

Second Development Meeting Set Thursday

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

A second public meeting to form a Kings Mountain Development Corporation is scheduled Thursday at 8 p. m. in the Depot Center.

The first meeting was held last Thursday night at city hall with a handful of citizens showing up to hear the proposal for the organization.

Although Mayor John H. Moss and four members of the city commissioners presided over the meeting and the city will serve as

the grant application agency, the corporation will be organized from the private sector of the community and is to operate like any other free enterprise corporation.

The stimulus for the development corporation is the city's eligibility to participate in a \$1-million Urban Action Development Grant for smaller cities by the federal government.

Mayor Moss explained to the gathering last Thursday that there are three areas under which the UDAG program can be used — residential, industrial and com-

mercial. The local proposal is to pursue commercial development in Kings Mountain.

The mayor explained that private citizens must put together a viable organization to work toward revitalizing the local business community. This includes renovation and updating existing business structures and bringing in new retail businesses. The guidelines for the UDAG program also allow such a corporation to go outside the city's corporate limits to develop business, if that venture is tied back to the local economy.

The city will make a preliminary application, due by Feb. 28, to alert the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that Kings Mountain plans to participate in the program.

Applications for the 25 percent project funding by the corporation may be made at anytime during the year, which is divided into quarters.

David Long, of the N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources, told the gathering, "The UDAG program is similar to the community development block grants, but works in reverse. Under

CD the projects are funded almost entirely by federal money. Under UDAG, the local investors supply or get commitments for the majority of the money and the federal funding is only 25 percent."

The guidelines put the local community under the gun, according to the mayor, because all of the initial planning must be done by local leadership.

"The corporation is formed with officers and directors being named," the mayor said. "an executive director must be hired, one that is a real live wire. Then a

master plan for the entire revitalization program must be mapped out before application is made."

Long told the gathering that local investment is the key to the project. He said that can be in the form of stock shares sold to anyone interested, initial investment from individuals or letters of loan commitments from lending institutions.

"But the estimated cost as close to the dollar as possible must be laid out along with the means for

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KM Group Purchases Kings Mountain Inn

The Kings Mountain Motor Inn is now owned by a group of Kings Mountians.

The sale was formalized weeks ago, but announcement of the transaction was held off until the local group could organize and map out a plan for renovation and upgrading the facility.

Kings Mountain Motor Inn, formerly The Royal Villa and Kings

Mountain Inn, was purchased for an undisclosed price by eight businessmen, including Odus Smith, W. K. Mauney Jr., Mack Lefever, Larry D. Hamrick, Dr. Charles Blair, Jack A. Woodbury, Carl W. Champion and James B. Ware.

Odus Smith, president of the group, said "the group intends to see the Kings Mountain Motor Inn, Inc. affords people in the area with

outstanding accommodations and service."

According to Smith, Jack Woodbury, who has been manager of the inn for the past two and a half years, has been named executive vice president of the group and general manager of the motor inn.

The 106-room facility features meeting rooms accommodations for up to 250 persons, a restaurant, pool and guest accommodations.

Woodbury said, "The excellent food facilities are an asset to the area and afford the local community and the traveling public real southern hospitality."

"We are now more than ever a part of the local community, and look forward to the opportunity to be of service," Woodbury continued. "We have the facilities, quality product and service to meet our customers needs from meals in our restaurant, meeting, banquets and other functions at the motel to outstanding guest facilities."

Smith said plans by the new owners call for refurbishing the rooms, installation of new carpet and heating and air conditioning systems.

Besides Smith and Woodbury, other officers include W. K. Mauney Jr., vice president; Larry D. Hamrick, secretary and treasurer; and Mack Lefever — assistant secretary and treasurer. All of the eight owners serve as the board of directors.

The Kings Mountain Motor Inn, Inc. is located at the Hwy. 161 — Interstate 85 intersection south of the city's business district.



Photo By Tom McIntyre

THE NEW OWNERS — These six Kings Mountians are the new owners of the Kings Mountain Motor Inn, Inc., along with Dr. Charles Blair and James B. Ware (not pictured). Seen here are Carl Champion, Jack

Woodbury, W. K. Mauney, Jr., Odus Smith, Mack Lefever and Larry Hamrick. Smith serves as president of the group and Woodbury as executive vice president and general manager.

At 4 P.M.

Services Tuesday For Mrs. Peeler

Funeral services for Mrs. Pearl Drace Peeler, 80, of 318 E. King St. will be conducted Tuesday afternoon at 4 p. m. from Central United Methodist Church of which she was a member.

