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# How Much Does The City Owe?

National magazines have labeled Kings Mountain's Mayor John H. Moss "the man with the Midas touch" in view of his state and federal funding programs expertise. Through the mayor's office the city has received between \$16 and \$20 million in grants and, oddly enough, this very fact has brought criticism of the Moss administration. The basic criticism is that the Moss administration "has gotten the city into deep debt."

Just how much does the City of Kings Mountain owe?

As of now the city's bonded indebtedness totals \$2,975,000. Joe McDaniel, city clerk - treasurer, said the principal and

interest are being paid annually at over \$300,000. The principal for the 1978-79 fiscal year is \$180,000. Interest payments, made in October, November and December totaled \$149,845. The total bond debt payment for the current fiscal year totals \$329,845.

Moss was elected mayor the first time in 1965. At the time the city owed a \$450,000 bond debt. The city had borrowed that amount on May 1, 1954 for water and sewer improvements. From that public bond referendum approved debt the city has an outstanding balance of \$110,000.

In the 18 years of the Moss administration the city has borrowed

\$4,105,000. A total of \$215,000 of that amount was borrowed by city board vote and the rest under authorization from the citizens who voted approval of bond referendums.

Mayor Moss said, "We have retired about \$2 - million of the bonded indebtedness - most of which was spent on constructing city income producing facilities."

City hall and Local Government Commission records reveal the amounts borrowed and the amounts still outstanding on each.

+ April 1, 1968: Citizens approved \$1.3-million bond issue for sanitary sewer improvements. \$1-million was borrowed. Outstanding debt is

\$600,000;

+ April 1, 1969: Citizens approved \$3-million water bond issue to construct water treatment plant at what is now Moss Lake. Outstanding debt is \$2,100,000;

+ April 1, 1974: Commissioners approved issuing \$110,000 for sanitary sewer improvements. Outstanding debt is \$80,000;

+ Feb. 1, 1975: Commissioners approved issuing \$105,000 for constructing a natural gas peak shaving plant to augment the city's gas supply to citizens. Outstanding debt is \$85,000.

Mayor Moss said he and the commissioners "are proud of the city's financial picture." City Clerk

McDaniels commented, "My opinion is that Kings Mountain is running even with payments on bonded indebtedness. We are where we should be in paying these debts."

The mayor said he is also proud of the fact that the city owes no money on the new Citizens Service Center, the community center, the four-million gallon per day capacity addition to the existing water treatment plant or the Depot Center.

The Depot Center, community center and water treatment addition were funded under Community Development Block Grants. The Citizens Service Center, which cost approximately \$400,000, was paid for

out of capital outlay from the city budget.

The city also has a grant of \$990,000 for construction of the Governmental Services Facilities Building (city hall), which is to be completed in the coming months. CD funding has been approved to construct a two-million gallon water storage tank on Gray St.

"I am aware of the criticism in some quarters that under my administration the city is supposed to be head-over-heels in debt," Mayor Moss said. "But, I think these figures and the fact we have made progress in Kings Mountain will show the citizens that the city is on firm business footing."



**WHAT'S NEW, IGLOO?** - Taking advantage of a school holiday due to the snow, this group of energetic youngsters from the Northwoods subdivision created themselves an igloo with tunnels and three entrances. Here (not in order) are Eddie Blanton 12, Dante

Smith, 11, Tony Gordon, 14, Shawn Smith, 12, and Calvin Stephens 11. Eddie said two others helped - Carol and Kelly Blanton, ages five and three.

Photo By Tom McIntyre

## Working, Playing In Snow

King Winter dumped a second heavy snowfall, this time accumulations up to 12 inches, in Kings Mountain early Sunday.

Snow started falling around midnight Saturday, for the second time since Feb. 6-7 when seven and one-half inches of snow blanketed the area.

It looked, more than one resident commented, like a blizzard. Weathermen called the storm the worse in 10 years.

City crews began readying snow removal equipment at 1:30 a. m. Sunday and started the mammoth clean-up operation at 5 a. m., finishing up with snow removal Monday night about 11 p. m. Sand trucks were out again on the streets on Monday night and city crews are still cleaning catch basins where the snow has melted, said Mayor John Henry Moss.

There were no power outages as the result of the winter storm and city police department reported only two minor wrecks occurring during the weekend.

Weathermen were predicting accumulations of from one to three

inches of snow in the Piedmont Carolinas.

Most stores and businesses operated with abbreviated crews during the day Monday. Some churches cancelled Sunday morning services.

School kids took a long holiday and played.

Some industries closed, for the first time ever.

The worst winter storm in recent memory paralyzed North Carolina, chilling much of the state with bitter-cold temperatures and dropping up to one foot of snow across a wide area of the state.

"The city commissioners and I are quite proud of the outstanding job our crews have done during the recent snow storms," said the Mayor.

But while motorists were cursing the snow, the young people of the city were suddenly struck creative. Sunday the consistency of the snow made snowmen and snowballs impossible to fashion. But Monday and Tuesday, after a freeze and sunshine the snow was just right.

