

Kings Mountain Herald

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KINGS MOUNTAIN

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Wood Asks Spectrum Annexation

Petition Asks Vote On Government Form

Seventeen months after City Council amended the city charter, a citizens committee is challenging the Council's action.

A citizen's committee headed by Sam Tesenair is circulating a petition for an election on the question of city manager-council versus mayoral form of government.

Tesenair, spokesman for the group, said he will present an "initiative" petition Tuesday night to City Council because "the people have a right to vote on how the government is run." (A public hearing was held by the City Council on Aug. 25, 1987 and the only four people to speak were in favor of the Council-City Manager form of government.)

City Attorney Mickey Corry said the city complied with the N. C. general statutes in the lengthy process.

Even if the petitioners presented the petition for an election within the proper time frame the Council had the option of whether to vote themselves on the change or to bring it before the people for a vote," said Corry.

Tesenair maintains the petition will be presented in the 18 months time frame spelled out under General Statutes 160-A104.

The petitioners state: "We, the undersigned, representing over 10 percent of the registered voters of the City of Kings Mountain, in the State of North Carolina, do hereby request of the present governing city council the right to hold a public vote of the citizens of Kings Mountain. The purpose of the aforesaid vote will be to determine the type of governing council, the mayorality as opposed to the city manager type

See Petition, 3-A

City Manager George Wood will recommend to the City Council Tuesday night that the city's largest water customer, Spectrum Dye Yarns, Inc. be annexed into the city.

The annexation of Spectrum, expected to be effective March 31 at midnight, would be the city's first satellite annexation of an industry.

Spectrum, faced with increases in water and sewer services April 1, petitioned the city for annexation five years ago and renewed the request last month when new water and sewerage rates were adopted indicating that if not annexed there would be cutbacks of

20-25 percent in usage for sewer and natural gas and result in possible layoffs and a ripple effect in the local economy.

Wood and City Clerk Marvin Chappell met with Plant Manager Bill Hutchins and Jim Roark at Spectrum and plant officials indicated that if annexed they would like to use at least 1,350,000 gallons per day of water. Wood was authorized by the city council to conduct a financial feasibility study on the Spectrum request. Wood recommended in a letter to Mayor Kyle Smith and Council on March 21 that "if lost revenues to the city are not substantial we should annex Spectrum and grow out of the problem, not force cutbacks in production."

Wood said Spectrum has used as much as 1.7 mgd of water and sewer but its equalization pond can regulate the flow fairly evenly. The water and sewer rate study used 1987 consumption figures of 1.22 mgd, versus their stated intent to use at least 1.35 mgd if annexed.

See Spectrum, 3-A



GEORGE WOOD

Gas Rates Decrease For Most Customers

Most of Kings Mountain's 2,500 natural gas customers will see a decrease under a new schedule expected to be adopted by the city council Tuesday night but the larger drops will be felt mainly by the city's nine big industrial users who have been switching to cheaper fuel.

Commercial businesses, schools and the interruptible users will see larger rate drops of 10 cents per 100 cubic feet of gas or between \$356 and \$4,500 less in costs on average bills.

Residential users will see a decrease under the new schedule of 0.02 cents per 100 cubic feet of gas. This translates to an average of about \$16 less per year, or \$1.33 per month on bills.

The decrease for residential users won't compensate for last month's hike of 42 cents per million cubic feet but under a rate structure proposed by Heath and Associates of Shelby the residential bill for a typical user of 74 mcf would drop \$16.28 per year.

A small commercial customer using 356 mcf per year would see an annual decrease of \$356. A large commercial user's bill would drop \$4,554 per year.

"Anyone using five times as much gas ought to get a break and that's why we're suggesting cuts in rates," said Charles Heath of the consulting firm the city hired to make a rate study, the last set of schedules to be reviewed during a year long examination of the city's utilities. Charles and Scott Heath made the presentation to the city utilities committee Tuesday night who approved the proposal and will make recommendations to the full council that the rates go into effect April 1.

"The bottom line is that now the city can compete," said Councilman Humes Houston after Scott Heath explained that the city's big gas users often interrupt their natural gas service and switch to cheaper fuel if natural gas costs run too high. This winter the interruptible customers converted almost entirely to other fuels, causing the city's annual sales to them to drop from about 615 million cubic feet to an estimated 550 million cubic feet. The city sold 935 million cubic feet last year.

