

District Attorney Clears Former Cemetery Superintendent

From Page 1-A

"I'm happy for Ken," said State Senator J. Ollie Harris. "I've dealt with him for 20 years and I felt like he did a good job out there at the cemetery. I've always thought he was very honest."

"Our investigation to date shows Jenkins is guilty of no criminal conduct, and indeed, no wrongdoing of any kind", according to Jenkins' attorney who said that he is continuing to evaluate his case but believes that appropriate civil action will be brought against the various parties responsible for the wrongs done to Mr. Jenkins."

"I am extremely pleased that Ken has been cleared of these charges", said Norman King, who had objected at the time of Jenkins' dismissal that Jenkins was being fired for what appeared to be "unproven accusations" and was the only commissioner to vote against firing. King has said that he would be in favor of reinstating Jenkins but he would not say if he would make such a proposal to the board.

Jenkins, 58, had been cemetery supervisor for nearly 22 years.

"The decision to fire Jenkins was made solely upon what were found to be obvious and blatant rule violations", according to the two-page statement released by the board of commissioners this week. "There was in fact no need by the City of Kings Mountain to await the completion of an investigation by the SBI or that Ken Jenkins would be charged criminally and/or convicted," the statement said.

A copy of the cemetery committee's confidential report, (which the Herald has had a copy of since the August meeting at which Jenkins was fired) states the

cemetery committee based its recommendations to fire Jenkins on alleged violations of Section 18 1/2 of the Kings Mountain Code of Ordinances, which pertains to the city's personnel policy.

The report alleges, that "in addition to receiving cash gifts from two companies which conducted business with the cemetery, Jenkins failed to charge some monument companies for marker fees as required by a city ordinance and failed to turn in fees which he did charge to other companies."

The report alleges that "two missing deliveries of funds to the City of Kings Mountain resulted from either improper or lack of supervision of the employees in the cemetery department which possibly may have resulted in theft of such funds."

The report also alleged that "Jenkins was reimbursed for beach trip accommodations by a regular user of Mountain Rest Cemetery, which the report alleged was improper, and that because of these and additional violations of the city code, Jenkins' behaviour does appear to be a pattern of conduct which has existed for some time and which does appear to have the likelihood of continuing to exist."

That report concluded that "any and all necessary civil actions be proceeded with for the purpose of recovering any fees which might be due the city by the users of the cemetery which have gone uncollected, that all department heads be guides in such a manner that they shall meet the responsibilities as they are directed by the code of ordinances of the city and that all information had by this special committee be turned over to the SBI and the report be placed in Jenkins' personnel file and that alternative procedures be in-

vestigated, other than those present" in effect, for the purpose of discharge of a department head with the City of Kings Mountain."

The board's statement, signed by Commissioner Allen, follows:

"The discharge of Ken Jenkins as supervisor for Mountain Rest Cemetery was one based upon such reasons as are necessary for the protection of the public interest and by reason of his violation of rules and regulations which do govern the performance of duties by supervisors and/or department heads for the City of Kings Mountain, North Carolina. That such discharge was not based upon whether an investigation might have been conducted by the State Bureau of Investigation for North Carolina. The decision was made solely upon what were found to be obvious and blatant rule violations by Ken Jenkins. There was, in fact, no need by the City of Kings Mountain to await a completion of an investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation or that he be charged criminally and/or convicted."

"It should be noted that what is necessary for a discharge of a City Employee such as Ken Jenkins, is in no way what is necessary for a criminal violation, prosecution or conviction to occur. It is obvious that such must be the case or the example would be that each time any employee is discharged by an employer, a criminal violation must be shown. The City of Kings Mountain has no opinion as to whether or not a criminal violation of the Laws of North Carolina have occurred in that such is not the responsibility of the City of Kings Mountain to determine."

"The decision on the part of the District Attorney's Office for this judicial district has

no bearing on the action which has been taken by the City of Kings Mountain, in that the City of Kings Mountain has never attempted to cause any criminal prosecution to occur; but only to take such steps and measures as were necessary for the protection of the citizens of Kings Mountain in guiding the performance of duties by department heads and more particularly in this matter, Ken Jenkins.

