



**RECOGNIZE TEACHERS** - Western Carolina University senior Teaching Fellows recognized their most influential teachers and mentors at a record luncheon. Pictured, right to left, are Carol Burton, director of WCU's Teaching Fellows program; Teaching Fellow Rebecca Litaker of Kings Mountain; and Litaker's honored guest, Tanya Christenson, a WCU student from Concord. The Teaching Fellows Program, the state's most prestigious scholarship program for prospective teachers, awards \$20,000 over four years in exchange for a commitment to teach four years in North Carolina public schools.



**MUSIC AWARD WINNERS** - Cleveland Community College students who received awards of merit as members of the College's Music Club are, left to right, Kina Houser, Tracey Walker, Deller Sims (Music Club Advisor), Stephanie Staley, Carol McKibben, Bob Stephens, and Tyree Goode.

## MANEY

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Mayor Scott Neisler called for the vote after a 1 1/2 hour closed session which centered around the appointment and also on negotiations with Duke Power Company for a settlement and electric rate contract.

Councilman Jerry White made the motion, seconded by Councilman Phil Hager, that Maney be appointed to serve in the interim position while the city is interviewing candidates for the top job.

"I will do the best I can," said Maney, as Council members gathered around him about 11 p.m. to offer congratulations and support.

Neisler said the city is looking at a timetable of two to three months before a permanent manager can be hired. He said that 80 people have submitted applications and Council will select their 10 choices from the group and then narrow them to four or five people on August 15 when Council will start interviewing the finalists for the position.

A Gaston County native, Maney has spent 23

years in public service. He was superintendent of the gas department for the City of Bessemer City for eight years when he was hired by former Mayor John Henry Moss in 1981 when Kings Mountain was under a Show Cause order from the state in its natural gas department.

A 1973 graduate of Bessemer City High School, he is a graduate of Gaston College. He is married to the former Cathy Barnett of Kings Mountain and they have two children, Arden, 2 1/2, and Jordan, 10 months, and reside in Kings Mountain. Mrs. Maney is administrative assistant in the Public Works Department and joined the city staff 16 years ago. They are active in East Gold Street Wesleyan Church where Mr. Maney is a former Sunday School superintendent.

During Maney's tenure with the city both the natural gas and electric services have expanded. The city has 5,000 electric customers and 3200 gas customers. The city is embarking on the building of a peak generation electric plant and finalizing negotiations with Duke Power Company for a four year rate contract.

In another action involving personnel, Council voted to make the recent cost-of-living pay raise retroactive with the budget year.

## HICKS

From Page 1-A

Councilman Jerry Mullinax and Councilwoman Norma Bridges said Hicks should have known about a recent financial error that cost the city about \$60,000 when a sewer increase was not passed on and another \$15,000 when a sanitation fee increase was not passed on to customers.

"He's not getting the job done," said Bridges.

"There was a time I was for Mr. Hicks and felt he could come in and help us move on. But it hasn't worked."

But Mrs. Bridges said Hicks was not at fault for the error in which a 3.5 percent sewer rate increase authorized by Council last year didn't get passed along to customers.

She said that was the responsibility of the Finance Department headed by Maxine Parsons to put both the sewer and sanitation rate increases into the computers.

Hicks said the increases were approved before he came to Kings Mountain.

"I've done my job," he said. "Whoever they want to blame, that's up to them."

Bridges said Hicks was running the city and some "red flags" should have been raised along the way.

Last week in a memo to Mayor Scott Neisler and the seven member City Council Hicks said that Finance Department personnel were never instructed by Parsons to add the increases to the rate

schedules. Parsons was on medical leave and unavailable to respond to questions.

"I think Gary has done a good job and I support him," said Murphrey. "He's a professional."

Spears said he's satisfied with the way Hicks handled the job.

Neisler said he wished Hicks well and wants Kings Mountain to move speedily to

hire a permanent city manager.

"We were optimistic that a permanent city manager could have been hired in the next month or two and that Mr. Hicks could have stayed to help in the transition," he said.

Hicks said he would have stayed to help his successor but at least four members of Council were ready for him to go.

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## WHITE

From Page 1-A

"Spectrum pays the city thousands of dollars a month for water and sewer," he said.

City attorney Mickey Corry had responded to the conflict of interest charge sometime ago and addressed by White, saying that Murphrey was not in conflict of interest in voting since he did not profit directly from the city's business with his employer.

White also asked the city to hire an outside engineer to review a street paving project that

was completed 18 months ago in the Downing Subdivision and document the needed repairs. He distributed to Council copies of receipts from payments to the city auditor, the computer service Logics and questioned payments to the auditor for a suit torn in a conference room and charges for reconciliation of bank statements and budget consultations. He also questioned travel by computer consultants from Raleigh to Kings Mountain and cost of computers purchased over the past two years.

Council took no action on the White requests.

## INCREASE

From Page 1-A

In a related action, the Council approved a five-year contract with the Town of Grover for water.

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## SHELTON

From Page 1-A

he was recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

"I threw 60mm shells when the rifleman needed them and I saw a lot of dying," said Shelton who went in service in 1943 at the age of 18. He came home after the war and met his wife and both worked in various cotton mills in the area. Shelton retired from Arlington Mills in Gastonia 10 years ago but had worked in textile mills beginning at the old Margrace in Kings Mountain and at Osage in Bessemer City.

"I have run all kinds of jobs in the mill, from spinning to fixing," he said.

Shelton said the unusual spelling of his first name caused him some difficulty when he was drafted in the Army.

"It turned out that my name was incorrectly spelled Otis on my birth certificate," he said.

Called Odas Verge Shelton by his parents, the preacher decided to keep the original spelling of his name.

Paul's writings, especially the Book of Romans, is what Shelton prefers to preach from the pulpit. He leads a Saturday radio service on WKMT Radio Kings Mountain. The Sheltons reside on Walker Street and enjoy gardening as a hobby.

After 20-plus years in the ministry, Shelton said he considers his congregation an extended family and the men and women in the Rescue Squad the sons and daughters he and his wife never had.

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