



ATTORNEY'S HOUSE - This house on King Street which is owned by City Attorney George Thomasson has been declared sub-standard by the City Codes Department. The matter was supposed to come before the Board of Commissioners Monday night but was taken off the agenda.

City Attorney's House Taken Off Board Agenda

At a meeting last month, the city board of commissioners instructed City Attorney George Thomasson to petition Cleveland County Superior Court to have B.S. Peeler Jr. and his sister-in-law, Louise Peeler, to comply with the Kings Mountain Housing Codes and bring their house on 314 East King into compliance with city codes, or have it demolished.

Since that time, it has been learned by *The Herald* that Thomasson is the owner of a house at 405 East King Street which the Kings Mountain Codes Department has been trying to have brought into compliance with codes standards.

Codes Director Jerry King verified that he had gone to city hall last week and had the matter placed on the agenda for Monday night's city board meeting. The matter was on the preliminary board agenda which is distributed to commissioners and the press on Friday before the meeting, but at Monday night's meeting, the item was not on the official agenda.

Mayor John Henry Moss said he did not place the matter on the agenda because "George wanted to meet with Jerry King and see if they could resolve the matter without going to the board. If not, it will be back on the agenda."

Moss said the way he handled the matter was "nothing different than what we'd do for any other citizen."

However, according to records in Thomasson's file at the Codes Department, the Codes Department has been trying for over two years to have the house brought up to standards.

On May 30, 1983, King wrote a letter advising Thomasson that King had been "asked to clean up King Street by my superiors" and pointing out that the house was "an eye sore" and "creates a negative image".

On May 1, 1984, King wrote another letter to Thomasson asking that he make the house available for inspection by the codes director.

On July 12, 1984, King wrote Thomasson advising him that the dwelling was "in a condition that appears to be unfit for human habitation and to violate the Kings Mountain Housing Code" and informing him that a hearing would be held on July 25, 1984, to discuss the matter.

Records indicate that the letter was sent by certified mail and that Thomasson did not appear for a hearing on July 25, 1984.

On August 2, 1984, King wrote another letter stating his findings, which included that exterior walls, roofs, windows, doors, screens and paint and the cleanliness and care of premises were not in compliance with the Housing Codes. The letter ordered the owners of the dwelling to bring it into compliance no later than October 25, 1984, by rendering it "fit for human habitation...or by vacating and closing the structure as a human habitation...or removing the structure from the premises no later than October 25, 1984."

A memorandum noted that Thomasson met with King on August 14, 1984 and "stated that he will begin repair of the building by reroofing the building, painting exterior, and that he would require the occupants of the dwelling to keep the grass cut, park their vehicles in the rear of the building and give the premises a general cleaning."

Thomasson said Tuesday that he had "received an estimate on a new roof, and I took paint down there to paint the windows and doors, and told them (his renters) to clean up the yard. One man is interested in buying it. I'm going to take care of it."

Thomasson said he had nothing whatsoever to do with removing the item from Monday's city board agenda. "Maybe he (Mayor Moss) had so much stuff he couldn't get it on there. I knew it was on there Friday, but as far as making any arrangements to have it taken off, I made no arrangements," Thomasson said.

Drug Bust Nets 70, 18 From KM

An undercover drug operation by Cleveland County officers the past 12 months resulted in arrests of 70 people, including 18 from the Kings Mountain area, during liquor and drug raids beginning Thursday afternoon.

Two men arrested Thursday in Cherryville were jailed in lieu of \$110,000 and \$100,000 bonds on charges of trafficking cocaine and conspiracy to traffic cocaine.

Trial for Donald Edward Roper, Jr., 21, of Long Branch Road, and Paul Steven Detter, 22, of 100 N. Dilling St., Kings Mountain, on the cocaine charges is slated May 30th.

The Cherryville arrest was not part of Cleveland County "Operation Snowfall," the yearlong undercover investigation aimed at arresting cocaine dealers in the area, but Roper had been identified during that investigation.

Places raided for alleged illegal alcohol sales included the Shelby and Kings Mountain American Legion Posts, Shelby and Kings Mountain VFW clubs and the Shelby Amvets.

All those arrested on the misdemeanor alcohol related charges were released on bond.

In charge of the investigation were Sgt. Ralph McKinney and Deputy D. Eddie Barkley of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, Det. Billy Benton of the Kings Mountain Police Department, ABC Officer Danny Wright of the Shelby ABC Board and special agents of the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation.

During the raids, officers confiscated 3,876 cans of beer, 141 bottles of whiskey, nine bottles of wine, 47 tip boards, a blackjack table and \$23.25 in cash. Drug indictments included 24 people involved in the sale of cocaine, 16 people involved in the sale of marijuana and one person involved in the sale of LSD and marijuana.

Officers arrested more than 40 people, including Shelby dentist David E. Trawick, 46, on drug charges Friday and 20 people on drug and alcohol and gambling charges Thursday night.

The arrests began Thursday afternoon and continued through the weekend.

Arrested from this area were:

Albert Anderson, Main St., Grover, two counts possession of marijuana, two counts selling marijuana, \$5,000 bond.

Randy Christopher, Route 2, Kings Mountain, two counts possession of cocaine, two counts selling cocaine, two counts conspiracy to sell cocaine, \$10,000 bond.

