

State was independent on Dec. 23, 1776

On December 18, 1776, the State of North Carolina adopted its first constitution. On the 22nd, it selected three delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Thomas Burke, William Hooper and Joseph Hewes. Then on the 23rd, the Provincial Congress of North Carolina was dissolved, for good, after electing Richard Caswell as the state's first governor. North Carolina had become, officially, a free and independent state.



ED SMITH

On December 22, 1789, the state cut itself in half, rather than pay taxes on its western territories. The fledgling national government had assessed taxes against the states based on their size (to pay its war debts) and rather than pay the full amount the eastern-dominated state legislature decided to cede its troublesome western area to the national government. The area celebrated its "independence" from North Carolina, elected John Sevier its first Governor

and soon entered the Union as the state of Tennessee.

On Dec. 24, 1821, the Canova statue of George Washington was unveiled in the rotunda of the State House in Raleigh. Sculpted in Italy, the statue was regarded at that time as a classical work of art. It created a major controversy among many Tar Heel legislators and citizens, however, who objected to our nation's Father being depicted in a "skirt", since the sculptor had posed him in Roman garb! The statue was destroyed when the Capitol Building burned in 1831.

In the 1960's an exact replica of the statue was made and presented to the state. True to its history, however, the statue caused another controversy when some legislators objected to its placement in the Capitol Building, saying that its classical style now clashed with the new building!

In mid December of 1794, members of the General Assembly from all areas of the state left their homes to travel to the new capitol city of Raleigh. The first session of the legislature to be held in the brand new State House was scheduled to begin on Dec. 31, causing the members to miss Christmas at home. One now-unknown western legislator (probably Wallace Alexander or John Moore of Lincoln County) complained bitterly in a letter home about the... "nine-day trip on horseback," with "terrible roads and worse accommodations" all along the way. One "so-called inn, named The Frog and Mouse, was worse than the lowest shelter for animals to be found west of the Catawba River. We saw no frogs, but many Mice!" This place apparently... "burned to the ground the day after we gladly left it!"

In Raleigh things were little better, and the legislators and new government workers overflowed the few available inns, taverns and private dwellings.



1977: It's Triumphs And Tragedies

(Begins On Page 1A)

Nelson Connor was elected state vice president of Young Democrats and Bethware Progressive Club honored Donald Jones.

Moss Lake Authority was gearing for a third season of outdoor recreation.

John Butler Plonk, Jr. was tapped for Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's highest scholastic honorary fraternity, at UNC-CH.

Larry Hamrick was elected president of Cleveland County Board of Realtors. The city received grant for \$50,000 for

improvements to John H. Moss Lake and the city's new crime prevention bureau located in the former KM Baptist Church Scout Hut.

Formal dedication of the new Eaton plant was held with the executive committee coming to Kings Mountain for

the ceremonies which also featured remarks by Lt. Gov. Jimmy Greene.

KMPD received another Law Enforcement Assistance Agency grant for \$14,417 for an evidence technician program.

A public fund was started for Brian Bickley, heart patient.

Supt. Donald Jones is now Dr. Jones. He received his Doctor of Education Degree from Duke University.

Dr. Jerry Eskridge opened KM Animal Hospital on U. S. 74 West.

Maggie Fulton is about four eleven and weighs maybe 100 pounds soaking wet, but at 85 years young she is still going strong.

The city commission hired Edward W. Dwyer as superintendent of public works and Walter C. Ollis as construction foreman.

Eight teachers are nominated for Kings Mountain's Teacher of the Year by the Association of Classroom Teachers and Peggy McDowell was subsequently named the winner.

A benefit golf tournament at the Country Club gave donations to the Brian Bickley Fund which is growing.

Kings Mountain Housing Authority set final inspection for the 40 elderly housing units.

Diplomas were awarded to 240 graduating high school seniors.

Drug Co. and the corner of W. Mountain and S. Cherokee St. piled rubble almost one story high, the demolition part of a continuing contract the KM Redevelopment Commission has with Bradley-Jenkins of Gastonia.

Joyce Cashion was re-elected chairman of the Cleveland County Democratic Party and Cleveland County artists participated in a traveling art exhibit with public showings at Depot Center.

