

## Office, Apartment, Mall To Be Constructed Downtown

Kings Mountain city commissioners Monday night approved the sale of three lots in the downtown redevelopment district and local citizens announced plans to build offices, apartments and a mini-mall.

Local attorney Claywood Corry was awarded a bid of \$5,500 for the property between First Union National Bank and Barrett's Floor Covering on which once stood Mountain Lanes Bowling Center.

Realtor Ruby Alexander was awarded a bid of \$800 for the property beside McGinnis Department Store on Battleground Avenue, and a bid of \$1,200 for the property on West Mountain Street behind the Joy Theatre.

Corry plans to construct an \$85,000 office building to house his attorney office. Mrs. Alexander plans to build a mini-mall

on the property beside McGinnis Department Store, and she plans to build a five-unit apartment complex on the lot on Mountain Street. She estimates the mall will cost about \$100,000 and the apartment complex \$150,000.

The bids were awarded on the condition that the city board be allowed to review and approve the final building plans prior to issuing a building permit.

Community Development Director Gene White pointed out that in a July meeting, the city board approved selling the lots to the "highest responsible bidder" to encourage building in the downtown area. No other persons offered bid on the three parcels of property.

Both Corry and Mrs. Alexander plan to begin construction in the spring and are pointing toward 1984 completion dates.

Corry's building will be approximately 4,000 square feet, leaving room for future expansion. His immediate goal is to provide office space for three attorneys, three secretaries, a receptionist, bathrooms and a large conference room-library.

The structure will be of brick similar to the brick contained in the new Governmental Services Facilities Center, Corry said.

"This will supply the city with a new piece of property which would provide a tax base and further development of downtown Kings Mountain," Corry said. "Our intention is to grow to more than three attorneys and build with room to add on in the future."

Corry said the lease on his current building at the corner of Mountain and Battleground will expire next October. "I'd like to think that we can complete con-

struction at the same time the lease expires," he said.

Mrs. Alexander's mall on Battleground will be 50 by 100 feet and will include an eight-foot corridor running from Battleground Avenue to the back parking lot. The corridor will be closed after business hours, she said.

"The building will be well-fitted for the downtown area and cause some traffic for downtown," Mrs. Alexander said.

The building will include four or five stores. Mrs. Alexander said she plan to complete the outside of the building, using brick to blend in with adjoining buildings, and then complete the inside to meet each individual tenant's specifications.

The apartment building on Mountain Street will include two paved parking spaces and storage buildings for each individual tenant.

"There is a big demand for town house apartments in the downtown area," Mrs. Alexander said. "We get calls every day. We're building five near these and all five are already rented."

"We have a great need for something like this," Commissioner Jim Childers pointed out.

"It's mighty good that we're going to see some development in the downtown area," Commissioner Jim Dickey added.

White said there are only three or four parcels remaining in the downtown area and about 10 in the Cansler Street Urban Renewal project "excluding some that may be retained for city use."



LIB STEWART



GAIL SHYTTLE

### Stewart Joining Herald

Miss Elizabeth (Lib) Stewart, veteran Kings Mountain newspaperwoman, who has served as editor of The Cherryville Eagle for two and one-half years, will be returning to The Herald Monday to assist her brother, Gary Stewart, in the editorship of The Herald.

Gail Blake Shytle, of Kings Mountain, will be coming to The Eagle to succeed Miss Stewart.

A native of the Dixon Community near Kings Mountain, Miss Stewart is serving this year as state president of North Carolina Press Women. She has won first, second, third, and honorable mention awards for news and feature writing from North Carolina Press Women and has won a second place writing award for features from North Carolina Press Association. Her brother, Gary, is also an award-winning newspaperman and has won writing awards presented by N.C. Press Association. Both grew up on The Herald and have worked there almost all their lives. Gary Stewart worked for several years on the sports desk of The Gastonia Gazette before joining the Kings Mountain Mirror, then owned by W. Garland Atkins and subsequently returned to The Herald when that paper was sold to the Atkinses.

Miss Stewart, a past state president of the American Legion Auxiliary, is serving this year in her seventh consecutive national appointment as National Vice Chairman of Public Relations. She will be installed in August in Salt Lake City, Utah

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## City Is Stressing Energy Conservation

The City Board of Commissioners Monday night appropriated \$800 for use by the Kings Mountain Energy Committee in winterizing homes for 40 needy citizens.

Commissioner Jim Dickey, chairman of the committee, and sub-committee co-chairman Scott Neisler has lined up volunteers to do the work for

persons who are unable to do it themselves.

Mayor John Henry Moss and Teresa Melton, Director of the Aging Program, will be responsible for developing the eligibility guidelines and approving the 40 homes to be winterized.

The 22-person energy committee was appointed by Moss less than a year ago to develop ways

for the city and its energy consumers to conserve electricity. The committee feels conservation is the best way to battle the high utility prices since the governing body has very little control on the utility rates.

