

Looking Back.....

(From Page 1A)

Politicizing warmed with the weather.

Gardner Webb College President Eugene Poston quit his job to run for the U. S. Congress and lost in his bid for the Democratic nomination won by Dr. Jack Hunt, Lattimore farmer and dentist, who was defeated by incumbent James Broyhill of Lenoir, reelected to eighth term in the U. S. Congress.

Incumbent Josh Himant lost his bid for re-election to the county commission but J. Ollie Harris won his seat in the N. C. Legislature. Dean Westmoreland, Kings Mountain teacher, decided not to file in a run-off for a Senate seat against Helen Rhyme Marvin of Gaston County.

Hard-hit by the economy, Roses Stores in downtown Kings Mountain, closed its doors June 26 but there was good news that Blazer Construction Co. would construct and open in early 1977 a two-story retail and office complex on the mini-mall property adjacent to Roses'.

Preliminary negotiations were underway by a Charlotte realty firm for construction by summer of '77 a third shopping center on E. King St. and it was subsequently announced plans by Harris Teeter for relocation on the site.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the \$6 million Cansler Street Project was begun at one of the four sites for new construction of 36 units of public housing at the corner of W. King and Railroad Ave. with a total

of 78 of the new units now under construction, bringing the total units to 290, 104 for the elderly and 186 for families with children.

The city commission broke ground for water expansion improvements estimated to cost \$1,600,000 for which federal grants have already been approved.

The city formally adopted a \$5.7 million budget and the Department of Housing and Urban Development approved a 15-item proposal under the community development program for its second million dollars okayed under the CD grant.

"Then Conquer We Must," an historical outdoor drama, scheduled for presentation during the summer, was postponed.

COPE, Citizens on Patrol and Emergency, was organized with Sam Tesenar as president.

Kings Mountain landed another big industrial citizen with announcement in July that Union Underwear, a division of Northwest Industries, will begin operation.

Eaton Corporation on Grover Rd. began accepting applications for employment.

The downtown site, popularly known as Centennial Square, was sold to a law firm and building is underway at the site by the law firm of Harris and Bungardner.

In a surprise move in July, city commissioners cleaned house at City Hall, terminating the services of

R. B. Leonard, Boyce Sanders and Dennis Fox, named George B. Thomas as city attorney.

July saw the birth of another first for the Kings Mountain Program for the Elderly and Handicapped as the CD funded program began delivering hot meals to the homes of the elderly and handicapped.

Leonard P. Bloxam was hired as the city's new superintendent of public works to replace Black Leonard but never reported for work.

Alvin B. Moretz, 29, came out of the basement of City Hall where he had been directing the city's community development fund programs, to take on the job of codes administrator, building inspector and CD director.

Wise Industries, Inc., manufacturer of textile machinery, became an industrial citizen in August.

Kings Mountain citizens went to the polls in record numbers to take part Aug. 17 in one of the most hotly contested Primaries in history of North Carolina with no less than nine choices for the Governor's race, 10 choices for the Lieutenant Governorship and seven choices for three seats in the 26th Senatorial District, where most local interest was centered.

Our neighbors in Grover made news with announcement that Dr. E. Graham Forrest of Winston Salem will open offices for practice of dentistry and that local merchants would spruce up the town, renovating City Hall and the fire station and giving an Old Charleston decor in a big beautification effort.

Kings Mountain Police and COPE launched a highly successful crime prevention program which

has been lauded by Chief Earl Lloyd in cutting incidence of break-ins in the city during the past six months.

Norick Brothers, Inc., a national corporation that prints business forms, announced in September plans to move its \$1.5 million operation to Kings Mountain.

Local voters returned to the polls in a second primary in September.

President Ford was invited by Kings Mountain for the second time to attend celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain. He sent his son, Jack, but inclement weather wouldn't allow Jack's plane to land at Charlotte's Douglas Airport.

