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All Others Up 22 Cents MCF

# Residence Gas Rate Unchanged

In a special commissioners meeting Tuesday the board adopted a recommended 22 cents per thousand cubic feet (mcf) of natural gas to commercial and industrial users.

W. D. Edwards, the city's gas consultant, also recommended the residential gas rate not be increased and commissioners approved no increase.

Edwards said the city has also received word Tuesday that Kings Mountain's natural gas allotment would be trimmed another 20 percent this winter.

"With the increase in rates," Edwards said, "the city can realize a profitable year. But with the reduction in the allowance, it can also be a disastrous year with no gas to sell."

The 22 cents per mcf increase, according to Edwards, will bring in just under \$180,000.

"The purchase cost of gas bought under Transco's G-2 rate was 98 cents per mcf at the time of the city's last rate increase (Mar. 1, 1976)," Edwards said. "Since that time there have been five rate increases and two rate reductions. The city's purchase cost in October was .886 cents per mcf. On January 1, 1977, the cost of Transco's G-2 gas increases to \$1.087 per mcf, an increase of 18.7 cents per mcf or 17.9 cents."

Edwards pointed out that on December 8, 1976 the North Carolina Utilities Commission made a ruling that residential customers be excluded from paying additional cost of emergency gas.

"I think this is just a taste of a coming nationwide policy of passing utility increases on to those who can pass on their increases in the marketplace. This policy is rapidly spreading over the country and

Kings Mountain should prepare for a future one-price resale gas price by revamping their rate schedule in such a way as to accomplish this by a series of stages."

The commissioners also approved Edwards' recommendations on a procedure for payment in the use of the city's peak shaving plant.

Edwards recommended that "all commercial and industrial customers, subject to curtailment under normal conditions, be given the option of accepting or rejecting the following procedure: This decision must be made at the beginning of the season for the entire winter season; all industrial and commercial gas meters subject to this procedure be read either on the first or last day of each month to determine the amount of gas used during the month. This quantity to be totaled and the percentage used by each customer determined; and the total cost of producing propane air gas, propane, electrical power, manpower and all other costs shall be determined and the same percentage of these costs shall be billed to each of the participating consumers. The percentage, in dollars, to be added to the regular gas bill of each customer.

The peak shaving plant is capable of producing about 25 percent of the city's daily gas allocation. The 1,000 mcf daily output can be used to augment the Transco supply of gas to the city.

## 1976: Looking Back.....

Old Year 1976 is fast running out of days, and the babe 1977 is just around the corner.

Kings Mountain will close out the books Friday at midnight on a new-filled year, a Bicentennial year which will be remembered by local citizens as one of the most prosperous in the city's history.

Peace, prosperity and health will be the wishes of the day as Kings Mountain area citizens celebrate the demise of one year and the beginning of another Friday, as 1976 expires at midnight.

As the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," traditional harbinger of a bright new year are played Friday night, Kings Mountain citizens can look back on 1976 and see their share of fun, happiness and sadness.

Some of the major events of the year were one-time happenings, while others were continuing situations.

The year was jammed with projects, many of which came to fruition before the year end. A 3-space municipal parking lot off S. Cherokee St. was formally dedicated in spite of a torrential rain which cancelled a mammoth Oct. 7 parade celebrating the 166th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain and prevented Jack Ford, son of the President, from keeping a speaking engagement at dedication of the Park Visitor Center.

The city's historical fire museum, the local firefighters' "pride and joy" held open house in January and the city began public hearings with citizen input on how Kings Mountain could wisely spend \$1,040,000 in 1976, earmarked for the city's housing and community development under the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and which will give the city \$4,160,000 over a five year period. The Clean Water Act contributed \$316,250 in state funds for water system expansion.

William Roper Jr. resigned as Chief of the Kings Mountain Police Department in January and in April the city commission employed Earl B. Lloyd, 42, of the N. C. Justice Academy at Salemburg. KMPD continued to make headlines throughout the spring. Ptl. Julius Burton and Former Chief Roper, were cleared by a federal grand jury in a lawsuit filed by Beaufort Trucking Co. striking employees which alleged that Burton, as a security guard while on off-duty policeman, refused to permit truck drivers to leave and enter the Beaufort premises. Streamlining of the department began under the new chief. Sgt. Lemuel (Lum) Beattie was suspended, a Superior Court judge ordered his reinstatement during an all-day hearing in Shelby, the Chief resigned under fire from the city board, Assistant Chief Jackie Barrett began Acting Chief for the second time during a period of less than six months and citizens were up in arms, the Lloyd controversy getting state-wide attention by the news and television media. After lengthy meeting following executive session, the board June 14, split 3-3, the mayor broke the tie and Chief Lloyd was reinstated. The city board voted new, more stringent dog laws and the leash law went into effect, drawing some opposition at first from citizens. Stretch Bollinger, former police dispatcher who was relieved of duties April 2 in a cut back of excessive manpower, ordered by the board, became the city's first dog warden, on May 24.

