

## Parent upset with School Board's decision

4A

## KM teacher best at Ole Miss

6A

## If the shoe fits, you are lucky

See Jim Heffner's column, 4A



# Kings Mountain Herald

Your Hometown Newspaper  
• Since 1889 •

Member  
North Carolina  
Press Association

MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
100 S. PIEDMONT AVE.  
KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC 28086

VOL. 103 NO. 24

Thursday, June 20, 1991

Kings Mountain, N.C.

## KM PEOPLE



PLATO HEAVNER

## Plato Heavner, 75, loves KMFD and collecting caps

KM Fire Department holds a special place in Plato Heavner's heart.

Because of health reasons, Plato, 75, didn't get to visit with his friends at the fire department on his birthday Saturday but he talked about those "good ole days," reminiscing with his family of the good times shared with them and with his fire-fighting buddies.

Plato joined KMFD in 1963 when Glee A. Bridges was mayor and Floyd Thornburg was fire chief as one of only four paid firemen and when firemen worked shifts of 24 hours on and 24 hours off. The biggest fire he recalled during his early fire-fighting experience was the big fire on North Candler Street which razed the Herndon warehouse.

The comradeship of the department then and now is what Heavner likes to talk about as he recuperates at home with his wife, Louise.

Eleven family members, including son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Pam Heavner from Chapel Hill; daughter, Carolyn Warlick from Cary; and grandchildren Craig and Marilou McFarlane from Corte Madera, Calif., Casey and Wendy Heavner from Alexandria, Va. and Charles and Lori Warlick from Cary and Clark Trivett of Raleigh cut a birthday

cake and Jim Heavner took the occasion to give his father \$75 worth of McDonald's coupons he could use to share coffee with the morning breakfast club which numerous retired citizens enjoy on a daily basis at the local restaurant. Sunday morning brunch was highlighted by the showing of a video from the birthday party. The family also looked back at growing up years in Kings Mountain through pictures which showed the fun they shared with their father in his hobby of raising rabbits, pigeons and goats. The grandchildren brought Plato more baseball caps to add to his growing collection. One of the caps was topped with a fan. Pushing the button resulted in cool air to Plato's face.

Born on Church Street June 9, 1916 one of five children of the late F. F. and Minnie Mauney Heavner, Plato attended Kings Mountain High School. With the advent of World War II he quit school and went to work in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and moved back to Kings Mountain in 1945. Plato and Louise Allen Heavner were married at Second Baptist Church September 3, 1948. They had met in a church group. Plato was 22 and Louise was 20 when they tied the knot. Louise kids her husband that he was going to the church

See Heavner, 5-A

## Only one citizen speaks at public hearing

# City considering budget

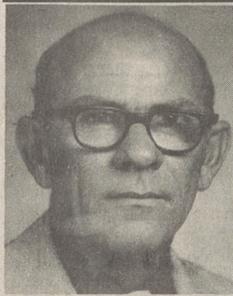
Only one private citizen--former city commissioner Jim Childers--spoke up at Tuesday night's public hearing on Kings Mountain's proposed \$17 million budget, objecting to city council's plan to cut pay raises to city employees.

"We need to leave the tax rate as it is and give the raises and keep our good employees," said Childers.

The new budget calls for a one cent decrease in the property tax rate--due to Cleveland County's property revaluation this year--from 37 to 36 cents per \$100.

The budget recommends the annual 2.5 percent merit increase for employees who qualify.

Council will be asked to formally adopt the budget at Tuesday night's meeting at 7:30 p.m. at city



**"We need to leave the tax rate as it is and give the raises and keep our good employees."**

**-Jim Childers**

hall but City Manager George Wood is recommending that the board not set the tax rate until the General Assembly finishes with the state budget.

"Once you set a tax rate you

have to stick with it," said Wood, in presenting his budget proposal. "We don't know how much money we will be getting from the state and normally we receive about \$470,000."

