

Coroner's Inquest Next Wednesday

A coroner's inquest into the shotgun slaying of a Rt. 1, Grover man late Saturday night will be held next Wednesday at 7 p. m.

Cleveland County Coroner Bennett Masters said the inquest jury will be selected beginning at 7 p. m. next Monday in the county commissioners chambers at the Law Enforcement Center, Shelby. The inquest will be held in the same chambers.

The jury will determine if there is or is not probable cause for charges against Herman Cash, owner of a grocery store west of Kings Mountain, who reportedly shot Bobby Lee Archie in connection with a breaking and entering at Cash's store, according to Masters.

Archie died about 1:40 a. m. Sunday during surgery at Kings Mountain Hospital, about two hours after he had received wounds from a single blast from a 12-gauge shotgun.

Cash told Sheriff's Department Sgt. Paul Barbee that a special

alarm system he has rigged between his grocery store on Shelby Rd., and his home was triggered about 11:40 p. m. Saturday night. He said he knew someone had entered his store illegally and he armed himself with a shotgun and went to the store.

Barbee said Cash reported finding entry had been gained by knocking a panel from the rear door. Cash told police he saw the intruder at the cash register inside the store and he stepped into the doorway and ordered the intruder to come out.

The intruder, according to Cash, picked up a baseball bat and came toward Cash despite warnings from Cash to stop. Cash said he fired once when the intruder continued advancing on him with the bat.

Barbee and Deputy Garland Clary arrested a second man, Bennie J. Meeks, Jr., 19, also of Rt. 1, Grover, at the scene and charged him with aiding and abetting breaking, entering and larceny. Meeks has been released from the county jail under a \$2,000 bond.

Housing Authority To Prepare Report

Kings Mountain Housing Authority Executive Director Tom Harper said today his office will prepare a report on the need for 70 additional conventional housing units for members of the city commission.

Monday night the commissioners voted to table Harper's request to make application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the 70 units.

Commissioner Jim Childers made the motion in order to give Harper time to supply statistics to backup the request for the units. Childers said he felt the board should have information showing the justification for the request.

Harper said justification can easily be shown since the authority has over 800 local applications on file for the conventional housing units requested. "We have over 800 applications if you want to count the ones from within Cleveland County," Harper said.

The Kings Mountain Housing Authority received notification of housing assistance availability from the Greensboro office of HUD on Jan. 30, 1978. The authority has until Mar. 5 to submit an application to HUD for assistance consideration or the funds will be made available to another area.

Under the notification from HUD, Harper said available under the "new construction" category are 30 units for large families featuring three or more bedrooms and 40 units featuring one to two bedrooms.

"We have at least 73 applications as of today (Tuesday) for the one to two bedroom units," Harper said. "With more applications coming in all the time."

Harper was informed of comments attributed to Charles Freeman, chairman of the Forest City Housing Authority, in the Feb. 8 issue of Forest City's This Week-Courier-Sun newspaper. Freeman appeared before the Forest City Board of Commissioners to request approval to a preliminary study loan for 70 units conventional housing he said he had been allocated to Region C. The region includes Cleveland County.

Freeman's information to the Forest City Board, as reported by This Week, indicated the allocation reportedly is to be divided between Forest City, Shelby and Kings Mountain. Freeman said, "but we felt Kings Mountain has had more than its share of housing or any other Federal money and we understand Shelby is not interested,"

so he recommended that Forest City make application for all 70 units. Harper said, "I have no wish to get into a controversy with Mr. Freeman, but I believe there has been some misunderstanding here. HUD does not allocate housing units according to regions. Notification of housing assistance availability is done by counties."

Harper said HUD bases its notification on data showing the needs for low income housing in each county. He said the notification received Jan. 30 does not indicate housing for Region C or Kings Mountain, but for Cleveland County.

"I did not anticipate any action such as taken by the Kings Mountain Board Monday night," Harper said. "If I had known I would have attended the meeting with the statistics to answer the commissioners' questions then. Our office will prepare a report and, perhaps, meet individually with the commissioners to answer their questions fully."

