

More Industry Needed

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Eugene LeGrand, county commissioner-elect who will be sworn into office Monday in Shelby, along with Kings Mountain's Joyce Cashion, suggested that the county, Shelby and Kings Mountain pool resources on some projects to save taxpayer dollars, as did Commissioner Pete Stamey. Working toward long-range planning was another goal and LeGrand said that "somewhere in the future we should think about joining the elementary schools and secondary education systems in the county. I know it's not popular now and is controversial but I think it would seem a good thing down the road to join the systems under an umbrella of one administrative unit." New traffic arteries to take the place of Highway 74 west in Shelby

(Dixon Blvd.) and Highway 150 were also mentioned by one of the groups who suggested ideas during an informal discussion. Another group mentioned extending water and sewer into the county (which Kings Mountain is initiating) and the reactivation of the Cleveland Association of Governmental Officials which was formed to provide all governmental bodies in the county an opportunity to discuss topics of mutual concern.

Continuing the discussion of diversification in industry, Comm. Jim Dickey remarked that today there is very little left of the industry that was in Kings Mountain 40 years ago. Textiles is really hurting, he said.

Other city commissioners, Humes Houston, Curt Gaffney and Irvin Allen, echoed Dickey's

remarks. Absent were city commissioners Norman King and Corbet Nicholson.

Pledging to work toward greater cooperation between county and city governing bodies, the group voted to hold another meeting in six months and agreed that by working together the county's various governmental units can better meet some of their common goals.

"Developing Strategy For A Community of Opportunity and Quality Living" was the theme for the seminar which began with supper at the Holiday Inn Monday night and closed Tuesday night.

Many topics of discussion were on the agenda for the two-day meeting with experts in the

fields of road improvement, community health care, schools and waste management, etc.

Paul Hughes, Director of Region C Isothermal Planning, was the Monday evening speaker and "Building Economic Development Strategies" was explored by Mike Geouge and Tom Jones of the N.C. Department of Commerce and members of the city industrial committee Tuesday morning. Allen Lang, chief planner for the Division of Community Assistance, Jim Reid, of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management, T.G. Brooks, Assistant District Engineer for the 12th Highway Division, Ellis Hankins, assistant general counsel for the N.C. League of Municipalities, Kris Newton, CPA from the firm of McGladrey, Hendrickson and Pullen, KM Hospital Administrator Grady Howard, Horace Lefrod, Manager and Personnel Consultant for Western Carolina Industries, Jim Farrell, Assistant Director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility District, Al M. Neely, manager of Resale Power Department of Duke Power, John E. Howse, senior market representative for Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corporation, school and college spokesmen from the area, and members of the media, including The Shelby Star, Gastonia Gazette and Kings Mountain Herald were included on the program agenda.

According to Mayor John H. Moss the purpose of the seminar was to "develop an attitude of togetherness and a program of working on common causes to develop a community of opportunity that offers quality living in our area." "Everyone has a role to play and a contribution to make and I feel that we have shown through these speakers and input from those in attendance that Kings Mountain and Cleveland County are going forward and by working together cooperatively can achieve even more in the next decade."



PHOTO BY LIB STEWART

EDUCATORS ON PROGRAM—Educators from Gaston-Cleveland Counties were on the program for Tuesday's seminar-workshop for city officials. From left, Cleveland Tech President Jim Petty, Dr. Larry Sale of Gardner Webb College, Beverly Dixon of Gaston College, Mayor John Moss, Charles Setzer of Gaston College and Schools Supt. Bill Davis of Kings Mountain. They outlined educational opportunities for local citizens offered by local community colleges and public schools.

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