

**IN THE NEWS**

**Post Office Assured**

Kings Mountain has been assured of a new post office, but when and where is still a mystery.

Postmaster Charles Alexander said the PO Site and Planning Committee will come to Kings Mountain soon to select a site.

The city has been assured also that groundbreaking and on site construction will begin before the end of 1977.

The city has been on the definite list for a new and larger one-story postal facility for well over a year.

**Lancaster At Meeting**

Paul Lancaster of Kings Mountain will be in Crestwell, N. C. today as mining representative of the N. C. Earth Resources Council.

The council is meeting with operators of First Colony Farms, Inc. to discuss the potential of using peat fuel as a replacement for coal as fuel in industrial manufacturing.

First Colony Farms claims peat fuel is equal to 800-million barrels of oil and that it is cheaper than either coal or nuclear energy and burns cleaner than coal.

Lancaster, president of Kings Mountain Mica, said if the new fuel system is adopted it could be one of the most important additions to North Carolina industry in years.

**Gearing For School**

Yes, boys and girls, there will be school again this year.

Kings Mountain District Schools Supt. William Davis called all principals from the district together Wednesday at the administrative offices to begin mapping out the coming academic year.

Supt. Davis said teachers will report to the junior high on August 15 for various meetings and that student-teacher orientation day is set for Mon., Aug. 29. Regular classes will begin Tues., Aug. 30.

We know all KM students will be thrilled to get this news.

**At KM Rotary Today**

Police Chief Earl Lloyd and Crime Prevention Officer Houston Corn will be special guests at today's Rotary Club luncheon.

Chief Lloyd and Corn will take along the new Crime Prevention Bureau van for a practical and informational demonstration.

The van is not completely furnished, but the chief will explain exactly what is planned in the way of exhibits for the van. The law enforcement officers also plan to inform the Rotarians of what the Crime Prevention Bureau program will attempt to do for the community.

Rotarians meet at the KM Country Club at noon.

**Community Market**

Last week The Mirror-Herald printed that the community market was open for business at the depot center.

We were wrong. But, in a way we were also correct.

Wrong in that no area produce growers were actually set up to make sales to the public. Correct in that the market is available for use.

Rev. Kenneth George, depot center manager, said, "The scorching heat and no rain has all but ruined the local farming crops this season. We have not been able to find enough produce to put up a proper showing at the market."

Rev. George said the demand for the market is high, based on the numerous inquiries he has had from the public. Now, if the local produce raisers can get the weather to cooperate the market will be put to good use.

**Earn Yourself A Bicycle!**

One youngster has, others are close by selling new subscriptions to The Mirror-Herald

—See story on pg. 1A—

**—THE THURSDAY EDITION—**

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KINGS MOUNTAIN

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1977

**MIRROR-HERALD**

Commissioner Houston Says:

**City Pay Plan Misunderstood**

Something has gone wrong with the city's new pay raise plan.

One city employe has handed in his resignation and other such actions have been rumored since last Friday.

Commissioner Humes Houston, who chairs the city's personnel committee and was one of the men responsible for drawing the incentive pay plan, said this week that "obviously, there has been a breakdown in communications somewhere along the line."

Last Friday city employes found slight increases in their weekly paycheck, anywhere from three to 10 cents per hour. Houston said the hourly paid employes "must think that is the promised pay raise, but that is not the case."

When the 1977-78 fiscal budget

was approved the city employes were promised a five percent increase in wages. However, under an incentive pay plan adopted by the board prior to the adoption of the new budget that five percent increase is to be paid in monthly increments, based on department head recommendation.

"We felt this plan was far more fair and equitable than waiting for an entire year to pass before giving the city employes the full five percent," Houston said. "Under the new plan the employes can earn their raises each month for a full year."

The slight increases employes received last Friday actually have nothing to do with the five percent wage raise.

Houston said, "We took the pay each employe received the week before and made an ad-

justment in them in order to place all employes into their proper job classifications. In every case the employes received an increase under this adjustment, but that was to give us a base minimum pay scale for each job category in order to begin the increment pay raises each month."

The first increment pay raises toward the promised five percent increase will begin with the August pay period.

Commissioner Houston was upset at the reported dissatisfaction among city employes when the resignation and threat of others were reported.

"We had a meeting with all department heads last week and I explained the system several times to them so they would fully understand and would be able to in turn explain the procedure to

their employes," Houston said. "Obviously, the department heads did not understand the system, although all of them said they did at the meeting, or they did not bother to explain it to the people working in their individual departments."

The incentive pay raise program is scheduled to run for six years with five percent pay increases each of those years.

"This is a good program. It's going to work," Houston said. "We've never had anything like it before."

**Alexander Retiring As City Postmaster**

Charles Alexander is retiring as Kings Mountain's postmaster.

The 56-year old KMer has accumulated 25 years of creditable service with the postal system and has served longer as postmaster than any predecessor in Kings Mountain.

"This could be my last week," Alexander said. "If the Charlotte section sends over an officer in charge right away he will take charge until a postmaster is appointed."

The postmaster job will be posted in offices throughout the system, however, Alexander

said an employe in the local unit will have first crack at the appointment. All eligible employes will have the opportunity to make application for the job.