"It does appear, however, that many members of the public would desire to know the reasons for the discharge of Ken Jenkins. The City of Kings Mountain does not attempt to conceal or hide the reasons for such discharge, but in fact, is bound by the

Laws of the State of North Carolina, and more particularly North Carolina General Statutes 160A-168 and its subsections. The City of Kings Mountain cannot, in fact, reveal such information except under certain circumstances, one of those being that Ken Jenkins might duly authorize someone on his behalf to review his file and obtain such information. If such duly authorized person were appointed by Mr. Jenkins, the City of Kings Mountain would most assuredly comply with the Law and release the information. The City of Kings Mountain did, in fact, take actions in this matter which were all lawful and will continue along that pattern and not

give in to such pressures as might exist in causing it to release this information without proper authority. This information is, in fact, protected under a privacy act as does apply to an employee's personnel records.

"In closing, the investigation conducted in this matter by the designated committee for the City of Kings Mountain was done in a very lengthy and thorough manner with no predetermined decision to be made as to Mr. Jenkins. The decision was, in fact, based upon the information which was obtained and which in the opinion of the committee was true and accurate."



the butterfly is landing on
Friday, November 29th
up-front akers shopping center

- Gorham
- Royal Doulton
- Wilton Armetale
- J.G. Durand
- Oneida
- Crystal Clear

- Fitz and Floyd
- Virginia Metalcrafters
- Tom Clark Creations
- Claire Burke
- Avanti
- Ms. Noah

Hours: Mon-Sat.
10-6
1423 E. Franklin Ave.



861-8355
Gastonia, N.C.

Matthews Belk

OPEN EVERY EVENING

Eastridge Mall Open Mon. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Dixie Village 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Both Stores Closed Sundays

DIXIE VILLAGE

<p>1/3 off Claiborne sportswear</p> <p>Sizes 6 to 14 in this special group of sportswear!</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>1/3 off John Meyer sportswear</p> <p>Broken sizes 6 to 16 in pants, jackets, skirts, more!</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>1/3 off misses' blouses</p> <p>By Anne Klein, Lloyd Williams, Alexandria. reg. \$48 to \$104!</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>30% off Cross Country separates</p> <p>Junior sizes 5 to 13 in blazers, pants and skirts!</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>30% off Haggar® outerwear</p> <p>Reg. \$70-\$85. 3 styles in metal, pebble, taupe, navy, stone. S-XL.</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>18.20 Haggar® pants</p> <p>Reg. \$26. Men's plain front cords in fall solids. 28-42" waist.</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>
<p>9.99 reg. \$20 belts</p> <p>Cabretta belts with gold buckles, in outstanding fall colors!</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>10.50 Andhurst® shirts</p> <p>Reg. \$14. Men's 100% cotton flannel plaids. Sizes S,M,L,XL.</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>25% off Andhurst® socks</p> <p>Reg. 1.79 pair. Anti-static Clipper socks. Sizes 10 to 13.</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>25% off boys' slacks</p> <p>Select group of dress and casuals, 8 to 14 and students.</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>1/3 off girls' outerwear</p> <p>Entire stock winter styles including furst, 4-14, reg. \$31-\$120.</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>7.99 reg. \$10 bootwarmers</p> <p>Quilted boot warmers in assorted prints, small to extra-large.</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>
<p>30% off reg. \$6-27.50 pearls</p> <p>16-inch to 30-inch necklaces, bracelets, earrings!</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>9.99 buy one ring, get one free</p> <p>Ladies' costume rings, some with genuine stones, reg. \$25-\$50. Sizes 5 to 8.</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>30% off Aigner® accessories</p> <p>Handbags, small leather goods and accessories in our accessory departments!</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>1/2 off small leather needs</p> <p>Regularly 3.50 to \$45...purse accessories, all leathers!</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>12.99 Kenya handbags</p> <p>Reg. 28! Colorful pouch bags in several combinations!</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>	<p>25.99 reg. \$38 handbags</p> <p>Fall colors in supple leathers, several styles to choose from!</p> <p>2nd level Eastridge and Dixie Village</p>