Should the board give approval for the local authority to submit an application for the 70 units, Harper said the city is looking toward 28 to 36 months before such units would be a reality.

The entire process includes finding and optioning enough property to contain the new units; surveying and planning; property purchase, based on HUD approval; hiring an architect to draw construction plans, again to be approved by HUD; then letting contracts to bidders and actual construction.

VFW Commander-in-Chief To Visit KM On Friday

Dr. John Wasylik, Commander-in-Chief of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will pay a special visit to Kings Mountain Fri., Feb. 17.

D. H. Brown, commander of the Frank Glass VFW Post 9811 in Kings Mountain, said, "Dr. Wasylik will arrive here about 2 p. m. and will meet local members and community dignitaries in a reception at the local post."

Brown said this is the first visit to Kings Mountain by any VFW US Commander-in-Chief and he urges local post members and auxiliary members to attend the program on Feb. 17.

During a whirlwind three day-tour of North Carolina facilities, Dr. Wasylik will have lunch at noon at the Shelby Post, then meet with KMers at 2 p. m. and attend a program at the Course Post

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

Your electric bills may be a bit higher next month but will continue to be lower than Duke Power Company's new rate changes effective March 1.

The city board of commissioners took recommendations of Southeastern Consulting Engineers Monday night and unanimously adopted the current Duke Power retail customer rate, effective March 1 for the bills after April 1.

In the case of some large industries, rates have been realigned so these customers will actually be paying less than under the old rates.

The recommendation includes Duke's electric rates for residential, all-electric, commercial and industrial users. Engineer William H. Little Jr. also recommended the city continue passing along Duke's monthly wholesale fuel adjustment charge, which the board passed unanimously.

"This will bring the city's rate in line with Duke's current rates, which means the city rates will continue to be lower than Duke rates in all areas of use," explained Little, who compared in a lengthy presentation the city's existing and proposed rates with Duke's and when compared to the total bill he showed that existing rates in residential and residential all-electric will continue to be lower than Duke's rate.

"The city is in very good position to compete with electric rates," said Little, citing statistics that Kings Mountain is five percent lower than the national average rates.

The comparison charts are available in City Hall and will also be posted in the billing department for electrical customers to peruse when they pay their power bills on the first of month.

The city's cost for operating the electrical system has increased over the years - from \$179,000 in 1974 to \$202,000 in 1977, some 12.8 percent, declared Little.

Examining the chart, Little said that the city's fuel charge might be higher than Duke's during a certain

Nicholson Returns To Board Seat

City Comm. Corbet Nicholson was back at his desk Monday night in Council Chambers after a several months absence following a heart attack.

District Four Comm. Nicholson said he was very happy to be back and Mayor John Moss welcomed the commissioner on behalf of the full board.

The Mayor also took the occasion at the opening of the Monday night session to welcome visiting Boy Scouts and their parents.

at 4 p. m. Brown said he has issued special invitations to Mayor John H. Moss, Police Chief Jackie Barrett, Sen. Ollie Harris and American Legion Cdr. Bob Smith and others to attend the meeting with Dr. Wasylik.

An optometrist in Sandusky, Ohio, Dr. Wasylik is also deeply involved in youth, civic, professional and veterans' activities there.

He has held numerous jobs within the VFW prior to his election as Commander-in-Chief at the VFW Convention in Minneapolis, Minn., on Aug. 26, 1977.

Dr. Wasylik is a veteran of the Korean War where he served with the 7th Infantry Division as a machine gun section sergeant. He earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Unit Citation and the Bronze Star.

But Still Lower Than Duke's

New Electric Rate Adopted

CITY'S RATES	DUKE'S RATES	
	EXIST.	PROP.
325 KWH		
BASE	\$12.42	\$13.00
FUEL	2.66	1.09
TOTAL	\$15.08	\$14.09
AVG/KWH	4.464¢	4.336¢
*725 KWH		
BASE	\$22.99	\$29.51
FUEL	5.94	2.44
TOTAL	\$28.93	\$31.95
AVG/KWH	3.990¢	4.407¢
*AVERAGE CUSTOMER		

month but that in the total analysis city customers' fuel charges will be lower. The city's fuel charge is regulated through Duke Power Co. by the Federal Power Commission whereas Duke's comes from a different formula at the state level, explained Little.