Around the city there were reports of snow sculpting that would make an artist proud. A lady called to tell us people on Phifer Cir. in the Oak Grove section had created from snow a large Scottie dog and an Eskimo.

On Cansler St. Don and Robbie McAbee went a little more commercial with their snow creation of the Incredible Hulk - a giant figure bursting out of his clothes. The McAbees even colored the figure green.

Linda Ann McDaniel, age 12, raked up the snow in her yard - 109 N. Sims St. - and fashioned two small horses and a wagon. She submitted an instant photo in color of her creation and herself seated in the snow wagon, but, alas, color pictures do not reproduce too well in black and white.

Over on Linwood Rd. someone built a curvy snow woman and on Waco Rd. there stood a seven foot high Polar Bear.

Seven young people got together on Northwoods Dr. and built a huge igloo with three entrances and tunnels clear through.

There were many, many other snow creations dotting the cityscape, but we mention only the few called in to the Mirror-Herald offices.

Will we get another chance to be creative with a fresh batch of snow? Ask the weatherman.

The Red Cross bloodmobile will return to Kings Mountain Monday for a one-day collection at Bethware School.

Donors will be processed from 11 a. m. until 4:30 p. m. in Bethware Gymnasium in a visit sponsored by Bethware Parent-Teacher Organization.

**Talent Show**

Twenty-one groups of Bethware students will perform in Thursday (tonight's) Talent Show at 7 p. m. in Bethware School Auditorium.

Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students. Members of the

## For 4 Years Wastewater Permits Approved For City

The city's permit to discharge waste water has been approved for the next four years by the Division of Environmental Management of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The renewal becomes effective April 1 and expires midnight Dec. 31, 1983.

It was signed under date of Jan. 30th by A. F. McRorie, director, in compliance with provisions of N. C. General Statute 143-215-1.

The city operates a four million gallon wastewater treatment facility at Pilot Creek and a one million gallon waste treatment plant at McGill Creek in Broad River Basin.

"We are very pleased to have these permits renewed," said Mayor John Henry Moss. "This permit means with a five million capacity for waste water treatment Kings Mountain will continue its solid program of development to build new houses, businesses and industry, community facilities such as churches and other needed community facilities."

Elaborating on Kings Mountain's waste treatment facilities, Mayor Moss explained with five million gallon capacity the city boasts a two million gallon surplus capacity, noting that the cost of building the two waste treatment facilities today would approximate 1.42 gallons or \$7 million.

The average household in Kings Mountain uses 100 gallons per day per person and cost per person for waste treatment over a year's period is \$9.00. Kings Mountain has a number of industrial waste customers in the city's waste treatment facility with capability of handling in compliance with EPA regulations. With the city's surplus capacity, this also means opportunities for jobs, said the mayor.

Under the city's permit to discharge wastewater under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, the city of Kings Mountain is authorized to discharge wastewater from a facility located at Pilot Branch wastewater treatment facility in receiving waters of Buffalo Creek in Broad River Basin.

The city is also authorized to continue operation of a 4.0 MGD extended aeration type wastewater treatment facility located at Cleveland County and discharge from said treatment works into Buffalo Creek.

The city is also authorized to discharge waste water from a facility located at McGill Creek waste water treatment plant to receiving waters at McGill Creek in Catawba River Basin and to continue operation of a 1.0 MGD extended aeration type waste water treatment facility located at Cleveland County and discharge from said treatment works into McGill Creek.

### Info Wanted

The Kings Mountain Police Department is looking for information concerning a hit and run incident on W. Mountain St. last Friday night.

The incident occurred about 7:30 p. m. in front of West School. A white vehicle traveling east on W. Mountain sideswiped two cars and a truck, all of them parked, and continued on. Police said there was considerable damage to all three vehicles.

Anyone with information concerning this incident is asked to call KMPD at 739-3686.

## Bloodmobile Visit Is Monday

The Red Cross bloodmobile will return to Kings Mountain Monday for a one-day collection at Bethware School.

Donors will be processed from 11 a. m. until 4:30 p. m. in Bethware Gymnasium in a visit sponsored by Bethware Parent-Teacher Organization.

Parent-Teacher Organization will have refreshments available in the gymnasium at intermission time.

### Public Hearing

GROVER - The controversy still exists in this town of 300-plus registered voters on the number of members the town board will comprise.

Public hearing on resolution of intent to up membership on the board by creating districts has been called by Mayor W. W. McCarter and the board of commissioners for Monday night at 7 p. m. in Council Chambers.

### Plan Program

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Jolley will give the program at Monday night's meeting of Kings Mountain Woman's Club.

### Class Makeup

Kings Mountain Gymnastics Club has scheduled makeup classes for missed classes due to snow for Sat., Feb. 24th.

According to Colleen Smith, instructor, the 3:15 to 4 p. m. classes will meet from 10 until 11 a. m. Saturday morning, the 5 to 6 p. m. classes will meet from 11 a. m. until 12 noon Saturday.

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