

# Kings Mountain Herald

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Mauney Memorial Library  
100 S. Piedmont Ave.  
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KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C.

## Chemical Leak Is Controlled

By GARY STEWART  
Editor

Highly toxic and highly flammable liquid leaked for about six hours from a Southern Railway tanker parked behind Spangler and Sons Concrete on the south end of town Tuesday.

Late Tuesday afternoon, the tanker was moved to a non-residential area on the north end of town, where a work crew from the Celanese Corporation tried to repair the leaking valve Wednesday morning.

The leak was spotted at 10:30 a.m. by a brakeman as the train was switching. Kings Mountain Police, the State Highway Patrol and the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad blocked off the area to traffic for most of the day while the Kings Mountain and Bethlehem fire departments sprayed a heavy, continuous stream of water on the tanker.

Larry McDaniel, Chief of the Bethlehem Fire Department and a maintenance employee at nearby Foote Mineral, was familiar with the type valve and attempted to repair the leak. He slowed the leak from 90 drops per second to 20 drops per second, but could not completely stop the leak because of bad bearings around the valve. With the leak drastically slowed, Southern Railway decided to hang a bucket under the valve and move the tanker to the north end of town to a switch track near the J.E. Herndon Company warehouse.

The chemical, methylacrylate, was being shipped from Celanese to Gastonia, where it was to be switched to a Seaboard Coast Line train and moved on to Kimway, N.C. Although the quantity was not

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**CHEMICAL LEAK** - Bethlehem Volunteer firemen spray water on a leaking Southern Railway tanker Tuesday morning behind Spangler Concrete off Highway 216 south of the city. The highly toxic and flammable chemical was being shipped from the Celanese Corporation to Kimway, N.C. Chief Larry McDaniel of the Bethlehem Fire Department adjusted the valve and got the leak slowed down enough so the tanker could be moved out of the city. Photo by Gary Stewart

## ABC Vote Rescinded

By GARY STEWART  
Editor

With over 200 citizens looking on, the Kings Mountain City Council Monday night voted unanimously to rescind its action of January 24 which called for an ABC, Beer and Wine referendum in the city.

Rev. Eugene Land, pastor of Second Baptist Church and chairman of the Kings Mountain Positive Action League, made the request. None of the other citizens who attended spoke out, except for an occasional "amen" to Rev. Land's remarks.

Commissioner Jim Childers, who said he understood on January 24 that the board was merely passing along the vote request to the City Elections Board, made the motion to rescind the action. Norman King, the only commissioner to vote against the referendum on January 24, seconded.

Except for Childers' comments when he made his motion, there was no discussion on the matter.

The Kings Mountain Citizens For Legal Control, who requested the vote through Attorney and committee co-chairman Scott Cloninger, must now secure petitions from the Elections Board and return them within 90 days with signatures, names, addresses and precincts of at least 25 percent of the city's registered voters.

Cloninger said he will begin that procedure immediately.

Cloninger offered 77 petitions containing over 1,300 names to the board at the January 24 meeting, but the board did not take them. Commissioners voted 5-1 to call for the election.

"The bottom line of what the board did Monday night was to deny the people the right to vote," Cloninger said Tuesday. "The process that was followed in requesting the election was legal in all respects and adequately explained to the board by me that night."

Supporters of the dry effort have claimed since January 24 that Cloninger's petitions were illegal since they were not prepared by the Elections Board, and questioned whether the citizens' names on the petition lived inside the city limits.

"I told the board that the petitions were to be used as supportive evidence of the citizens' request to call for the election," Cloninger said.

"The action of the board on February 14 shows the indecisiveness of our board, not only on the issue of allowing the people to vote in an ABC referendum, but in any other



**REV. EUGENE LAND**  
...Presents request to board

issue that may come before them. The reversal of the January 24 decision shows extreme ineptness on their part.

"I believe their decision on February 14 was politically motivated in that the commissioners felt the political wind blowing in one direction that night, and showed extreme concern for those people who had executed the petitions initially and wanted the right to vote on April 12.

"I firmly believe that the commissioners have ignored the majority of the citizens who only want to exercise their right to go to the polls and decide the issue for themselves," Cloninger added.

"As for a future election, we will begin immediately the petition process by requesting from the Board of Elections and asking some of these same people who have executed one petition to execute yet another so that they might exercise their constitutional right to vote. This issue of an ABC store will in no way fall by the wayside. Enough people want to exercise their right to vote and my committee intends to do everything in their power to see that that right is granted."

In presenting his request Monday night, Rev. Land said citizens had voted down liquor referendums twice in the past and his group is "strongly opposed to the city in which we live, the city which we love, going into the business of selling whiskey and allowing beer and wines to be sold."

Land said he could understand how the board might not have been clear on the ABC laws at the January 24 meeting, since the law "was not read to you and

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## Finger Services Held

Funeral services for Belle Miller Finger were conducted at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church at 11 a.m. Saturday by the Reverend Harwood Smith. Mrs. Finger came to Kings Mountain in October of 1912 and had been a member of this church since 1913.

