



## Letters To The Editor

### Fired KM Electric Employees Asking For Meeting With Officials

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter to the Board of City Commissioners: "We hereby request a meeting with the personnel committee on the subject of getting fired by Jimmy Maney, for wanting us to do Sanitation and Street Department's job."

We had a meeting Monday, July 13, 1987, with Jimmy Maney, Jimmy said at the meeting that he was going to put in for us a 5 percent raise, and that he would let us know something Wednesday, July 15, 1987. Well that day passed without word from him at all. Gene Waldroup came up to us Wednesday right before quitting time and told us, Gene Waldroup told us that they turned down the raise and his words to us that John Henry Moss told Him (Gene Waldrou) that if we didn't get the limbs up we could go home.

Well Thursday, July 16, 1987, we came in and Gene Waldroup told or asked us if we were going to get the limbs up and we said no! Well he said let's wait until Jimmy Maney comes in. Well when Jimmy Maney came in Gene Waldroup met him as soon as he came in and talked to him about something. Jimmy came over to us and asked each of us if we would get up the limbs, and each one of us said no! Well he said (Jimmy Maney), that if we didn't get the limbs up to go ahead and hit the clock. Well we considered that type of words was that we were fired, so naturally we punched out.

Again, we request a meeting with the personnel committee on the subject of getting this matter straightened out.

Again, we request a meeting with the personnel committee on the subject of getting this matter straightened out.

We have three boss men, Gene Waldroup, Jimmy Maney and James Moore, we believe that it is very hard to go under the word of three different boss men, especially for a situation of something like this.

We were all talking, (us four), that we have a similar case like the Iran Contra Hearing. Oliver North, was doing what his superiors told him to do and that if he didn't do it he was fired, he followed his supporters and it put him in a heap of trouble for a little while but the people still respected him for what he did, because he stood up for his rights of his position with the United States Government.

Gene Waldroup told us Tuesday morning to start trimming trees, then James Moore went to Jim Downy and told him that we didn't have no ways to get the limbs up, Jimmy Downy told James that we would get the brush up as quick as he could. Jim went Wednesday morning and started picking them up and Karl Moss went to Jim Downy and told him that the Electrical Department was supposed to get them limbs up, and then he told Jim to quit picking them up. Well there was someone on the job of picking them up, he had no right to tell someone to quit picking them up and tell him it is someone else's job when the job was being done.

We are willing to come back under better conditions, that is the reason we are asking for this meeting with the Personnel Committee. We request that we only have one boss man who tells us what to do and what our original job is, if we have to have three bossmen well then let one make the decisions and be over us as our Supervisor.

Give us a call when you receive this letter and let us know how the situation stands, or when the meeting will be, we do want the meeting so that the truth will come out."

We appreciate your Cooperation.

James Moore, Lead Man  
James Hawkins, Lineman  
Willard Yarborough, Lineman  
David Richardson, Lineman

### Moss Dedicated To Job

Dear Editor:

It is with deep regret that I have learned that our efficient and energetic Mayor John Henry Moss will not seek reelection for the next term of office. Many others throughout our town have expressed that same regret.

Mayor Moss has revitalized our town beyond measure in his 22 years of office. I would like him to know many of our citizens want to thank him for the perseverance and hard driving WORK he has put into our town. Few mayors anywhere have shown his constant dedication to his job.

Won't you reconsider, Honorable Mr. Mayor? We still need your "guts and guidance."

Hazel H. Fryer  
202 N. Roxford Rd.  
Kings Mountain, N.C.

### Thanks For Supporting KM Dixie Youth

An Open Letter:

The 11 and 12 Year-Old Dixie Youth All-Star Team and coaches would like to thank you for your contribution in sending them to Fayetteville to participate in the 1987 State Tournament. Without your help, this once-in-a-lifetime event could not have happened.

The All-Star Team placed fifth in the state, winning their first game and losing the next two. The score of the first game was Kings Mountain 8, Cumberland County 6. Damon Putnam hit a 3-run homer in this game. The score of the second game was Kings Mountain 4, Columbus County 9. Michael Smith hit a 2-run homer in this game. The score of the third game was Kings Mountain 7, Hope Mills 8. Tee Gee Goforth hit a 3-run homer in this game. Columbus County went on to win the tournament.

