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 100 S. PIEDMONT AVE.  
 KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC 28086



**GROUNDBREAKING** - Wirtz Manufacturing broke ground for a new plant on Grover Road Tuesday. From left to right are Plant Manager Larry Brown, County Commissioner Joyce Cashion from Kings Mountain, President John Wirtz and Dr. Jim Petty of Cleveland Community College participating in ceremonies attended by city and county officials and local industry representatives.

## Wirtz Plant Breaks Ground

Groundbreaking for a 25,600 square foot assembly plant for Wirtz Manufacturing Company of Port Huron, Michigan was held Tuesday morning at the newly-acquired 18-acre site on Grover Road.

Cost of the new construction is \$900,000 and 40-50 employees are expected to be employed in the next 12-18 months.

Mayor Kyle Smith and Wirtz President John O. Wirtz said at a press conference that the new plant is an expansion of Wirtz Gastonia facility and construction will begin immediately with completion expected by June 1988.

Larry Brown of Shelby, formerly with Chase-Brass, will serve as the new plant manager. General contractors are Rick Daggenghart and G.L. Wilson of Alexander County.

The new Kings Mountain facility will serve as the assembly plant for the company's battery division and will be built beside the new Sheller Globe Plant on Grover Road, now under construction.

"We're excited to be a part of the Kings Mountain area", said Wirtz who expanded in North Carolina two years ago in a business founded in 1932

by his grandfather.

The new plant will offer top wages for skilled machinists most of whom will be trained at Cleveland Community College and will employ 25 initially, said Wirtz.

Wirtz estimated the Gastonia plant would be phased out in 18-20 months.

The principal products of the battery division here will be equipment used in the manufacture of automotive batteries. In the past six months, the company has begun to market a new line of equipment which has been in development for over 10

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## Bush, Gore Lead Tickets, Hospital Bond Vote Passed

Kings Mountain voters joined their Cleveland County neighbors in overwhelmingly approving on Super Tuesday at \$25 million bond issue for Cleveland County Memorial Hospital in Shelby by margins of 3-1.

Local voters at the polls also agreed with voters in Cleveland County and 14 southern states, marking presidential preference ballots for Vice President George Bush and Tennessee Senator Albert Gore, Jr. Republican Bush overcame Sen. Bob Dole's ties in North Carolina to win the Republican primary and stake a commanding claim on the GOP nomination for President.

Among Democrats, Senator Albert Gore, Jr. edged the other Southerners in the race. In Kings Mountain and Cleveland County voters gave the second choice to Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and their third choice Jesse Jackson. Statewide, Jesse Jackson received 32 percent of the vote to Gore's 35 percent.

No. 4 Township voters approved the hospital bonds 1179 to 700 by 1,884 voters at the polls on Tuesday. At Bethware, where 1,076 voters are registered to vote, a total of 300 people went to the polls in a 18.08 percent turnout which favored the bonds 209-115.

At East precinct, where 1,076 voters are registered to vote at the Community Center, a total of 554 people voted in a 17.03 percent tur-



**SUPER TUESDAY**—Betsy Wells, above, casts her vote in Grover Tuesday. Grover followed the lead of their neighbors all over the county in approving a \$25 million bond issue for Cleveland Memorial Hospital at Shelby and in marking Presidential Preference ballots for Republican George Bush and Democrat Albert Gore, Jr.

nout and favored the bond issues 329 to 211.

At West precinct at The Armory, where 2,847 people are registered to vote, a total of 754 people went to the polls in a 26.5 percent turnout and favored the bonds 450 to 291.

At Grover, where 1,108 people are registered to vote, 276 people went to the polls in a 24.9 percent turnout and

favored the bonds 191-83. With all 24 precincts in the county reporting, 9,009 voters favored the \$25 million bond issue and 3,051 opposed. Turnout 33.2 percent.

One third of registered voters in Cleveland County went to the polls in Cleveland County. Election officials said 39,099 Clevelanders are

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## Early, Mack, Adams, Moss Going Into KM Hall

By GARY STEWART  
Managing Editor

Three professional athletes and a promoter of baseball from the amateur level to the professional ranks will be inducted into the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce Sports Hall of Fame at its first annual banquet Mon., Apr. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Community Center.

Honorees will include the late Jake Early, one of the major leagues' best defen-

sive catchers in the 1940's; former Gardner-Webb College All-American basketball great George Adams, who also played with the San Diego Conquistadors of the ABA; former Kings Mountain Mayor John Moss, who organized the Class A Western Carolinas League and currently serves as president of the South Atlantic League; and Pro Bowl footballer Kevin Mack of the Cleveland Browns.

Results of the initial year's voting was announced Tues-

day night at the Hall of Fame Committee's meeting with Chamber of Commerce officials at the Holiday Inn.

Tickets will go on sale early next week at \$10 apiece. Bill Grissom will chair the ticket sales with Jim Cloninger serving as his assistant.