Wood advised that the council complete its consideration of the budget for 1991-92 and then put it on hold if he doesn't hear by Tuesday what the House and Senate conference committees have come up with on appropriations to municipalities. By state law, local governments must have budgets in place by July 1 but Wood says the local board can adopt an interim budget.

Faced with the state budget crunch, the recession and a big loss in water, sewer, gas and electric revenues over the past year, the city is looking for ways to increase revenues in the upcoming budget.

An increase of 12 percent in water and sewer rates is proposed in the budget. Beginning June 30

See Council, 5-A

## \$1.8 million sub-station to be built

City officials will break ground Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. for the new North Gaston Street electrical sub-station.

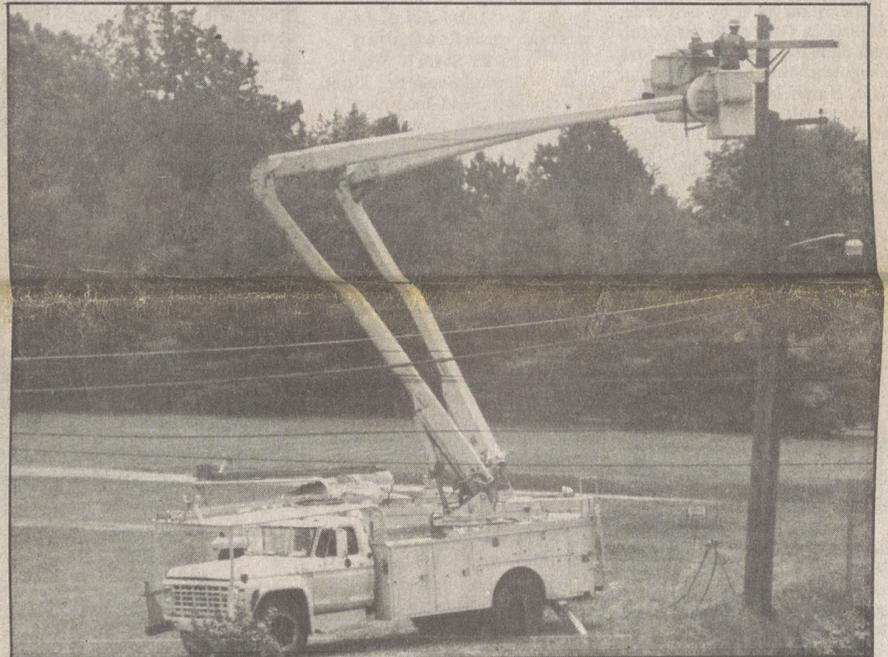
The event will mark the start of construction work on three electrical bond projects totaling \$1,870,000.

Mayor Kyle Smith and Utility Chairman Al Moretz, assisted by utility commissioners Fred Finger and Elvin Greene, and Community Services Director Tom Howard will lead the brief ceremonies to which the public is invited.

The site is located one block north of Central School on a vacant lot which is being cleared of kudzu this week.

The electric projects also include construction of one other small sub-station and line work.

Harrison Wright is general contractor for the construction and his crews have completed site preparation, moving earth and working on towers this week.



**ELECTRICAL WORK UNDERWAY**--A lineman works on a line on North Piedmont Avenue. The city will break ground Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. for a new electrical sub-station on North Gaston Street, a major piece of electrical construction. Harrison-Wright is contractor for the electrical improvements which are paid for by bond monies.

## KM's Barker is best in the state

A Kings Mountain woman who pioneered a child-support program copied by the state has won the prestigious "Employee of the Year" award from among 4,000 social services workers in the state.

Kay Barker, of Brookwood Drive, said she was surprised to receive the award at the recent state convention in Raleigh. She gave the credit to the people she serves.

Her colleagues in the Gaston County Department of Social Services know she can claim some triumphs for herself. As the department's eligibility programs administrator, she supervises 112 employees who see 30,000 welfare recipients annually.

