

# KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

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## Commissioners To Consider Vote Machines

Voting machines may not be too far away in Cleveland County's future.

Following demonstrations by representatives from two manufacturing companies — Computer Election Systems and Gyrex Corporation — Monday, Jack Palmer Jr., commission chairman, commented that the elections board officials should recommend to the commissioners which system they want.

Palmer said the board would then study the situation further and make some decision. The chairman also stated that no matter what decision the commissioner reached, neither of the voting machines could be considered for this year.

"Some precincts in the county definitely need voting machines," Palmer said and added it was "inadvisable" to plan for machines at some of the smaller precincts.

Paul Vogel, elections board chairman, said the board feels the time has come for some voting machines. The elections board broached the subject of voting and vote counting machines following an all-night ballot count following the close of polls for the August 17 Primary elections.

County Manager Joe Hendrick commented Monday that the possibility of voting machines in the county is not necessarily too far in the future. Estimating the cost at under \$100,000, Hendrick commented that the capital could be raised over a couple of years.

John W. Hurd, representative of Computer Election Systems, demonstrated the firm's Votomatic system for the commissioners and elections officials. The system consists of two-components; the patented Votomatic punch-card voting recorder and the vote counter.

To vote, a computer card with punched holes slides into the slot and through holes beside a specially prepared ballot, punches a hole in the card.

To count the ballots the Votomatic, a lightweight table-top computer, reads the computer cards as they are manually fed through the machine. The computer prints out the results on paper tape.

The Gyrex Vote Tally System, demonstrated by Ed O'Day, permits the voter to mark his ballot in a conventional way using pen or pencil using an X or check mark. The ballot card is fed into the machine and counted immediately.

The machine, which takes one card at a time, also separates marred or improperly marked ballots for the attention of the precinct workers.

The two-component Votomatic costs between \$110 and \$300 for the voting component and \$1,750 for the ballot counter. The Vote Tally System costs \$3,500.

County Commissioners indicated Monday that they must think, not so much about whether voting and counting machines are needed, but to what extent should the county use them.

Meanwhile, there will be no relief for elections officials when the polls close at 7:30 p. m. Tues., Nov. 2. County voters will have seven separate ballots to mark on election day and elections officials suspect it will take an awfully long time to complete the tally.

## Bypass Allocations Announced By State

The state's new seven-year Highway Improvement Program allocates \$7 million to begin grading for the Kings Mountain By-Pass in fiscal 1979.

The program, covering fiscal years 1976 to 1983, was announced recently by the N. C. Board of Transportation.

Another \$5,500,000 is allocated for 74-By Pass grading in 1980 with another \$6 million earmarked for paving the By-Pass in 1982.

The four-lane By-Pass will be located north of the present High-

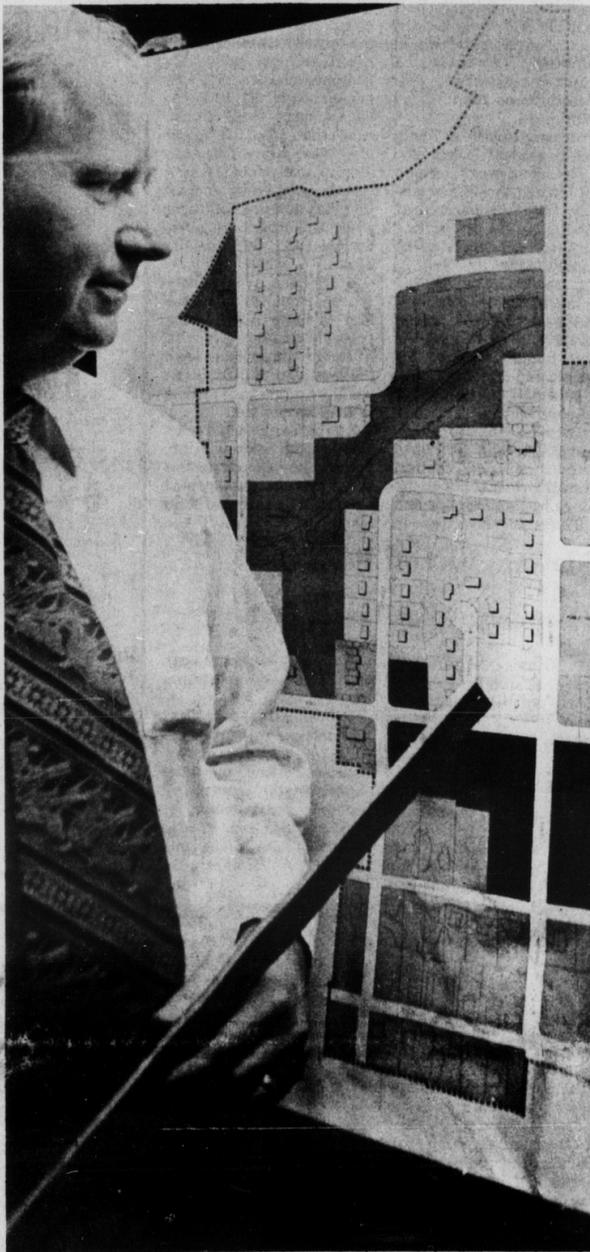


Photo By Tom McIntyre

**R-96 PROJECT OUTLINE** Gene White, executive director of Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission, checks over the Canaler St. Urban Renewal Project outline. The project is expected to be completed by Spring 1977 after four and a half years of work. The cost is \$4 million.