City Manager George Wood said the new rates are "flexible" and will allow the city to have a competitive price and to adjust monthly the rates of interruptible customers who consume 66% to 75% of the city's natural gas sales. "We've got to do something to get back in the ball game," said Wood.

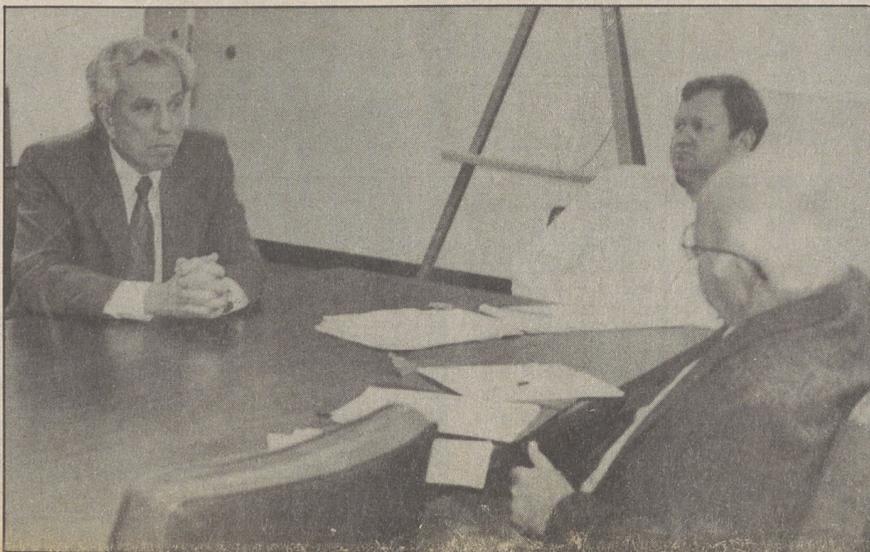
Charles Heath said that although the rate cuts will bring in less money to the city, Kings Mountain will be selling more gas to customers.

Scott Heath said lowering rates may help attract new industries in addition to retaining gas sales to current companies.

Gas Supt. Jimmy Maney said the city is saving money by buying up to 30 percent of its gas from companies other than Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corp. of Grover, the city's primary supplier. By purchasing gas without long-term contract and shipping it through Transco lines, the city is slashing its cost by 50 percent.

Consultant Scott Heath showed charts that illustrated that the proposed decrease for large users would bring Kings Mountain's gas rates about even with Public Service Co., of North Carolina Inc. and with

See Gas, 3-A



DISCUSS GAS RATES-Gas consultant Charles Heath, left, City Manager George Wood and Councilman Fred Finger, right, discuss proposed lowered gas rates during a meeting of the Utilities' committee Tuesday night.

World War I Veteran

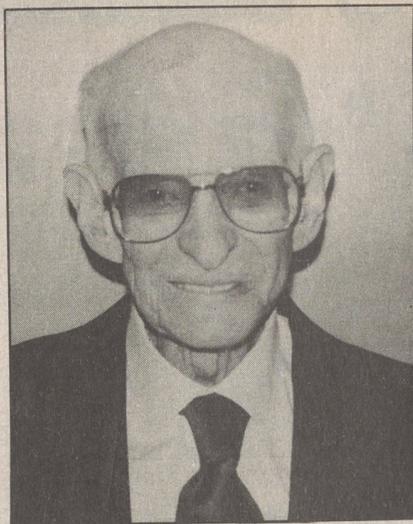
Noah (Charlie Campbell) Still Going Strong At 90

A month after World War I was declared Charlie Campbell, then a 10th grader at Kings Mountain High School, went off to war, a youthful 18-year-old who joined Uncle Sam's Army on April 6, 1917 in Fort Thomas, Ky.

He served two years and 10 days in what was then called the Sub-Legion organized by George Washington in 1784 but now called the Old Guard. He was a border guard serving in a battalion which guarded the international boundary on the Rio Grande River, Mexico border in the days of Poncha Villa.

Campbell, 90 on Saturday, was honored by his three children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren at Holiday Inn, a familiar place for Charlie who eats breakfast and lunch with friends there every day, a custom he began 17 years ago. Friends of long-standing joined his family to help Charlie cut a decorated birthday cake and to reminisce with the Kings Mountain native whose humor and youthful appearance belie his age.

