

# KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

## Cecil Owens Raises Flag Final Time

### So Long, Stars 'n Stripes.....



**UNFUELS OLD GLORY** — Cecil Owens unfurled Old Glory for the final time at 6:15 this morning, his last day on the job at Burlington's Phenix Plant. Cecil is 85-years old today and plans to retire to his hobbies, flower gardening and fishing.

Photos By Tom McIntyre

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

At 6:15 this morning Cecil Owens celebrated three things; his 65th birthday, unfurling Old Glory for the last time and saying so long to his place of employment for 30 years. Cecil Owens will awaken tomorrow a retired man.

What does a machinist, who learned his trade as a man of 28 at Clemson University and spent 30 of his 37 years as a resident of Kings Mountain employed at Burlington Industries' Phenix Plant, do when he retires?

"He goes back into the nursery business," Owens said. "I had gotten out of the flower gardening business, but a friend of mine, Fred Bridges, a postman, talked me into getting back into business with him."

Owens and Bridges are neighbors on W. Gold St. and Bridges had long admired Owens' phenomenal success with growing azaleas, camellias and boxwoods. When Owens said he was going to retire Bridges went to work on him to create another business, the business of operating a nursery.

This will take part of Owens' time, but the rest of the time he plans to sit on the banks of his private lake "drownin' worms and tryin' to catch fish."

Thirty-seven years ago if Cecil Owens had been able to find a room to rent in Gastonia this story would have been about someone else.

"I had a job there at Gossett Machine Company," he said. "And I would have stayed there if I could've found a room. Instead, my wife suggested we come to Kings Mountain where she had an aunt and see if she couldn't help us find a place to live."

Mrs. Owens is the former Certe Anderson of Pickens, S. C. and her aunt in Kings Mountain was Lucy Davis.

"When we got here Mrs. Davis said she didn't know of any rental homes, but of several homes for sale," Owens said. "She reasoned that if I could afford to rent a home I could afford to buy one. Our first

home was on Shelby Highway west of town. Next we lived in the Ebenezer Community and for the past two years we have lived at 900 W. Gold St.;

When Owens lived on the Shelby Highway he built himself a greenhouse to house his flowers. When he moved to Ebenezer the greenhouse was torn down and he "just never got around to building another."

"I've been planting my azaleas, camellias and boxwoods in the trees since that time," Owens said. "And I've managed to sell quite a few flowers over the years."

Cecil Owens is a native of Jackson County. His family moved to Pickens, S. C. when he was 15 years old. "I stayed there long enough to get into trouble," he laughed. "I met Miss Gertie and we got married."

In the late 1930-s Owens enrolled in Clemson University to become a machinist. When World War Two was declared he had just gone to work at Gossett Machine in Gastonia. "Because I was a machinist, each place I was employed during the war got me deferred for defense work," Owens said. "I worked in Gastonia, Cherryville and Bessemer City before I finally found a 'home' here at the Phenix plant."

Several years ago there were three men working on the first shift in the machine department. One of those three, Cecil Champion, had the job of raising the North Carolina and American flags each morning. When Champion was transferred to another department, Cecil Owens took over the job of raising the flags, and he has done this for the past several years.

"It just became something I did each morning right after I came to work," Owens said. "I never thought about it, I just did it."

He didn't say, but he gives the impression he will miss that pleasant little duty.

**SO LONG, STARS 'N STRIPES** — Owens walks away from the flagpole and the billowing colors for the last time. When his first shift machine shop jobs ends at 2 p. m. today he goes into retirement.



## PW Building Planned

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

City Commissioners are shooting for May 2 as the beginning date for construction on a new 18,984 square foot public works building.

In a special called meeting last Friday, the board approved and accepted architectural plans for the two level building from Holland-McGinnis Associates, professional architects of Shelby.

The construction bids are expected to be advertised beginning March 24, received and opened on April 14, awarded by April 15 with construction to begin by May 2. Three months is the projected time for the completion of the building.

The original bid contract will be for the footings and enclosure of walls and ceiling. The city plans to handle the inside construction, wiring, plumbing and heating construction.

Marvin Baugham of Holland-McGinnis said the projected cost for the structure prior to the city's work is \$6.75 per square foot or an estimated \$128,250. This price does not include the proposed garage area to be on the public works building site.

Commissioners said Friday they expect plans for the garage to be approved during the construction phase of the building and work started on the garage during the summer months.

The garage will be a large working area, an office and toilet facilities contained in 2,240 square feet.

The Public Works Building will contain 15,344 sq. ft. on the first level and 3,640 sq. ft. on the second level. The upper floor will not run the entire length of the building.

Maugham said plans call for offices downstairs for the building inspector, water-sewer supt., street

sanitation supt., electrical dept., gas dept. and cemetery dept. Plus a woodworking area, supply storage and reception areas.

