



'My Fair Lady'
Set At KMHS
1-B

Bud Bumgardner Brings
Fun To KM Baseball
4-A

KM Going After
Conference Championship
Friday Night
4-A

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Closing East Idea Is Discussed Again

\$1.1 Million Grover Building Project Approved

The Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night approved plans for a \$1.1 million building at Grover School which would replace the existing administration building and provide five new classrooms and a new cafeteria.

The 22,250 square feet facility could be occupied next February if plans go according to schedule.

After necessary paper work is approved, bids could be taken by May 15 and contracts awarded by the end of school, architect Atilla Orkan said. Orkan said demolition and construction could begin in the summer and the project could be "under roof" by November.

The board discussed the matter for over an hour before unanimously approving the project. Board mem-

ber Billy King questioned the move because he said the project is \$350,000 over budgeted.

A smaller scale project, which would replace only the buildings that would be demolished at Grover (the old auditorium and administration building) would have cost \$819,000 but board members were told that there was no possibility of expansion to that building. The building to be constructed could have expansion on either end.

Also, it was pointed out that the larger plan includes larger classroom areas which will make it possible for over-crowded classrooms in the current 4-5 grade building to be moved into the new facility. Special

See Grover, 9-A

The possibility of closing East School came up again at Monday night's Board of Education meeting after East Principal John Goforth appeared before the board to give an update on the work of a special committee appointed to study elementary reorganization.

Goforth, who chairs the committee which includes educators and parents, said the committee now understands that the months of work school officials have put into reorganization consideration was a "task that has not been taken lightly."

For the past year and a half, the board has discussed ways to try to balance racial percentages, especially at East, and after a public hearing at East last fall the board voted to keep East School open.

However, Goforth said two of the possible scenarios being discussed by the new committee involves closing East, as well as West School.

Goforth said the scenarios discussed by the committee include:

- *Closing East and West and building a new K-5 school.
 - *Redistricting the three inside city schools (East, West and North).
 - *Re-districting all five schools, including Grover and Bethware.
 - *Closing East and West and re-districting the remaining three schools.
- Goforth said the committee has also reviewed projected school enrollments, projected growth areas of the city and the number of at risk students. He said the committee will continue to meet and will also share information with the community through PTOs and faculties.
- "We're concerned about letting everyone know about this," he said.
- See East, 9-A**

Educators To Decide Pay Issue

Kings Mountain teachers and administrators were to vote today on a differentiated pay plan which, if approved, would be implemented under the state's Senate Bill 2.

A majority of teachers and administrators must approve the plan before either group can participate in it.

KMHS teacher Wayne Thompson, chairman of a special committee which worked on the components of the local plan, said all teachers have been contacted through meetings and surveys and he feels like the plan will be approved.

The plan includes up to four components which teachers and administrators can participate in to receive pay bonuses. Thompson said \$36,750 would be available in each of the four components for end-of-the-year bonuses.

The state requires that the local plan be reviewed every three years but the local committee has decided to review at the end of each year.

Thompson said some "extra" duties teachers already are involved in at no pay, such as being club sponsors, department heads, Science Fair coordinators, etc., would qualify them for extra pay under the plan. A committee at each individual school would decide what activities qualified a participant for bonuses.

