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Kings Mountain Herald

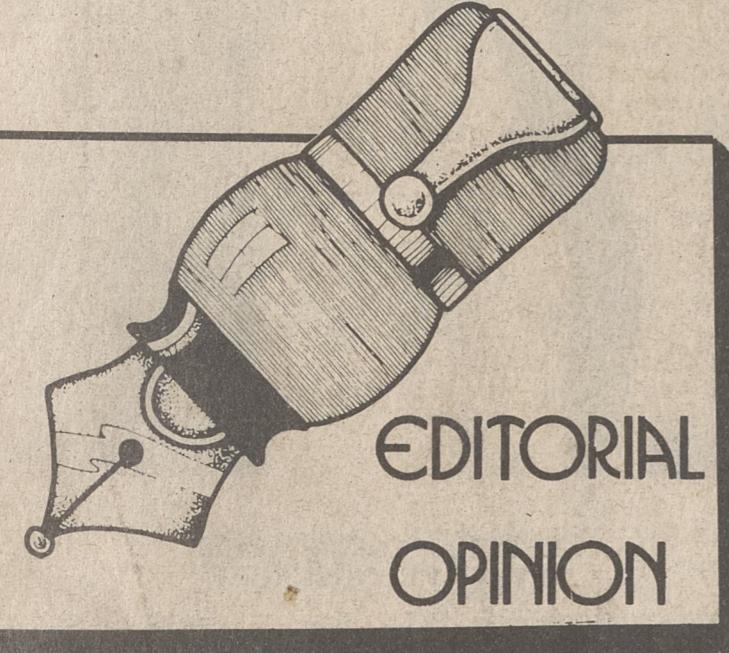
VOL. 99 NUMBER 6

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1986

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

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Over 200 Attend First Chamber Of Commerce Fete



EDITORIAL OPINION

Can District Schools Afford Swimming Pool?

Monday night, the Kings Mountain Board of Education will host a public meeting at Barnes Auditorium to receive citizen input on whether or not the school board should add \$150,000 to an already committed \$600,000 by a citizens committee to make it possible to build an indoor swimming pool at Kings Mountain High School.

The citizens committee, headed by Dr. Scott Mayse and Grady Howard, has been soliciting funds for several months to build an indoor swimming pool which was originally the idea of the local Kiwanis Club and some school officials.

Whether a pool is wanted at KMHS should not be the question at Monday's meeting, nor in any future meetings of the school board which ultimately must make the decision on whether or not to build it.

The question is, can Kings Mountain District Schools afford a swimming pool?

Unless Superintendent William Davis has been misleading the school board, county commissioners and the public in past meetings, the answer is a simple no.

We've attended most of the school board meetings over the past 21 years, and the one thing that sticks out in our minds concerning past budgets and facility needs is Davis's statements that Kings Mountain District Schools is in dire financial straits and does not have the funds to provide many facilities and programs needed in the local school system.

Now, all of a sudden, some citizens expect the Kings Mountain School Board to allocate \$150,000 to help build the pool, plus, all the funds that will be necessary in the future to operate and maintain the facility. That would probably come to at least \$80,000 more each year.

We command members of the community who would give of their time and money for a project such as this. And, we feel this would be a great community project if it were totally community-financed.

However, let's be realistic. A swimming pool is a luxury, and there are many other facility needs facing the Kings Mountain Schools.

Several years ago, the school board appointed a Blue Ribbon Facility Committee which consisted of a broad cross-section of the community. That committee studied many facility needs of the Kings Mountain District Schools and compiled a list of about 40 items which it felt the schools need. An indoor swimming pool was ranked last.

Thus far, only one of those facility needs has become reality. During the Christmas season, Kings Mountain Junior High occupied a half-million dollar science and math wing which was needed for the education of our children.

There are many other facilities and educational tools needed by the school system. In fact, the board recently compiled a list of needs totaling \$4.5 million, and will probably in the near future go to the community, along with the Shelby and Cleveland County systems, asking that it approve a bond referendum to make those needs reality.

This community has always been a supporter of its school's needs. Kings Mountain voters have never turned down a school bond referendum. But we believe the majority of the citizens of the Kings Mountain school district would rather not see school money go to help finance and to maintain a luxury. The same citizens who are being asked to urge the school board to help finance this project are faced each school year by droves of school children and parents asking them to buy candy, calendars and everything else under the sun so their schools can purchase needed instructional supplies.

We applaud the citizens group for its efforts in raising funds to construct an indoor swimming pool for school-community use and urge them to continue their efforts until the goal of \$750,000 is realized. But, at the same time, we would hope that our school administrators and school board members would use taxpayers' money for what it was intended to be used for. And that is the education of our children, not luxuries.

Saturday Fire Destroys KM's Baskets Unlimited

Fire which erupted from discarded ashes destroyed a small basketmaking business south of Kings Mountain Saturday afternoon.

Bethlehem, Oak Grove and Grover fire departments from Cleveland County and Chapel Grove Fire department from Gaston County responded to the fire which swept through Baskets Unlimited and an adjacent trailer on Highway 161 near

the South Carolina line about 2 p.m.

Damage to the business was estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Firemen said the fire spread quickly because of the paint thinner and varnish used in the basketmaking process.

Gaston County Fire Marshal Martin Chrisco described the cause of the fire as accidental.

A crowd of over 200 attended Tuesday night's first annual banquet of the newly reorganized Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce at Holiday Inn.

"We just could have not been more pleased with the turnout," said President Bob Webster, who called the large crowd an indication of an upturn in the economy and

growth in the business community.