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## Jones Resigns

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff Writer



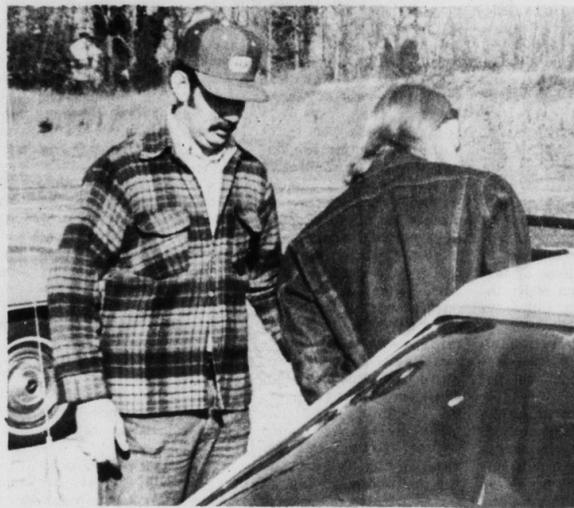
DONALD D. JONES  
... going to Asheville

Donald D. Jones, 43, superintendent of Kings Mountain District Schools for 10 years, is resigning, effective July 1, 1977, to return to his native city of Asheville as superintendent of Asheville City Schools.

Jones' resignation was accepted "with regret" by the Kings Mountain Board of Education meeting in a special called session Wednesday at 2 p. m. The board is expected to name his successor within the next two to three months.

The Asheville system of 12 plants has a student population of 6,400 compared to Kings Mountain's eight plant system and student population of 4,200.

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MARIJUANA ARRESTS - (above) Kings Mountain Police Ptl. Houston Corn places Mike Holland in the patrol car following Holland's arrest Wednesday at 127 McGinnis St. for simple possession of marijuana. (Below) Ptl. Ralph Grindstaff places Henry Clayton Means into a patrol car following Means arrest at Kings Mountain Inn Wednesday. He was charged with two counts of possession of marijuana for sale and/or distribution and one count of possession.

Photos By Tom McIntyre



## School Is In For Officials

A series of four meetings is scheduled for the mayor, commissioners and city management and supervisory personnel beginning Tues., Jan. 4.

The subject is management and supervisory training course, which includes study of textbooks on how to control your time and your life, managing organizational conflict and reader for governmental management development.

Mayor John H. Moss told commissioners Tuesday that certificates of completion will be awarded by Cleveland County Technical Institute.

The January 4 meeting is scheduled at city hall from 5:30 to 7 p. m. The other three classes, January 11, 18 and 25, will be held from 5:45 to 7 p. m. at city hall.

Meetings for the city's personnel, recreation, public works building and water and sewer committees have also been scheduled next week.

At noon Mon., Jan. 8 Commissioners Humes Houston, chairman, and Commissioners Norman King and James Childers will hold a personnel committee meeting at city hall.

Mon., Jan. 8 at 7:30 p. m. the recreation committee, chaired by Commissioner Bill Grissom, will meet with King and Childers.

Tues., Jan. 4 at noon the water and sewer committee, Commissioner King chairman, meets at city hall and at 7:30 p. m. the public works building committee meets. Commissioner Childers is chairman and Commissioners King and Fred Wright Jr. are members.

The meetings will be for the city in 1977.

## KMLT Plans 'Harvey' As Next Play

Kings Mountain Little Theatre will conduct try-outs for "Harvey", a three-act comedy, Jan. 3-4 from 7:30 until 9 p. m. at Park Grace Auditorium.

There are six roles available for men, six for women and numerous jobs open for back-stage assistance, according to Joe Ann McDaniel, who will direct the upcoming production by Mary Chase.

"Everyone is invited to participate," said Ms. McDaniel.

# To Modernize The Local Department Police Seeking LEAA Program Grants

By TOM MCINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The Kings Mountain Police Department is submitting grant applications totaling \$127,038 for Law Enforcement Assistance Administration programs.