The final major Bicentennial celebration for North and South Carolina was held in Kings Mountain Oct. 7-9, a three-day program plagued by rains but which drew Governors from both states, beauty queens from both states, the Overmountain Men, and crowds to town. In spite of the weather, the two governors toasted each other with mountain spring water at the state border near the park and spoke at dedication services of the Park Visitor Center, moved to B. N. Barnes Auditorium because of the rain.

Bethware School dedicated a handsome new addition and also welcomed 81-year-old Ronald Nanney as the new principal succeeding retiring Evans J. Evans.

Gas rates went up in October and before the new year begins, the rates go up again.

When Spring 1977 rolls around four and a half years will have elapsed since the Cansler St. Urban Renewal project was begun. And next spring the project is expected to be completed.

Applications were sent to the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for full funding for construction of a governmental services building, a new City Hall, and the city has been selected by EDA for grant review. Kings Mountain citizens helped elect Jimmy Carter President, Jim Hunt

Governor and Jim Broyhill Tenth District Congressman.

Ron Tompkins, Eaton Corporation executive, became the leader of a new Junior Achievement program for young people in Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain United Fund exceeded its \$30,000 goal by \$16,000.

Local citizens got their swine flu shots at the Community Center.

"Be A Lifesaver" was theme of a joint Kings Mountain and American Red Cross Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation program launched to have 75 percent of the city's population knowledgeable in methods for saving the lives of their fellow man in emergencies.

The gypsies hit town about 4 p. m. on Monday, Nov. 8th, a day the KMPD won't soon forget.

Santa Claus came to town for a big parade sponsored by the Kings Mountain Fire Department and the old Southern depot, which "ain't what she used to be," will all be changed soon, thanks to Community Block grant funds which will transform the depot for community use.

Sadness came to many families as many familiar faces departed the scene, including N. Fuller McGill, Herman L. Campbell, W. W. Tolleson, Joe Thomson, W. M. Morehead, George W. Mauney, Harold Coggins, Mrs. F. R. Summers, Howard Stokes Wright Jr., and J. Lee Roberts, veteran magistrate who died a month after he retired Jan. 1. Leukemia claimed the life of 9 year-old Shirley Moore.

The city recorded the first auto-train accident of

BVD's old Phenix plant, a landmark, was razed.

Kings Mountain Bicentennial Commission sponsored events celebrating America's 200th birthday, including the big party on Oct. 7, complete with rocking chair marathon, a heritage tour of homes, a heritage music show, "Remember 1776-1976" which was presented again for the American Legion and Auxiliary in July, and monthly Bicentennial Open Forum Programs.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra performed in B. N. Barnes Auditorium and Myrtle Hall, talented black with the Billy Graham Crusade, sang in the KM Youth Encounter for Christ.

Jerry King became the Chamber of Commerce first executive director.

New safety crossing guards were put in operation at W. Mountain St. and Battleground and Gold and Battleground crossings.

Ben F. Moomaw retired after 41 years service in the national park service.

In December KM funeral director J. Ollie Harris announced that as of July 1, 1977 Cleveland County funeral homes will officially be out of the ambulance service.

The Kings Mountain Senior Band was invited to participate at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. April 18, 1977 and accepted invitation, and raised some of the funds for the trip at a winter concert which featured bandmen dressed in Disney costumes.

The city recorded the first auto-train accident of

the year December 6, 1975. No one was injured.

Perry Dean Bristol, 20, was charged with the murder and robbery of James Luther Rayfield, a service station attendant, on December 13, 1975.

Officers were still investigating the murder-rape in Kings Mountain of a Cleveland County fair worker in October.

Christmas decorating ideas paid off for 12 Kings Mountain home owners who copped prizes in the

first annual contest sponsored by the newly-formed KM Appearance Commission.

KM Redevelopment Commission awarded general contract for completion of the Cansler St. Urban Renewal Project to Champlon Landscaping and Excavating Inc.

And, the Mirror-Herald staff made news with publication of the newspaper twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning November 22.

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