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Kings Mountain Herald

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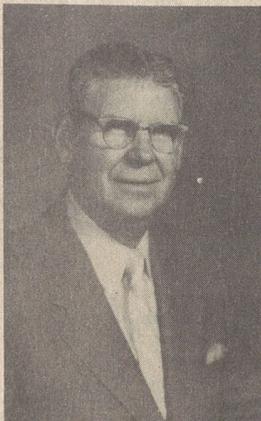
VOL. 98 NUMBER 20

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1985

KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C.

Decision To Be Made Saturday

Bethlehem May Incorporate



OLLIE HARRIS

Senator J. Ollie Harris has introduced in the N.C. Senate a title to incorporate the town of Bethlehem in Cleveland County, he told The Herald by telephone from Raleigh yesterday.

Senator Harris said that if the citizens of the El Bethel, Bethware, White Plains, Midpines, and Crocker Road communities outside the Kings Mountain city limits agree Saturday night at a meeting at Bethware School at 7 p.m. to pursue steps for incorporation that he will introduce a local bill in the General Assembly by

May 15th. Passage of the bill requires approval of both the N.C. Senate and N.C. House.

Bob Hullender, spokesman for outside citizens fighting any future annexation by the City of Kings Mountain, said that all citizens of the area of Bethlehem, White Plains, El Bethel, Midpines, Bethware and Crocker Road communities are encouraged to attend Saturday night's meeting. "We want to get their opinions. This is a very important meeting", said Hullender.

In late February Bethlehem area residents living in the Bethlehem Fire District organized a 11 member committee with Hullender as temporary chairman. Warren J. Wicker moderated that meeting which was attended by approximately 100 citizens from the area. At a second meeting Gene White, who serves on the city's annexation study committee, met with the group and explained that the City of Kings Mountain has adopted what is called a resolution of intent, first preliminary step and

there will be a year of evaluation before an area is considered. A map posted at City Hall gives citizens an "advance notice" that their area "could be considered for annexation at a future time."

Incorporation requires an act of the General Assembly.

Hullender says the meeting Saturday night is open to the public and is planned to "learn how everyone feels and whether to proceed with steps for incorporation."

Team To Help Panama

George Lublanezki, retired Kings Mountain school teacher and businessman, is excited about his upcoming trip to Panama where he is joining an 18-member volunteer medical team of Rotarians to give inoculations to impoverished children in the backwoods of Panama.

The program is called 3-H and focuses on health, hunger and humanity, said

Lublanezki who was packing this week, learning to give shots as well as obtaining a Spanish dictionary.

Sponsored by Rotary International, the 18 member volunteer team will leave from Charlotte on May 1 for 30 days in desolate and impoverished areas of Panama. The program is funded by Rotary International, a non-profit organization, in conjunction with Rotary clubs in

Panama. Lublanezki is a member of the Kings Mountain Rotary Club.

Polio vaccine will be given orally in one or two drops and children under five will receive a one shot combination of diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and measles from volunteers, working in teams of two and under the supervision of doctors and

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GEORGE LUBLANEZKI

SBI Agents Coming To KM

The State Bureau of Investigation is expected to send agents to Kings Mountain the latter part of this week to begin investigation of the city cemetery department.

Chief of Police J.D. Barrett said he had been informed by SBI agents they would begin an "independent" investigation "the end of this week".

According to Commissioner Irvin M. (Tootie) Allen, chairman of a three-commissioner member cemetery committee appointed by Mayor John Henry Moss, a two-year audit was requested in writing from Bennett Masters, local mortician, and the audit seemed to show collections from only one monument supplier, Bennett Masters, of Kings Mountain.

The commission called the police probe and KMPD last week asked Cleveland County District Attorney Marty Shuford to ask the SBI to take over the investigation.

Allen said that a five-year audit was also requested by the cemetery committee, which also includes Commissioners Corbet Nicholson and Curt Gaffney. Allen said he did not know if that audit has been completed.

Allen has claimed that cemetery superintendent Kenneth Jenkins has himself supplied some monuments at the cemetery and allegedly paid no fees. Jenkins has denied that he supplies monuments and has said that he makes collections from suppliers in addition to Masters and turns those collections over to the city.

New Rec Concept Approved

How can the city recreation department reach kids not participating on organized ball teams?

That's the question Mayor John Moss put to the city board Monday night as he suggested, and the board approved, what the mayor termed "a new concept" in summer recreation for youth and senior citizens.

This summer, from June 3 through Aug. 9, the city will offer supervised recreational activities for ages 7 through 14 and for senior citizens.

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Committee To Study Heritage

A six-member steering committee has been appointed by Mayor John Henry Moss and challenged to launch a revitalization program designed to "enhance and accent" not only the downtown area but Kings Mountain's heritage as well.

Mayor Moss outlined plans for the city wide program, in which he invited all citizens to participate, at Monday night's city board meeting.

The Mayor said that Otis Smith, of Western Auto, W.S.

Corky Fulton, III, of Sagesport, John Young, of First Union National Bank, John McGinnis, of McGinnis Department Store, retired teacher and businessman George Lublanezki, and County Commission Chairman L.E. (Josh) Hinnant held their first meeting Monday morning at City Hall to explore such ideas as the formation of an uptown association, creation of a loan pool to provide low cost interest loans and attempts at seeking

Urban Development Action Grants and membership in the national Main Street association.

Moss said the committee has directed him to ask revitalization experts from a wide area to share their expertise and suggestions and that volunteers and suggestions from the general public are needed and invited by the merchants group.