See Teachers, 9-A

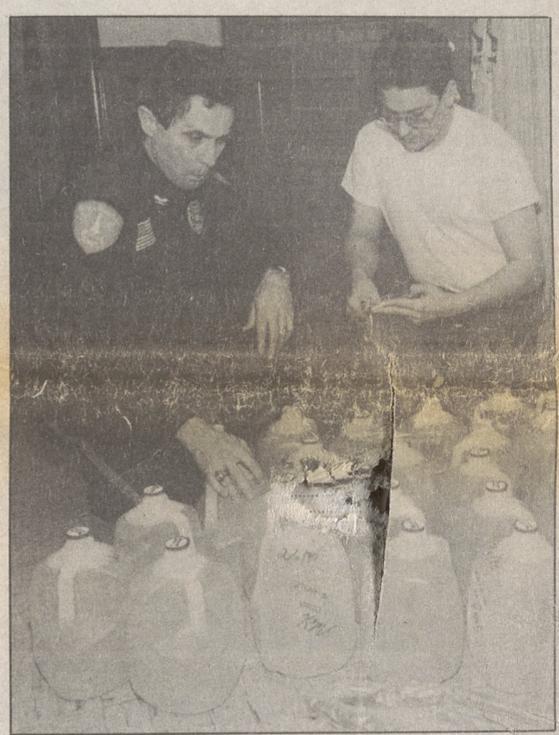


Photo by Dieter Melhorn

MOONSHINE AND DRUG BUST-Kings Mountain Chief of Police Warren Goforth, left, and Sgt. Mark Simpson inspect 23 gallons and one pint of suspected moonshine and a half pound of suspected marijuana that Simpson and Ptl. Charles Bundrick confiscated Saturday after stopping a motorist on North Watterson Street. James Hilliard Roberts, 43, of Route 5, was booked for DWI, transporting non-tax paid liquor, driving while license permanently revoked, and felony possession of marijuana and possession of marijuana with intent to sell and deliver. He posted \$2,000 bond and a first appearance hearing was on Tuesday.

Kings Mountain Writing Scores Among N.C. Best

State writing test scores of Kings Mountain sixth and eighth graders continue to improve, Asst. Supt. Larry Allen told the Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting Monday night at the Central Office.

Kings Mountain scores rank among the best in the state.

"I'm real pleased with the progress of our writing program," Allen said. "Growth has been consistent over the past several years and we anticipate that it will continue to improve as we move into the middle school program. There is evidence across the grade levels that there is a level of growth placed on writing."

Allen explained that eighth graders are tested each fall. They are tested in two of four dif-

ferent types of writing (persuasive, point of view, clarification and descriptive) but do not know beforehand which types they will be tested on.

Sixth grade scores showed significant improvement over the past two years, Allen said. In 1987, 190 students scored 2.5 or better on a scale of 0-4. In 1988, 261 scored 2.5 or above and in 1989, 230 scored 2.5 or above.

"Those figures appear to be an up and down situation, but if you look at the percentages you'll see that the percentage of students making 2.5 or better in 1989 was much higher," he noted. In 1987, 66 percent scored 2.5 or above, in 1988 79.6 percent scored 2.5 or above and in 1989 85.8 percent scored 2.5 or above.

"The percentages are the true

indicators that growth has been continual," he said.

"Eighth grade scores weren't as pronounced, but we've continued to show progress at the eighth grade level," he said.

Allen said the good writing scores prove that "our efforts in the lower grades are really paying off."

In other action, the board:

- *Was told by Supt. McRae that teachers are discussing the recent ruling by the State Board of Education that the Channel 1 news-cast cannot be shown during the regular 5 1/2-hour school day.
- McRae said teachers are re-considering the issue and should have a recommendation in the next weeks.

See Writing, 9-A

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Schools, City To Share Use Of Some Facilities

Kings Mountain's School Board Monday night approved a contract with the City of Kings Mountain to share the other's facilities.

Asst. Supt. Larry Allen said the plan approved by the school board has only a few minor changes from one earlier approved by City Council.

Allen said the two groups agreed to share any facilities necessary but he expects most of the use will be ball fields and gymnasiums.

The facilities would be used free and the user must leave the facility

in the "same shape it was found."

Allen said if any long-term improvements are necessary at facilities, the city and school system would have to have written agreements if one wants to improve the other's facilities.

The two groups have shared facilities in the past. When the new junior high was being built, Allen recalled that junior high students held classes in the Community Center. Prior to 1967, school ath-

See Facilities, 9-A

Kings Mountain People

Bridges Brothers Remain Partners Outside Business

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

Partners in the hardware business all their lives, the Bridges brothers, J. C. and Glee Edwin, remain partners in retirement and good friends who together volunteer hundreds of hours in community service.

You can set your clocks by them every morning now, although they don't punch the clock anymore. Their favorite spot at 6 a.m. is the Neisler Natatorium at Kings Mountain Senior High School where they swim 30 laps for 27 minutes three mornings each week. They walk 27 minutes four mornings a week or a total of two miles each day.