Michael Crocker, 103 Carpenter St., Kings Mountain, selling cocaine, conspiracy to sell cocaine, \$5,000 bond.

Bruce Holland, 816 W. Gold St., Kings Mountain, possession of marijuana, selling marijuana, possession of cocaine, selling cocaine, \$10,000 bond.

James (Jimmy) Roberts, Route 5, Kings Mountain, three counts possession of marijuana, three counts selling marijuana, \$10,000 bond.

Donald Edward (Donnie) Roper, Jr., 568 Long Branch Road, Kings Mountain, possession of cocaine, selling cocaine, two counts conspiracy to sell cocaine, \$110,000 bond.

Kenneth Foogie Willis, 501 N. Watterson St., Kings Mountain, possession of marijuana, selling marijuana, \$5,000 bond.

The following were arrested on alcohol and/or gambling charges:

From the VFW in Kings Mountain:

Jack Patrick Broome, Kings Mountain, possession of alcoholic beverages for sale, \$800 bond.

From the American Legion, Kings Mountain:

Jimmy White Blanton, 51, of 811 Hamrick St., Shelby,

Turn To Page 8-A

Three More Businesses To Build Downtown

Three more businesses will be constructed in the Central Business District, bringing the total to 16 who have acquired property from the city for redevelopment.

The city board of commissioners Monday night received eight bids for Parcel 19, 29 and 73, awarding bids to Bridges Textile, 107 S. City Street; Yee Kam Heumayer, of Woodbridge, and Dr. Grady K. Howard, Jr. and Dr. David McDaniel, West King Street.

Dr. Grady Howard, Jr., Kings Mountain dentist, and Dr. David McDaniel, Kings Mountain optometrist, plan to construct professional offices valued at \$200,000 on Parcel No. 29 located on the north side of West King Street about 400 feet west of Watterson and King Intersection. Their bid was \$3,050.00 which the board accepted unanimously. Other bidders were Ruby M. Alexander, \$2,100., who wanted to construct apartments valued at \$140,000 to \$150,000 at the site and Harold Herndon, who bid \$2,750 and wanted to construct offices and craft shop valued at \$36,000 to \$46,000.

More than one bid on the same parcel of property was received in all three cases.

Bridges Textiles, the high bidder at \$3,100 for Parcel 73, plans to construct an all masonry electronics shop on the west side of South City

Street, the old city garage property, at estimated value of \$18,000. Alexander Realty bid \$3,000 for the parcel and wanted to build storage units valued at between \$70,000 and \$100,000. M. Roy Grayson, Route 6, made a bid of \$1,520 and wanted to construct a garage with estimated value of \$30,000. Bridges said that he plans to expand later and said his present investment is \$150,000 with 14 employees. He said he expects to add additional employees. Community Development Director Gene White said the Bridges bid met criteria approved by the board and outlined in specifications and legal advertisements given to bidders. White said the bid submitted by Dr. Howard and Dr. McDaniel also met the legal criteria approved by the board.

Yee Kam Heumayer, Woodbridge, bid \$2,000 for Parcel 19 located on the West side of Railroad Avenue, north of West Mountain Street and the bid was accepted by the board by vote of 5-1, Comm. Norman King voting "no". Mr. and Mrs. Heumayer plan to construct a beauty salon and professional offices and a used import car dealership with estimated value of \$60,000. Other bidder was M. Roy Grayson, Route 6, who bid \$1,820 and wanted

Turn To Page 3-A

Open House Saturday

First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Kings Mountain will unveil its newly enlarged and remodeled headquarters at 300 West Mountain Street with an Open House on Saturday, May 18.

The public is cordially invited to attend the festivities which begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday and continue until 6 p.m.

The Savings and Loan will serve refreshments to its visitors and will serve up more than that as they literally give-away free money.

The first one-hundred people who present \$5 to any teller beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, may purchase \$6 in Susan B. Anthony Dollars.

The first one hundred people who present \$5 to any teller beginning at 1 p.m. may purchase three \$2.00 bills.

The first one hundred people who present \$5 to any teller beginning at 3 p.m. may purchase \$6 in Susan B. Anthony silver dollars.

At 5 p.m. the first one hundred people with \$5 may purchase three \$2 bills. One purchase per person during any time period.

All children may present 40 cents to any teller during the day, and purchase a half-dollar. One purchase per child.

First Federal Vice President Gary Whitaker said the new remodeled headquarters

are the results of many months of work.

"We can now better serve our customers and we are proud of our new facilities," he stated.

The new facility includes an additional 3,000 sq. feet of office space, new vault storage for safety deposit boxes, a basement area, an enlarged parking area and an additional drive-in window.

First Federal Savings and Loan opened in Kings Mountain in 1907 as Kings Mountain Savings and Loan. It changed its name in 1980.

First Federal recently announced it planned to expand its operations into Gastonia.

Turn To Page 3-A



Photo by Lynne Lynn

FIRST FEDERAL OFFICERS—Officers of First Federal Savings and Loan are getting ready to celebrate the opening of their expanded facility on West Mountain Street this Saturday. Left to right are Ronnie Franks, Kathy Butler, Brenda Lovelace and Gary Whitaker.