

Masked Up



Kings Mountain Herald

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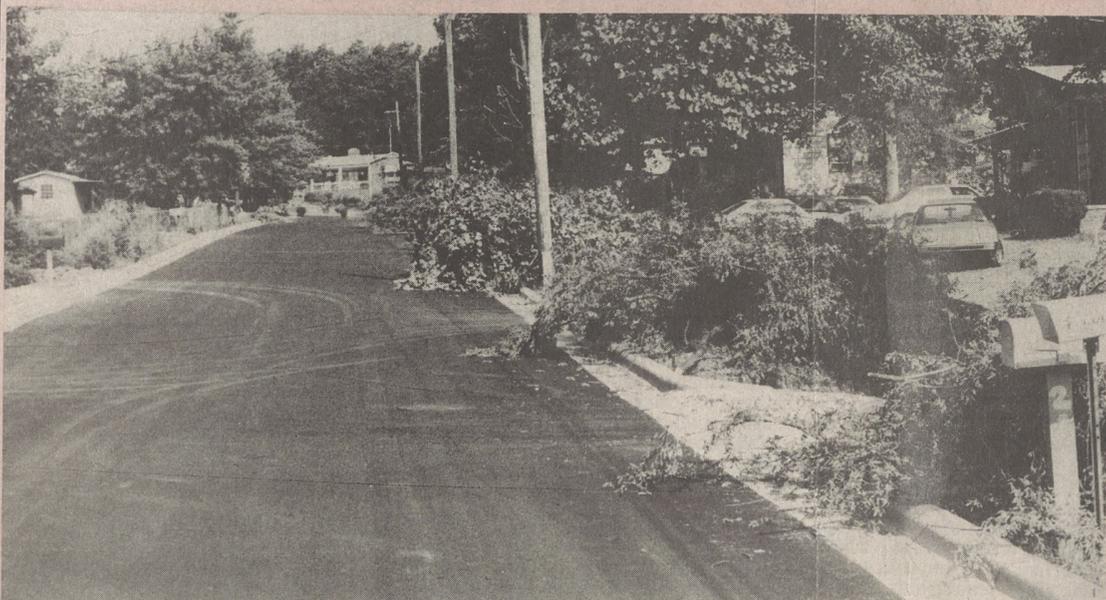
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LIMBS LEFT ON STREET - These tree limbs left on Margaret Street last week after the City Electrical Department trimmed trees were the reason four of the five

employees of the department lost their jobs. The four claimed it was their responsibility to cut the limbs and the sanitation department's responsibility to haul them off.

Claim They Were Fired, Maney Says They Quit

City Employees Take A Walk

Four city electric department linesmen walked off their jobs Thursday in a dispute over whether it was their job to clean up debris after trimming trees and have asked for a hearing on their grievance before the city personnel committee.

James Moore, foreman in the electric department, Willard Yabrough, James Hawkins and David Richardson left their jobs Thursday morning when they were told by Utilities Director Jimmy Maney and refused to go back to Margaret Street and "clean up the mess you made."

Moore maintains that "When the man (Maney) tells you to hit the clock, it sounds like you're fired to me." Maney says the four quit.

Maney says he told the four workers on Wednesday afternoon to take the city's chipper truck and clean up Margaret Street debris. Maney said that residents of Margaret Street had complained that the workmen had left the "trees in a mess." "Thursday morning I asked each of them if they planned to work today. Each said "no." "James (Moore) said if they had to return to Margaret Street they'd quit first. I said, "Well, hit the clock." They did.

Maney said it is the electric department's job to trim trees and "when a mess is created they clean it up. They refused to do their jobs and they quit. Yes, there were some damages and I'm sure there will be some insurance claims", he said.

Maney said that electric crews dig ditches only when underground wiring is involved but have helped the city sanitation department when behind in picking up debris. "In this case it was the electric department's duty, not the Sanitation's department, to clean up any mess and that's what I told them to do and they refused," he said.

