



Support Rotary Club Auction, Bake Sale

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Kings Mountain Herald



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OUTSTANDING STUDENTS—Brad Jones and Liza Blanton, above, won the Outstanding Senior Boy and Outstanding Senior Girl from the American Legion and Auxiliary and are congratulated by KMHS Principal Ronnie Wilson.

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

Utility Rates To Rise, Tax Rate Remains 50 Cents

Utility rates could go up slightly next year but the same tax rate, 50 cents per \$100 valuation, will apply for the 21st straight year.

The city board of commissioners will hold a public hearing on the 1985-86 budget at the June 24th meeting at 7:30 in Council Chambers.

Mayor John Henry Moss presented the 1985-86 budget proposal to the board of city commissioners at noon Friday. The budget calls for \$3,057,678 in expenditures, a 2.8 percent increase over the budget for the current fiscal year and projects a three percent salary increase and merit pay raises for city employees. The raises and merit pay schedule is effective September 2, if the board approves the budget, as anticipated at its June 24th meeting.

In his 21st annual budget address, the Mayor said that higher expenditures will be managed without a tax hike by using annual projected savings of \$300,000 from a proposed hydro-electric plant to be built on Moss Lake.

Moss told the board that slight increases are expected from Duke Power Company, the city's electricity supplier and from Transco, the city's natural gas supplier. No rate increase is expected in water and sewer service, he said.

Moss also said that increased revenue is expected to come from the Kings Mountain utilities district which should produce over a half million dollars in revenue in the coming year while proposed annexations could generate new revenue through property assistance. Some \$120,000 is proposed in new revenues from Moss Lake recreational facilities, now under construction, and he said that all these programs are all included in the budget to replace lost revenues in light of pending federal cutback programs.

Street improvements are given high priority in the budget with \$500,000 to be designated for street work. Another big item is \$42,000 for a central communication system which is expected to be installed in early July and will

help improve emergency response time.

UTILITY BUDGET

The Utility budget totals \$10,627,379 with 48 percent of the budget for electricity. Gas operations account for 38 percent of the budget and water and sewer 14 percent. The Mayor said the Utility District Fund shows a 4.2 percent decrease compared to this fiscal year budget. He told the board the newly created utility district will "track" any rate hikes made by Duke Power or Transco.

GENERAL

The general operating budget for the city accounts for \$3 million in the proposed budget.

CAPITAL

Over one third of the \$305,000 proposed for capital improvements will go for construction of new water, sewer and electrical lines and Mayor Moss told the board that he wants the city to become more involved in power generation and distribution as a revenue alternative to property taxes.

HYDRO PLANT

A consultant working on a plan for the construction of a new hydroelectric plant on Moss Lake is to present a report to the board of commissioners at the June 11th meeting. The proposed plant would be a 1,000 to 1,500 kilowatt facility on the lake and would be used to provide electrical power for some of the city departments. The Mayor said a savings of \$300,000 annually could be realized, reducing the amount of power the city buys from Duke.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for inspection in City Clerk Joe McDaniel's office.

In other action:

The board moved the date of the next meeting from Monday, June 10th, to Tuesday, July 11th and authorized curbing and guttering improvements and added Pinehurst Drive, Southridge Drive and Kingswood Court to schedules for paving.

Bridges, Young Head Drive

Grady Howard, general chairman of the current campaign for funds to construct a new indoor swimming pool in Kings Mountain has announced the appointments of Glee Bridges and John Young as co-chairmen of the Major Gifts Division in the campaign.

Glee Bridges is president of Bridges Hardware, Inc., of Kings Mountain. He is a long-time member of the Kiwanis Club and currently serves on the Board of the club.

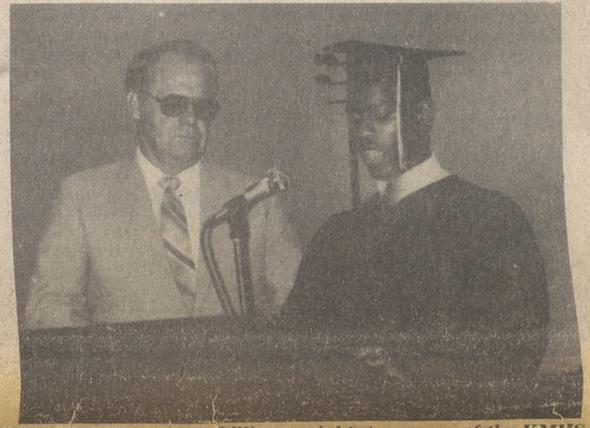
"I believe," Bridges said in accepting the position, "that this may be the single most important thing we can do

right now for the entire community. All our citizens—from the youngest to the oldest—will greatly benefit from the new pool."