On the second level will be offices for the city engineer, public works secretary and a conference room.

The building will have a 112 foot front and 138.9 feet of length, including an eight-foot wide loading dock on the rear of the building.

The push is on to construct the new public works building because the present PW site is in the Candler St. Urban Renewal area and the site must be cleared in order for the

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### On Drug Charges

## Six Are Arrested

Six persons have been arrested on drug charges stemming from a lengthy undercover operation here involving four area law enforcement agencies.

Five persons were arrested last Thursday and a sixth on Friday. A total of 15 warrants were drawn for selling a controlled substance and

possession of a controlled substance for sale.

The undercover officers were from the Kings Mountain, Shelby and Forest City police departments and the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

Arrested were: Richard Steven Whitley, 21, at his home, 802 Meadowbrook Rd. on two counts of possession of a controlled substance for sale with intent to sell or deliver.

Lucy Mae Young, 40, at her home, Apt. 25, Chesterfield Court, on one count of selling a controlled substance.

Debra Lynn Holland Ross, 21, of 861 W. Warren St., Shelby, on four warrants, two counts each of selling a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Michael Anthony Stowe, 18, arrested at home, Apt. 29, Chesterfield Court, on one count each of selling a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Stanley (Fred) Bridges, 17, of Rt. 2, Kings Mountain, arrested at his place of employment, Falls Exxon, on one count each of selling a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Henry Clayton Means Jr., 21, formerly of Kings Mountain, now residing in Gaston County, arrested by KMPD Officer Tommy Gladden and charged with two counts each of selling a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

All six were placed in the Cleveland County Jail and placed under \$1,000 bond on each warrant against them. All have been freed under bond.

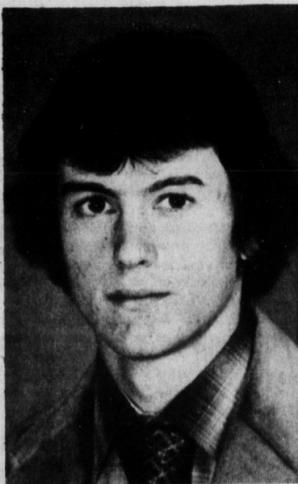
## Morehead Winner

Christopher Michael Holmes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Holmes of Kings Mountain and senior student at Kings Mountain Senior High School, has been awarded a four-year Morehead Scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill valued at \$11,000.

He is among 66 high school seniors who are recipients of the coveted awards following an extensive screening process that began last Fall and culminated in Chapel Hill last week in competition with finalists from North Carolina and 19 other states plus two foreign countries.

A Rutherford County High School senior, James Edward Grogan, Jr., was only other recipient in this area.

Holmes was cited for his high academic standing, leadership qualities, service to school, church and community, in addition to other achievements. At KMSHS, he is secretary of Student Council, active in National Honor Society and participated in All-State Band.



CHRIS HOLMES

## Rabies Vaccine Urged In March

Cleveland County Health Department will sponsor a rabies clinic at City Hall Sat., Mar. 26, from 4:30 until 5 p. m.

After this date the area will be

checked for non-vaccinated dogs and those animals found not wearing proper tags, rabies, tax and identification, will be picked up by the city animal warden.

Warden Stretch Bollinger is already making rounds within the city notifying dog owners of the rabies clinic and the importance of having their dogs vaccinated.

By Theatre Friday

## Don Jones Honored



Photo By Lib Stewart

**LITTLE THEATRE HONORS JONES** — Kings Mountain District Schools Superintendent Donald Jones and his wife, Gladys, are pictured accepting a plaque of appreciation and a lifetime membership for their family in the Kings Mountain Little Theatre from LT President Jim Champion Friday night during "Don Jones Night" sponsored by the Little Theatre on opening night of "Harvey."

Friday night was "Don Jones Night" at opening of the Kings Mountain Little Theatre comedy, "Harvey," and was a surprise to the popular Kings Mountain schools superintendent and his family.

LT President Jim Champion took the occasion to present the Jones family with a lifetime membership and to give them a handsome plaque in appreciation of their service to the community. The Jones family is moving to Asheville this summer where Mr. Jones will become superintendent of the Asheville schools, his alma mater.

Citing examples of Supt. Jones contributions to the theatre, Champion thanked Mr. Jones, along with the board of education, for their help in obtaining their present LT "home," the former Park Grace Elementary School, in 1971 and being instrumental in renovations to the building. He said several members of the Jones family had taken part in various shows and assisted in backstage work. Mrs. Jones was presented a corsage.

A large crowd, including school personnel and members of the board of education, were on hand for the first show of the L-T season, the hilarious comedy, "Harvey," which continues this weekend on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 11-12, at 8 p. m. in Park Grace Auditorium, under direction of Joe Ann McDaniel.