Comparing the city's existing and proposed rates with Duke's, for example:

Average consumption for a residential user of 724 kw: existing city rates total 28.93 compared to Duke's \$31.20. New rates for this customer would be \$31.95 for the city as compared to \$38.45 for Duke Power.

Under commercial, 2,100 kilowatt hour usage, the city's new rate would be \$209.49 as compared to Duke's new rate of \$114.84.

Little explained that the city utilizes basically four different rates, 80 percent of city electrical users are residential customers, 10 percent are residential all-electric customers, and 10 percent are commercial and industrial customers.

Eighty percent of the city's residential customers are in the 1650

kwh usage category.

Looking at the chart, Little pointed out their new rate will be below Duke Power's, for instance: city's base rate for a customer using 1650 kwh was \$44.03 plus a fuel charge of \$12.69 which brought the total of \$56.72. The City's proposed rate for that customer is \$68.40 for a base rate plus \$5.18 for fuel charge or a total of \$73.58. This example represents what Little called a "high use month" for this particular residential customer.

You can see the comparison also in the case of the residential all-electric user whose billing is based on 1250 kwh, for example, existing base rate is \$36.17 plus a fuel charge of \$10.24 or a total of \$46.41. The proposed city rate is \$43.47, base, plus \$4.20 fuel charge, total cost \$47.67, up 26 cents. Duke's existing cost for this customer is \$41.41, base, plus \$4.18 for fuel charge or a total of \$45.59. Duke's proposed rate is \$46.70, base, plus \$4.18 for fuel charge or a total of \$50.88, up by \$4.20.

In some instances, there's about a one dollar difference between the old rates and the new proposed city rates.

For residential all-electric customer using 2700 kwh, the figure shows that the existing rate is \$64.16 plus \$22.11 for fuel charge or a total of \$86.27 as compared with a proposed rate of \$80.55, base, plus \$9.09 fuel charge or a total of \$89.63. For Duke Power Company, the proposed rate of \$85.23 compares with \$93.77, their proposed rate.

You can notice that in some instances the fuel charges of the present rate and three times as much as that proposed. For instance: commercial user of 2100 kwh: 30 kw demand; city's base rate is \$87.90 plus \$17.20 fuel charge as compared to city's proposed rate of \$102.43 base, plus \$7.06 for fuel charge, or a total of \$109.49. Duke's

present rate is \$98.07 base, plus fuel charge of \$7.02 or total of \$105.09; whereas proposed rate is \$107.82, plus \$7.02 fuel or a total of \$114.84.

Little also compared the "controversial" fuel charge statistics from January 1977 through February 1978, noting on the chart that a residential user of 725 kwh paid lower rates than Duke's: city's base rate \$22.99, plus \$4.89 fuel charge or total of \$27.88. Duke's proposed rate: \$28.78, base, plus \$1.24 or a total of \$30.02.

Ten percent of the city customers, all-electric residential, paid approximately \$12.00 more last year for city power than they will pay during the coming year. For instance, all-electric customer using 2700 kwh paid \$64.16, base, plus \$18.25 for fuel charge, total cost \$82.41. Duke's rate was \$76.20 plus \$4.63 fuel charge or total of \$80.83.

Mayor John Moss said after the presentation by Little that "this reflects well upon Kings Mountain's electric system" and Commissioner Norman King went a step further. He noted that the fuel charge had always been a controversial issue with city customer and added, "When our citizens see these rates and how they compare with Duke's they'll see that their monthly bills will be less in all rates and our people will benefit from these studies made."

Mayor John Moss commented that, "Our whole objective is to cut through the red tape and get the total costs of electric power, including the fuel adjustment or coal charge, to where the bottom line costs to Kings Mountain citizens below or equal to Duke's. This is what we are going to do."

Typical bills for both the city's and Duke customers for comparison, based on the same amount of kilowatt hours, are posted at city hall.