

# 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, 1966, and includes the 14,990 population of Number 4 Township, and the remaining 6,924 from Number 5 Township, in Cleveland County and Crowders Mountain Township in Gaston County.

# Kings Mountain Herald

Kings Mountain's Reliable Newspaper

12 Pages Today

VOL. 84 No. 35

Established 1889

Kings Mountain, N. C., Thursday, August 30, 1973

PRICE TEN CENTS

Eighty-Fourth Year

## City Tax Valuation Tops \$50 Million First Time

### Ellison, Two Challengers File In Ward 3; Pruette Candidate



T. J. ELLISON  
Seeks Re-election



JAMES A. BELT  
Challenger



MURRAY C. PRUETTE  
Ward 6 Candidate

#### Pace Of Filing For City Office Has Quickened

The pace of city political activity quickened this week as a three-man race developed for Ward 3 commissioner and another candidate filed for commissioner in Ward 6.

Filing for the Ward 3 post were incumbent T. J. (Tommy) Ellison, who is being challenged by Corbett Nicholson and James A. Belt.

Murray Council Pruette, Jr., filed for the Ward 6 commission seat.

Already in the running for city offices were incumbent W. Seimore Biddix, in Ward 2, being challenged by ex-commissioner Lloyd E. Davis, and incumbent Jonas Bridges, who seeks re-election to a second term in Ward 5.

Comm. Ellison is the dean, of elected city officials. He is completing his tenth two-year term. He served on the commission from 1947-51, 1953-57, and from 1961-73. The East Kings Mountain grocer is a member of Grace Methodist church and former chairman of the board of trustees. He is a Mason. Mrs. Ellison is the former Roberta Ballard. They have two children.

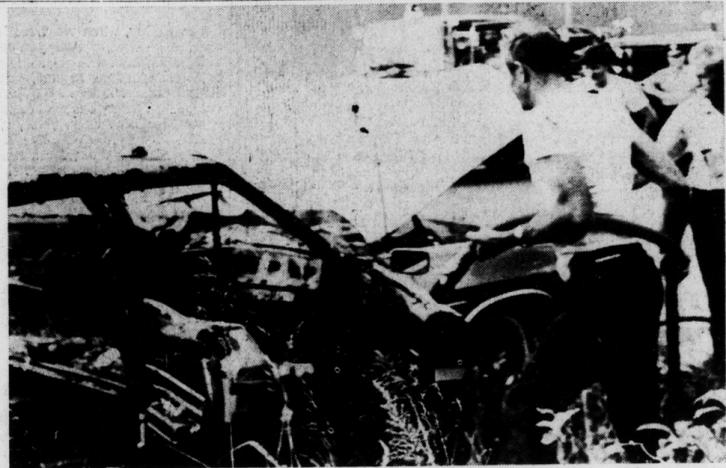
Mr. Nicholson is owner of City Heating Company and is a former superintendent of the city natural gas system. He is a member of Temple Baptist church, a World War II Marine veteran, and a Legionnaire. Mrs. Nicholson is the former Elva Holden. They have two children.

Mr. Belt, a former city policeman, is president of Belt Detective Agency, Inc. He is a volunteer member of the city fire department, and a former vice-president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. His fiancée is Freida Watterson and he has a son by a previous marriage.

Mr. Pruette has been a Southern Bell serviceman for the past 20 years and is a part-time farmer. A Grover native, he has lived here 20 years. He served with the 1st Cavalry in Korea where he was awarded the Bronze Star medal. He is a Legionnaire. He is a member of the First Baptist church where he is a department Sunday School superintendent. He is a Mason and Shriner. He attended Mars Hill college. Mrs. Pruette is the former Jo Anne Bridges. Their three daughters are Sharon, 14, Jennifer, 10, and Andrea, 2.

Mr. Pruette said his campaign motto is, "Let's keep it honest."

Filing deadline for the October 9 election is September 14.



CAR FIRE EXTINGUISHED — City fireman Gene Tignor extinguishes fire which completely destroyed a car owned by Robert Witherspoon of Concord. The car caught fire last Wednesday after Witherspoon parked it on Floyd Street while he walked to a nearby knitting mill. Witherspoon's young son was left alone in the car but was not hurt. (Photo by Gary Stewart).

