

KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR

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HERALD

City Gas Rates Are Going Higher

Your gas bills from the city this month will be higher.

City commissioners, at a special meeting Monday at noon, upped the natural gas rates to reflect the new schedule rates from their supplier, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation.

The new rate will total 31 cents per mcf, according to John Howze of the Marketing Department of Transco and also a customer of the city.

"I don't like it anymore than you do", Howze told the board, but to get the product you have to pay the price.

And he isn't optimistic that the rate will remain the same for any given period.

"Rate hikes can be expected to continue to sometime to come. How long, and what rate, we can't say", he said.

"Still Kings Mountain's rates are considerably less than any town in this vicinity I know of", said Howze.

Mayor John Moss said the actual increase from Transco is .2002 cents and was effective March 1. The city, in effect, has borne the cost of the increase since its new rates to customers were not effective until April 2.

Transco bills the city on the decatherm basis (1,000 BTU's) and the city bills customers on the MCF basis, said Howze, who explained the new cost of the city for gas is \$1.9074 per decatherm and the city loses three percent of its revenue because of the difference in measurement. Part of the approved hike -.0592—is to recover the cost and to meet requirements of safety programs and maintain and operate the natural gas system here.

The total increase, according to Mayor Moss, is .3094 per MCF for all classifications of users.

Part of the increase, according to Howze, is result of passage of the National Gas Policy Act last fall which provides for gradual decontrol of gas and result of the Louisiana use tax for all gas passing through the state and not originating in it, said Howze. Transco purchases gas in Texas and Louisiana and transports it to the Carolinas.

"We (Transco) are fighting this tax increase in court", said Howze, who explained that as wells deplete that more expensive gas must be obtained by Transco for transport and sale. "Years ago gas was cheap", said Howze.

Howze declared that as natural gas rates go up there is "an incentive for drilling more wells", he

said that Kings Mountain's gas picture "is brighter" and he foresees that Kings Mountain will see an increase in its gas allocation this year. "For years", he said, "Kings Mountain's natural gas allotment has been curtailed."

In a related action, the board approved a special school rate upon recommendation of city gas consultants, noting that schools would receive the same rate as public buildings under the new rate schedule.

"We are passing Transco's rates along to the customers", said the Mayor.

Prior to March 1, the cost of gas to the city was \$1.7072.

KM Jaycees Raise \$1,100 In Run-Walk

The first annual Kings Mountain Jaycee Run-Walk-A-Thon, held last Saturday, raised about \$1,100 for the March of Dimes, Kings Mountain Heart Fund and Cystic Fibrosis.

Twenty-six entrants participated in the 10-mile event, which began at Kings Mountain Senior High parking lot at 10 a.m.

Dwayne Brown completed the course first, registering completion after one hour, 30 minutes. Andy Neisler came in second (one hour, 35 minutes); Bob Maner (1:40); Allan Propst (1:56); and Don Sellers (1:59).

Tom Franks, event chairman, said all 26 entrants completed the

10-mile course, with the last man finishing before 2:30 p.m.

All entrants were given T-shirts denoting the event. The shirts and sponsorship of the run-walk-a-thon were provided by Independence National Bank, Kings Mountain Savings and Loan, First Union National Bank, First Citizens Bank and Trust Co. and Dicey Mills, McDonald's and Hardees.

"The Jaycees would also like to thank the Kings Mountain Police Department, Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, Kings Mountain Rescue Squad and Kings Mountain REACT for their help in maintaining safety along the course," Franks said.



Photo by Tom McIntyre

TOP MDA MONEY RAISER—Steve Boggan receives a Panasonic TV set, courtesy Bridges Hardware, from Steve Baker as his prize for raising \$541 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association during the recent Kings Mountain Senior High MDA fund-raising event.

Baker was chairman of the event for the school, which rated tops in the state for the second consecutive year for money pledged. Baker said over \$12,800 in pledges has been collected to date. Pictures of other MDA prize winning students are inside today's Mirror-Herald.

Grover Board Asked To Consider Tax Cut

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

GROVER—Comm. Harold Herndon wants to cut the town's present tax rate of 35 cents per \$100 valuation to 20 cents.

