

Three Seats Up For Grabs

Commissioner Filing To Begin

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Filing begins Fri., Aug. 19 at noon for candidates for three seats on the Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners.

Districts two, five and six are the seats up for grabs in the October 11 municipal election. These seats are currently held by Humes Houston, William R. Grissom and Fred Wright. Of the three, only Houston has said he intends to seek reelection.

Candidate filing for city commissioner will run from noon this Friday until noon Fri., Sept. 9. The filing fee is \$5 and candidates should contact either Luther Bennett, KM elections board chairman, or board secretary Mrs. Betty Mercier, 902 Rhodes Ave., 739-2192.

Two years ago the three highest vote getters were elected to four year terms along with the mayor. The three lowest pollsters were given two year terms. This year, however, the three commissioners elected will go on the board for four years.

Prior to the 1975 election the board voted to change the system to staggered terms. However, there will be a municipal election every two years. The mayoral seat comes up for election in 1979.

Elections board chairman Luther Bennett said the winner in each of the three districts in October will be determined by the candidate polling a vote count higher than the combined vote total of all opponents in each district.

"For example," Bennett said, "If one candidate polls 100 votes and two or three other candidates in the same district only poll a combined total of 80 votes, then the man with 100 votes is the winner."

Election day is Tues., Oct. 11. If there is a runoff election that date is Tues., Nov. 8.

Registration for new city voters for the 1977 municipal election will continue until September 12. Recently appointed registrars and judges for Bethware are Alice Comor and H. A. Goforth; for East Kings Mountain, Margaret White and Joyce D. Dye; for West Kings Mountain, Mrs. Elizabeth Arthur and Becky Cooke. The registrar and judge for Grover have not been appointed as yet by the Cleveland County Elections Board.

Bennett suggests eligible voters who want to register to call the registrar in their precinct to make an appointment.

Filing for Kings Mountain District Schools Board of Education candidates will begin at noon, Fri., Sept. 16 and will close at noon, Fri., Oct. 9. This election is set for Tues., Nov. 8. Voter registration for the school board election will close at 5 p. m. Mon., Oct. 10.

To date, Kyle Smith and Bill McDaniel have announced their intention to file for the two seats available. P. A. Francis of Grover and Tommy Bridges of Kings Mountain now hold the seats.



Photo By Tom McIntyre

WELCOME TO KINGS MOUNTAIN — Larry Billings, Kings Mountain Director of Business Development, welcomes R. L. Jordan on the N. Piedmont and W. King St. site where Jordan plans to build a family type steak house.

Jordan came to KM after being solicited by Billings and purchased the former Catholic Church property for his steak house. Jordan said the steak house will employ 35 local people and should be ready to open around Christmas.

On Catholic Church Property

KM Will Have Steak House

Kings Mountainians will have a new place to dine around Christmas. It's a family type steak house being built by R. L. Jordan of Myrtle Beach, S. C.

Larry Billings, director of business development in Kings Mountain, made the announcement Wednesday when Jordan came to town to look over property.

Jordan has been in the independent gas and oil distribution business since 1950 and is the man who introduced self-service gas stations in South Carolina, has two steak houses currently in operation, has taken options on property in Camden, S. C. and Asheville for two more and plans to build about 25 in the next two years.

The new steak house will be located on the former Catholic Church property at the corner of N. Piedmont Ave. and W. King St. The dimensions of the lot are 275 by 185 feet. The steak house will be 120 feet long and will have a seating capacity of 196 persons.

"I expect the steak house will be open for business around Christmas," Jordan said. "It normally takes about 90 days after groundbreaking to complete a building. We will have a construction contract that gives the contractor 120-150 days to complete the entire job."

In the beginning Jordan said one of his managers will come to Kings Mountain and will begin training some local employees as manager to take over. All other personnel will be hired locally. "The meat cutters will be hired about five to six weeks prior to the opening so they can be sent to a training center," Jordan said. "The rest of the employees, 35 in the beginning, will be hired about two to three weeks prior to the opening."

Jordan said depending on the success of the steak house the number of employees will run between 35-50 the year round.

"We feature only first class meats on our menu," Jordan said. "It is cut fresh daily, which

is why we hire meatcutters so far in advance. We will feature a large salad bar and 15-20 choices of meat cuts, types and preparation. And like other family type steak houses, we will feature a reasonable price. Something that won't cost a family an arm and a leg."

Jordan was contacted by Billings about considering Kings Mountain as a site for a steak house several months ago. Jordan looked at two sites on York Rd. and the one in the downtown area before deciding.

