



Kings Mountain Herald

MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S. PIEDMONT AVE.
KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28086

VOL. 98 NUMBER 18

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1985

KINGS MOUNTAIN,

King: You're A Bunch Of Chickens

Commissioners Argue At Monday's Meeting

Tempers flared at Monday night's meeting of the board of city commissioners.

District Four Commissioner Norman King asked that the board rescind a rule it made Dec. 12, 1983, over his objections, that department heads be required to report to all commissioners anything they discuss with any one board member.

Mayor John Henry Moss called for a second to King's motion three times, but when there was none the mayor declared the motion died for lack of a second.

"This board of commissioners doesn't surprise me one bit", exclaimed King, who then quickly made a motion for adjournment.

King angrily walked away from the council table.

"You're all a bunch of chickens", he said to commissioners, as he walked toward the press table and presented copies of four city memorandums from the board of commissioners to department heads dated Dec. 12, 1983; to department heads from Mayor Moss dated Feb. 13, 1984; to Mayor Moss from Walter C. Ollis dated March 22, 1985; and to Mayor Moss from Supt. of Public Works Wayne Kimbrell dated April 1, 1985.

"Why didn't you second that motion?" he confronted District I Commissioner Irvin (Tootie) Allen. "I didn't hear it," said Allen who complained that Comm. King had not spoken loud enough to be heard. A sharp interchange followed and Comm. Allen called King "a damn troublemaker."

The argument surfaced, King said, because he feels matters discussed privately by commissioners and city department heads are not being kept confidential and because the controversial rule pertains only to conversations between commissioners and department head without all board members knowing about it. He said he had discussed requests

from citizens many times and that the other commissioners had always notified him of the conversations by written memo but names had never been mentioned until the April memo from Walt Ollis and Wayne Kimbrell of the public works department.

"Under no circumstances should department heads reveal what I go to them about. It's unethical. I can't see why I should tell the other commissioners about matters that come to me in confidence," King said requesting that the commissioner action of December 1983 be rescinded. "You will note that I am the only commissioner who did not sign that request to all department heads asking for information. I was against it then and I am against it now. It is no one's business what I talk about with anyone else. I was asked to sign this memorandum when Mr. Allen came on the board and I refused to sign it. Request for water and water meters are common knowledge but confidential conversations should be kept confidential," he declared.

The rule, signed by Commissioners Irvin Allen, Humes Houston, Corbet Nicholson, Curt Gaffney and Jim Dickey on Dec. 12, 1983, states that "when a request for information is received from a commissioner or commissioners the requested information is to be supplied in writing to all six members of the Board of Commissioners and to the Mayor. The reason for this request to supply the information to the full Board and to the Mayor is so that everyone will be equal and have the same information on matters of concern. Likewise, when general information of a major nature is requested the six commissioners and the Mayor desire to be informed so that they may evaluate and endeavor to assist in making available and relating to, information requested as well as others who might be interested in similar information.

The Board of Commissioners and the Mayor wish to be fully informed and do all they can in the interest of achieving an open government for the citizens of Kings Mountain."

The Feb. 13, 1984 memo was from Mayor John Moss to all department heads concerning requests from commissioners for information. It attached a copy of the memorandum which was forwarded previously as it had come to the board's attention some did not receive it. The memos went for the second time to Joe McDaniel, Chief J.D. Barrett, Eugene Tignor, Walter Ollis, Jim Downey, Lee Putnam, Ken Jenkins, Jerry King, Gene Waldroup, Jimmy Maney, Jack Williams, George Adams, Ray Hurley, Teresa Melton, Gene White and Steve Blanton, all of the various city departments.

The memorandum of March 22, 1985 was from Walter C. Ollis to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners and concerned Comm. Norman King's request for information for water service from Bennett Masters, a Kings Mountain resident. Mr. Ollis had also sent a copy of that letter to Wayne Kimbrell. In the correspondence, Ollis stated that on March 20, 1985 at 8 a.m. Comm. King requested information concerning water service to Mr. Masters. Ollis said that he informed Comm. King that Masters did have a metered water service at his home on S. Roxford Road and he had requested water for Masters Funeral Home when it was opened. Water was not available, therefore the funeral home is on well water. He added that neither building had sewer service.

The April 1, 1985 memo was from Mayor Moss and the Board of Commissioners to Supt. of Public Works Wayne Kimbrell and noted that as requested by Comm. Dickey concerning dead water meters, the city has 432 dead meters in the system. Kimbrell said a change out program is underway and that meters are now being changed

Grover Rescue Squad To Mark Anniversary

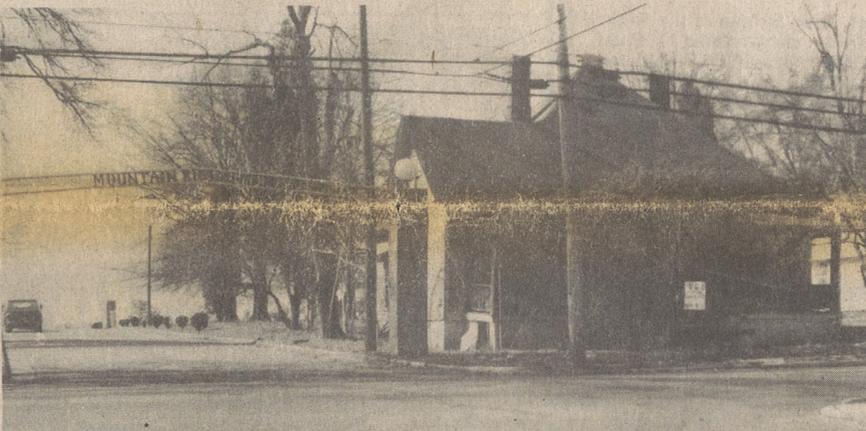
Grover Rescue Squad will celebrate its 25th anniversary with special activities this weekend at the squad building.