"When I became postmaster here," Alexander said, "we had three city routes and three rural routes. We now have six fulltime city routes and four rural routes."

Alexander said in 1966 the post office was meeting seven trains each day for mail pickups, but that now the mail is conveyed by Highway Post Offices and Star Routes.

A member of First Baptist Church, Alexander was selected N. C. Postmaster of the Year in 1968. He is past first vice president of the N. C. Chapter of National Association of Postmasters of US, past president of N. C. Chapter of National League of Postmasters, and past president of the President's Club, national level, of National League of Postmasters.

Alexander's wife, Ruby, operates Alexander Realty in Kings Mountain. When asked if he was going to become a real estate salesman, Alexander said, "I don't know about that. At first I think I'll just relax for awhile."



ALEXANDER

(Turn To Page 8A)

**Board Filing Opens August 16**

Where are the city's new commissioner candidates coming from?

This is the question being asked among citizens in this election year in view of the fact candidate filing opens in four weeks.

The city operates under a Type 4 - Non-Partisan Election and Runoff procedure, which means the election date is set for Tues., Oct. 11, 1977. The runoff, if any, will be held on Tues., Nov. 8, 1977.

Two years ago the city board adopted a staggered term system. Under the first election under the new system the mayor and the three highest commissioner vote getters were seated for four consecutive years. The three lowest pollsters among the commissioners received two year terms. Election this year is for four years.

Commissioners Humes Houston, district 2, William Grissom, district 5, and Fred

Wright, Jr., district 6, received two year terms. These three seats will be up for grabs this October.

As yet neither Houston, Grissom nor Wright have commented yes or no about seeking re-election. Nor has there been any pre-filing date commitments to run from other citizens.

Two years ago there were a total of 39 candidates; 35 for commissioner and four for mayor.

Candidates for districts two, five and six may pay the \$5 filing fee to Mrs. Betty Mercer, Kings Mountain Elections Board secretary, beginning at noon on Fri., Aug. 19. Candidate filing ends at noon on Fri., Sept. 9.

Mrs. Mercer resides at 902 Rhodes Ave. Phone 789-2192.

Elections Board Chairman Luther Bennett said the candidate polling a higher total vote than all the combined votes polled by opponents in each district will be elected.

The registration books for the Kings Mountain municipal election will remain open until September 12, 1977.

Current registrars are Mrs. John White, 108 Piedmont Ave., 789-4019, for East KM Precinct; and Mrs. G. D. Myers, 817 Scotland Dr., 789-9188, and Mrs. Kenneth Cook, 717 Meadowbrook Rd., 789-8950, for West KM Precinct.

Eligible citizens must call the registrars to make an appointment to register.

The Cleveland County Elections Board will meet on Tues., Aug. 2 in Shelby and the board may either reappoint these registrars or appoint new registrars.

Bennett said he has requested that the matter of precinct boundary changes in Kings Mountain also be placed on the August 2 agenda.

"Although it won't affect voters in the coming municipal



JOHN L. MCGILL



J. C. BRIDGES



TOM TATE



WILLIAM ORR

**Hospital Seats New Officers**

John L. McGill, former partner of the Kings Mountain Drug Store, was elected president of the Kings Mountain Hospital's Board of Trustees for the 1977-78 fiscal year, during the board's recent annual meeting.

Other officers elected are J. C. Bridges of Bridges Hardware, vice president, and Thomas A. Tate with Home Savings and Loan Association, secretary-treasurer.

William Orr, a Kings Mountain businessman, was appointed to the board to succeed Rev. S. T. Cooke who served as a trustee of the hospital for the past 10 years. He filled the board's maximum of two, five-year terms.

During the meeting, board members expressed their gratitude for Cooke's service, strong support, and many contributions to the hospital and the total health care delivery system in the community.

Other members of the board are Mrs. Marilyn Neisler, Carl F. Meuney, N. F. McGill, Jr., L. E. Hinnant, Dr. Joe Lee, III, and Fain Hambricht.

The hospital's board serves on a voluntary basis, without pay, in representing the residents throughout the hospital's broad service area. Kings Mountain Hospital is observing its 26th anniversary this year.

**Bickley Is Out Of Hospital**

Brian Bickley has been released from The Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The 41-year-old Kings Mountain and his wife, Pauline, are presently visiting with relatives in Nottingham, England. When the Bickleys plan to return to Kings Mountain is not known at present.

Mrs. Bickley flew to Scotland two weeks ago to spend time with her husband and talk with doctors concerning his condition. She said before leaving that Bickley is due to be released from the hospital.

A neighbor, Mrs. E. G. Campbell, said Mrs. Bickley had planned to keep Brian in Scotland for several weeks after his release, but that the lack of hotel accommodations made that impossible.

Bickley's treatment in Scotland has brought his ailing heart almost back to normal. He was taken to The Royal Infirmary from Charlotte Memorial Hospital to receive treatment with a drug, mexiletine, which is not yet available in America. The drug has been used on heart patients successfully for two years in Edinburgh.

Sample Yardage 9 Day Sale

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