

## 75...And Doesn't Plan To Quit

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just a few doors from McGinnis Department Store. He continues to report to work every day.

Because of failing eyesight during the past several years, Paul can't enjoy his golf games which he used to love, nor tend his cattle on his Long Branch Road farm. "I had to sell my cattle a few years ago because of health reasons and had to curtail some of my civic activities", he said.

Reminiscing with Paul McGinnis about the good ole days in Kings Mountain is delightful. He can recall incidents that the oldtimers have long forgot; the unpaved streets, the first sidewalks, the horse and buggy days, a watering trough that used to be in front of Kings Mountain Drug Co. where the horses and mules were watered; the time back when there were only two cars in Kings Mountain and they were owned by Walter Dilling and his cousin, Charlie Dilling, the two vehicles were involved in a wreck on King Street and both were damaged in that bump-up. He has lived during all the world wars and remembers citizens of the area who fought in the Civil War. He remembers those grand old parades in the city when those veterans came to town.

Kings Mountain has grown by leaps and bounds during the 50 years that Paul McGinnis has been a retail merchant downtown. He was on the first board of directors of the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission, was a charter member of Kings Mountain Lions Club, Kings Mountain Rotary Club, Kings Mountain Country Club, and avid golfer up until 10 years ago, and has long been active in the business community. He is a director of First Citizens Bank & Trust Co.

His work with the Lutheran church is legend. As a boy he was confirmed and baptized at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and taught Sunday School and served on the church council there. In 1938 he was the congregation's delegate to the National Convention of the United Lutheran Church of America, in Baltimore, Md. In 1950 he assisted with the survey which

led to the founding of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Kings Mountain and was the first Vice Chairman of this congregation. During his adulthood he served more than 45 years on the church council and as a Sunday School teacher.

Paul McGinnis first became interested in the Lutheran Brotherhood when this group was organized at St. Matthew's church, following the footsteps of his father as a leader in men's work. He has been supportive of the work of Lutheran men throughout his life and remains currently active with the local group.

Because he believes "idleness is the devil's workshop," Paul McGinnis has never been idle. When he wasn't working, he was involved in community or church activities and loved to read. At one time he read up to 1,000 books in a three year period and quickly gained the reputation among his friends in the business district of town as a "walking encyclopedia". When John L. McGill at Kings Mountain Drug Co. or the late Postmaster W. Ted Weir wanted to know a specific date they called friend Paul and he quickly supplied the information.

Paul McGinnis is a member of a close knit family. When his late grandfather, Nathan McGinnis, and the clan used to gather for the annual McGinnis reunion there were more than 400 people present. Paul's father was reared in Cherryville, but moved to Kings Mountain at age five. He lived to be 89. Paul's mother lived to be 83. Paul has four brothers and five sisters living: Hubert McGinnis, Bill McGinnis, Jim McGinnis, Don McGinnis, and Mrs. Virginia Sabetti, all of Kings Mountain, Geraldine Gonzales of Ft. Myers Fla., Dot Whetstone of Myrtle Beach, Va., Janet Eagle of Kannapolis, and Mrs. Lucille Sawyer of Charlotte.

He and his wife are parents of two sons, Dr Paul H. McGinnis, Jr. of Baton Rouge, La. and John McGinnis of Kings Mountain; and one daughter Mrs. Anita McGinnis Campbell of Kings Mountain. There are five granddaughters, Patricia, Kimberly and Ashley McGinnis

and Ann and Emily Campbell, all of Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain has always been "home" to Paul McGinnis. He can remember when Kings Mountain's first fire department was a hose pipe wrapped around what he called "two wheel job" and some volunteers worked out of a shed on Battleground Avenue; the first businesses in town were the W.A. Mauney Brothers Store, and Plonk Brother & Co. The first mayor was A.E. Cline in 1912 which was also chairman of the county board of commissioners and he recalled the heavy influx of industry in town from the beginning of the Cora, the old Phenix and Dilling Mills, and Kings Mountain Manufacturing Company in the late 1880's. he recalled when the Neisler family built the Pauline plant in 1913 and the beginnings of downtown revitalization in the early days.

The nearest he ever came to getting involved in city politics was allowing his name to be placed on a ticket but he declined when he couldn't agree with the candidates he would be running with.

## Patriots Defeat East 14-12

Kings Mountain Junior High's football team won its first game of the season Thursday at John Gamble Stadium, defeating East McDowell 14-12.

The Patriots held the lead throughout the game, but had to stop two East two-point conversion attempts to nail down their first victory.

Coach David Heffner's team, now 1-3-1, plays host to Shelby Thursday at 4 p.m. and closes out its season next Thursday against Chase.

A big defensive play by Otis Brooks set up Kings Mountain's go-ahead touchdown in the first period. Brooks picked off an East pass at midfield and returned it to the 10 yard line and Vince Sullens later scored on a six-yard run. Brooks ran the extra point to give KM an 8-0 lead.

East McDowell came right back and scored on a 21-yard pass. East missed the point-after.

The Patriots scored their final touchdown late in the half on a three-yard run by Brooks. The Patriots missed the point-after and held a 14-6 halftime advantage.

East McDowell scored its final TD with 5:18 remaining on a two-yard run, and the KM defense denied a game-tying two-point conversion attempt.

### REVIVAL

Revival services will be held November 7-10 at Grace United Methodist Church. Services will be at 7 p.m. nightly and the Rev. Hubert Cline will be the guest speaker. For transportation, call Chris Joy at 739-2665. A nursery will be provided.

His integrity in business has not faded over the years no his zest for life and dealing with the public.

"I love to work. I love people and I always will", said the veteran salesman as he got up from his chair in the busy downtown store to help a customer with a purchase. "God has been good to me and has blessed me in many ways", he added.

Mr. McGinnis celebrated his diamond anniversary yesterday with a quiet celebration with his family.

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