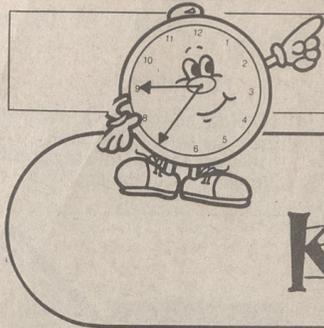




Spring Sports

Pages 1-3C

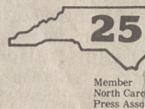


Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday

Turn
Clocks
Ahead
One Hour

Kings Mountain Herald

— Since 1889 —



Member
North Carolina
Press Assn.

VOL. 100 NUMBER 14

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1987

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH

MAUNY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S. PIEDMONT AVE.
KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC 28086

Foote Merger Announced

Foote Mineral Company today announced the signing of a letter of intent to enter into a cash merger with an affiliate of U.S. Borax, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Rio Tinto-Zinc Corp., PLC, of the United Kingdom.

The agreement provides that Foote assets at the time of acquisition will include only those of Foote's lithium and ferrosilicon operations, including the Kings Mountain operation.

Terms and conditions of the agreement, including price, have not been released because they are subject to a continuing due diligence investigation. It is expected that a definitive merger agreement will be negotiated within six weeks. A merger will require a vote of Foote

Turn To Page 6-A



CRUSADE OFFICE OPENS—The Clyde Dupin Crusade Office at the Professional Park on West King Street opened Monday and will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. until the August crusade. Office space for the crusade workers was donated by Ruby M. Alexander, who owns the Professional Plaza. From left, crusade chairman Bob McRae, secretary Donna Jenkins and Alexander.

Lawyer Says Board Can't Ban Sunday Beer Sales

The recent passage of Sunday Blue Laws by the board of city commissioners will not prohibit the sale of beer and wine on Sunday by Class A restaurants with brown bagging licenses.

This is the opinion of Kings Mountain lawyer, Andy Neisler, chairman of the newly appointed and first city ABC Board and also by the N.C. Attorney General's Office.

Neisler said that N.C. General Statutes 18 B-1004 states... "neither a city or a county, however, may prohibit those sales in establishments having brown bagging or mixed beverage permits.

Neisler said that a recent court case in Gibonsville, N.C. challenged the constitutionality of Sunday Blue Laws and the four plaintiffs, each of whom owned a retail grocery store, won.

Neisler said he had been reading up on the ABC laws since his appointment as chairman of the ABC Board and was curious about Sunday Blue Laws and called the state attorney general's office for an opinion.

Neisler said that local restaurants, such as Holiday Inn, Mountaineer Restaurant and Pizza Hut, among businesses issued ABC permits recently, can sell beer and wine on Sunday if they hold brown bagging licenses, in his opinion and that of the state attorney general's office. Neisler said that if those Class A restaurants obtain off-premise license, they may also legally sell beer by the case on Sunday.

State law prohibits sale of beer and wine until 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Neisler said that members of the ABC Committee, which also includes Van Birmingham and Roosevelt Ingram, are continuing to look at suitable sites for construction of an ABC store.

Plonk Property Goes To Park

The 27 heirs of M.L. Plonk, W.L. Plonk and John O. Plonk, Sr. of Kings Mountain announced the sale this week of Kings Pinnacle to the state for inclusion in Crowders Mountain State Park.

Zeb Plonk, great nephew of M.L. Plonk and grandson of

W.L. Plonk, said the three Kings Mountain families sold the 182.29 acres, originally appraised by mineral expert James Castle of York, S.C. at \$1,544,500.00 for \$546,870, which represented a gift to the state by the pinnacle owners of \$997,630.

Plonk said the state has planned an 11 a.m. dedication service Saturday at the Crowders Mountain office in back of the pinnacle to feature passing of the deed by the 27 Plonk heirs to the state. Plonk said the land, which adds the pinnacle and a por-

tion of the ridge connecting Kings and Crowders Mountain pinnacles to the park, was purchased in 1920 by M.L. Plonk, William L. Plonk and John O. Plonk, Sr. Over a period of years the land has

From Page 1-A

Advisory Board's Advice Ignored, Board Resigns

What's the point in having an advisory board if no one listens to the committee's recommendation?

That's the question the 17-member Kings Mountain Aging Program Advisory Board has posed to the board of City commissioners after giving their collective resignations in a letter to the board dated March 27.

Jonas Bridges, chairman of the Advisory board which also includes William Alexander, Dr. Joel Jenkins, Charles Walker, Helen Hendricks, Lloyd Patterson, Jonas Bridges, Ruth Gamble, Zeb Plonk, Mary McMackin, Lydia Mitchell, Gladys Ledbetter, Jeanette Surratte, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Pendleton, Gary Whitaker, Vivian Duncan and Ann Bryant, say their resignations are effective immediately unless the city board reverses a recent personnel decision involving the senior center.

