachers."

The faculty has been complete for several weeks.

### Elmer Lumber Co. Closing After 53 Years In Business

By GRACE HAMRICK

Elmer Lumber Company, very much a part of the economy picture of Kings Mountain for more than half a century, is going out of business.

D. M. Peeler and B. S. Peeler, Jr., owners of the company, have announced that the scarcity of materials and narrow margin of profits, plus inflated prices, brought on the decision to close down the business. The 15 acres of property, all buildings and equipment will be offered for sale with the National Sales System of New York, represented by Leon Shaw, already in Kings Mountain to help organize the sale. It is expected to take 30 to 60 days to finalize all transactions.

Founded in December 1920 by J. B. Thomasson, there were 13 original stockholders, including Mr. Thomasson. Others were: W. F. Peterson, J. P. Kiser, E. L. Campbell, John O. Plonk, J. H. Lloyd, F. D. Herndon B. D. Rat-ree, M. Elmer Herndon, J. H. Savage, Harry Falls, M. L. Plonk and L. A. Kiser.

And how did the company get its name?

B. S. (Sonny) Peeler says the original stockholders got together to establish the company and when the question of what to call it came about they put the names of all stockholders in a hat, pulled one out, and it belonged to the late M. Elmer Herndon... thus the firm's name of Elmer Lumber Company was born.

Charles F. Thomasson joined the company in 1924, followed in December 1927 by B. S. Peeler, Sr. Drace M. Peeler joined his father in 1944 and B. S., Jr. in 1949 with the two brothers becoming sole owners in 1972.

An integral part of the local business district, the company has carried a complete line of building materials, millwork, paint and hardware. Business boomed in the 1940's with World War II and its biggest contract came in 1942 when the company manufactured all window screens for Fort Bragg, and Ft. Jackson, S. C.

Also in the 40's, the business

furnished all materials for all houses on the Plantation Pipe Line all the way to Louisiana. Prosperity continued in the 1950's when all priority contracts were given by the government, which included a number of small houses.

During the 1940's and '50's, and into the '60's, around 90 persons were employed by the plant when lumber manufacturing was at its peak. Of the current 11 employees, all have been placed in other businesses or have something in mind to do. They have known for three months that the close-down was coming.

Among the equipment is an old steam engine, over 100 years old, Sonny Peeler says, and was used to generate steam for all the plant's machinery.

The old whistle, distinctly remembered by old-timers who used to set their watches and clocks by it at 7:30 a.m., 12 noon 1 o'clock and 4:30 p.m., has been in the possession of Sonny Peeler since it was still a few years ago. That piece of history will be transformed into a lamp, he says.

A complete planing mill with all acreage and buildings on the sprawling site at 204 West Ridge Street.

Asked for his feelings on closing down, Sonny said, "I've enjoyed every minute of it and we appreciate everything folks have done for us."

He also said he and his brother have no immediate plans for the future.

### Two Arrested For Possession Of Marijuana

Kings Mountain police made two marijuana arrests during the week and both cases are set for the Sept. 6 session of district court.

Ptl. Garland Edwards, Ptl. Joe King and Ptl. Jimmy Dickey arrested William Parker, 20, of Chestnut Ridge Road, Sunday in the parking lot of the Otis D. Green Post 155 American Legion and charged him with felonious possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

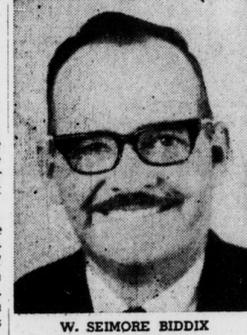
According to police, the three officers stopped Parker on a routine check and found 12.65 grams of marijuana under the right front floor mat.

Officers said two other persons were with Parker but they weren't charged. Parker's free on a \$500 bond.

Possession of more than five grams of marijuana is a felony.

In a separate incident, Edwards and Ptl. B. P. Cook charged Elizabeth Dye of Meadowbrook Road with simple possession of marijuana after they spotted her car parked on Jackson Street. A male subject in the Dye car was not charged.

Miss Dye is free on a \$100 bond awaiting the Sept. 6 hearing. Simple possession of marijuana is a misdemeanor.



### First Candidates Pay Filing Fees For Coming Vote

A contest developed Tuesday for city elective office Tuesday, as incumbent Ward 2 Commissioner, W. Seimore Biddix filed for reelection Tuesday morning and former Commissioner Lloyd E. Davis filed Tuesday afternoon.

Incumbent Ward 5 Commissioner Jonas R. Bridges filed for reelection Monday.

Comm. Biddix is completing his fourth term on the commission. Mr. Davis held the position from 1951-53 and has just retired after 14 years as a city water plant operator.