Maney said that electrical service won't be affected by the walkout. Two new employees went to work Wednesday morning and Electric Department Director Gene Waldroup and John Clemmer, electrician with the city gas department, are filling in for the departed linesmen. In addition, the ci-

ty of Shelby has agreed to provide back-up service in the event of emergencies. The city is interviewing people for the linesmen positions which pay \$8.46 to \$8.86 for 40 hours plus overtime and fringe benefits, plus an extra day's pay for standby duty and a week's Christmas bonus.

One of the workers claim they lost their jobs because pay raises were refused. Maney said he put in for pay raises for every member of his department but commissioners tabled the request last week until next month's meeting to take action on a new pay classification plan. Workers maintained that "they were piling extra work on us." Maney disagreed.

Mrs. Wesley Blanton, who resides at 205 Margaret St., said water oaks at four houses were mutilated and ruined and "it was a real mess." She said Sanitation department workers finally cleared the debris after working from 5 until 9 p.m. Friday and returning on Saturday at 8 a.m.

City insurance adjusters were on the scene yesterday and Community Development Director Gene White was assisting Margaret Street residents in preparing claims for damages. "The city is on top of it and we will help these citizens in filing claims", said White.

Electric crews began cutting trees off the power lines Tuesday afternoon about 3 p.m., according to residents, Mrs. Blanton said "trees looked terrible" at her house, in the yard of her daughter, Debbie Rice, 203 Margaret Street, in the yard of a neighbor, Tom Melton, and at another house on the street below them. "About nine trees were ruined and we asked the city to pay for the damages", she said. Mrs. Blanton said that Gene White had promised the city would "get back to them about the damages." Mrs. Blanton also said the trees and limbs had been "lying in the street for a month" before they were picked up by the Sanitation crews Friday and she said street crews had been working on Margaret Street for about nine months, curb and guttering and paving, and dirt was piling up. For two days last week, Mrs. Blanton said the postman couldn't get to the

mailbox because of the piled up debris. "This is not the time of the year to cut trees. This dry weather will kill them, said Mrs. Blanton.

Electrical foreman Moore disagrees. He said that city crews cut the same trees two years ago. "Water Oaks look bad to start with but they will come back out in the spring and look good." The city has a right to cut trees on power lines and Duke Power Co. has a ten foot right of way on each side. I think Margaret Street residents are more upset over delayed street work which has been in process there for about nine months. One of the residents asked us three or four weeks ago to come out and trim the "dadbled trees" after the power was knocked out." He said electrical crews had been unable to use a chipper truck to haul away debris since the sanitation department was using the loader and truck. Moore said he called the Sanitation department to inform them that the electric crews would have a "large amount of brush to pick up on Margaret Street last week" and "we were assured they'd come over and get it." The sanitation men were pulled off the job by their boss (Karl Moss) and Moore maintains that his supervisor (Gene Waldroup) told him it was the sanitation department's job, not the electrical department's job, to clear away the debris. "I just want to know who I'm to take orders from and that's the reason for my meeting with the grievance committee of the commissioners", said Moore, who has already taken a job with Hoke Electric.

Moore has worked for the city for nine years, Yabrough for eight years, Hawkins for five years and Richardson for two years. Moore said that some employees want their jobs back but he's concerned all four may lose their vacation pay. Maney said they won't

"I don't like for people to come back on me because I've tried to do what I thought my job was to do", he said. "I don't really think there would be so much ruckus if this were not an election year in Kings Mountain.

Three More File For KM Board

Three candidates, including one woman, filed for city political office this week, bringing the number of candidates to five who have filed for commissioner and one who has filed for Mayor in the October city elections.

Norma F. Bridges will challenge incumbent Commissioner Corbet Nicholson in District III. Nicholson has not announced his intentions to seek re-election.

In Ward 4, a contest has developed between four people seeking political office for the first time, three of whom are former city policemen, who seek to oust Incumbent Norman King, who has not yet announced his intentions to seek re-election.

Filing this week were former retired Police Chief J.D. Barrett and former city police officer Mike Sanders. A third former city policeman, Joe King, and Jeff Gregory, also a newcomer to politics, filed several weeks ago.