#### McGill Involved In Wreck Fatal To Texas Man

A former Kings Mountain resident, Earl Edwin McGill, 54, of Blacksburg, was admitted to Charlotte Memorial Hospital Saturday for treatment following an accident on Interstate 85 which claimed the life of a Texas man.

Killed was Paul D. Norris, 27, of Humble, Tex., who had reportedly just been discharged from the Navy.

According to the highway patrol, five vehicles were involved in the chain-reaction wreck on the Catawba River bridge.

Trooper L. E. Williams said McGill was driving the wrong way on the dual-lane road and struck the Norris vehicle head-on. Norris' wife, Carolyn, and two children, Denise two, and Amy, six months, were also injured and are in unsatisfactory condition at Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

Williams said traffic was blocked for two hours while the wreckage was cleared away.

No charges have been filed pending the outcome of the investigation.

#### Building Permits Are Issued By City

City building permits were issued to the following the past week:

Harold Plonk, \$300 repairs to residence at 509 Broad street.

Robert G. Cox, \$800 repairs to residence at 212 East King street and permit to demolish utility building at same residence.

Kings Mountain city schools, permit to raze residence at 512 West Mountain street.

James E. Amos, permits to place trailers at 614 1/2 and 616 1/2 East Gold street.

SERMON TOPIC  
"A Days Work, A Days Wages" will be the sermon topic of Rev. N. C. Bush at Sunday morning worship services at 11 o'clock Sunday at Grace United Methodist church.

### Weekend Wrecks Claim Three Lives

#### Three Properties Offered For Sale

The Herald erred in its report last week of properties on which the Kings Mountain Redevelopment commission is in-viting bids.

A third property the 89 x 105 foot lot between McGinnis Department Store, is being offered for sale.

The other two are the Rail-road avenue property formerly occupied by City Ice & Coal Company, and the lot at the Battleground avenue adjacent corner of West Mountain and to Neisler Brothers.

Bid deadline is September 24.

#### Grady Howard ACHA Nominee

CHICAGO, ILL. — Grady K. Howard, Administrator of the Kings Mountain Hospital, Inc., will become a nominee in the American College of Hospital Administrators at Convocation Ceremonies to be held on Sunday afternoon, August 19, in the Grand Ballroom of Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel.

The announcement was made today by William N. Wallace, Chairman of the ACHA, a professional society comprised of 9,500 of the leading hospital and health care administrative personnel in the United States and Canada. Mr. Wallace, President, United Hospitals, St. Paul, Minn., presided at the ceremony.

The event marked the opening of the society's 39th annual meeting, traditionally held concurrently with the American Health Congress. The ACHA advanced approximately 100 Fellows and 450 Members, admitted 650 new Nominees.

#### Stanley Couple Die In Crash; Four Injured

A Stanley couple and a Kings Mountain man were killed in separate traffic accidents in Kings Mountain this week.

Norman Randolph (Randy) Flowers, 25, and his wife, Sandra, were both killed Sunday on Highway 161 south of Kings Mountain when the motorcycle on which they were riding was struck by a car driven by Wilber Glenn Perkins of 310 North Dilling Streea, Kings Mountain.

William Edward Browning of Cleveland Avenue, Kings Mountain, was killed at 3 a.m. Tuesday on Cleveland Avenue when the car he was reported to be driving was struck by a city police car which was in pursuit of a speeding vehicle.

Perkins, who was reported by Trooper M. E. Bolick of the State Highway Patrol to be traveling north on 161, was charged with driving under the influence, public drunk, improper passing and two counts of manslaughter after the wreck which claimed the lives of the Stanley couple.

Two other couples, also riding motorcycles, were injured, transported to Kings Mountain Hospital and then transferred to Charlotte Memorial Hospital. They were identified as George and Sarah Dunn, also of Stanley, and Larry and Linda Swaringen of Charlotte.

Bolick said the Flowers couple was dead on the scene. He said Perkins apparently tried to pass a north-bound car and hit the motorcycles, which were traveling south, head on.

No charges were filed in the accident which took the life of Browning.

Trooper Bolick reported that the city police car, driven by Ptl. Donald Dean Ivey of 300 1/2 South Oriental Avenue, Kings Mountain, was traveling south on Highway 161 near the Little Moo when it was approached by a

(Continued On Page Six)

#### Indicated Gain Over Past Year Is \$4,544,223

By MARTIN HARMON  
City of Kings Mountain taxable valuation for 1973 increased an indicated \$4,544,223 — nearly ten percent — over the 1972 valuation, tentative figure indicate.