Comm. Bridges sees a second term on the commission. He is manager of Radio Station WKMT. He defeated ex-Mayor Kelly Dixon in a run-off, after leading the first race over Mr. Dixon, Howard Shipp and Jake Sipe. He was an army public information officer in the Korean War and is a past president of the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and Merchants association. He is a member of First Baptist church. Mrs. Bridges is the former Mrs. Denis Summerlin. They have two children.

Comm. Biddix is a representative of Sturdivant Life Insurance Company, a Mason, Legionnaire, and Air Force veteran of World War II. He is a member of East Gold Street Wesleyan Methodist church. Mrs. Biddix is the former Marie Howe. They have five daughters.

Mr. Davis said he feels his experience in the city's water operation will qualify him "to do a better job."

He is married to the former Mary Bennett. They have a son, Kenneth Davis, a daughter, Mrs. Patricia Ann Russell, and three grandchildren.

Filing deadline for the October 9 election is noon September 14.



### Misenheimer Joins Foote As Ass't. Engineer

Michael W. Misenheimer has joined the Kings Mountain staff of Foote Mineral company in the capacity of assistant plant engineer and maintenance superintendent as announced by J. C. Walker, operations manager.

Mike attended the Kannapolis schools and received his B. S. in engineering from the North Carolina State University at Raleigh in 1970. Prior to coming to Foote, he worked with Cannon Mills Company in Kannapolis. His work there included special project work, installation of machinery, electrical work, piping, mechanical construction and waste and air pollution control.

His wife, Phyllis, has accepted a position with the Kings Mountain school system. They have already moved to Kings Mountain and live at 503 Crescent Hill Drive.

"We are happy," says Mr. Walker, "to welcome Mike and his wife to our company and to our community."

### Commission Invites Bids

Mayor John Henry Moss is supporting the Better Communities Act now before the Senate Housing and Urban Affairs subcommittee.

If the bill passes as now written, the city would receive \$887,000 in the first two years and \$600,000 in the third.

The grants would be used for majority of services, including police and fire protection, sanitary sewer and water service, youth and senior citizen services and self-help for citizens needing training or re-training for employment.

The grants would not replace the present revenue-sharing program.

Benefits the Mayor foresees are development and enhancement of a safety program and assurance the city could maintain its present tax rate.

"In short," he concluded, "these grants would enable Kings Mountain to implement a program to benefit all its citizens."

He said he had discussed the bill with Representative Jim Broyhill and expects to discuss it with him further.

### Moss Supports Act For Cities Grants

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### Four Juveniles Are Arrested On Larceny Charge

Two cases of larceny involving juveniles were reported by police this week.

Pt. Donald Ivey reported that two young black males stole a tackle box and rod and reel from a garage at a home on Cherokee street last Thursday night. The items were valued at \$54.

According to police, the items were recovered at Pine Manor Apartments and juvenile papers will probably be filed against the pair.

Officers Joe King and Jim Dickey reported six or seven young black males entered Toney's store on Piedmont at 3:30 p.m. Monday and stole six or seven Spanish dagger sets. No value was listed.

King and Dickey also reported a Sunday assault on Virginia Moten of Kings Mountain. She was reportedly assaulted at the corner of Watterston and Parker streets and was treated for minor eye injuries at Kings Mountain hospital.

### Damages Result In Two Car Fires

City firemen extinguished a pair of car fires this week, one resulting in a near total loss of a Ford LTD.

Firemen received a call Wednesday at 11:50 p.m. to Floyd Street, where an LTD owned by Mrs. Robert Witherspoon of Concord was on fire.

Witherspoon told firemen he had parked the car on the side of the road while he walked to a nearby knitting mill. Witherspoon's young son was left alone in the car and when Witherspoon returned a short time later, the car was on fire.

The inside of the vehicle was completely demolished and most of the body was burned beyond repair. The motor, firemen said, was damaged only slightly.

Firemen had been called to a car fire at the corner of Cleveland and Linwood Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. but the owner of the vehicle was not listed on fire reports. The only damage was to the wiring.

### Winners At Harper Drawing Are Listed

Prize winners at the grand opening last weekend at Harper's Prescription Pharmacy as announced by Ragan Harper were:

Phillip Lefevers, Norelco hair dryer; Mrs. Wiley Blanton, Schick hair dryer; Frances Wilson, automatic percolator; Howard Roberts, portable radio; Richard Camp, Norelco hair dryer; Charles Hamilton, Lady Norelco hair dryer; and Bill Ware, Waring blender.