Commissioners authorized the applications in a special meeting Tuesday.

The applications were prepared by Police Chief Earl Lloyd and are for five separate programs to augment and support police activities.

The programs include a research and evaluation bureau, evidence technician and crime scene search equipment, crime prevention bureau, police legal advisor and local records system and crime reporting.

Recently the department was granted LEAA funds of \$18,000 for communications equipment and \$14,448 for a Youth Bureau within the department.

Chief Lloyd said the research and evaluation bureau would put the police department on a solid operational basis using the talents of a four-year college business administration degree holder.

"We have such a man within the department," Lloyd said. "The guidelines call for such a man, who can be either a sworn officer or a civilian. We feel that using a man within the department would be more beneficial. He would already

have an understanding of the needs in planning."

Duties would include compiling monthly, quarterly and annual reports for the chief, mayor and board and these reports, according to Lloyd, are absolutely necessary in budgetary planning, manpower allocation, crime analysis, departmental needs, community needs in law enforcement. The bureau man would be involved in the short and long-range departmental planning for the future.

This grant application is for \$16,845; federal share is \$15,160, state and city, \$845, each.

Application two, evidence technician and crime scene search equipment, would also give one of several qualified men on the local force an advancement.

"This individual, if the grant is approved, would acquire necessary skills and abilities to effectively search for, identify, record, collect, preserve and otherwise process evidence of serious crimes," Chief Lloyd said.

In North Carolina today small police departments do not have in-house capabilities such as the ones described above. Physical evidence must be submitted to the SBI and FBI labs. The time it takes to process and identify something like fingerprints can take as high as two months. The average turnaround time, according to Lloyd, is 25 days.

"If this grant is approved," Lloyd

continued, "we would have a mobile crime lab completely equipped to take the technician to the scene of the crime. It would mean complete darkroom equipment, including color processing. Many times color photos can make the difference in court when involved in assaults and crimes of violence."

This application is for \$40,749; federal, \$36,673, state and city, \$2,089 each.

The crime prevention bureau grant, if approved, would allow for an extension of a present on-going program and would allow for a full-time officer. According to Chief Lloyd, this officer would be a public relations man, a liaison between the department and the public.

"The CPB officer would urge citizens to participate in crime prevention by educational means," Lloyd said. "He would provide demonstrations of security devices for homes and businesses, conduct security surveys of both. Such an officer would also be important in developing crime analysis data for the patrol and investigative divisions.

"In effect," Lloyd continued, "he could predict trends in criminal activity. This officer would also work very closely with the youth bureau and the narcotics and drug abuse programs by educating the citizens, from elementary through high school and in the community."

Equipment would include a van-

type vehicle which could be used to set up displays and provide crime prevention educational materials through the community.

Chief Lloyd said this program would be an extension of the Community Watch project, now being co-sponsored by Citizens On Patrol and Emergencies (COPE). He said the CW program would have fallen on its face were it not for the volunteer CB group.

Again, a man within the department would be considered for this job.

The grant application is for \$31,970; federal, \$28,772, state and city, \$1,569 each.

Chief Lloyd said the fourth application, a police legal advisor, is being submitted under a 1976 LEAA program which has been dropped for 1977. "I discovered there were funds left in this program," Lloyd said, "so it is possible the department can obtain them."

The chief said a fulltime legal advisor would greatly assist officers in performing their duties. The advisor would aid officers on legal points involving such things as laws of arrest, search and seizure and presentation of evidence in court. He would be available for training and consultation on any matter concerning police activity.

The qualified man does not have to be a member of the bar association, but a law school graduate.

This grant application totals \$15,724; federal, \$14,148, state and city, \$788 each.

The final application is for a local records system and crime reporting. Chief Lloyd said "One of the major products of effective law enforcement is the accumulation of a mountain of paper work and the effective use of this is only as good as our ability to find it when we need it."

The grant would provide a modern record keeping system which would provide data to officers in minutes; records of police activity, documents needed in court, the accountability of property and valuables.

"This position would be filled by a civilian," Chief Lloyd said, "someone hired from outside the department."

The application is for \$11,760; federal, \$10,870, state and city, \$589 each.

Chief Lloyd said should all five of these applications be approved and added to the \$32,448 in grants already received, the police department will have amassed a total of \$159,486 in grants with the city's participation totaling only \$7,481.

"And with the programs implemented," he said, "Kings Mountain would have one of the most efficient law enforcement agencies in the state."

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