Charlie owns and operates his own car, a vintage 1968 Olds with 181,700 miles on it he affectionately dubs, "Noah and his Ark." The car belonged to sons Charles Campbell Jr. and then to Ed Campbell and has been a Campbell tradition for 21 years. "My driving privileges are limited to day time and I can't drive on the interstate but every day I take "Noah" out for a spin through the National Military Park for stops at the Museum, visit with friends and to the Holiday Inn and back a couple times a day," laughed Charlie who is a history buff and a descendant of the patriot Preston Goforth at the Revolutionary War Battle of Kings



CHARLIE CAMPBELL

Mountain. During a trip to Scotland he visited Inberary Castle, headquarters of the Campbell Clan to receive an official card as a member of the Clan Campbell Society signed by Duke of Argyll, chief of the clan.

See Campbell, 9-A

Sunrise Service Slated Sunday

The annual community Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association, will be held Sunday at 6:30 a.m. at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

In case of heavy rain, the service will be cancelled. Rev. John W. Sloan Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, will preach the sermon and other local pastors will also participate in the service.

Rev. Harwood Smith, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, will give the welcome, and Rev. Dewey Smith, pastor of Galilee and St. Paul United Methodist churches, will pray the opening prayer. Dr. Eric Faust, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, will read the scripture. Rev. Frank Gordon, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, will lead a responsive reading.

Rev. Bob Coates, pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church, will pray the pastoral prayer and Rev. George D. Simmons, pastor of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, will pronounce the benediction.

Fred Eaker of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church will lead the congregational music. Shane and Alesa Doty, ministers of youth at First Baptist, will present special music and a group of local students and adults will participate in a brass ensemble which will be led by Rev. Morris Jordan, Minister of Music at First Baptist.

The public is invited to attend.

KM Man Charged With Sex Offenses

Wendell Gale McAbee, 48, of 1060 Westover Heights, faces four counts of statutory rape and first degree statutory sex offense involving two 11-year-old girls and one of his daughters, according to charges alleged by the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

McAbee was arrested Thursday by Sgt. David Luckadoo of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department and Sgt. James Camp of the Kings Mountain Police Department after officers obtained a search warrant to search his home and after a guidance counselor at North School called the Department of Social Services to report the alleged assaults and Social Services called police.

Authorities said they are questioning friends of the students and encourage other children to come forward if they have more information.

Luckadoo said Sgt. Camp charged McAbee with the first incident of incest last August which allegedly occurred while McAbee lived on North Piedmont Street in Kings Mountain. Luckadoo Thursday charged McAbee with a second count of incest involving one of McAbee's two daughters and statutory rape and

See McAbee, 9-A

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PAGES TODAY PLUS THREE INSERTS

Realtors Support Bond Issue

The Kings Mountain Board of Realtors this week endorsed the April 18 bond referendum which seeks \$10 million for county government facilities and \$30 million for school facilities.

"We feel that this bond referendum is vital for the future growth and well being of the county government and the Kings Mountain school system," said Jerry King, president of the Board of Realtors.

The bond referendum will supply money for school additions and renovations, King said.

In an outlined statement, King gave reasons why the Board of

Realtors support passage of the upcoming vote. They included:

*Additions and renovations at Kings Mountain High and Kings Mountain Junior High to enable the school system to close the outdated Central School as a site for children, allowing the re-organization of grades along the K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 grade pattern.

*Kings Mountain Senior High needs approximately 15 additional classrooms, appropriate support space, an auxiliary physical education facility, heating and air conditioning renovations, and additional parking spaces.

*Kings Mountain Junior High needs approximately 19 additional classrooms and learning spaces, dining hall expansion, physical education expansion, renovation of existing space, and additional parking.

*Replacement of outdated facilities are needed on elementary school campuses (Grover Auditorium and classrooms in the building constructed in 1915, and media center and administration in a building constructed in 1934; East - classrooms, media center, cafeteria and administration in a

See Realtors, 3-A

EASTER CLOSINGS

		
KM SCHOOLS	BANKS & S.&Ls	CITY GOVERNMENT
Closed Mar 24 - April 2	Closed Friday	Closed Monday

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