

Abandoned Building Becomes Valuable Asset

Depot Center Is Dedicated

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Southern Railroad personnel and passengers hurtling through Kings Mountain over the past few years have probably gotten the idea that this is the celebrating community this side of the Mississippi.

These passersby traveling the twin steel rails to who-knows-where have witnessed dancing in the streets and parades and musical concerts and stage shows.

Last Saturday Southern Railroad's engineers and other train personnel took a little more interest in the goings on as they came through about 11:15 a. m. because this time the celebration was being held at the former Southern Depot.

The depot don't look like it used to because the city has spent about \$147,000 in Community Development funds plus a lot of city employe and volunteer group manhours renovating the building into a community center.

And the dedication of this facility to the citizens last Saturday was the reason for this latest celebration.

Between 9 a. m. and 5 p. m. hundreds and hundreds of KMs came to the Kings Mountain Depot Center to tour the facilities, to attend community workshops, to register for dozens of door prizes donated by local merchants and to hear state, county and city and Southern Railroad officials dedicate the facility to citizen use.

Conducted by Mayor John Moss, the dedication ceremony was held at the platform on the north side of the depot. Jack Palmer, chairman of the Cleveland County Commissioners, spoke on the pride the entire county has in the progress and citizen activity Kings Mountain has shown in the past few years.

Haywood Lynch and Frank Van Story were recognized and spoke about contributions of two cabooses to the center.

Lynch dedicated his caboose to the community in the memory of all of the KMs who have worked for Southern Railroad and had a plaque installed in one caboose listing the names of those persons. Lynch said he came to Kings Mountain in 1982 and the depot was the place where he first stepped foot in town. He said it held a special significance for him and he was "proud to be able to contribute something to the center and the community."

Van Story represented the Kiwanis Club, which donated the second caboose to the center. Both units are permanently stationed north of the center and will be used for special group meetings and children's parties.

Sen. Ollie Harris recalled his first train trip from his home in South Carolina to visit grandparents in Shelby and of the special treatment the Southern personnel afforded him. He said "It continues to be the people working for Southern Railroad who make it a great system."

Sidney E. Hawkins supt. of the Southern Railway System, gave a little background on the depot and stated how proud the officers of the system were with what the city has done toward renovating the depot.

The city was given a 99-year lease on the building with options in April 1975. The building had been abandoned since 1970.

The first railroad structure built in Kings Mountain was a freight station in 1879. It was a frame structure with a tin shingle roof. The baggage room was added to this structure in 1898. Both were constructed by Atlanta and Charlotte Railroad before Southern was organized.

The present depot was built in 1925 at a cost of \$22,679 and was constructed by Gaston Construction Co. of Gastonia. It contains 83,000.44 cubic feet of space and a passenger landing of 14,600 square feet.

About 1970 Southern developed a mobile station agent system, where

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Large crowd attends dedication ceremony Saturday

City Hall Bids Will Be Received

Total job bids on the Kings Mountain Governmental Services Facilities Building (city hall) will be received on August 8, 1977.

In a special meeting of the commissioners Monday Moodye Clary, of Peterson-Clary, Architects, PA of Charlotte, said drawings for the new building are "90 percent complete."

The commissioners voted to begin advertising for construction bids on July 8, with the bid openings 80 days later. Construction of the new city hall must be completed no later than April 4, 1978.

The two story structure plans are essentially the same as originally proposed. The building will house the mayor's office, the planning engineer's office, council chambers, billing department, city clerk and administrative offices. On the ground floor will be the fire department quarters and vehicle and equipment storage.

The city complied with the Economic Development Administrative grant requests that construction begins within 90 days following grant receipt. EDA approved a \$999,250 grant for the construction and the first phase of construction, site preparation, began on April 4, 1977.

Clary said he feels construction of the facility can be completed around December 1977.

Police Accept Job Applications

The Kings Mountain Police Department is accepting applications for patrolmen, according to Chief Earl Lloyd.

Applicants must be 21 years of age and have a high school diploma. Applicants must also be in proportion according to height and weight.

Apply at the chief of police's office, city hall.

Adult Typing Class Underway

Summer adult typing classes got underway Monday at Cleveland Tech's Compact School facility in Kings Mountain.

Additional students may register for the classes which will be conducted Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 until noon at the Compact plant for adults 18 and older.

Mrs. Carl Finger is director of the class.

Arts, Craft Fair Slated

An arts and crafts fair will be held July 2-4 at Kings Mountain Community Center.

The event, open to the public, will be sponsored by the city recreation department and area craftsmen.

All exhibits will be indoors. The show will be open to the public July 2 from 11 a. m. until 6 p. m. and the following day from 11 a. m. until 6 p. m.

Entries should be directed to Miss Rita Falls at 739-8908 or to Roy Pearson, city recreation director at Kings Mountain Community Center.