## B&E Attempts See 4 Arrested

Kings Mountain Police arrested four men — two on charges of breaking and entering and larceny of Plonk Brothers early Saturday morning, and a few hours later arrested two more on possession of burglary tools after an attempted break-in at Fulton's Department Store Sunday night at 11:15 p. m.

Charged with BE&L are William Stroud, Jr., 22, and Leroy Walker, 22, both of Gastonia. Charged with possession of burglary tools are Princeton Rubin, 21, and Robert Woods, 20, both of Charlotte.

Ptl. Houston Corn, on routine patrol, said he began to chase a vehicle near Plonk Brother's early Saturday morning after it ran a red light. The front door of Plonk

Brothers had been broken in at about 1:15 a. m. and reported stolen were 28 men's suits and 35 pairs of men's trousers with estimated value of \$4,026.

According to Corn, the two suspects, Stroud and Walker, fled on foot. Corn was joined by Ptl. Harry Martin, Sgt. B. P. Cooke, Sgt. Richard Reynolds, Ptl. Bill Benton and Reserve Officer Raeford White and bloodhounds were called out. Goods reported stolen were found in the vehicle. One suspect was arrested near the scene and another was arrested in Gaston County, said KMPD.

Ptl. Corn said he started following a vehicle Sunday night with its lights off on Battleground Ave., the car turned on King and the officer attempted to pull him over. The car ran the light and pulled off King and into the Bus Station parking area where it was stopped by the officer who called in Ptl. Harry Martin, Sgt. B. P. Cook, Chief Earl Lloyd and Captain Jackie Barrett for assistance. Rubin and Woods were charged with possession of burglary tools believed to be responsible for the attempted break-in a few minutes earlier at Fulton's. Ptl. Corn searched the car and found two wrecking bars and gloves which have been sent to SBI labs for comparison with marks on the door as well as fingerprints of the arrested pair to compare with prints found on the door, according to KMPD.

KMPD also charged Stroud with simple possession of marijuana and Walker with carrying a concealed weapon.

## Urban Renewal And Housing Coming Together In Spring

By TOM MCINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

When Spring 1977 rolls around four and a half years will have elapsed since the Canaler St. Urban Renewal project was begun.

And next spring the project is expected to be completed. From start to finish the Canaler St. or R-96 project will have cost approximately \$4-million.

Three factions are currently at work to complete the project; the redevelopment commission, the city and the housing authority.

The housing authority is expending about \$1.5 million on low income housing for senior citizens and eligible families. Last Friday the redevelopment commission received bids on street work for the project and after consideration expect to award those bids by November 15. Approximately 30 days later the actual construction will begin.

Currently the city is handling its portion of the work in the project, and, according to Gene White, executive director of the redevelopment commission, "it appears everything will be complete about the same time."

"The project is divided primarily into two areas of responsibility," White said. "The redevelopment commission is responsible for all street construction, plus engineering costs."

This includes removing old pavement, widening streets to 50 feet, curbing, guttering, paving and sidewalk construction. White said there is one street (Watterson off of Parker) that will be widened only to 40 feet. That portion runs about 100 feet.

The city's responsibility includes water, sewer, gas and electrical line construction. Also construction of storm drainage, clearing, grubbing and landscaping.

White said the city has already begun its initial phase of operation, the installation of a 15 inch sewer line between Canaler and Watterson Sts., just north of the designated "green area."

White said the green area will "follow the natural flow of the existing creek in the project area. We will straighten a few curves, but will not damage the natural lines of the area."

"There will be some landscaping and sloping along the creek" White said. "The plans also suggest bike and hiking trails, possibly tennis courts and picnic areas."

Plans for the R-96 project call for leaving two north-south thoroughfares — Canaler and Watterson Sts. Both of these roads will extend toward the planned state by-pass on the northern perimeter of the city.

Within the project, construction has closed Morris St., which runs east-west. Childers St. will be closed between Tracy and Watterson; Ridge will be closed between Canaler and Watterson; Ellis between Tracy and Watterson; and Tracy between Ellis and Parker Sts. only.

Rosewood, a short street off King, west of Tracy, and Davidson, another short street off King, will be closed. Both are dirt streets.

Three new streets will be constructed in the project, all to end in cul de sacs or widened circles. New housing is planned on these streets. The three streets will be off Ellis, Parker and the end of Childers St. The latter will be adjacent to the former Morris St.

White said a total of 63 new building lots will be available in the project. From within the project area in the past four years a total of 176 families, individuals and small businesses will have been relocated. A large number of substandard houses have been demolished in order for the property to be redeveloped for new residential construction.

"The largest areas of concern," White said, "as far as the city is concerned at present is sewer line construction and water line and storm drainage construction. Logically this should be done before the street work begins."