Carl Champion, overall chairman, announced that Marty Schottenheimer, head coach of the Cleveland Browns, will be the featured speaker. Many other well-known sports personalities from the amateur, collegiate

and professional ranks will take part in the induction ceremonies.

Schottenheimer has coached the Browns to the AFC Central Division title each of the past three years, and his last two teams lost narrow decisions to Denver for the AFC championship and the right to play in the Super Bowl.

Schottenheimer is a former All-America defensive back at Pittsburgh and played pro ball with the Buffalo Bills, Boston Patriots, Pittsburgh

Steelers and Baltimore Colts.

He began his pro coaching career in 1974 as linebacker coach for the Portland Storm. He coached with the New York Giants from 1975-77 and with the Detroit Lions from 1978-79. He joined the Cleveland Browns as defensive coordinator and secondary and linebackers coach in 1980 and took over as head coach in 1984.

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Danny Ford, head football  
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SCHOTTENHEIMER

## Greene Buys Herald, Gaston Newspapers

The Kings Mountain Herald has been purchased by Greene Newspapers, Inc., according to an announcement today by former owner Garland Atkins.

Greene Newspapers is based in Charlottesville, Va., and is headed by Gary M. Greene, President. Greene and his wife, Boo, who is the company's Vice President and Secretary, will be relocating to the area in the near future.

"Selling a newspaper is a very important event for the newspaper's employees and the community," Atkins said. "We feel that the Greens represent an excellent addition to the area and to the continued growth of the Herald."

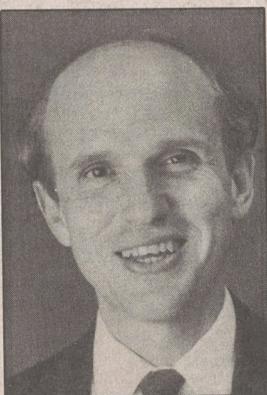
Greene, whose parents are North Carolina natives, grew up in a newspaper family and has published numerous weekly and daily newspapers during his career. Prior to establishing his company last year, Greene worked 16 years for Worrell Newspapers, Inc., in Charlottesville. Greene was Executive Vice President of the Worrell group and oversaw daily operations and acquisitions.

"We are very excited about moving to the area," Greene said. "The quality of life, the people, our relatives, and the strong prospects for continued growth are strengths that pulled us back to North Carolina."

Greene said no personnel changes are anticipated.

Atkins purchased the Herald 14 years ago from Martin Harmon. Atkins also owned the Cherryville Eagle, The Mt. Holly News, The Belmont Banner, The Tri-City Record and the Gaston Independent. They too were bought by Greene. Atkins will remain with the company on a consulting basis, and will spend a portion of his time in book publishing.

The Greens are active in civic and community events and are members of the Presbyterian Church. They have two children, Nathan, 9, and Caroline, 2.



GARY M. GREENE



GARLAND ATKINS

## Board Hires Management Firm

City commissioners Tuesday night bought a computer system for the city and hired Management Advisors, Inc. of Virginia Beach, Va. to conduct a management survey.

The management survey will cost \$18,000. The computer system will cost \$120,000 over a five-year period plus a maintenance fee of \$7600 annually and \$10,000 for memory updates. Logics of Goldsboro was awarded the contract and Gary Sanders, president of the firm, said the software will be installed in 45 days and he and a staff member will begin training of city employees. Logics put in a similar computer system in Cherryville and in Morganton, among 25 cities in the state the company has served recently.

Commissioners started thinking about getting in the computer business two years ago when the board voted to do a feasibility study working with the Center on Urban Affairs at N.C. State University.

Commissioner Fred Finger, chairman of the study committee, said the city will be running its first programs in late September or early October and will then

be able to handle payroll, general ledger, personnel records, accounts payable, tax collections and virtually every city service involving business accounts and book-keeping.

City Clerk Marvin Chappell said the computer system has been needed for many years and that employees are excited about the new system. The computer package provides for 120 hours of employee training on the software.

### Mayor Says City Manager Could Be Hired By May 1

Mayor Kyle Smith is shooting for May 1 as the date a new city manager will assume new duties in Kings Mountain.

During executive session following Tuesday night's regular board meeting, commissioners narrowed the finalists for city manager to two and voted to call them back to Kings Mountain for more interviews. Last week commissioners interviewed the last of four candidates who had emerged as the top four from a field of 31 people who had applied for the job.

Mayor Smith, who has not named the candidates

Hiring of an outside management team to study how the city is run, including how much the city pays its 170 employees, has been a top priority of new Mayor Kyle Smith. Pay classification is only one phase of the program which is expected to take four or five months to complete. Including site field work and a comparable study of city salaries versus industry, etc. The team will of-

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because they are presently employed as city managers elsewhere in the state, said the top two choices of the board are highly qualified. "Whomever is hired will be expected to work a 30 day notice, said Smith, because all cities are now involved in working up new budgets for the new fiscal year and we will give him that opportunity to work a notice."

Mayor Smith plans to work with the new city manager for a month before resuming work at Combustion Engineering, where he took leave-of-absence to serve as full time mayor.