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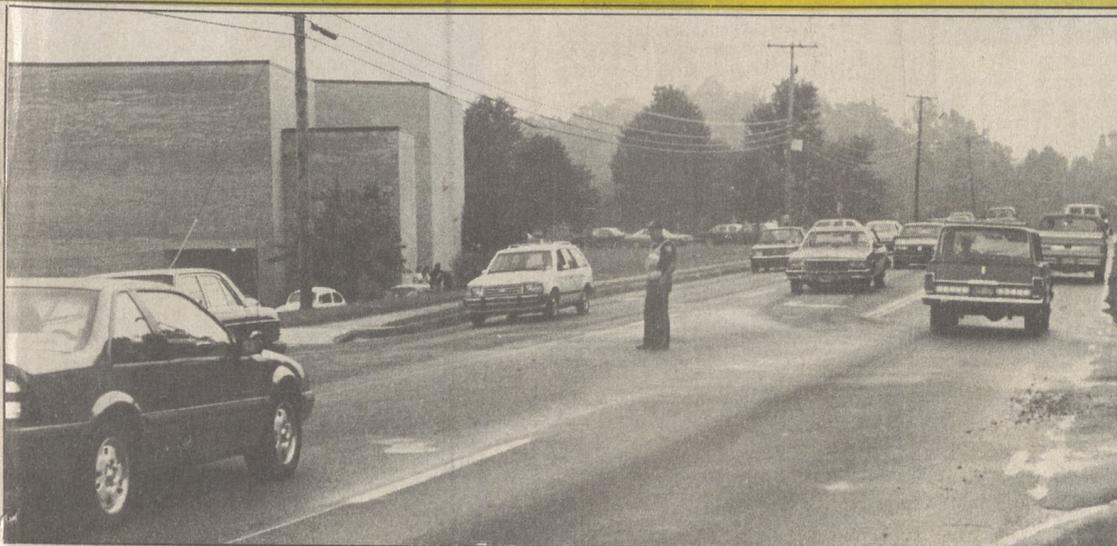
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Kings Mountain, N.C.

School Maze...

BOB MYERS DIRECTS TRAFFIC AT KMHS

Opening Day Was Hot And Heavy

The opening day of school Monday brought some headaches to students, teachers and administrators, but things are smoothing out and school officials are looking forward to a good year.

There were numerous traffic problems, especially on Phifer Road, and there was no air conditioning at Kings Mountain High School, causing students to be dismissed at 2 p.m. Monday and 12:30 Tuesday.

Supt. Bob McRae stood on the sidewalk about halfway between KM High and KM Middle School Monday and Tuesday morning, and saw quite a contrast. On Monday, cars were bumper-to-bumper and inched along for over 30 minutes trying to get students to the Middle School.

But Tuesday morning traffic was moving along, only stopping occasionally as Reserve Police Officer Bob Myers directed traffic at the intersection of Phifer Road and Fulton Road.

McRae noticed that most buses Monday

morning were about half-full of students, but Tuesday morning most of the buses were loaded. That eased the traffic problem considerably.

"I believe traffic around the Middle School Tuesday was no worse than last year," he said. "There seemed to be a problem with people getting around the circle at the high school and back onto Phifer Road. We will have to take a look at that and work on it as we go and I'm not sure if there is an answer to that."

School officials feared last week that traffic might be so bad on Phifer Road that they would have to stagger the start of classes at the high school and middle school. Both schools begin their days within four minutes of each other. Afternoon traffic is not as heavy because the high school dismisses about 30 minutes earlier than the middle school.

McRae said he noticed one problem in the traffic flow at the intersection of Phifer Road and Somerset Drive. Many motorists tried to

avoid the Phifer Road traffic by getting onto Phifer from Somerset. But there is a hill at that street and many motorists who were turning left off of Somerset to go toward the middle school on Phifer were pulling out in front of cars that were coming over the "blind" hill.

"We need help from the citizenry in realizing that when they try to get on Phifer Road from Somerset that there are people coming down Phifer Road who are having trouble seeing them because of the blind hill," McRae said. "The cars coming out Phifer Road are coming upon those cars (that are pulling out of Somerset) very quickly and motorists need to be particularly careful about darting out into traffic. I'm afraid that's a little bit of a hazardous situation."

McRae said there were also some traffic problems at East School (Central School), where

See Schools, 16-A

City Still Lobbying State To Build Connector Road

Since school opened Monday and traffic swung into high gear on Phifer Road, city and school officials have stepped up a lobbying campaign with area State Department of Transportation members in an effort to speed up to "early funding status this year" a two mile north-south "connector" beyond KMHS and KM Junior High to remedy a "traffic emergency" created by heavier enrollment.

The "connector" would be a new road which would cut from the back of the school property and connect with Highway 74 West, a part of the proposed, long-range thoroughfare plan for Kings Mountain since 1969, updated in 1979, and endorsed for updating by the city five months ago through a

resolution sent to state D. O. T.

Letters were going out from the city this week expressing concern that state officials not wait "another five years" but fund the small stretch of improvements early. City Manager George Wood, Board of Education Chairman Doyle Campbell, City Planning Director Gene White and Larry Hamrick, local businessman, attended a transportation improvements program public hearing in Lincolnton recently.

White described the proposed new road as just under two miles. It would run from Dixon School Road to the greenbox area on Margrace Road, cross at or near the old Bain Road, (peach orchard), and hit Phifer Road to about 2,000

See Highway, 15-A



PROPOSED U.S. 74 CONNECTOR ROAD

Kings Mountain School Enrollment Is Up By 122

Kings Mountain school officials got a pleasant surprise on opening day. Enrollment was up by 122 students over last year.