Daughter of the late Victoria Virginia Rudisill and Clarence Preston Miller, Mrs. Finger was born October 12, 1890 in Lincoln County and married October 2, 1912 to Frederick Eli Finger. She is survived by one daughter, Sarah Warren and three sons, Fred, Carl, and Dan

Finger all of Kings Mountain; one sister, Bess Miller Plaxco of Clemson Downs, S.C., nine grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

Mrs. Finger was a charter member of the Thursday Afternoon Book Club, an active member of the Women's Club for many years and president when the Club House was built in the early thirties, a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Town and Country Garden Club. She worked in the alteration department of Plonk's Department Store for many years and was still active there at age 85.

Pallbearers included Joe A. Neisler, Jr., Hugh M. Neisler, Robert P. Neisler, James E. Anthony, Jr., S. Robert Suber, Jr., and James E. Herndon, Jr.

Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

## Report To People

The Kings Mountain District Schools annual "Report to the People" is included in your Herald today.

The tabloid supplement, written by school administrators and teachers, features past accomplishments and future hopes of the schools. The cost of the publication was made possible by 14 area businesses, whose names are printed on the back page.

The publication includes feature stories and pictures from all of the district schools, including Kings Mountain High School, Kings Mountain Junior High, Central Middle School, and Grover, East, West, North and Bethware elementary schools.

## Lenten Service Wednesday

Wednesday, February 23, within Central United Methodist Church from 12:05 - 1:00, a Worship Service and Fellowship lunch will be shared with the community. A minimum \$1.00 donation per person is asked for each lunch.

The worship leader for February 23 is the Reverend Harwood Smith of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and the message will be given by the Reverend Eric M. Faust of First Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be served at 12:30.

## Funeral Services Held For Vera Cooper, 92

Vera Mauney Cooper, 92, of 107 North Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain, died Sunday at 4:45 a.m. at Kings Mountain Convalescent Center.

A Kings Mountain native, she was the daughter of the late Jacob S. and Margaret Rudisill Mauney, and the widow of the late Dr. Edgar Caudius Cooper, a Lutheran minister.

She was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, The United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Kings Mountain Woman's Club.

She was a graduate of Elizabeth College in Charlotte.

Survivors include one son, Rev. Edgar Cooper of New Hanover, Pa.; one daughter, Mrs. George (Margaret) Plonk of Kings Mountain; eight grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted Tuesday at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church by the Rev. Harwood Smith and the Rev. Gerald Weeks. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

## Funeral Services Held For Helen Blanton, 58

Helen Ramsey Blanton, 58, of 58 Canterbury Road, Kings Mountain, died Sunday at Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

A native of Kings Mountain, she was the daughter of the late Earl Logan and Lola Falls Ramsey, and was married to the late Donald W. Blanton. She was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and a retired employee of First Union National Bank.

She is survived by one brother, Charles F. Ramsey Sr.

of Kings Mountain; one sister, Mrs. Nell Hedrick of Kings Mountain; a niece, Mrs. Mary Beth Sellers of Charlotte; and a nephew, Charles E. Ramsey Jr. of Kings Mountain.

Services were conducted Tuesday at 2 p.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church by the Rev. Harwood Smith. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Radiation Department at Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

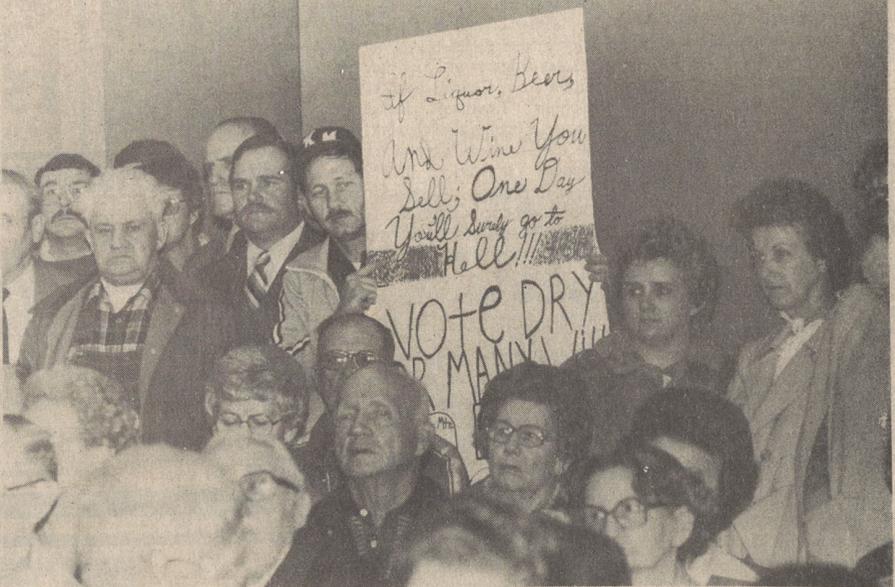


Photo by Gary Stewart

**PROTESTING LIQUOR** - This sign stated the thoughts of several citizens who attended Monday night's City Council meeting. Over 200 citizens packed the council chambers and lobby of the Governmental Services Facilities

Center and urged the board to rescind its recent action which called for an ABC, beer and wine referendum in the city. The board rescinded the action.