John Young is city executive of First Union National Bank in Kings Mountain. Young also serves on the Board of the Kiwanis Club

and in addition is a member of the Board of the Kings Mountain Indoor Pool Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is a North Carolina chartered non-profit corporation and is the sponsoring organization for the campaign.

"Of the many benefits that could be talked about that this new pool will provide," Young said, "one of the most important will be that of therapy through swimming for the handicapped."



Class of 1985, presents the class gift to Bill McDaniel, school board chairman, during Tuesday's graduation exercises at Gamble Stadium. The class supplied funds to purchase a new scoreboard for the football stadium.

Jake Early, Former Major League Catcher, Dead At 70

Jake Willard Early, an All-Star major league catcher who put Kings Mountain on the baseball map during the 1930's and 1940's, died Friday in Melbourne, Fla. He was 70.

Early, a Kings Mountain native who had been living in Florida since 1964, was regarded as the best catcher of the knuckleball and as the catcher with the best throwing arm when he caught for the Washington Senators, St. Louis Browns and other major league teams between 1939 and 1950. He caught the entire Major League All-Star game in 1946. His career was interrupted briefly during World War II when he was drafted into the U.S. Army Special Forces and served in the Battle of the Bulge.

Early returned to Kings Mountain following his retirement from baseball and coached on several levels. He helped build a strong American Legion program in Kings Mountain in the mid-fifties and also played for and coached the Charlotte Hornets. He also served the city as recreation director and a police officer.

His Kings Mountain players, friends and fans remembered him well as a strong-armed catcher.

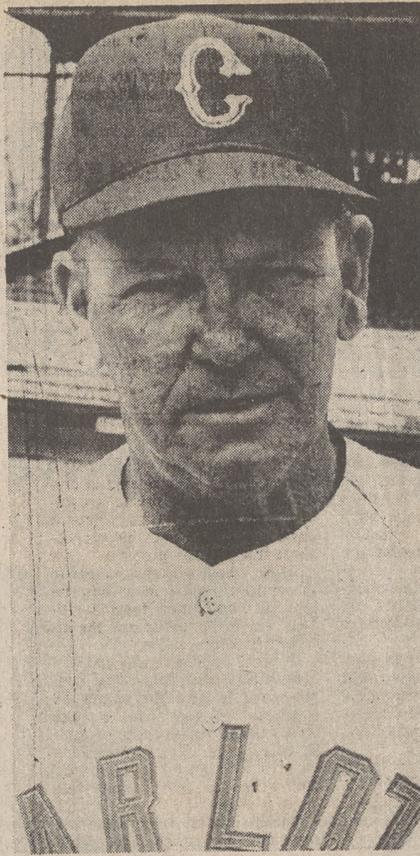
David Hughes, who pitched for Early in legion ball here, said he often caught batting practice and game situations. "You could have a runner on first and third and, without even moving from his catching position, he could look at the runner on third and throw to first and pick the man off," he said.

Hall of Famer Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox said in his autobiography that his most embarrassing moment in baseball came when Early picked him off third base to end a ballgame in which the Red Sox were trailing the Senators by one run.

Dave Baity, Early's uncle and a newspaperman, said that when he was small that he remembered eating Wheaties at Jake's. "Back then," he recalled, "General Mills sent a case of the cereal to every major league baseball player who hit a home run, and he must have been a pretty good hitter because we always had a lot of Wheaties."

Early signed his first pro contract in 1931 during his junior year at Kings Mountain High School. He reported to spring training the following year and joined the Charlotte Hornets, then a farm team of the Senators.

Early made the Senators' major league roster in 1939 and played with them until 1943 when he was drafted into the Army. After World War II, he returned to major league ball until the early 1950's, when he returned to Kings Mountain.