Citizens Give Suggestions In Workshops

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Through a series of workshops held in conjunction with the Kings Mountain Depot Center last Saturday, KM citizens came up with a series of proposals which they feel will benefit the community.

The workshops were sponsored by the departments of cultural affairs and human resources, N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources. Conducting the workshops were Mike Rusher, Beverly Gazarian, Pat Weygant, Ann Antenen and Jim Kelbaugh.

Meeting in three different groups throughout the day Saturday, citizens reflected on the things they feel the community needs and the aspects of community life they find distressing.

Labeled "Challenge Statements," group A concluded there is need for citizens programs, illustrated by the

"lack of good citizens programs for the elderly, no additional education for the poor, churches not being a priority and a need for more recreation opportunities for youth."

The group also indicated there are "not enough stores for the elderly," not enough stress being placed on "rebuilding downtown" and a "need for a good cafeteria downtown."

Citizens also showed concern with the rising cost of living as illustrated by: "high light bills, food prices keep rising, not enough transportation and high taxes for senior citizens."

Another area of concern is with the non-participation of people as illustrated by: "Citizens are not concerned, are not informed, are not involved and voting that does not favor the elderly."

Another concern expressed by Group A is with making neighborhoods safe. The citizens indicated they feel that "speed limits are not

enforced, gulleys are not cleaned out, additional protection for the elderly" is needed and "dangerous trees need cutting."

Group B stressed the need "for more stores in town, a cafeteria, a hotel, open lots to be cleaned, and sidewalks being paved." The group also showed concern because there is "no bowling alley, no theatres, and no skating rink."

Group C also felt public safety demands "more fire hydrants, lights at railway crossings, dead trees being removed."

This group is also concerned about livestock, such as "billy goats" being raised within the city limits and that the leash law is not enforced.

Group C showed concern over the lack of civic pride in Kings Mountain illustrated by: "uncleared vacant lots, unkempt yards, unattractive buildings near the parking plaza" and the lack of voter participation at the polls.

The third group also felt poor safety standards are practiced as evidenced by "unsafe railroad crossings, unlighted areas and condemned, falling down structures."

Another concern with community needs is the need for preservation of historic structures, homes, and with poor transportation system for voters, poor distribution of precincts, no city buses and the fact that city boundaries "don't include Linwood section."

Following the workshops a general meeting was held in the community meeting room. The concerns of citizens were verbally outlined to the gathering along with three statements or proposals for action.

The development of a neighborhood beautification plan was

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Dr. Blair Speaks At Teacher Workshop

A two day Dental Health Workshop for the teachers in the Cleveland County School System was held at Burns Junior High School in Fallston recently.

There were 51 teachers who participated on a voluntary basis to attend.

This was the first of three Dental Health Workshops to be offered in Cleveland County by Mrs. Linda Wilder, Public Health Dental Hygienist for Cleveland County. In the early fall, there will be workshops offered to the educators in the Kings Mountain School system and also in the Shelby City School system.

It is Mrs. Wilder's hope that the educators will see the importance and value of better dental health for our children. After attending these workshops the teachers are very well equipped to teach our children in the schools and promote better dental health in every way.

The recent workshop was very appreciated by all who attended,

very well received and very successful.

Dr. Charles Blair, local dentist of Kings Mountain spoke at the meeting on "Preventive Dentistry in Private Practice." His talk was very informative. He stressed proper brushing technique, plaque control, the value of good nutrition and sugar exposure and its harmful effect on the teeth to reduce dental cavities.

Dr. Blair also stressed the importance of the population availing themselves to all topical application of fluoride through City Water systems, in visits to the dental office and in the school mouthrinse programs. All of the exposure we can get to the topical applications of fluoride helps to reduce dental cavities in individual mouths.

The faculty who taught at the workshop were: Mrs. Linda Wilder, Public Health Dental Hygienist of Cleveland County, Dr. Bruce Hawkins, D. D. S., Western Regional Consultant, Black Mountain; Dr. Charles Blair, D. D. S., Kings

Mountain; Mrs. Brenda Wiseman, Public Health Dental Hygienist, Lincoln County; Hank Collins, Western Regional Health Education Consultant, Black Mountain; Ms. Suzanne Lee, Dental Hygienist, Kings Mountain; Jimmy Hines, Health Educator for Cleveland County; Miss Pat Patterson; Mrs. Barbara Broomall and Richard Stacy, Health Educators, all of Raleigh and Mrs. Darlene Sams, Dental Hygiene Consultant of Raleigh, all of which are very well trained in the dental profession.

Mrs. Wilder would like to express her appreciation for the interest shown to her in her endeavor to promote better dental health for Cleveland County residents.

"All of the people I have worked with in Cleveland County have been very eager for my help and I greatly appreciate this. It shows how much the people of Cleveland County wanted a Public Health Dental Hygienist," she said.



DR. CHARLES BLAIR