City Clerk Joe H. McDaniel, Jr., noted that valuations on properties of public utilities, supplied by the State Board of Corporate Excess, have not been received. The tentative totals include utility valuations of the previous year.

The tentative valuation is \$50,973,130 compared to \$46,429,907 for 1972.

The valuation increase indicates a total city tax levy for the current year of \$433,274, or an increase of \$38,618 over the \$394,656 levy for 1972.

The taxable valuation increase reflects gains in both real and personal property holdings of Kings Mountain citizens.

Mr. McDaniel said comparative figures are not immediately available but said the \$4.5 million gain would be among the largest — if not the largest — in the city's history.

#### Friday Last Day For Tax Discount

Friday is the final day to earn discount of two percent on 1973 city and county tax bills.

The discount rate through August is two percent.

Taxes are payable at par through December.

Penalties for late payment apply January 1.

Mrs. Judy Harmon, assistant city tax collector, reported Wednesday pre-payments on city tax bills of \$60,870.

Indicated levy for the year is \$433,274.

#### City Supporting Betterment Act

The city commission unanimously approved Monday night a resolution of support of the community betterment act, now being considered in a Senate committee.

The resolution is to be forwarded to each of the 13-member North Carolina Congressional delegation.

Mayor John Henry Moss had outlined the terms of the act in its present form and said it would mean grants to Kings Mountain in the forthcoming three fiscal years, of \$2,374,000, in addition to revenue-sharing appropriations.

The board heard Don Shields, county civil defense director, outline recommendations for the civil defense program which he said "are for your study".

The commission also heard a representative of the Community Radio Watch outline the functions of the "ham" organization for community service, and granted the organization permission to install a trailer office on city property on McGinnis street, subject to vacating on notice.

The Mayor reported to the commission he is arranging a series of personnel meetings designed to better city services.

In other actions the board:

1) Confirmed street improvement assessments on Pineview drive and Cargill Forest subdivision.

2) Awarded contract for installation of two water pressure reduction valves to Blythe Brothers.

(Continued On Page Six)

### Reconnect Charge Increased To \$10

#### Delinquent Tax, Utility Bills Are Discussed

City power customers who have service discontinued for non-payment of bills—due tenth of the month—will now pay a \$10 reconnect fee, rather than \$3.

Discussion on the reconnect fee accompanied general discussion among city commission members, as advanced by Commissioner Jonas Bridges, on delinquent utility accounts.

Asked what action was being taken to collect delinquent taxes, City Attorney Jack White said all delinquent taxpayers would be notified by letter that legal action had been taken to action is impending. He said to collect the principal delinquent utilities account, a water and gas account of Mur-Glow Spinning Company, totaling \$3,936.79, of which \$926.40 is for water and \$3,010.39 is for natural gas.

Comm. Bridges asked why service was not discontinued. City Clerk Joe McDaniel, Jr., explained that water was metered to the mill, which, in turn, had served houses in the adjacent mill homes. The gas account represented service to the mill alone, which used gas to fire its boilers. (All mill-owned houses are vacant and no service has been given for the past four months.)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

#### Shelby Firm Low On Signalization

RALEIGH — Bids on highway projects which will start road improvements in 12 counties were opened Tuesday in the Highway Building here to determine the apparent low bidders.

The list of projects and apparent low bidders includes: CLEVELAND-GASTON COUNTIES — Upgrading 21 Traffic Signals \$109,159.33 — Patterson Electric Company — Shelby. FINAL COMPLETION DATE — June 1, 1974.

#### KM Rotary Club To Hear Lackey

Major William D. Lackey, North Carolina Air National Guard, of Statesville, will address members of the Kings Mountain Rotary club at their Thursday 12:15 meeting at Kings Mountain Country club.

He will speak on a program arranged by Robert L. Bradley.

Major Lackey is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he majored in Political Science. He graduated from the Air Force Pilot Training School in March, 1960 and has attended the Air Force C-121 Pilot Course, C-124 Pilot Course and the United States Air Force Advanced Survival School. He has successfully completed the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

### James Gene Owens Dies Saturday In Boating Accident On Broad River

James Gene Owens, 35, of Route 2, Kings Mountain drowned at Stice's Shoals Dam on First Broad River Saturday night after the boat overturned in which he, his brother and father were riding. His body was recovered shortly after noon Sunday by the Bolling Springs and Shelby rescue squads.

