

Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 98 NUMBER 37

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1985

KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C.

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Water Causes Problems

Mother Nature and the City of Kings Mountain are being blamed for one death and thousands of dollars worth of damage during a 19-hour, seven-inch rainfall in the area Saturday, but city officials say there's no way they could have prevented what they called "unnatural occurrences."

Heavy rains fell in the area from 10 p.m. Friday until about 5 p.m. Saturday, causing low-lying areas to flood and water to flow steadily into and under many homes.

Twenty-year-old Chris Howell of First Street was electrocuted around 4 p.m. when he was plugging in a lamp in his mobile home. He and his step-father, Jim

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Photo by Gary Stewart

KINGS MOUNTAIN FLOOD - Chris Howell wades waist deep in water in his lawn on First Street during Saturday's rain which dumped about seven inches of water in the area. Shortly after this photo was made, Howell and his stepfather, Jim McGinnis, went into the trailer to remove some furniture. As Howell was plugging in a lamp, he was electrocuted.

Board Fires Jenkins In Executive Session

Ken Jenkins, 58, superintendent of Mountain Rest Cemetery for nearly 22 years, was fired by the board of city commissioners Friday who went behind closed doors for 45 minutes and voted 5-1 in executive session to terminate the services of Jenkins as of Friday.

The special meeting was called Wednesday morning by Mayor Pro Tem Irvin (Tootie) Allen, chairman of a three-member city cemetery committee appointed by Mayor John Henry Moss four months ago after questions about operation of the city-owned cemetery were raised by local mortician, Bennett Masters, owner and operator of Masters Funeral Home.

The 5-1 vote, with District Four Commissioner Norman King casting the only "no" vote, was taken behind closed doors, in the presence of all six commissioners, the mayor, and City Attorney George Thomasson and Assistant City Attorney Mickey Corry.

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KEN JENKINS

Board May Have Violated Meetings Law

The city board of commissioners apparently violated the open meetings law when the board voted Friday in closed session to fire Ken Jenkins.

Doug Johnston, a spokesman for the N.C. Attorney General's Office, said there is a "close line of thought in interpreting

General Statutes 145-318-11 which states in A-8 that "final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be TAKEN in an open meeting."

City Attorney George Thomasson told The Herald

after the meeting that since the matter was a personnel matter involving a city employee that the action could be taken either in executive or open session.

Johnston says his office has always held a "conservative view on the open meetings law and that lawyers have different interpretations and

might consider a "final act" as the announcement of the action rather than a "vote" taken in closed session. "We don't have a court opinion on this question, said Johnston, but probably a court would tell them (the city) to do it differently. Since the General Statutes do not state the language of the law as

"vote" but use the term "final act", Johnston said, after talking to Thomasson on the telephone Wednesday morning, that city officials "felt the intent of the statute was achieved."

"They thought they were doing the next best thing to it", said Johnston, who reiterated that the statute

states under G.S. 145-318-11 a public body may hold an executive session and exclude the public "to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment or conditions of initial employment of a public official."

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Nine Candidates Have Filed In KM

All three seats up for grabs in the Oct. 8th city election are contested.

Nine candidates filed for the three seats this week on the city board of commissioners as filing opened Friday.

In District 6, incumbent Jim Dickey filed for another term at City Hall. He is being challenged by Jan Deaton, who lost in a runoff four years ago to Dickey, and by former city commissioner Harold Phillips and former city commissioner Jim Childers.

In District 5, incumbent Curt Gaffney seeks a second term at City Hall. He is being challenged by Fred Finger, retired employee of Eaton Corporation and a Kings Mountain native and Ruby Moss Alexander, Kings Mountain realtor.

In District 2, incumbent Humes Houston is seeking re-election and he is being challenged by Gilbert (Pee-wee) Hamrick, an unsuccessful candidate for mayor in recent city elections.

Finger graduated from Kings Mountain schools and attended Duke University. He was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1941 before the start of World War II and was released in 1946. During the war he received a commission and served as a combat officer with an infantry rifle company of the 103rd Infantry Division in the European Theatre of Operations. For his wartime service he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and Bronze Stars

for The Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns.