### Retired Foreman Of Street Dept. Dies Thursday

Funeral services for Willie Lee Erwood, 75, of 210 S. Oriental Avenue, were conducted Saturday at 2 p.m. at Sisk Funeral Home with interment following in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Son of the late Edward and Sphia Harry Erwood, he died at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Kings Mountain Hospital. He was retired foreman of the City of Kings Mountain Street Department.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Gertrude Jones Erwood; three daughters, Mrs. Juanita Legan of Greenville, S. C., Mrs. J. C. Lynn and Mrs. Donald Martin of Kings Mountain; one stepson, Carl Cressmore of Gastonia; three brothers, Jack, Harry and Livingstone Erwood of Valdese; four sisters, Mrs. Erskine Erwood Owensby of Grover, Mrs. Inez Erwood a. Mrs. Imogene Erwood of Valdese; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

### City Schools Receives Grant For \$19,743

The Kings Mountain city schools have received a quarterly grant of \$19,743 under Part A of Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, according to State School Superintendent Craig Phillips. This grant covers the period from July 1 to September 30, 1973.

According to Harold Webb, special assistant for Compensatory Education for the State Education agency, "Title I provides funds to local educational agencies for use in helping to break the cycle of poverty through equalization of educational opportunity. These funds must be used to expand and improve educational programs contributing to the special needs of educationally deprived children."

During the 1972-73 school year the state received \$56,260,998 in Title I, Part A funds. At the present time Title I is being funded under a continuing resolution and no final determination has been made by Congress about the total allocation for the current school year. The state will receive a total allocation of \$11,529,653 for this first quarter.

### WCU Graduates Four In Summer Commencement

Four from Kings Mountain were among the 340 graduates at the Western Carolina summer commencement last weekend when Dr. Raymond M. Ainsley, head of the Department of Administration and School Personnel, addressed the group.

Local graduates were: Wanda Kay Bridges, who taught school in Kings Mountain for two years, and Sara McGill Hulsey, also a former teacher, both master's degrees; Fred Albert Clemmer, Jr., husband of the former Carolyn Imogene Howard; and Jane W. Yates, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. Yates, 403 E. Parker St., both bachelor's degrees.

### Tommy Shirley Receives Grant

ATLANTA. — Thomas F. Shirley Jr., a member of the graduating class at Kings Mountain high school, Kings Mountain, has been awarded a four-year General Motors college scholarship by the North Carolina State University.

Thomas is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Shirley Sr., 611 Gantt street, Kings Mountain. He plans to pursue a course in electrical engineering.

Thomas demonstrated leadership qualities and scholastic

### Edmisten To Accompany Sen. Ervin To Democratic Unit Rally Tonight

Kings Mountain city officials are expected to join all county office holders, from the legislative delegation to county commissioners and local office holders, at the Cleveland County Democratic unit rally this evening at 7 o'clock when U. S. Senator Sam Ervin will make the featured address.

Accompanying the famed Watergate chairman to Shelby City Park for the free barbecue supper will be Rufus L. Edmiston of Boone, chief counsel and staff director of Sen. Ervin who has appeared recently on the national network of news and in Time

### Bond - Debt Merger Vote Set

The county board of commissioners has ordered, as expected, the conjunctive election for October 6 on the joint questions of issuing \$4,050,000 for county district construction of schools and whether the county shall assume the currently combined \$3,084,000 debt of the three local districts, county, Shelby and Kings Mountain.

Officials of the three districts requested the referendum.

Until January 1 Cleveland County was one of ten in the state with permission to vote construction bonds either county-wide or by districts. The election act of the 1971 General Assembly repealed the law under which Cleveland and the other ten counties had been operating.

The three school boards think the change will help to equalize educational opportunity of all the grade school children in the county.

The county board plans to build two junior high schools—

### Herald Football Contest Starting

The Herald's first football contest of the 1973 season is in today's edition.

A contest will be held each week throughout the 11-week high school campaign with fans picking the winners of 13 contests in hopes of winning the \$15 first prize.

Today's contest shows only nine games since some prep teams do not begin play until the first week of September.

Today's contest is for games of August 31 and entries must be received by the Herald no later than noon on August 31.

As previously noted, first prize is \$15. Second prize is \$10 and third \$5. In case of ties, a tie-breaker game will be used to determine the winner.

The games on tap are listed in advertisements appearing on the football contest page. Contestants are urged to read the contest rules to avoid any possible mix-ups.

### Board Votes Lunch Increase

The Kings Mountain district board of education Monday night voted unanimously to increase the price of school lunches by five cents a plate and there was some speculation that another increase would be necessary by the first of January.

The increase hiked the price of elementary student lunches to 45 cents, junior and senior high lunches to 50 cents and adult lunches to 55 cents.

Mrs. Martha Wright, director of school food services, pointed out that an increase was necessary due to the continuing increase in food costs. It marked the second straight year the board has had to increase lunch prices.

The board also talked about the possibility of a milk substitute should the schools be unable to obtain enough milk, but no action was taken.

In other action, the board:

Continued On Page Eight

### Carroll Reunion

The annual Carroll reunion will be held Sunday, Sept. 2 at Penley's Chapel Church.

SERMON TOPIC  
"Work Devotion" will be the topic of Dr. Paul Ausley's sermon Sunday morning at First Presbyterian Church.

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