Besides the child support enforcement program, Barker has worked to simplify welfare forms for already-stressed clients and to reduce errors and im-

prove state guidelines for food stamps.

"She was superior in every category," said Betsy Hefflin, of Mecklenburg County, chairman of the state selection committee.

Social Services Director John Blair cited Barker's compassion for the poor and her innovative leadership in setting up a system to find fathers and force them to pay child support. Gaston, which now collects \$3.5 million a year in child support, became a model for the state in the 1970s when Barker moved to Kings Mountain and went to work in Gastonia. She had taught at Swannanoa Juvenile Evaluation Center, at St. Genevieve of the Pines in Asheville and at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute. She had also worked as a social worker in Buncombe County two years from 1966-68.

See Barker, 5-A



KAY BARKER

## Parkdale buys Tultex

Parkdale Mills has purchased Tultex Yarn operations in Lowell and Kings Mountain, according to a joint statement by officials of Tultex, headquartered in Martinsville, Va. and Parkdale, headquartered in Gastonia.

"Due to an internal overcapacity of yarn manufacturing, Tultex has been searching for a suitable buyer for these two plants. Parkdale became an ideal buyer because of the proximity of their Kings Mountain and Ranlo operations," said Henry Moore, General Manager of Yarn Manufacturing for Tultex and Anderson Warlick, President of Parkdale.

Parkdale currently operates 11 of its 16 plants in Gaston County. Parkdale operates a local mill in Kings Mountain where Mark Sanders is new plant manager.

"By selling these plants, we can ensure a more stable work schedule for employees and better facility utilization at our remaining yarn manufacturing plants," said Moore. "Our Kings Mountain and Lowell employees will be provided greater opportunities as well under the Parkdale organization. Parkdale is one of the best in the sales yarn business."

"This is a good opportunity for Parkdale to acquire two well-run, well-maintained operations, added Parkdale President Warlick. "These operations give us the ability to seek other markets."

Max Huntley of Gastonia, Parkdale's Vice President of Manufacturing, was not available for comment.

Purchase price was not disclosed.



HAROLD J. PHILLIPS

## Former KM Councilman Harold Phillips, 72, dies

Harold J. Phillips, 72, of 202 Juniper St., died before he could run again for city council, a job he loved.

The former District 6 commissioner, who served from 1985-89 and one two-year term in the early 1950s, died June 13, 1991 at 8:50 a.m. at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

A native of Cherokee County, S. C., he was retired mill superintendent at the old Craftspun Yarns plant.

"I've lost a friend," said City Commissioner Fred Finger, of Ward 5. "Harold worked hard for the city and for, not only the people in his own ward but those all over town, always following through on any request big or small."

Phillips was an avid supporter of

the city manager form of government and was on the board when interviews were made and the first city manager hired in the new city manager form of government. "He was very vocal when he supported something and worked toward his goals."

Active in White Plains Shrine Club, Phillips was a big booster of Shrine-sponsored activities for children, pushed the jail-a-thon on Mountaineer Days for crippled and burned children and the big Shriners barbecue. He was also active in Fairview Lodge 339 AF&AM and a veteran of U. S. Army service during World War II. He was son of the late David and Dova Sparks Phillips and was married to Edna Bookout Phillips, who survives. He was a member of First

Baptist Church.

Phillips was defeated in his reelection bid in the last city runoff election but said after the vote totals had been counted that he would support the winner and would come back again to run for office.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are one son, Tim Willis of Kings Mountain; and nieces and nephews: Devin and Kelia Willis, Eddie and Judy Robbs, Mike and Roxanne Gaffney, Jonathan and Susan Hollifield, Joy and Carl Larson, Beth Yarboro, Etta Clippard, and James and Johnanna Robbs.

Graveside services with Masonic rites were held June 15 at 2 p.m. at Mountain Rest Cemetery. Dr. John Sloan and Rev. Dale Thornburg officiated.