He purchased the property from the Catholic church for \$85,000. The cost of the building will be \$165,000 and Jordan said he will spend another \$85,000 on equipment. Landscaping is estimated to be \$10,000.

Jordan said he has not settled on a name for the steak house as yet because he is still in negotiation for control of the Golden Corral franchises. Two other steak houses, in Albemarle and Monroe, are named Golden Corral and are operated by Jordan.

Troopers Having Trouble As Truckers Protest 55

State Troopers have had their hands full since Monday in our area, but not so much with automobile drivers as with independent truckers.

Starting Monday when the state-wide 55-mph crackdown began independent truckers, and some from large trucking firms, began protesting the 55 mph speed limit by driving down I-85 two abreast at under the 55 mph limit.

Trooper Doyle Christopher told The Mirror-Herald, "The truckers say they aren't mad at us, but they are upset about the speed limit. Since this thing began Monday we have clocked trucks driving abreast at 40 miles per hour causing traffic to back up for great distance."

Trooper Roy Beam said he cited one trucker on Monday and while he had the trucker pulled over on the shoulder several other independent truckers pulled their rigs off the interstate, piled out of the cabs and came to him to gripe out loud about the speed limit.

Trooper Allen Lancaster said, "We haven't had much trouble with motorists driving above the speed limit, but we have had a lot of requests from them to check their speedometers. Some said they felt they were going faster than 55 even though that's the speed registered."

Beam said departmental policy prohibits the troopers from running speedometer checks upon request from individuals.

The troopers said the protest is going on all across the state, not just in this direction.

Christopher said there was a



Photo By Tom McIntyre

WATCH FOR SPEEDERS — State Troopers Roy Beam, Allan Lancaster and Doyle Christopher take a break this week after chasing down protesting truckers and speeding motorists

during the current 55-mph speed limit crackdown. They say truckers are giving them more trouble than motorists.

Elvis, A Gent

From The South

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Tuesday afternoon about 5:30 what was left of The Mirror-Herald gang went to supper at Griffin's Drug.

"Have you heard anything about Elvis Presley dying?" Tricia Childers asked. "Some lady called here while ago and said she heard it on the radio, then asked to have her nerve medicine prescription refilled."

We thought it was a joke. I promptly forgot about it and went back to work. At 10 p. m. Tuesday I dropped by General Publishing's general manager's home in Belmont. On TV during a station break there flashed a picture of Elvis with the legend: Elvis Presley: 1935-1977, then the announcer said full details on the 11 p. m. newscast.

It was as if I had heard it for the first time and after the initial shock memories came flooding back.

Like millions of others I never met Elvis Presley, but like everyone I knew who he was, what he was and the impact he had had on all of us.

During my tenure in Hollywood I met and made friends with Red West, who was a lifelong friend of Elvis and one of his bodyguards. This summer I met and made friends with Ed Parker, who handled security for Elvis' concert tours.

West was a regular on Robert Conrad's "Wild, Wild West" TV show, although he was usually one of the bad guys being tossed about by Conrad in the fight scenes. Red was one of the very in-close confidants of Elvis and one of the original "Memphis Mafia."

The role Red now plays on Conrad's "Baa Baa Black Sheep"; that of a cigar chewing, braash, bragging mechanic, is the complete opposite of the Red West I got to know in Hollywood. In private life Elvis was like that.

Ed Parker was here in Cleveland County this summer making a movie with the EO Corporation. Ed is one of the few caucasians to hold a 16th degree in karate. He is a world champion. For Elvis he put his strength to work on the national concert tours to ensure the entertainer's safety from overzealous fans.

Before Ed left to return to Los Angeles we talked about going along a couple of days on one of Elvis' concerts to get background information. The information would be translated into a movie script which the EO Corporation would produce.

Earl Owensby tells about it. "The picture we were planning is titled 'Concert' and would deal with the craziness that takes place when a superstar comes to town to do a concert. Ed had already talked to Elvis about it and he was very interested."

Owensby said he was really shocked to learn of Presley's death Tuesday. He said "I was a fan and I will miss him."

Elaine and Tom Brooks, who own and operate the Crossroads Music Park, made an approach last year to Col. Tom Parker, Elvis' career-long manager, about the possibility of getting the entertainer here for a concert.

"It was a wild idea, but who knows, it might have paid off," Elaine said. "But that would have been in the future. Elvis' was booked up solid for a long time to come."

The Brooks travel to Nashville regularly lining up talent for their shows and Elaine said, "Elvis was highly thought of in Country and Western music circles. Elvis could do it all. Anyone who can have fans screaming by singing 'Hound Dog' and then have them crying singing 'How Great Thou Art,' now that's an artist. He had gone beyond a craze to become an artist."

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