Supt. Bob McRae reported that the enrollment Tuesday was 3,854, compared to 3,732 on the second day last year.

The enrollment was 246 at East School and there were also more students at Kings Mountain Middle School.

"That will create some challenges but it is very good news," said Supt. Bob McRae. "A lot of the funds we get from the state are based on enrollment. We may have to make some adjustments, such as having some over-sized classes maybe, and maybe moving a teacher or two in the elementary

schools, but that's really good news."

Kings Mountain Schools recently had to return over \$150,000 to the state because of the budget shortfall. KM would have gotten three new teachers and one counselor through the BEP but had to give up three of those four positions because of the budget crunch. If the present enrollment holds or increases, KM could possibly regain some teacher positions.

McRae said the opening of school was "excellent" despite traffic problems Monday on Phifer Road and no air conditioning Monday and Tuesday at Kings Mountain High School.

"Considering we're going with a new organization for sixth through

See Enrollment, 2-A



UNITED FUND KICK-OFF-Kings Mountain United Fund President Ruby M. Alexander and Campaign Chairman Glenn Anderson launched the current campaign for funds for 16 agencies at a luncheon attended by campaign workers Thursday.

4-Day Week For Schools?**Gas Prices Will Raise Cost Of Transportation**

The fuel crunch is forcing school officials to make adjustments that could mean a four day school week if gasoline costs continue to spiral and conservation measures are not enacted. No one wants to take drastic measures yet.

Dr. Larry Allen, Associate Superintendent of KM District Schools, said the system's 40 bus drivers are getting specific guidelines this week on how to conserve fuel. Shortening of routes and consolidation of buses, will probably be implemented during the first 10 days of school.

Officials from Shelby, Kings Mountain and Cleveland County Schools met with bus transportation representatives, county officials and State Senator Helen R. Marvin Tuesday at the Cleveland County Office Building to share concerns for the higher cost of operation of the county's 190 buses at four systems that took \$213,000 worth of fuel to operate last year on a transportation budget in excess of \$600,000, including salaries. Cutting out a day of school but extending the time of classes would save approximately 20 percent, said Allen, but no one wants to take that drastic measure yet.

Allen said the State Department of Public Instruction has suggested cutting a day from the school week

"That could be the case by February or March if we don't start conserving now."

-Larry Allen

as one of the strategies if the systems run out of fuel. "That could well be the case by February or March if we don't start conserving now," said Allen, who said it costs \$1,184.91 per day to operate school buses in Cleveland County. Based on today's gas prices, the cost will increase dramatically.

Senator Marvin said she would share the concerns of the school systems with legislators in Raleigh. Due to budget cuts by N. C. Legislature, the county's allocation for fuel is \$57,000 short, said Allen.

To offset the higher costs of gas, the system will hike the user fees for activity buses. Conservation measures will be taken by school personnel using cars.

"The first thing we will do is to try to communicate with parents that we must be more efficient in our bus operation. Drivers have been told not to idle buses when

See Prices, 11-A

National Guard Getting Its Equipment In Order

The 200 National Guardsmen in Co. B. 505th Engineering Battalion in Kings Mountain have had no notification of activation to active duty but this week they are checking their equipment to be sure it's in good repair and trying to get back any equipment on loan.

"I understand that President Bush has authorized a mobilization of reserves and was signing the order Wednesday but it will take awhile for the order to filter from the President to the Secretary of Defense to Forces Command at Fort McPherson and to the Adjutant General of the U.S.," said Lt. Col. Baron Hignite of Raleigh, public affairs officer for the North Carolina National Guard. After that word, the specialties needed would determine how quickly and how many Carolinas reservists are deployed.

"What National Guardsmen

from all over the state are doing this week is contingency planning," said Hignite, who said that 24 National Guardsmen from North Carolina volunteered to go to Saudi Arabia and are on duty now.

"The Guard is checking out its notification alert roster but we have heard nothing today (Wednesday) on alert status," said Hignite. "Should that time come we will have men probably matriculating to the active Air Force."

President Bush is expected to authorize a mobilization of reserves that initially would return about 40,000 Americans to active duty.

Meanwhile, the White House rebuffed an offer from Iraq to negotiate an end of the Mideast crisis, saying "the world is united" in demanding the unconditional withdrawal of Saddam Hussein's army from Kuwait.

United Fund Volunteers Begin Drive For \$127,500

Kings Mountain United Fund volunteers kicked off the 1991 campaign for funds Thursday at a luncheon at Holiday Inn at which 75 people heard a review of four of the 16 agency requests for funding in the new year.

Speakers were Doris Dedmon, Patient Care Coordinator for Hospice of Cleveland County; Pat St. Charles, Executive Director for Child Abuse Prevention; Jimmy Hines, executive director of CO-DAP, and Dr. Eric Faust, a leader in the KM Ministerial Association-sponsored Crisis Center.

A goal of \$127,500.00 is being sought this year and drive leaders say they are optimistic the goal will be reached by Thanksgiving.

Included in the 16 requests funded are Venture Grants for Youth

Assistance Program, KM Ministerial Association Crisis Center and James Home.

Faust said that 371 families received food through the food bank the six months ending in July and that a total of 1,521 individuals at \$29.65 per family unit were helped with a total expenditure for food of \$10,999.08. He said Boy Scouts helped in November in distributing \$2500 in non-perishables to needy families and 30 volunteers gave a total of 271 hours. In addition, with mill closings in the area some families were helped with utility bills, rent payments and medicine. Sherry Hamrick recently joined the Crisis Center as the new director of the ongoing program, which started 15 years ago with the Food Bank.

See United, 11-A