Bridges said the full committee made the decision to resign because "the city ignored

their recent recommendations to hire a Gastonia woman as administrative assistant at the senior center."

After an executive session on March 17, the city board of commissioners voted 4-3, the mayor breaking a tie vote, to hire Kellene Wells of the Dixon Community for the new position of administrative assistant and bookkeeper at the Senior Center.

In a letter to the mayor and board of commissioners, Bridges said a council sub committee has recommended Barbara Ledford from 15 applicants for the job. Bridges said Mrs. Ledford had worked at the Center and helped set up its bookkeeping system.

Said Bridges in the letter, "Acting on your directive of Jan. 14, 1987, the Aging Program Advisory Committee recommended an experienced, well qualified prospect to the city administration to fill this very important position. Subsequently, the City administration ignored or disregarded the Advisory

Council's recommendation and instead proceeded to hire a person who is inexperienced in the more important functions involved in the position of administration assistant-bookkeeper.

"This person was hired by the city administration without consulting with the Aging Director or extending him (Monty Thornburg) the courtesy and opportunity to interview the applicant before she was hired.

"Almost every recommendation the Advisory Council has submitted to the city administration since the Advisory Council was appointed in June 1986 has been ignored or disregarded in a manner similar to the recommendation concerning the position of administrative assistant-bookkeeper. The council is rapidly coming to the conclusion that there is no valid reason for the Advisory Council's continued existence under the conditions it believes now exists."

Bridges said this week that the Aging Ad-

visory committee "has nothing against Miss Wells and does not want to see her fired and hopes she can be hired for some other position in the city. We recommended the person we thought best for the job and regret that petty politics is playing the role that it is."

Bridges said the resignation of the 17 member board is effective immediately unless the city council rescinds its action and "the mayor and city commissioners are willing henceforth to give due consideration to sound and reasonable recommendations made by the Advisory Council for the operation of the KM Aging Program that are in the best interest of the program and those served by the program."

Bridges said no additional meetings of the Aging Advisory council are planned.

Mayor John Moss acknowledged receipt of the resignations Monday afternoon. He said the board did not discuss the matter at an executive session Monday evening.



WILLIE WILLIAMS

Willie Williams Retires

Kings Mountain jeweler Marion Loy (Willie) Williams, 66, retired Saturday from the business he has operated downtown for 25 years.

Mr. Williams, who started fixing watches at the age of 14, says he plans to enjoy his woodworking hobby at home, repair some clocks and continue his beekeeping and photography hobbies as well.

Now he plans to devote more time to his grandchildren, finish the clocks and cases he has been working and and finish construction of his first waterbed.

"I'm still going to be busy but I won't have to punch a clock. I can just work at my leisure," he laughed.

Ethel Mae Stewart Williams, his wife of 46 years, agrees that her husband has never been idle. Williams has five beehives at home, too, and a number of woodworking projects to claim his attention.

The Williams are packing up left-over stock from a recent sale at Willie's Jewelry but officially closed the business Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

A native of Lincoln County, Mr. Williams is son of Mrs. Mary Leola Hull Williams and the late Marvin Leroy Williams. He moved to Kings Mountain in 1961 from Sylva where he operated a jewelry business from 1954-60 and before that started his business in Murphy in January of 1946. His first job in Kings Mountain was as a watchmaker for Lewis Dellinger at Dellinger's Jewel Shop. After a little over a year there, he opened his own business

in the downtown area, where he was manager, salesman, watch repairman and repaired diamonds and other jewelry. He served in the USAF during World War II.

While working as a truck driver in 1938 he got the nickname, Willie. "My boss liked to shorten names and so instead of calling me Williams he dubbed me Willie. It stuck and I've been called Willie ever since", he laughed.

Williams recalled that he met his wife in York, S.C. in 1939 at a community carnival. The family also includes two children; Richard Williams, of San Jose, California, and Brenda Williams of Kings Mountain. There are five grandchildren: Derek and Trip Morrow of Kings Mountain and George, Elaine and Wendy Williams of San Jose.

After-retirement plans of the Williams include a trip this summer to California to visit their grandchildren. Williams also plans a fishing trip with his two Kings Mountain grandsons in the near future.

The Williams, who reside at 508 S. Cansler St., are active in Kings Mountain Baptist Church where Mr. Williams is a deacon and director of the Adult Sunday School Department. He is a past master of Fairview Lodge 339 AF&AM and active in Gideon Society.

A jeweler for 43 years and a Kings Mountain merchant for 25 year Mr. Williams says he appreciates the patronage of Kings Mountain citizens over the years. He said it was with mixed emotions he closed up shop Satur-

Turn to Page 2-A