Carmet Mine tool Products division announced plans to locate in KM Industrial Park and Harris Teeter More Value Foods opened its new modern facility on East King St. with ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Kenneth Ray Roark 16, drowned in the old city water lake on York Rd.

Arson was suspected in a fire which destroyed the home of Bill Conner near KM National Military Park.

A special committee plans to meet with Robert Mathison of Asheville for in-depth inquiries into a new homestead housing plan for Kings Mountain. The plan was later rejected by the board of commissioners.

Low bids for additions to the Community Center totaled \$272,404.

JULY

Wade Tyner became new president of KM Rotary club.

The Perry Dean Bristol murder trial got underway in Cleveland Superior Court.

Kings Mountain Hospital entered its second year of a three year program designed to provide greater access to health care services for citizens and also earned JCAH accreditation.

Sen. Ollie Harris of Kings Mountain said that the local delegation and members of the judicial system are "happy with the separation in the 27th judicial District," one of the 11th hour bills to pass the General Assembly last week, the three county district is now split into two parts - 27-A is now Gaston County and 27-B is Cleveland and Lincoln counties.

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

Temperatures reached 104 degrees in Kings Mountain and quickest spot to cool off was the swimming pool which was enjoying booming business.

KM Rescue Squad now has three fulltime paid employees and a brand new rescue ambulance service.

Brian Bickley may be coming home soon from Scotland. He has received treatment for his ailing heart with a drug not yet available in the United States.

Kings Mountain has recommended six projects concerning state highways within the city limits for consideration to the Department of Transportation.

Rodney Smith, seventh grader at Central School, was the first bicycle winner in the Mirror-Herald summer circulation campaign.

Charles Alexander is retiring as city postmaster after 25 years of service with the postal system.

Comm. Humes Houston says the city pay plan is misunderstood. One city employee has handed in his resignation and other such actions are rumored.

John L. McGill became president of KM Hospital trustees.

1977 is election year in Kings Mountain not only for three city commissioners seats but also for two seats on the district board of education, and politicking picks up steam. Humes Houston was first commissioner to file for re-election.

New Supt. of Schools William Davis has initiated a few new programs for 1977-78 school year to improve a few programs and cut some slightly.

Cleveland County has an eighth magistrate in the person of Dorothy Hayes of Kings Mountain.

The three lifeguards at Moss Lake feel the swim area should be closed to the public until adequate safety precautions can be made.

A second KM District School Board candidate, Bill McDaniel, has filed.

Three different funded programs to aid the elderly were approved in commissioner action this week.

AUGUST

Three city commissioners - Jim Childers, Corbet Nicholson and Humes Houston, strongly denied commissioner interference in the operation of Kings Mountain Police Department. Chief of Police Earl Lloyd resigned because of what he termed commissioner interference and lack of money.

City Ptl. James Camp retained a local attorney to represent him in a civil suit "if necessary to get what's coming to me." Camp, who joined KMPD one year and one month ago, said he was the only policeman of 22 left out of these receiving pay raises in the now-controversial pay raise scale adopted July 1 by the board of commissioners.

Larry Billings, the city's new director of business development, was given approval by 50 property owners in Central Business District to proceed on cost estimates for refurbishing their properties.

Delores Dedmon was hired as an outreach worker for Cleveland County in the Section 8 existing Housing Assistance Program now becoming operational.

Ptl. Don Ivey has resigned from KMPD to take the job of investigator for the Public Defender's office.

Acting Chief Jackie D. Barrett began duties this month for the third time in 21 years as interim KM Chief of Police.

Sgt. Ellis King retired after 20 years at City Hall.

Kids ended the summer on a happy note by attending a Community-Wide Festival in Deal Street Park.

The exact cause of death of William Thomas Grissom is still a mystery. Grissom was 15.

McSwain Grading of Shelby received contract from the State Highway Department to demolish all the homes on the N. C. Bypass right of way.

His fans in Kings Mountain grieved at the sudden death of Elvis Presley. The Mirror-Herald's front page of Aug. 18 carried an eight column photograph of the rock-n-roll king.

Bids on the new City Hall totaled over \$1 million.

Two Kings Mountain citizens died in accidents this weekend. A one-car accident claimed the life of Charles W. Vaughan, Sr., 56. Mrs. Dorothy W. Byars Sanders, 49, was killed at the Pine St. and Southern Railway crossing.