JAKE EARLY

A memorial service was held Saturday at Brownlie and Maxwell Funeral Home in Melbourne, Fla. A mass was held Monday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and burial was in Brevard Memorial Park cemetery in Melbourne.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred Sullivan Early of Melbourne, Fla.; one daughter, Judith Anne Lusty of Atlanta, Ga.; two sons, Robert Early of Bowling Green, Ohio, and Jake W. Early Jr. of Tallahassee, Fla.; three sisters, Eloise Baity and Minnie Murray, both of Kings Mountain, and Mary Ware of Gastonia; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

special equipment for the assistance of the elderly and handicapped in entering and leaving the pool as well as a depth of only three feet at the shallow end to provide safety in the therapy programs.

Walkways from the parking lot to the two main entrances, both main entrances with their airlocks, and the pool sides will all be at ground level, with no difficult steps or slopes to impede progress for those in wheelchairs or those with prosthetic assistance.

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Grover Approves Project

Bids for an expansion and renovation project of Grover Town Hall are expected to be let in about two weeks following action by the town board Monday night.

Jeff Roark, representing Architectural Design Group of Shelby, presented a budget estimate of \$29,100, first phase of the project, which will include an extension of the existing town hall to provide more storage space, a new roof and improvements to the entrance.

Roark was authorized to complete drawings for the project.

Mayor Bill McCarter said the second phase of construction would include a 3,000 sq. ft. community room and new administrative office space. McCarter said the second phase of construction is in the future, "maybe 10 to 20 years."

Preliminary set of plans is available to sub-contractors in the town office. Board members said they wanted to employ a general contractor for the work who would sub-contract masonry, carpentry and roofing phases of the

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280 Receives Diplomas At KMSHS Graduation

The Class of 1985 of Kings Mountain Senior High received diplomas Tuesday night just minutes before a summer storm which resulted in some power outage in the area, rain and hail in most sections of the city.

Members of the Class of 1985 led the program in John Gamble Memorial Stadium and a total of 280 graduates received their diplomas before a large crowd of family and friends.

A scoreboard for the football stadium was the class gift and it was accepted by W.B. McDaniel, chairman of the KM Board of Education.

The Kings Mountain Senior High Choral Union sang "Reach For Your Star" and "Encore."

Seniors participating on the program were Stephanie Moss, who gave the invocation; Eric Bradley Jones, who presented the Class of 1985; Tony Lynn Goforth, who recognized honor graduates; Maury Williams, who made the class gift presentation; and Leonard Byers who gave the benediction.

Principal Ronnie Wilson, assisted by Supt. William F. Davis and Lisa Michelle Buchanan, chief marshal, presented the diplomas.

Members of the Class of 1985 are:

Yvette Adams, Robert Appling, Stephen Bagwell, Rodney Ballew, Shane Barnes, Randy Barrett, Timothy Barrett, Audrey C. Bell, Keith Bell, Wanda Denise Bell, Calvin Lavon Bess, Tracy Bess, Timothy Biddix, Robert Black, Angela Blackwell, Cindy Blackwell, Edward Blanton, Liza Blanton, Pamela Blanton, Sandra

Blanton, James Boheler, Jo Anna Boheler, Robin Bolin, David Bowen, Al Brackett, Kendrick Breakfield, Marty Bridges, Jill Brooks, Tracey

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Incorporation Plan Dies

Bethlehem community residents killed their plans for incorporation Saturday when only a handful of citizens attended a meeting on the issue and voted 13-8 not to hold a referendum.

"It's over, if Kings Mountain wants us they can have us," said Kim Stinchcomb of the White Plains community, who chaired the meeting at the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department.

An incorporation plan, if approved, would have affected 2,500 people who live in the areas of Bethlehem, White Plains, El Bethel, Midpines, and Crocker communities, outside the city limits.

Senator Ollie Harris, D-Cleveland, of Kings Mountain, had introduced a bill for incorporation but after the meeting he said he would drop that legislation.

On Dec. 10, the city board of commissioners passed a resolution of consideration outlining the broad Bethlehem community area under consideration for annexation. City officials have speculated it may be 20 years before the area would be considered. The city, under law, can specify the target areas in December 1986.