Her pastor, Rev. Robert Boggan, assisted by a former pastor, Rev. Paschal Waugh, will officiate, and interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Mrs. Peeler succumbed Sunday morning at 6:10 a. m. in Kings Mountain Convalescent Center after declining health for some time.

She was a native of Greer, South Carolina, daughter of the late Charles and Fanny Miller Drace.

She was the widow of prominent lumber dealer, B. S. Peeler, president of Elmer Lumber Company for a number of years before his death in 1956. She was long active in civic and religious life of the community.

Surviving are her son, Burlie S. (Sonny) Peeler Jr. of Kings Mountain, and one grandson, Joe Peeler of Kings Mountain. Her son, Drace M. Peeler, died in 1975.

Active pallbearers will be Marvin Byars, Gail McDaniel, Charles Carpenter, Wilson Griffin, George Blalock, and W. A. Russell. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Official Board of Central United Methodist Church.

Student Testing Will Begin April 1

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

Do you think your high school senior would fill out a social security card correctly? If he can't he won't be able to get his diploma — and that's the law.

The social security card questions are only examples of the new "Trial run" tests to be given to Kings Mountain Senior High School students beginning Apr. 1.

Beginning in the Fall of 1978, all 11th grade students will be required to take and pass the competency tests as a requirement for graduation.

Dr. H. T. Conner, State Assistant Superintendent for Research and Development, N. C. State Department of Public Instruction, and his administrative assistant, Mrs. Janice Lassiter, explained both the annual testing program and the competency testing program before members of the Kings Mountain Chapter of the Association of Educators (NAEA) Tuesday afternoon in B. N. Barnes Auditorium.

The two testing programs will be given on an experimental basis beginning this spring. The annual achievement test will be given to grades 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9, and the competency test will be given to 11th grade students.

Both are laws passed by the legislature to insure that a high school graduate from a North Carolina school can demonstrate basic, functional skills. Passing the



Photo By Lib Stewart

EXPLAIN TESTING PROGRAM — Mrs. Janice Lassiter, left, and Dr. H. L. Conner far right, of the State Department of Public Instruction, Al Cloninger, second from left, president of the KMSHS student body,

and Gary Shields, principal of KM Junior High, were speakers for an NCAE meeting last week in which the annual testing and competency testing programs were discussed.

minimum standards will indicate to employers, parents and other citizens that a high school graduate has attained these skills.

Dr. Conner predicted the testing program will have a big impact on

education — for the first time parents and teachers alike will have information about a student's progress — or lack of it.

He also said the testing would "hopefully" bring more emphasis in

the school systems on the "three R's" while not decreasing other subject material and would give early identification of a student's weaknesses and need for early remedial work.

Mrs. Lassiter pointed out that the testing programs will "increase debate about social promotions and retentions" and more parents would be interested because they would receive copies of the detailed test report.

Dr. Conner called for more remedial work at the high school levels and said he foresees a possible change in the high school programs with a high rate of failures.

"Possibly schools and school systems will be prepared but should proceed with caution," said Dr. Conner, "because students are not the same from school to school and from system to system."

The new law, according to Dr. Conner, also requires that a student who fails a part or whole of the test be helped — but the legislature did not provide the funds for extra programs and extra teachers.

Mrs. Lassiter said there are many ways students who fail the tests can receive help; through tutoring, small classes, take-home kits so the parents can help the students, teacher aides, community programs set up by civic organizations and churches.

When an 11th grader at Kings Mountain Senior High takes the test this spring students in other cities throughout the state will be taking the same test. Dr. Conner said this coordinated testing program gives both the opportunity for analysis and comparison.

"It will help the boy or girl get more out of the educational program

and will help the schools also," said Mrs. Lassiter.

The "trial run" test this spring is designed to identify the most effective measures and test to be used in Fall of 1978 when the first full-scale testing of the competencies of 11th graders will be given to North Carolina students.

If the student fails once he will have three more chances to pass the test and obtain his high school diploma. The high school test will be given the Fall of the Junior year, the following Spring, the Fall of the senior year and then, finally, the Spring of the Senior year.

The annual achievement test will be given to first, second, third, sixth and ninth grade students to show both weaknesses and strengths of these pupils.

Dr. Conner predicted a high degree of failures of high school pupils taking the first test, although they won't be very difficult:

Here are some of the sample questions on the high school competency test:

Jane Diamond Hughes is applying for a Social Security number. What should Jane put in the space labeled 1? (space for printing full name). Check correct answer: Jane D. Hughes, Hughes, Jane D., Jane Diamond or Diamond, Jane.)

Which box of Crackles is the cheapest per ounce? Crackles 2 oz. 16 cents; Crackles, 5 oz. 30 cents; Crackles 9 oz. 45 cents; or Crackles, 16 oz. 96 cents?

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