"We have a tremendous heritage in Kings Mountain", said the Mayor, who told the 45-50 citizens attending Monday night's board meeting that he doesn't know a single citizen in Kings Mountain who is not genuinely concerned for the betterment of Kings Mountain. Roots, history, sacrifice are all part of Kings Mountain's heritage, said the Mayor, who said he would feel "very bad" if a concerted effort is not made to revitalize Kings Mountain and progressive community spirit. We ought to have enough pride to get together and hammer out a program of revitalization", he told the board. He said that citizens will be required to give their time and talents to the program for it to be a success.

Moss said he had observed a trend for businesses to move out of the downtown district to shopping centers but that in other areas he had seen a successful trend towards uptown revitalization and would like to put that effort to work in Kings Mountain. "We can rejuvenate interest in downtown Kings Mountain. If we do nothing, we will continue to decline...It behooves all of us to become concerned and to support revitalization in Kings Mountain", said the Mayor.

"We have a challenge to recapture a vibrant community spirit and make our downtown a place for commerce and culture", said the Mayor.

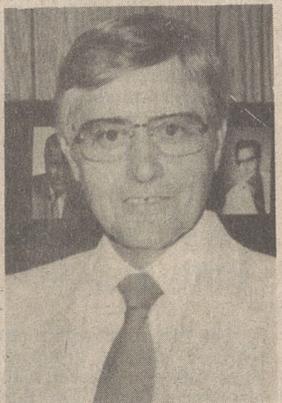
According to the mayor, the city has plans to take bids for five acres of undeveloped uptown property in which

there has been "a lot of interest."

He encouraged every citizen in leadership role, in church and civic groups, to get involved and support the steering committee. "You've heard about Urban Renewal, 40,000 communities with less than 30,000 people are approaching this avenue to revitalize downtown. Kings Mountain is one of many", said the Mayor.

"We need businesses that merchandise downtown", said the Mayor, but we also need to develop character and heritage of the total community. "A big job but Kings Mountain can do it", said Moss, who encouraged local people to become involved as the exciting program unfolds.

Wade Tyner Secretary Of Car Dealers' Group



WADE TYNER

Wade Tyner, owner of Wade Ford in Kings Mountain, was elected secretary of the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association at its 50th convention last week in Nassau.

The association includes all 694 franchised dealers in North Carolina. North Carolina is the only state that has 100 percent participation in its association.

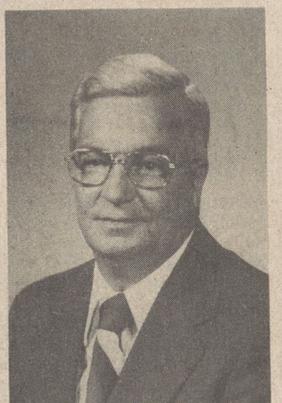
Tyner has served as a director of the association for two years, serving Gaston, Lincoln and Cleveland counties. He is also an active member of the Cleveland County and United States

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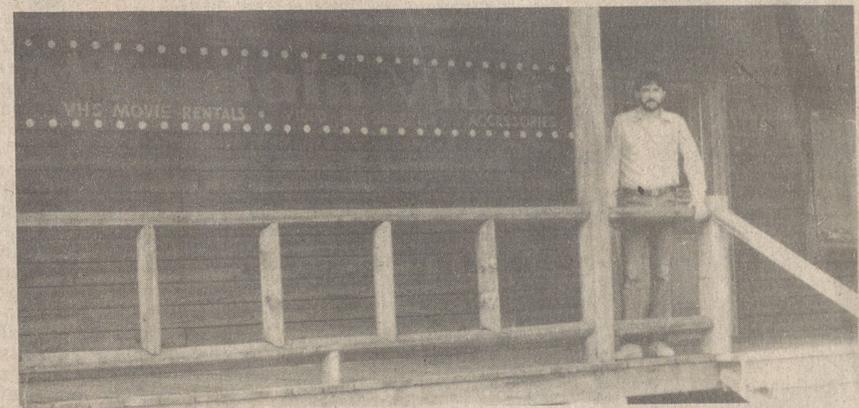
Joe Davis To Manage First Federal Branch

The Board of Directors of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Kings Mountain have announced their intentions to open a branch office in the Gastonia area. Gary Whitaker, Executive Vice President, stated that an application to establish a Gastonia Branch has been submitted to the Federal Home Loan Bank in Atlanta. Whitaker feels that the Gastonia area will be a very strong market and that First Federal will be very competitive in all the services that will be offered to the people of Gaston County.

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JOE DAVIS



AT NEW HOME - Dennis Byrd, owner and manager of Mountain Video, stands at the entrance of his new store in the Kings Mountain Herald building. The store, now located on West Mountain Street, re-opens in the Herald building Monday at 11 a.m.

Mountain Video Moving

Mountain Video of Kings Mountain will open in its new location Monday at the Kings Mountain Herald building on Highway 74 east at Canterbury Road.

Dennis Byrd, who has operated the store at 124 West Mountain Street since moving to Kings Mountain 1 1/2 years ago, said the new location will allow him to expand his inventory and offer "plenty of free parking and easy access."

Byrd said his biggest problem in his downtown location has been lack of parking and that the new location will offer "excellent customer parking."

Mountain Video, which rents and sells video cassette tapes and recorders and also sells music, records and cassette tapes, will be located on the east side of the Herald building in the former location of H&R Block. Mountain Video customers will have direct access to the store from the Canterbury Road side of the building.

H&R Block has moved its offices to the front of the building. Also occupying space in the Herald building is Herald Publishing Company, publishers of seven weekly newspapers, the Printing Press, and Jones Intercable.

Byrd said visitors to Mountain Video will see an expanded inventory of the latest VHS movie releases. He will open for business Monday at 11 a.m. and will also remain open later on Friday and Saturday nights.