He made the suggestion at Monday's regular board meeting because he said "I think we can do it. We'll have a considerable surplus in all departments and at least \$10,000 in the water construction fund."

"We have as high a tax rate as anyone in the county", he said, "and we're not spending much money."

Comm. Herndon made the comment near the close of the meeting

and got no response from either Comm. Martha Byers or Mayor Bill McCarter. (Comm. Tommy Keeter left the meeting early because his son, Leard, had been injured at a baseball game in Hickory, and had been hospitalized.

"I'm not making a motion now", said Herndon, "just want you to consider this suggestion."

Mrs. Jim Scruggs, chairman of Grover's beautification committee, suggested the town appoint a co-chairman of the committee and take steps to preserve its history by parking a Southern Railway car on a spur where coal used to be loaded at site of the Grover Depot. She said she had talked with O. Max Gardner, III, about possibility of obtaining one of his cars which is now parked at Whistle Stop in Shelby. She suggested that the car be heated with a pot-bellied stove and used to store historical artifacts and decorated in keeping with the historical motif of the town. Mrs. Scruggs also reported that plans for a Grover Mini Park are at a "stand still" but encouraged all citizens to form a beautification committee and each man, woman and child donate at least two hours of their time in beautifying the entire area.

Comm. Harold Herndon volunteered to check with Southern

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'The Robe' To Open Tonight

A cast of 25 citizens representing the religious community will present "The Robe", a three-act drama based on the novel by Lloyd Douglas, four times this Palm Sunday weekend.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Thursday (tonight) Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. in Park Grace Auditorium.

Mrs. Aubrey Mauney is directing the KM Little Theatre-sponsored productions for which no admission will be charged. An offering will be taken at each performance to benefit the Helping Hand Fund of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association.

Setting of the drama is in Jerusalem, Rome and Athens and opens with the crucifixion scene and centers around the family of Senator Gallio and his son, Marcellus (played by George Hatch) who gambled for the robe of Jesus Christ, and a slave, Demetrius (played by Charles Guin).

(Please turn to page 3A)

Belk Is Closing In KM

Belk Department Store in Kings Mountain will close its doors sometime this summer.

That's the word from a Belk official this week.

The department store opened in Kings Mountain in 1932 in the same building it now occupies, 205 S. Battleground Ave.

The decision to close the local store was made at a recent Belk board of directors meeting.

The Belk official said Wednesday, "The Kings Mountain area has grown considerably in recent years, and our facilities are simply not adequate to offer our customers the selection and type of merchandise which they expect and which we want for them."

"We appreciate the business and support the Kings Mountain people have given us over the years, and Belk certainly retains its interest in the area in view of its exceptional growth," the official continued. "Hopefully, at some time in the future, we can again be a part of the retail community when a more suitable facility can be available."

The exact closing date will be announced later, but until that time, the official said, it will be business as usual.

Saddle Club Opens Show Season Saturday

Kings Mountain Saddle Club will present its "Spring Tune Up" horse show Saturday to open its 1979 horse show season.

The show will begin at 11 a.m. at showgrounds north of the city off Waco Rd. and continue throughout the day and night with an intermission from 5 to 6 p.m.

Classes will be offered in English, Western and Game categories with a total of 42 competitive classes. High

point trophies will be awarded in each of the three divisions and points will be recorded toward the year end high point awards presented at season end.

Nathan Morris of Stoney Point will judge the English classes and Otis Daniel of Lexington, S.C. will judge the Western classes.

Further information and class sheets can be obtained from the show chairman at 739-2108.



SCENE FROM "THE ROBE"—Lloyd C. Douglas' novel, "The Robe," has become a play and will be presented beginning tonight at eight o'clock at the Park Grace Auditorium. Other performances at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and a matinee at 3 p.m. Sunday. Pictured above is the family of Senator Gallio and their

slave. Seated left to right: Vivian Duncan (Diana), Connie Putnam (Cornelia) and Marian Weeks (Lucia). Standing left to right: George Hatch (Marcellus), Cary Osborn (Senator Gallio) and Charles Gwin as Demetrius, the slave, holding The Robe of Jesus.