Thanks to the following local businesses and citizens for their generous contributions to the State Tournament Fund.  
BB&T  
Mayor John H. Moss  
Mountaineer Restaurant  
Mr. Corbett Nicholson  
Parker's American  
Patterson Oil Company  
Mr. Roy Pearson  
Mr. Harold Phillips  
Plonk Brothers & Co., Inc.  
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#### ALL-STAR TEAM

Chris Blanton  
Douglas Bridges  
Steven Fisher  
Tee Gee Goforth  
Ricky Marr  
Doran Moore  
Caja Ormond  
Damon Putnam  
Chris Rider  
Robby Ruff  
Michael Smith  
Todd Ware  
Mark Wood

#### ALTERNATES:

Brad Putnam  
Ty Ross

Sincerely,  
Mike Smith  
Tom Goforth  
Phillip Putnam  
Roger Ross

### Moss Clears Way For Change

Supporters and critics alike must agree that the flamboyant and often controversial Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss will not easily be replaced.

Moss shocked his town and Cleveland County Thursday by announcing an end to his 22-year reign at the helm of Kings Mountain government. His departure sent candidates scurrying to file for the mayor's race. When the filing period closed at noon Friday, six men were vying to succeed Moss.

By the end of the year, someone else will sit in the Kings Mountain mayor's office. But there will not be another John Henry Moss. And there shouldn't be. It's risky when one person becomes as dominant a force over any governmental unit as Mayor Moss has been in his town for the past two decades.

One risk is that the forceful leader may take too much authority upon himself. Another is that capable citizens who could make contributions may be content to sit back and let their vigorous leader run the show. Kings Mountain has experienced both of those undesirable situations in recent years.

When we have disagreed with Mayor Moss, it usually has been not so much because of the things he was doing but the way he was doing them. We've had several occasions to call for more openness and accountability in Kings Mountain government. There was a tendency in the past for the mayor to decide what was best for the town and the board of commissioners to rubber stamp his decisions with little or no public discussion. That's begun to change, however, with board members taking a more assertive role. They will have to work even harder at their jobs and become more informed and involved in the future.

Mayor Moss didn't become legendary among North Carolina's mayors by being timid. To the contrary, he is a man of vision and action who led his community to many economic successes despite trying times. Years ago he foresaw water shortages and built a lake to contend with them. Now he is fighting for a second lake. He has been heralded for his ability to garner federal dollars to benefit his town. And he has recruited industries which provide jobs for the people of eastern Cleveland County.

The Moss imprint on Kings Mountain will last forever. But the time is right for change. Kings Mountain is the last town of its size in the state administered by a full-time mayor also acting as manager. Adoption of a city manager form of government will be a progressive move for the town, and Moss's decision to step down paves the way for the switch.

Though the issue wasn't mentioned by Moss in his withdrawal statement, it likely was a factor in the mayor's decision not to seek re-election. It would have been difficult for Moss, with 22 years in the driver's seat, to hand over the management of Kings Mountain's affairs to someone new. If by retiring, Mayor Moss enables the town to hire a city manager four years earlier than it otherwise would, he will have performed yet another service for his town.

The first post-Moss mayor of Kings Mountain will face an extraordinary challenge. It's a bit surprising that so many are eager to accept the responsibility. Members of the town board of commissioners also will be called upon to play a bigger role than ever before. And citizens who have in the said, "Let John Henry do it," should recognize the need and the opportunity to become more involved in decision-making about their town.

—SHELBY STAR

### Go To Polls And Vote Oct. 6

To The Editor:

In the election to be held Oct. 6, 1987 most of you know the mayor and three commissioners seats are to be filled. Some have filed, others will file, and some are undecided what to do! It is my prayer that in the Oct. 6, 1987 municipal election that you will not let anyone take away your privilege to vote. Another thing be a strong American and don't let someone entice you to buy your vote.