Dickey said the committee was divided into five sub-committees.

One sub-committee published a booklet which contains helpful hints for conserving as well as tips for installing insulation and energy-efficient devices.

A condensed leaflet containing everyday tips for conservation is being given to each utility customer when he pays his monthly bill at city hall.

Another group is looking at all areas in which the city uses electricity and hopes to develop measures to conserve on its own.

"If we really tighten our belts we can conserve in excess of 20 percent," Mayor Moss said. "If we get real serious about it, we can go beyond 30 percent."

"A tremendous amount can be done for a little amount of money," Dickey said. "It will surprise you what can be saved."

In a related matter, the board authorized Southeastern Engineers, its energy consultants, to make recommendations on a special rate for residential customers who take steps to conserve.

Mayor Moss said the rate would pertain to new construction with built-in energy-efficient devices, and could also be applied to remodeled residences.

"It would be necessary for them to meet the guidelines adopted by the board," Moss said. "A lot of power companies and cities are doing this."

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### KM Man Killed In Plant Accident

A 26-year-old Kings Mountain man died early Saturday morning in an industrial accident at Foote Mineral Company.

Gary Eugene Strong of 1907 Alpine Drive was working near a conveyor belt around 1 a.m. when a piece of his clothing became entwined in the equipment and caused the machine to suffocate him.

Members of the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad pronounced Strong dead at the scene.

Strong was the son of Betty Strong Clinton and the late Eddie Strong. In addition to his

mother, he is survived by his stepfather, Benjamin Clinton; his wife, Erica Corry Strong; a daughter, Kenyatta Strong of the home; a brother, Daryl Strong of Kings Mountain; and five sisters, Tawanna Strong, Alesia Wade, Belinda Strong, Patty Strong and Tamela Strong, all of Kings Mountain.

Services were conducted Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Mount Zion Baptist Church by the Rev. R.L. Garvin, the Rev. Howard Shipp and the Rev. M.L. Campbell. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

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The United Fund Drive came to an end Monday night at a victory celebration for exceeding their \$71,000 goal. Total funds raised were \$73,000. It will soon be time to wipe the thermometer clean and start all over for next years campaign.

## United Fund Exceeds Goal

Ron Bagwell and Greg Birkovich received the United Fund's President's Award at this year's Victory Dinner for their outstanding campaigns.

Each year the president of the United Way recognizes and

rewards high achievement. This year's president, Larry Wood, stated he needed at least two awards to give credit where credit was due. The Industrial Division, headed by Greg Birkovich, pulled in more than half

of the total goal; while the Hospital Division exceeded their goal by more than 200%.

The \$71,000 goal has been exceeded by more than \$2,000 so far according to Bill Davis, Campaign Chairman. "I'm delighted

to report we exceeded our goal. This truly calls for a great celebration," he stated at the 1984 Campaign Victory Dinner held Monday night at the Holiday Inn.

Pete Auerbach, State Director of Planning of the North Carolina United Way, was present to give a plaque to Larry Wood during the victory celebration. "Kings Mountain is part of a string across the state that have made their goal. On behalf of the state organization, I want to say thanks to all of you for a magnificent job well done."

Michael Broome was the guest speaker for the dinner. He expressed his views on America and why Americans should help others. "We as a nation will lose if we don't pursue dream-agencies such as the United Way help to accomplish dreams. We have a responsibility to take care of others who can't take care of themselves—that's why we should support agencies like the United Way."

The presentation of awards immediately followed the guest speaker. Special applause was given to Bill Davis for his part in the campaign. Larry Wood recognized representatives of the agencies supported by the

at a boarding school for missionaries' children in Oshogbo, Nigeria. Later in Nigeria he was stationed in Ikogosi and also at Igede, where he founded a Baptist boys' high school and served as its principal for several years. Was also involved in construction of buildings at Nigerian Baptist camp there. His last assignment in Igede was doing evangelistic work as adviser for 85 churches in seven associations and directing the camp. He retired in August 1978.

Members of the Kings Mountain Baptist Church cordially invite other Baptist groups of the area and those of other denominations to hear their guests. The study will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship room, and continue until 8:00 p.m., with a break mid-way for refreshments.

## Missionary To Speak

Rev. John S. McGee, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary, will be guest teacher at the Kings Mountain Baptist Church on Sunday evening, December 4. He will be accompanied by his wife, Doris, who will assist him in teaching the book on foreign missions, "The Imperative Impulse". This book describes the new work recently begun in five African countries, by Southern Baptist missionaries. Through their experiences the author, John R. Cheyne, demonstrates the "imperative impulse" that extends Christian witness to the "utmost part of the earth."

Rev. McGee, a native of Winston-Salem, is a graduate of Baylor University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also attended Mars Hill College.

For 33 years he and Mrs. McGee served in a variety of



REV. JOHN MCGEE

ways in Nigeria, West Africa. He taught at Baptist College, Iwo, Nigeria, and was a houseparent