Kyle Smith announced two weeks ago that he will challenge incumbent Mayor John Henry Moss, Kings Mountain Mayor for 22 years, and said he will base his campaign on a city manager form of government which would be "the first item on the agenda during my administration."

A native of Kings Mountain, Norma Bridges is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Falls and is married to Kings Mountain native, Bobby Bridges, and they reside on Cleveland Avenue. They have three children, Ken married to Cathy Carroll, Wayne married to Dianna Sweezy and Kim married to Royce Peeler. They are active in Second Baptist Church.

For the past 12 years, the Bridges' have owned and operated Bridges Textiles, Inc. in Kings Mountain. Before opening their own business, Mrs. Bridges was employed by Duplex International for 15 years.

Mrs. Bridges said in her filing statement that she is "not running against anyone but more importantly, she is running for the citizens of Kings Mountain." She says she does not wish to make campaign promises that cannot be kept, she only promises to study each issue and give an honest vote that will be best for the city and its citizens. She feels that all citizens would be served better and may participate more if at least one woman is on the council and would feel the same way if the council was composed of all women.

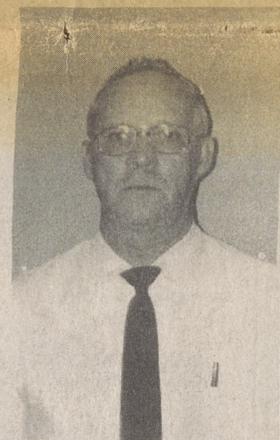
If elected, Mrs. Bridges would be Kings Mountain's second woman commissioner in recent history. The late Mrs. O.O. Walker served the unexpired term of her hus-



NORMA BRIDGES



MIKE SANDERS



J.D. BARRETT

band, the late Commissioner Walker, then was re-elected for another term. She served from 1968-71.

Kings Mountain citizens will elect a mayor and commissioners from District 1, III and IV on Oct. 6th with a run-off, if necessary, on Nov. 3. Terms of Mayor John Henry Moss and Commissioners Irvin M. (Tootie) Allen, District I; Commissioner Corbet Nicholson, District III; and Commissioner Norman King, District IV, are expiring. None of the incumbents have yet announced plans to seek re-election.

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Campbell Seeks Second Term On School Board



DOYLE CAMPBELL

Doyle Campbell, completing his first term on the Kings Mountain Board of Education made it official Tuesday that he seeks re-election to a second term.

Campbell filed with the Cleveland County Board of Elections in Shelby.

Other incumbent on the board, 12-year-veteran June Lee has said she will not seek re-election.

Susan H. Belt, of Oakland St., was the first candidate filing last week for an inside-city seat on the board. A

native of Shelby, Mrs. Belt is running for public office for the first time.

In his filing statement, Campbell said: "I am announcing today that it is my intention to seek a second term on the Board of Education of Kings Mountain District Schools. I wish to thank the citizens of our school district for entrusting me with the responsibility of school board membership for the past four years. During this time I have had many learning and enriching ex-

periences and it is my hope that future service on the board of education will involve promoting what is best for our children. I desire to continue serving on the board in order to be a part of continuing progress toward making our schools the best possible and providing an environment for every child to have an opportunity to achieve to his or her highest potential."

Filing continues through noon Aug. 7th with the Cleveland County Board of Elections. Only the two seats

of Campbell and Mrs. Lee are up for election this year on November 3.

Campbell is associated with McGinnis Department Store and is married to Anita McGinnis Campbell, guidance counselor at Kings Mountain Senior High. Native of Oak Ridge, Tenn. he has been a Kings Mountain resident for 15 years, is president of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club, past president of the KM Little Theatre and has served for four years as a member of the Health Coun-

cil of KM District Schools. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Education. He attended Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., served as a Captain in the USAF as a security police officer with one year service in Southeast Asia and Vietnam. He attended Tulane University where he received his Master's in social work. The Campbells are active in Resurrection Lutheran Church and they and their two daughters, Anne and Emily, reside on Castlewood Road.