I don't suppose that some men who have been elected to public offices meant to become a dictator or a puppet regime. If we aren't very careful we will have more of the same type of city government as it has been over a number of years. If you are a candidate or will be, or yet undecided, What Would Be Your Reason for Seeking One Of The Offices to be filled. Why don't you sit down, and really give the electorate some sound reasons why you should be elected to an honorable office for the betterment of the total community, and not think of some selfish motive for a few.

Thoughts continue to come to mind. I thought how many women and men have served our country in peace and in war to preserve our country homes, families to sum it up all of our freedoms. Some of them gave their lives, and were never to return to these great United States alive. They came home in a box, but some of us who served at home and abroad have not forgotten what some suffered, and how much they gave for our freedom. Many have lost all morals, principles, and no concern for spiritual matters, but we need those of utmost integrity, dedication, and a purpose for a better total community to offer for the offices to be filled Oct. 1987.

At this time I do not know how I will vote, but I will vote if I can get to the polls.

Rev. Kenneth George

### Kings Mountain Herald

GARLAND ATKINS  
Publisher

GARY STEWART  
Managing Editor

DARRELL AUSTIN  
General Manager

ELIZABETH STEWART  
News Editor

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### Now Is The Time To Move Ahead KM

The Herald commends the board of city commissioners for its action Tuesday night in setting wheels in motion for implementing the city manager form of government in Kings Mountain.

The sooner a city manager is hired the smoother the transition will be for a mayor to succeed John Henry Moss who has promised to assist in transition to Kings Mountain's new system of government. The Herald would strongly urge the commissioners to begin the advertising process for a city manager as quickly as possible, set the new mayor's salary in a part-time position, and in a gesture that taxpayers would appreciate, cut your own salaries.

The city is spending between \$75,000 and \$80,000 annually in salaries, insurance benefits, travel, etc. for a mayor and six members of the board of commissioners. Mayor John Henry Moss has estimated that a city manager for Kings Mountain would expect about \$50,000 annually. City managers in cities of similar size, population 5,000 to 13,999, are paid an average of \$35,467 and city commissioners are paid an average of \$2,012 annually.

Kings Mountain pays its mayor \$33,500 annually or \$2,789.49 per month, plus car and travel expense, life and health insurance and retirement benefits.

Kings Mountain pays its commissioners \$400 each per month plus about \$2,000 each for life and health insurance benefits or approximately \$42,000 annually.

According to the N.C. League of Municipalities for governing boards in towns of 5,000 to 13,999 population the following salaries are paid: Carrboro pays its mayor \$5,000 and its four member board \$2400; Clinton pays its mayor \$3,000 and its five member board \$1248; Dunn pays its mayor \$3300 and its six member board \$1800; Graham pays its mayor \$3,000 and its three member board \$1800; Mint Hill pays its mayor \$2400 and its four member board \$1200; Mooresville pays its mayor \$5,544 and its five member board \$1944; Mount Airy pays its mayor \$4200 and its four member board \$2400; Oxford pays its mayor \$14,294 and its five member board \$10,751; Rockingham pays its mayor \$2400 and its four member board \$1800; Southern Pines pays its mayor \$200 and its three member board \$150; Tarboro pays its mayor \$3,000 and its seven member board \$1800; Washington pays its mayor \$2400 and its four member board \$1200, an average of \$2,012.

Highly paid city manager for a city of comparable size is in Laurinburg where the city manager's salary is \$46,500 followed by Reidsville where the salary is \$46,008 and in Whiteville where salary is \$45,016.

There are some political strengths in the new system proposed. One important thing to remember as the city moves into the new form of government is that all power in council-manager government is assigned to the council and the council needs to work together. The new city manager, whenever he is employed, must be charged with exercising leadership and providing day to day public service to the community. The council-manager system, we feel can work, if the mayor, whomever he is on Dec. 8, will provide the policy leadership critical to the community. We feel that a part-time mayor can have plenty to do. We also feel that city commissioners should remove themselves from the personnel duties they voted themselves some time ago and authorize the department heads to run their own departments.

The public needs and should demand strong leadership in these times of change. Kings Mountain has come a long way during the leadership of John Henry Moss. In times of change, people who are able to find new ways of solving problems inevitably gain respect, not only for themselves, but for what they represent.