His remarks were echoed by the speaker for the evening, Ben T. Craig, president of First Union Corporation.

Another guest on the platform was Thomas E. Clyde, the projects manager for the proposed new compact audio disc plant of DuPont Phillips to begin operation on Grover Road this year with shipment of discs from the plant ex-

pected by December.

President Webster recognized directors of the Chamber, including Bob Bridges, Larry Beasley, Richard Barnette, Brenda Lovelace, Douglas Burch, Lee McIntyre, Odus Smith, Jr., Bobby Maner, Carl Plonk, Frank Cagle, Ernest Rome, Kemp Mauney, Will Herndon, Claude Suber, Jonas Bridges and John H.

Moss. Mayor Moss presented the speaker and Clyde.

The invocation was given by Rev. George Auman, pastor of Central United Methodist Church.

Dr. Roger Miller of Charlotte provided dinner music at the piano and door prizes were donated by Kinmont Industries, Western Auto Associates Store and Plonk Brothers & Co.



FOOD SERVICE STAFF HONORS DISTRICT—Members of the Kings Mountain Schools Food Service staff, above, present retiring Director Martha Wright with a silver tray. From left, front row, Sarah Queen, Betty Alexander, Martha Wright, and Kathleen Goforth. Back row, from left, Joyce Hord, Shirley Ware, Hildreth Sherrill and Mary Fitts. Not pictured is Shirley Hawkins. The tea was held at Bethware School Thursday.

Mrs. Wright Quits School Job

Martha Wright, Food Service director for the Kings Mountain Schools, has been planning and preparing meals for children in eight schools for 13 years. Next week she will be talking with insurance customers about investments.

Mrs. Wright resigned her position with the KM District Schools this week and says she looks forward to "a completely new field of work and many new challenges." She has accepted a new job with Metropolitan Life Insurance

Company in Shelby.

The Grover resident reports to work Feb. 2.

Mrs. Wright was honored by employees of the Food Service staff from the various schools at a tea Thursday afternoon at Bethware School. She supervises 65 employees in the eight school lunchrooms and the staff presented her with an engraved silver tray, a corsage and other gifts.

"I told everyone not to shed any tears, because I don't want to cry," said Martha,

who says she looks forward to her new work but will miss the many friends she has learned to love over the years, not only her associates, but the children for whom she has planned nutritious meals every day.

Child Nutrition is the program that Mrs. Wright led in this system, starting August 1, 1972 and she was at one time the youngest food service director in the state. Working with the managers at the eight school cafeterias,

she purchased the food and planned the menus. For two years while her husband was in service she taught school in Wayne County. A graduate of East Carolina University, she obtained her master's degree and principal's certificate from UNC at Charlotte. She is married to Charles Wright and the Wright family, which also includes sons Chuck and Jason, reside in her hometown of Grover. Mrs. Wright is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Herndon of Grover.

Two Charged With Shoplifting

Tarenardo Lafayette Sanders, 16, of 2718 Crescent Lane, Gastonia, and Ronnie Jones, 17, of 511 Broad St., were charged in two separate incidents of shoplifting from Mack's Variety Store during the weekend.

Sanders was charged with larceny of six cartons of cigarettes on Thursday around 2 p.m.

Jones was charged with

larceny of one carton of cigarettes Friday morning at 11:40 a.m.

Other reports of vandalism at West, Central and North Schools are under investigation by Kings Mountain Police.

According to Marti Blanton, secretary to KMPD Chief J.D. Barrett, someone broke out a window in the front door at West School, doing

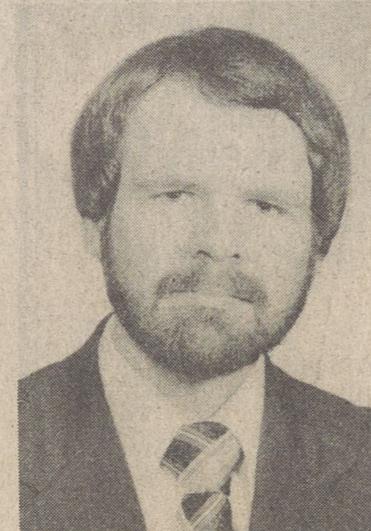
damage of \$50, but nothing was reported missing from the building.

At Central School, a window was broken out and damage was reported to be \$100. Thieves broke into North School and took a microwave oven and tool box to the back door but left the building without the items.

Luther Workman, Mount Holly, reported that his car was spray painted while parked at L&L Hosiery Company.

Jim's Superette, King and Gaston St., reported that someone broke into his store and went through game machines and cash register drawers, taking approximately 150.

Rickie Dettet, 97 Pine Manor Apts., reported that someone broke into his residence



LARRY WOOD

Larry Wood Gets City Job

Larry Wood, for seven years personnel manager of

Kings Mountain's Foote Mineral Company operations, assumed new duties Wednesday as Director of Personnel for the City of Gastonia.

The City of Gastonia employs 800 people.

A native of Kings Mountain, Wood also formerly worked at Spectrum Fibers

as personnel manager for three years.

A graduate of Kings Mountain High School, he holds a B.S. degree from Gardner Webb College and took graduate studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte.

He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wood and grandson of Mrs. Wilma

Wright of Kings Mountain and the late Clem Wright.

He is married to the former Cindy Alexander, Central School teacher, and they are the parents of two sons, Brandon, 8, and Lane, two weeks old. They are active in First Baptist Church. Wood, who is on the board of directors of Gardner-Webb Alumni Association, is a member of Kings Mountain Rotary Club.