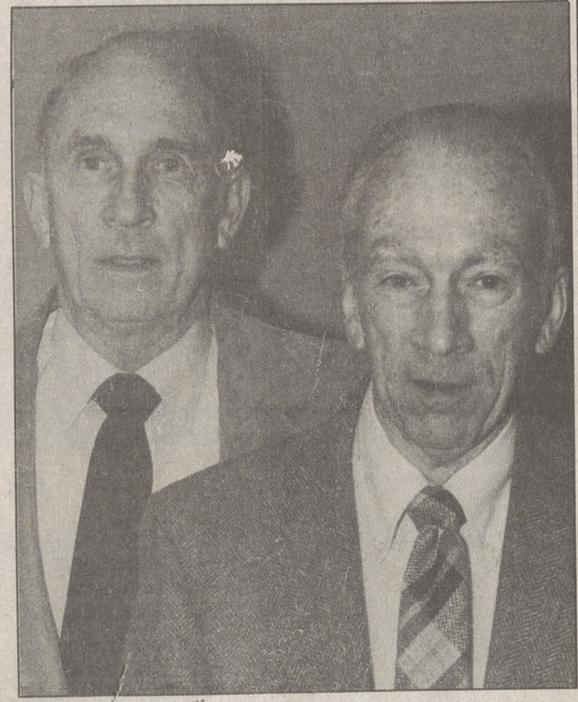
A strict exercise program has become fun for both since their sudden heart attacks came almost a year apart to the date. Glee, 64, was stricken with a heart attack in 1987 and J. C., 67, suffered his attack on Feb. 6, 1988, almost six months after they sold Bridges Hardware, the family business they had owned and operated since 1951.

"We miss the people but not the pressure of business," said Glee, who in retirement has traveled with wife, Martha, to Northern Europe, Russia, Germany and Austria and is planning a trip to Australia this summer.

Glee also enjoys his shop and woodworking hobby, home repairs, yardwork and gardening.

J. C.'s woodworking shop is another of his favorite places and he has more time now to expand his photography hobby, which includes shooting slides of his family trips to Europe to visit their son, to Epcot Center in Florida, to Wisconsin to visit their sister in Chatek, Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. for the unveiling of the around-the-world non-stop "Voyager."

See Bridges, 3-A



GLEE (LEFT) AND J.C. BRIDGES

Dean Ridings Appointed Publisher Of KM Herald

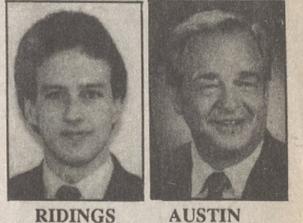
H. Dean Ridings has been promoted by Republic Newspapers as publisher of the Kings Mountain Herald, replacing Darrell Austin who is resigning effective March 9 to begin his own advertising agency.

Ridings previously published the Belmont Banner and Mt. Holly News, also owned by Republic.

"I am very pleased with the opportunity to work as publisher of the Kings Mountain Herald," Ridings said. "The newspaper has an excellent record of service to the community and I hope that my involvement as publisher will continue and strengthen that commitment."

Prior to joining Republic Newspapers Ridings was employed by Fackelman Newspapers as publisher of the Daily Standard in Excelsior Springs, Mo., and the Daily News in Richmond, Mo. He served on the board of directors of Excelsior Publishing Company, Richmond News Inc., and Northland Sun Publishing Company.

He served on the board of directors of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Community Improvement Corp., a local corpo-



ration responsible for revitalization of downtown Richmond, and the Richmond Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, and was a member of the Rotary Club.

He is a native of Panama City, Fla., and grew up in Singapore and Hong Kong, where his parents served as missionaries. He attended Southeastern College in Lakeland, Fla.

He and his wife, Kellie, have two children.

Austin served the Kings Mountain Herald for 18 years as advertising director and general manager. He has 26 years experience in advertising.

Austin and his wife, Shirley, will own and operate "The Sherwood House," an advertising agency based in Kings Mountain.