

**TRAILER DESTROYED** — Local firemen battle a blaze Thursday night which completely destroyed a house trailer on Lake Montonia Road. The trailer was owned by John C. Parker but no one was injured.

Bethlehem Fire Department responded to the call at 9:43 p. m. and was backed up by the Kings Mountain and Grover departments.

Photo By Gary Stewart

## Bypass Is Slowly Moving Toward Construction Phase

Right of way acquisition along the proposed Kings Mountain by-pass is slowly progressing and according to Ken Mauney, division highway engineer, the process could take another year and a half to complete. Mauney said the project could be moved back again (as it has been for over 20 years) or remain on present schedule with bids being awarded in 1979.

About 130 homes and businesses will have to be relocated before actual construction begins on the eight-mile stretch north of the city limits. The actual construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

The bypass begins near Bethware School on the west and where the divided highway begins on 29-74 east of Kings Mountain. The bypass will run north of Spectrum Textured Fibers crossing both Cansler and

Piedmont with interchanges planned at Waco Rd., Piedmont and Highway 161 (York Rd.)

The bypass is expected to offer Kings Mountain major north-south traffic flow. At the same time it will eliminate the bottleneck of traveling through the city's business district.

The city may consider developing scenic areas bordering the bypass in conjunction with the present Cansler St. Urban Renewal project. The idea was introduced by Ralph Whitehead

and Associates, planning engineers employed by the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission.

Also in conjunction with the bypass interchanges into the city, Al Moretz, city planner, has suggested to merchants and businessmen they offer ideas of traffic planning in order for motorists who come off the bypass to have an orderly and easy ingress into the central business district.

## Strong-Arm Robbery Is Under Investigation

Kings Mountain police are investigating a strong-arm robbery Thursday night on Ridge St.

According to police, R. A. Bell, of 304 W. Ridge St., was jumped at about 9:15 p. m. while walking on Ridge Street and robbed of about \$100.

In a second holiday incident, KMPD are investigating the theft of some \$192 in cloth stolen from a loading dock at 3:30 p. m. Thursday at K Mills, Inc. on Marie St.

KMPD also reported three arrest for public drunkenness and one for assault on female during the holiday period.

## Governor-Elect Invites The Public

# 'Please Come To The Inauguration'

Governor-elect Jim Hunt this week extended a personal invitation to the citizens of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County to attend the North Carolina Inauguration in Raleigh on Sat., Jan. 8. "January 8 is inauguration day for your governor, your lieutenant governor and your Council of State," the governor-elect said, "and it will also be a people's day."

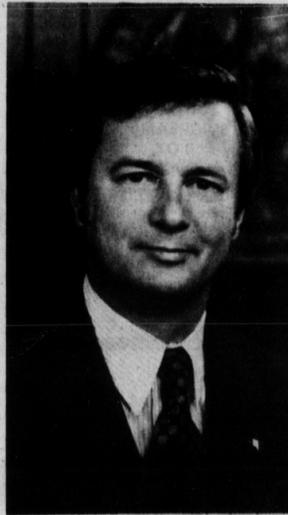
The governor-elect said the inaugural events were being held this time on Saturday so that school children and working people can attend. The activities will begin around 11:30 a. m. when Gov. James Holshouser and Mrs. Holshouser receive final military honors at the Executive Mansion on Blount St.

At about 11:45 a. m., the inaugural party will walk from the Executive Mansion to the site of the swearing-in ceremony at Bicentennial Plaza. The new plaza is located between the Capitol and the State Legislative Building. During the noon ceremony oaths of office will be administered to Governor-elect Hunt, Lieutenant Governor-elect James C. Green and members of the Council of State.

A two-hour parade will follow at 1 p. m., and people may watch the colorful event on Wilmington and Salisbury Sts. between Jones and Martin Sts. The parade will begin north of the Legislative Building on Wilmington St., head south on Wilmington St., then turn on Martin St. to Salisbury St., where it will run north again.

The final event of the day is a public reception at the Executive Mansion where the public will be greeted by the new governor, lieutenant governor and members of the Council of State.

"I want all of the people in Cleveland County to understand that no special invitation or tickets are needed for any of these events," Governor-elect Hunt said. "Sat., Jan. 8, is a day for the people of this state. Please come to Raleigh and be a part of your inauguration."



JAMES B. HUNT JR.  
... Governor-elect



JAMES C. GREEN  
... Lt. Governor-elect

## Special Noon Meeting Today

# Gas Rate Change Is Board Subject

The city board of commissioners is meeting today (Tuesday) at noon to take action on revamping of the natural gas rate structure.

The meeting was postponed from yesterday because of the Christmas holidays.

Under Gas Engineer William D. Edwards' proposal, under study by the board for several months, Feb. 1, 1977 gas bills to all users of gas, excepting residential, would reflect a rate increase of 22 cents per MCF. Southeastern Consulting Engineers

do not recommend increase in the city residential rate.

Edwards is recommending that the city immediately increase their resale rates by at least \$160,000 per year based on the 1975-76 volume sold.

The city's rates, if the new proposals are accepted today, would place its costs about 3.4 percent lower than that of Duke power.

At its Dec. 13 meeting, the city board tabled its final decision

pending another consultation with engineers.

## Hamrick's Will Open Sew Plant

Hamrick's of Gaffney will open a sewing operation in Kings Mountain about mid-January, according to a company spokesman.

Known as "The Retail Outlet Store," Hamrick's will occupy the former Sweettree plant on Waco Rd. and employ about 60 persons in the beginning, 250 as the maximum over a long period.

Lyle Williams, head of the company's cutting and sewing operation, said the operation will manufacture ladies sportswear; pantsuits, blouses, etc. "We are not planning a training program at this time," Williams said, "So we will hire only experienced sewing machine operators at this time."

Applications for jobs at the Hamrick's plant in Kings Mountain will be taken at the office on Waco Rd. from 8 a. m. until 4:30 p. m. Monday through Friday. When the plant begins operation there will be one shift per day and five days each week of manufacturing.

Williams said Hamrick's has looked at the Sweettree Mill for the past six months with the idea of opening the sewing operation. He said Hamrick's has two plants in Gaffney and one in Sharon, S. C.

"We do not plan to open an outlet operation to the public in Kings Mountain at this time," Williams said. "The main outlet operation in Gaffney handles all of the clothing three plants can manufacture."

Hamrick's began 20 years ago as a retail outlet operation, then became a manufacturer. A former farmer, Oliver Hamrick, was the founder and today Hamrick's is still a family operation.

## CBer To The Rescue

H. K. Dixon, Bethlehem Community farmer, is grateful to his CB'er neighbor who answered his call for help last week.

Mr. Dixon suffered a broken hip from falling out of his barn while feeding his animals. In an hour or so, he said he was able to crawl painfully to his truck and use his CB radio to call for help.

"Someone from Bethlehem community got my call and quickly got in touch with Mrs. Dixon," he said.

The Dixons want to say thank you to the "good samaritan," they said.

## Dog License Tags On Sale December 28

Annual sale of 1977 city dog license tags begin Tuesday, Dec. 28 and are available at the Kings Mountain Police Department or from Dog Warden Stretch Bollinger at \$2.50.

Dog owners are reminded by KMPD that all dogs are required by law to wear a dog tag. Should an untagged animal be picked up by the dog warden, the dog's owner will be required to purchase a tag before the pet is returned.