

In Kings Mountain Sunday Night

# Power Off For Eight Hours



About 65 percent of the city suffered through an eight-hour power outage Sunday night.

But rather than an inadequacy of electrical strength on the part of the city, it was due to an "act of God."

A sudden electrical storm struck over the city about 7:30 p. m. Sunday with witnesses stating the first bolts striking the wires at the Kings Yarns mill on Piedmont. The charge then traveled down Gaston St. through the Duke Power station to the city's substation on the adjacent lot.

Mayor John H. Moss said, "Residents of Gaston St. who were sitting on their front porches told us a large ball of fire burst from the city's substation when the lightning hit."

The power was knocked off, then the relays kicked it back on. There had been a systems "weakening" by the first strike, according to the mayor. A few minutes later a second ball of fire shot from the city's substation. The mayor was on the site when this one occurred.

"Officer Julius Burton, members of the fire department and I were on the site," the mayor said. "The first surge of electricity had set fire to the weeds on the perimeter of the substation. The second ball of flame set fire to the porcelain resistors atop the substation."

The resistor units had to be replaced and this is what took eight hours of work by the members of the city electrical department. Power was restored about 3:40 a. m.

There was still about 90 minutes of daylight left after the power was knocked out so most church services in the blackout area continued to conclusion.

When darkness came 15 regular and five reserve police officers were pressed into service, along with the fire department and Kings Mountain Rescue Squad to handle traffic and safety. The police reported only one accident during this time, a drunk driver who rear-ended another car on E. King St. There were no injuries.

With the use of flares officers directed traffic without mishap through the city's intersections.

Chief Earl Lloyd said "by midnight the regular shift officers were able to take over until power was restored."

Bill Herndon of the KM Fire Department reported no structural fires caused by the electrical storm or through accidents during this period.

Mayor Moss said the electrical department "did a commendable job in restoring electrical service and the police, fire and rescue members did an outstanding job of working with the public during this crisis."

## Bike Day Planned

The Kings Mountain Police Department is planning a bicycle registration day.

The event will be co-sponsored by the KMPD Youth Services and Crime Prevention bureaus and the date will be announced soon.

Robert Dodge, youth services officer, said a central location will be picked and all bike owners will be urged to attend. The program includes bike registration, logging make, colors and serial numbers for easy identification.

Dodge said a large number of bicycles are stolen each year and a large number recovered. The problem lies in no information on

hand that leads to returning bikes to proper owners.

Inspection stickers will be sold for a small fee to bike owners following inspections for safety factors, condition of the working parts, reflectors, etc.

The idea of the registration and inspection is not to make money," Dodge said. The fee will cover the cost of the stickers. The idea is to acquaint the community with city laws governing bicycle use and safety.

A display of reflectors, chains and locks to prevent theft will be set up. Short films will also be shown pertaining to bike safety. The display items have been donated by local businesses.

## Bickley Is Coming Home

Brian Bickley may be coming home soon. The Kings Mountain who has battled death time and again is still a patient at The Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, Scotland where he has received treatment for his ailing heart with a drug not yet available in the United States.

Pauline Bickley left for Scotland on Saturday where she will spend about 10 days with her husband and talk with his doctors.

Before leaving Mrs. Bickley told The Mirror-Herald, "I might be able to bring Bick home with me. Not back to the hospital, but home to Kings Mountain."

She said Bickley will be able to get the drug used successfully in heart cases for the past two years by Dr. Hugh Miller at the Royal Infirmary. The drug has not been approved for use in America, but it will not be considered illegal for Bickley's use since it will be prescribed by Dr. Miller.

Mrs. Bickley said her husband had taken "the bike test" twice in recent days and "did very well." The bike test is simply to ride a stationary bicycle, peddling as fast and as long as possible.

Please Turn To Page 8

## Grover Receives Funding

The Town of Grover has received a state grant for its water project totaling \$7,277 among 55 local governments awarded state grants totaling \$8 million for water supply projects, it was announced today by Secretary of Human Resources, Dr. Sarah Morrow and Governor Jim Hunt.

The grants comprise the 10th group of awards made pursuant to the North Carolina Clean Water Bond Act of 1971 and closes out the final regular review period under the Act.

(Please Turn To Page 8)

## Fulltime Rescuers, New Ambulance Now In Service

The Kings Mountain Rescue Squad now has three fulltime paid employees and a brand new rescue ambulance in service.

The fulltime employees were named on July 1 and the ambulance was put into service July 6.

Capt. Raymond Galloway, Roy Hammett and Mike McDaniel are the three fulltime employees. Recommended by the local rescue squadders and hired by the Cleveland County Emergency Services, these three KMers are on duty from 8 a. m. until 5 p. m. Night and weekend calls are handled by the unpaid volunteer members as before.

With stiffer and more costly regulations placed on ambulance service by the state, funeral home directors in Cleveland County elected to discontinue their ambulance service. The most workable alternative to keep ambulance and rescue service available was to establish a fee schedule in order to pay fulltime employees to handle the daylight hour calls.

The fee schedule is \$20 for each call and transports to KM Hospital, KM Convalescent Center and doctors offices

inside the local coverage area; \$30 for roundtrips in coverage area; \$30 plus 50 cents a mile outside coverage area; \$5 each half hour after first half hour of waiting time after a transport trip.

The rescue members turn in transport data to the emergency service office, which in turn bills the patient and pays the squad. The rescuers may accept cash payments on the spot.

The new ambulance now in service locally cost over \$20,000 and is being paid for from local donations to the squad. The vehicle was ordered last November. The cost covered the vehicle fully equipped. Extras include a four channel two-way radio, a blood pressure monitoring device and extrication equipment (for removing people from wrecked vehicles). State law requires such equipment in an ambulance even though the same device is on a rescue crash truck.

Another great feature of the ambulance, according to Capt. Galloway, "is the removable chassis. The body can be unbolted and lifted off the chassis. If the chassis is bad a replacement can be bought and

the old body bolted in place. That will be a great savings."

Galloway said the rescue members "greatly appreciate the support the citizens" gave them in their fund raising drive to purchase the new vehicle and equipment.

As for how well the fee system is working, Galloway said, "It has cut out a lot of the 'taxi' trips we used to do when the service was free. Those are transport trips of citizens who could call a cab, or get a neighbor to drive them or drive their own cars to the hospital, clinics and doctors offices."

He said the emergency transports the squad has made since the fee system began were light during the week of the fourth. However, those patients transported had no quarrels with paying a fee.

"People have said they didn't know how we were able to operate the service free for 19 years," Galloway said. "The fee system is much better than raising taxes. This way only those using the ambulance service are paying."

Galloway, McDaniel and Hammett, in addition to their fulltime service, will continue to work as volunteers without pay

at nights and on weekends, just as they did before. Galloway left his job at radio station WKMT, McDaniel left Bridges Auto Parts in Bessemer City and Hammett, Lithium Corp., to take the fulltime rescue squad positions.

Galloway has been with the KMRS since November 1966, McDaniel since July 1974 and Hammett, January 1974. All three are state approved Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's).

The rescue squad number is 780-2141.

"We're still here to serve," Galloway said. "All funds we raise for the squad will go into more equipment and better service to the public."



NEW AMBULANCE — Roy Hammett, one of three fulltime rescue squad employees, Bill Hanna and Jim Brackett, volunteers, pose with the new

Kings Mountain Rescue Squad ambulance. The fully equipped "emergency room on wheels" was put into service last Wednesday.

Photo By Gary Stewart