The city's electrical work is being handled by Southeastern Consultant Engineering's professional engineer Bill Little. White said this work

consists of power line relocation and upgrading the above ground power system. White said the redevelopment commission has already secured the rights of way for this work.

"We have kept the ecology of the area in mind in our planning," White said. "No trees will be removed from anywhere within the project unless it is absolutely necessary."

White said the redevelopment commission has adopted a method of construction on one street at a time, also. "This means the construction crew will tear up one street, widen it and place the base coat at a time," he said. "We do not want the entire project area torn up at one time. Working one street at a time, the

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## Gas Rates Going Up October 27

By TOM MCINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Natural gas will cost more here after October 27.

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line is increasing rates to the city and the city is considering passing along the entire cost to its customers.

Residential and small business users will pay about 18 percent more for each 1,000 cubic feet (mcf) of gas used. The percentages will vary to customers in the city's other four rate categories, but the increase will mean that all customers will pay approximately 35 cents per mcf after October 27.

This was the recommendation of William D. Edwards, the city's gas consultant, during a special city commissioner meeting Tuesday morning. Mayor John H. Moss said the recommendation will be on next Monday night's regular board meeting agenda.

Currently, Edwards explained the domestic (residential-small business) users pay an average of \$1.70 per mcf, but with an 18 percent increase after October 27, that average will rise to \$2.05 per mcf. About 35 cents more. That same approximately 35 cents increase will also apply to large commercial, industrial, interruptible and public buildings users.

Large commercial pays currently an average of \$1.82 per mcf. With the increase that average rises to \$1.97 per mcf. Industrial user average mcf cost is \$1.41; interruptible — \$1.13; and public buildings — \$1.40.

With the exception of residential and small businesses, all city customers use 50,000 mcf and more natural gas.

Edwards said he was notified about 5 p. m. Monday that another increase in gas is expected December 1, but that the increase will be about three-tenths of one cent per mcf.

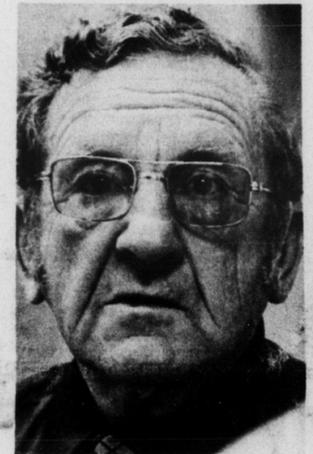
Kings Mountain is also going into its fourth year of Federal Power Commission enforced natural gas supply curtailment. This means, according to Edwards, that the city will again receive less than its contracted amount annually with Transco.

The contract amount for the year is 1,498,500 mcf or a daily amount of 4,100 mcf.

## Santa Claus Is Coming To City In Parade

Santa Claus is coming to town Dec. 7 at 4 p. m. in a Christmas parade to be sponsored by Kings Mountain Fire Department and Historical Museum.

Plans for the parade were announced Wednesday at a meeting of the Parade committee of which Jerry White is chairman and Fire Chief Gene Tignor is co-chairman. Other members of the steering committee are Becky O'Dell and Wanda Moore, co-secretary-treasurer; and Frank Van Story, Bill Grissom, Roy Pearson, Elmer Ross, Paul Falls, Police Chief Earl Lloyd, Al Moretz, Rev. Frank Shirley, Jonas Bridges, Rev. Floyd Seay, Tommy Tindall and Tom McIntyre.



W. D. Edwards

The curtailment to the city from Nov. 16, 1974, to Nov. 15, 1975 set the total amount of gas that could be supplied the city at 1,173,625 mcf or 70.3 percent of the total contract amount. During the same period from 1975 to 1976 curtailment ended by the Federal Power Commission allotted Kings Mountain a total of 861,442 mcf or 57.6 percent of the total contract.

Edwards said "apparently Kings Mountain's allotment for the 1976 to 1977 period will be about the same as the past year."

Edwards said the largest single annual amount of natural gas purchased by the city, from October 1973 to October 1974, was 1,061,006 mcf.

"There is no way Kings Mountain would ever use its total original contract amount of natural gas (1,498,500)," Edwards said, "but, as you can see, the city did use more natural gas during the 1975-74 period than is currently being allotted under the curtailment program. We've had severe curtailments and I suspect we will have more this year."

Kings Mountain can expect some help through the gas peak shaving plant constructed last year. Presently, the plant is capable of manufacturing, through propane air, about 60 mcf per hour to supplement the Transco gas.

"If you (commissioners) decide to pass along the entire increase to customers," Edwards said, "You are going to hear some fussing about the price. But, if you don't adjust your rates you are going to go broke."

Edwards said natural gas, even with the coming increase "is still the cheapest fuel anyone can buy. Oil costs 65 per cent more, propane about 50 percent and electricity 35 percent more. And coal, if you could find it, would be the most expensive way to heat."

Edwards said he would recommend a complete study of the city's gas rate system and that some method be considered that can be applied each time gas rates are increased to the city. He said there were four increases in price to the city during the past year.

He said that the Federal Power Commission is also stressing the idea of municipalities establishing a one-rate-for-all system.