Owens, who was employed in the maintenance department of Lithium Corporation in Bessemer City, was on a camping and fishing trip with his father, Carl Owens, 71, of Shelby, and brother Jack Owens of Bessemer City, when their boat overturned, reportedly pinning the victim under the boat.

The rescue squads were notified around 7 a.m. Sunday by Jack Owens, who said he had been lost and wandering in the remote area on the river since the mid-night in an effort to help. The elder Owens was admitted to Cleveland Memorial Hospital for treatment. Rescue workers found the campsite of

the three some 300 to 400 yards from the scene of the accident on a sandbar, and the boat was still floating upside down, the styrofoam seats keeping it afloat.

Funeral services for Owens were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Clearview Baptist Church in Grover where he was a member. The Rev. Rudolph Lemmons officiated and burial was in Rose Hill Memorial Park in Fallston.

Native of Cleveland county, he was a son of Carl L. Owens Sr. and Mamie Goins Owens of Shelby. He was a member of the Cleveland County C-B Club.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his widow, Mrs. Frances Curry Dobbins Owens of the home; three sons, Gene Owens, Jr., Robert and Chris Owens of Shelby; one stepson, Ronald Dobbins of the home; one step-daughter, Robin Dobbins of the home; four brothers, Jack Owens of Bessemer City, Haywood, Dennis and Eddy Owens of Shelby.

#### Schools, Offices Many Industries To Close Monday

In a survey of offices and industries yesterday, it appears the Kings Mountain business district will be quiet on Labor Day when many Mountaineers will seek out vacation retreats when they observe their last holiday of the summer.

All federal and state offices will be closed on Monday for Labor Day while most of the merchants and business firms in the city will observe the holiday. Banks and savings and loans will be closed.

Local textile mills are divided about half and half on closings with the following to observe Monday as a holiday: BVD Textiles, Burlington Industries, Carlton Knits, Dependable Knits, Inc., Duplex International, Kings Mounaain Knit Fabrics, Inc., Kings Mills, Inc., Mauney Hierarchy Mills, Inc., and Mauney Mills.

Carolina Throwing Company's offices will be closed on Monday, although the plant will be in operation.

Plants which will work as usual include: Ideal, Cleveland, Gay, Lyn-Tex, L & L, and Can-Do Hosiery Mills; K Mills, Neisco, Inc., Park Yarn and Sadie Cotton Mill.

All Kings Mountain schools, which have been in session for a week, will observe a long weekend and following classes on Friday and students will return to their studies on Tuesday, September 4.

City and county offices will be closed, and the Kings Mountain Recreation Department will also observe a holiday.

There will be no rural or city mail route deliveries from the local Post Office, it was learned, but mail will be put up in boxes as usual. There will be no window service.

Chief Tom McDevitt, busy in the past few days with a rash of

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX



RESERVE HONORS — The city police reserves were honored last Wednesday night at a dinner at Dixie Village Cafeteria in Gastonia when 11 members of the force were presented with certificates of appreciation. Those present who received awards included, front row, left to right, Charles LaL

#### Registration Reported More Brisk For Three Forthcoming Elections

Registration books for forthcoming elections will be open again on Saturday at the Armory and City Hall.

Both Mrs. J. H. Arthur and Mrs. Nelle Canford, the registrars, reported increased registration activity last Saturday. Mrs. Arthur logged 26 new voters, while Mrs. Canford logged 13.

Under new election laws, voters must register only with the county registrar for a certification for all elections, city, district, or county.

The forthcoming elections are: October 6, county-wide election on dual questions of school debt consolidation and issuance of \$4,050,000 bonds for county district schools.

October 9, Kings Mountain city election.

November 6, Kings Mountain city election run-off, if necessary. Kings Mountain school district election.

State-wide election on questions of 1) issuance of \$300,000,000 in bonds for school construction and 2) legalization of liquor by the drink.

Willard Johnson, Jay Ashley, Thomas Ballard, Phillip Witherspoon and Ken Broome. Back row, same order, M. L. (Willie) Willams, George Hilton, Harry Martin, Mike Moss, O'Brien Ericks and James Ellis. (Gary Stewart photo).