The public is invited to the celebration. All food, games and other activities will be free to everyone.

Free hotdogs and hamburgers will be served on Saturday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. In addition, there will be games and balloons for the children and the squad will offer displays and demonstration of equipment, and free blood pressure clinics.

Sunday, beginning at 1 p.m., several guest speakers will be on hand to congratulate the squad on its many years of volunteer service to Grover and surrounding communities. A major highlight of Sunday's activities will be a service of recognition in honor of Buren Randall, a charter member of the squad who is retiring. Other awards will also be presented.

Refreshments will also be served.



CONDEMNATION ACTION—This house at 314 E. King Street was condemned four years ago by city building inspectors who say it is a fire and health hazard. The city board took legal steps this week to petition the Superior Court to order the property owners to comply with city housing codes.

City Wants To Demolish Peeler Home

Legal condemnation action by the city board was taken Monday night by the City Board of Commissioners against a property owner.

City Attorney George B. Thomasson was authorized by the board of commissioners to petition the Cleveland County Superior Court for an order requiring B.S. Peeler, Jr. and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Louise Peeler, to comply with the Kings Mountain Housing Codes.

Turn To Page 2-A

Street Work Proposed

A \$1,010,000.00. street improvements project to begin this summer and extend over the next 30 months was proposed by Mayor John Henry Moss to city commissioners Monday night for their consideration in preparation for the 1985-86 city budget.

The Mayor said the city carried the detour burden of the recent Kings Mountain By Pass construction and as the result 367 street cuts were made over the past several years. Those street cuts have

been patched and the result is "rough riding", the Mayor told the board.

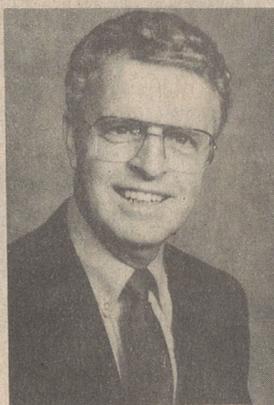
Moss proposed the board consider allocating \$200,000 annually for capital improvements for streets, street improvements, maintenance and resurfacing for additional 30 months to bring the streets up to "a good quality state of repair and condition."

Mayor Moss said the projected improvements would not require a raise in taxes

but could be achieved in "squeezing the budget". The Mayor said that work on the 1985-86 budget would begin soon and his proposals would see an "accelerated program of resurfacing" during a two and one half year period.

Kings Mountain has 54.01 miles of road with 49.37 miles being hard-surfaced, 1.02 miles unsurfaced and 3.62 miles of gravel type. "The city has undergone vacillating

Turn To Page 2-A



MILTON H. REEP

Milton Reep To Become Hospital Administrator

Milton Huitf Reep, 52, has been hired by the Kings Mountain Hospital Board of Trustees as the new Administrator to succeed Grady Howard when Mr. Howard retires July 1.

Mr. Reep will move to Kings Mountain May 1 from Smithfield where he has served since 1980 as Administrator of Johnston Memorial Hospital. He will work with Mr. Howard for two months prior to Howard's retirement as Kings Moun-

tain's first and only hospital administrator who was hired 32 years ago when Kings Mountain Hospital opened its doors to patients.

Announcement was made by Mrs. Henry P. Neisler, chairman of the Trustee's search committee which also included Trustees Chairman Tom Tate, John Young and Greg Birkovich.

A native of Lincoln County, Mr. Reep was graduated in

Turn To Page 8-A



CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY—Mrs. Edith Goforth, above, with her seven great-grandchildren, enjoys Easter Sunday and a surprise birthday party. From left, John Robert and Whit Pharr, children of John and Laura Pharr of Virginia Beach, Va., Lydia and Harriet Pharr (on lap), of Charlotte, children of David and Harriet Pharr, J.Y., Jamie and Jennifer Pharr of Hendersonville, children of Yorke and Barbara Pharr.

Edith Goforth 90 Years Old, Still Working At Plonk Brothers

Saturday was Mrs. Edith Goforth's 90th birthday and she spent most of the day at her job at her sewing machine in the Alterations Department at Plonk Brothers Department Store.

"Miss Edith", as she is affectionately known by her Kings Mountain friends and many Plonk's customers, has altered more pants than she can count during her 23 year tenure at the downtown store and before that made draperies and worked in the sewing department at Neisler Mills for 37 years.

"I've worked all my life but I've enjoyed it", Mrs. Goforth said Easter Sunday as she enjoyed a surprise birthday get-together with 28 family members, including her three daughters, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. But she admits it was hard for her daughters, Mary Anthony, of Kings Mountain, Polly Pharr of Charlotte and Rachel Lopez of Kings Moun-

tain to surprise her.

Paul Walker, Miss Edith's "boss" at Plonk's, had to finally send her home Saturday afternoon to give her time to get ready for her "Easter surprise birthday party." And, then Mary (Mrs. Sam) Weir had to drive "Miss Edith" to be sure she got there.

The folks at Plonk's are a second family, actually, to Mrs. Goforth and joined in a full round of "celebrating" for her 90th birthday. On Saturday, the ladies at Plonk's took Miss Edith out to breakfast at El Bethel Methodist Church and on Tuesday Circle 2 of Central United Methodist Church took her to Shoney's for lunch. She started receiving cards and flowers on Saturday and was still receiving them from friends on Tuesday.

Wednesday she was getting ready to "settle back into a routine" to get ready to go

Turn To Page 4-A