A public meeting to discuss the Housing Assistance Payments Program drew little response from KM tenants and landlords.

Larry Billings has resigned as director of business development to accept a job in industry.

The ringing of school bells brought excitement to youngsters entering the classroom for the first time and mixed emotions for others with a total of 4,300 pupils reporting for first day orientation.

(Continued Next Page)

READER DIALOGUE

School features are excellent

Dear Editor,

I want to express my appreciation for the excellent features which you have done on several of our schools during this school year.

I thought they were well done. They should certainly serve to further enlighten our patrons about their schools.

WILLIAM F. DAVIS
Supt.
KM District Schools

finger of guilt

Dear Editor,

A finger of guilt is pointing itself at each of us. The incident of which has happened within our city to one of our police officers within the past week should be more than just a mere lesson to each and every citizen.

It should apply to the nation in general, that there is a deadly menace within our society.

There is a finger of guilt pointing itself at each and every citizen who fails to recognize the danger of drug abuse.

Yet our highest court of the land is willing not only to make into law this menace as just a mere misdemeanor.

Hopefully concerned citizens and parents will awake to the pit-falls and far greater dangers and the deadly effect it will have upon not only the present generation, yet as well as to future generations.

Also hopefully and prayerfully parents and concerned citizens will begin to write to their elected officials and also to those who sit upon the highest court of the land, that a law will never be enacted which would permit such to be leased upon society.

Yes, the finger of guilt is pointing itself at those in high seat of government also, when it ties the hands of honest and dedicated law enforcement officers, who, are concerned about the welfare and well being of those who they are to protect.

EVERETTE PEARSON
Kings Mountain.

THE LITTLE CHRISTIAN MAID

A little maid sat in a high-backed pew
And raised to the pulpit her eyes of blue;
The prayers were long and the sermon grand,
But Oh, so hard to understand!

The beautiful text sank deep in her heart,
Which the preacher made of his sermon a part;
"Silver and gold have I none," said he,
"But such as I have I give to thee."

And the good old Pastor looked down and smiled
At the earnest gaze of the little child.

The dear little maid the word carried home,
Determined to use it as chance might come.

Her mother must work unceasingly,
And toil for the needs of the family;
So she cheerily helped the long day through,
And did with her might what her hands found to do.
"Silver and gold have I none," said she,
"But such as I have I give to thee."

The joyous mother looked down and smiled
As she bent to kiss her little child.

On her way to school in the early morn,
She plucked the blooms by the wayside born;

My teachers so often is tired I know,
For we're sometimes naughty and sometimes slow;
Perhaps these may help to lighten her task,
And she laid the flowers on the teacher's desk.
"Silver and gold have I none," said she,
"But such as I have I give to thee."

And the weary teacher looked down and smiled
As she took the gift of the little child.

Playing with sister one day on the grass,
She saw a dusty traveler pass.

"Poor man, said she, he is tired I think,
I'll go and get him a nice cold drink.

And she hastened to fetch her little cup,
To dip, cold and sparkling, the water up.

"Silver and gold have I none," said she,
"But such as I have I give to thee."

And the thirsty, dusty traveler smiled
As he took the cup from the little child.

Sweet and pure as the lily white,
She melted by her little bed at night

With a child's trust she longed to bring
Some gift to her Saviour and her King.

So much from Thee every day I receive
By my heart is all I have to give;

"Silver and gold have I none," said she,
"But such as I have I give to thee."

Our Father looked down and tenderly smiled
As He took the Gift of the little child.

MYRTLE GOFORTH'S
POEM COLLECTION

MIRROR-HERALD

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
GARLAND ATKINS
Publisher

MEMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Mirror-Herald is published by General Publishing Company, P. O. Drawer 782, Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086. Business and editorial offices are located at 354 South Piedmont Ave. Phone 728-7486. Second Class postage paid at Kings Mountain, N. C. Single copy 15 cents. Subscription rates: \$2.50 yearly in-state, \$4.50 six months, \$9.00 yearly out-of-state, \$5.00 six months. Student rate for nine months \$3.50.

YON HEINTZ
Editor

ELIZABETH STEWART
Women's Editor

GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

BARRELLAUSTIN
General Manager

CLYDE MILLS
Advertising Director