Following World War II, except for a 17 month tour of duty with the Army during the Korean War, he worked in the textile industry in New York City for 20 years.

In 1967, he and his family returned to Kings Mountain and reside at 908 Sherwood Lane. His wife, Faye P. Finger, is a registered nurse and is the In-Service Director at the Kings Mountain

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RUBY ALEXANDER



FRED FINGER

Mrs. Corry To Oppose Hord

Mrs. Annie R. Corry, retired school teacher, librarian and Assistant Principal with 39 years experience, announced this week she is a candidate for an outside seat on the Kings Mountain Board of Education in the November 5 elections.

She will challenge incumbent Paul Hord, Jr., who announced last week that he will seek re-election.

Mrs. Corry is the widow of Clayward C. Corry, Sr. and resides on Bell Road. She is active in St. Paul United Methodist Church where she is a Lay Leader and active in many phases of church and community activities.

She has two children, Clayward C. Corry, Jr.



ANNIE R. CORRY

(Mickey), Kings Mountain attorney, and Dr. Patricia A.

Corry, a Doctor at Central State Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. Both children graduated from the Kings Mountain school system.

Said Mrs. Corry:

"The time is now and we need educational opportunities available in this community which are great enough to afford an ample education for all students in our system. I realize that education is a Must and am willing to go beyond the call of duty to see that at least every child will be exposed to the basic fundamentals needed for a well rounded life that will provide those things which make for happiness."

"Every effort should be made for adults to become involved in activities that offer a challenge and improvement to the children."

"The school board has done an excellent job, but I feel that the Board can better serve the entire community by being comprised of members who have had some experience within the classroom. I believe that I can relate to all the citizens of the community in this respect."

"If elected, my purpose will not be to make any great changes, but rather to offer opinions and viewpoints that will reflect the views of the majority of the citizens in our area."

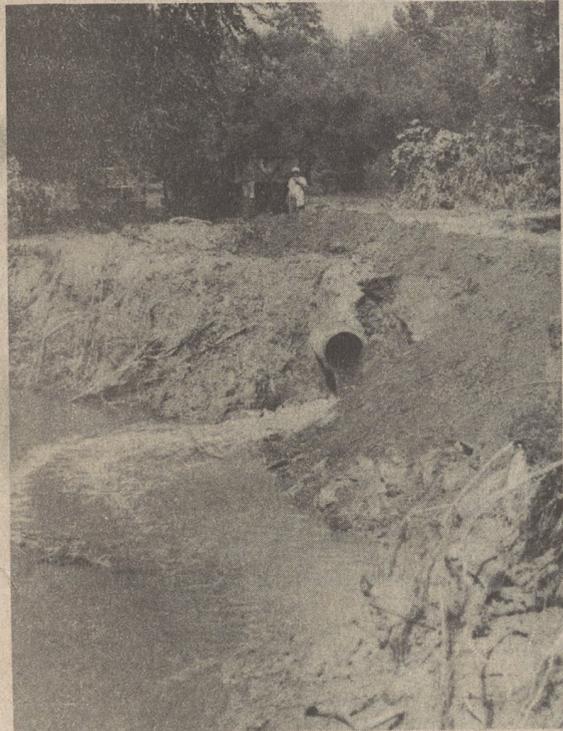


Photo by Gary Stewart

SEWER LINE WASHES OUT - Sixty feet of the main line carrying Kings Mountain sewage to the Pilot Creek Wastewater Plant west of the city washed out during last week's heavy rainfall. City employees spent three days repairing the creek banks and replacing the sewer line.

Football Contest Coming Sept. 5

Football season is just around the corner...and so's the popular Kings Mountain Herald "Pick the Winners" football contest.

Contestants in this 10-week contest, which begins Thurs., Sept. 5, will have a chance to win \$100, the top prize given away by any newspaper in the two Carolinas.

All you have to do is pick the most winners in each week's area high school and college games.

Area merchants wishing to place an ad on the two football contest pages are asked to call Darrell Austin at 739-7496. Advertisers who have sponsored the contest in the past will have first shot at the 20 available spaces.

