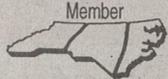
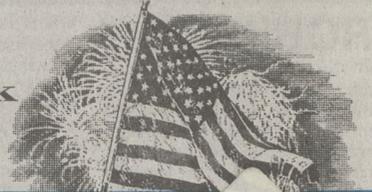


KM July Fourth Activities Celebration of Freedom at Walking Track

11 am - On stage, opening ceremonies followed by games at Kids Park until 4pm
12 noon - 2pm - COPS Safety Pup and free ID cards for kids
12:45 - Special music on stage.
1:30 Dance Magic on stage.

2:30 - Old Habits, Country, Southern Rock, on stage
4:30 - Bojangles Homerun Derby at Jake Early Stadium
9:15 - Big fireworks show



North Carolina Press Association

Kings Mountain Herald

Vol. 109 No. 27

Thursday, July 3, 1997

N.C. • 28086 • 50¢



LORI HALL

City names Hall new finance director

Lori Hall, 25, of Bessemer City, the city's interim finance officer, was promoted this week to the position of finance director. Her annual salary is \$32,000.

Hall joined the City of Kings Mountain nearly four years ago and has been promoted through the ranks of the finance department from collections, billing and accounting to head the department which includes eight other female employees.

Hall, wife of Shane Hall, returned to work June 16 after maternity leave. She and her husband have three sons, Shane Jr., 8; Chris, 6; and Dillon, 2 1/2 months. A Kings Mountain native, she is the daughter of Roger McDaniel and Teresa Lovett and is a 1990 graduate of Kings Mountain High School where she ranked ninth scholastically in a class of 200.

She attended Gardner-Webb University on a Dover scholarship and Gaston College where she took additional accounting courses.

See HALL, 5A



JAY RHODES

Fund-raising is natural for Rhodes

(Ed. note - This is the third in a series of weekly articles on local leaders of the Jay Strack Crusade to be held August 24-28 at John Gamble Stadium in Kings Mountain.)

Naturally, banker Jay Rhodes was the perfect choice to head the financial campaign for \$29,997 for the upcoming Jay Strack Crusade.

Not only is Rhodes proficient in his management job as Senior Vice-President of Kings Mountain Carolina State Bank, but he chaired a highly successful drive for \$130,000 for the Kings Mountain United Fund. In addition, he has been active in the community for seven years and has been a popular master of ceremonies for Hall of Fame banquets and for Kiwanis Club talent shows.

"I love Kings Mountain and volunteering is what I like to do best," said Rhodes who said his goal is to raise the budget and meet all the expenses of the

See RHODES, 3A

Living Legend

"Slow" helped break color barrier in baseball

Not many people earn the title of living legend. Kings Mountain's Frazier "Slow Hank" Robinson, 87, is a Black Living Legend of Negro Baseball.

His nickname came from his longtime legendary friend Satchel Paige who said his slow accent had nothing to do with his baseball performance.

The son of a minister, Robinson said he just never learned how to talk Southern although he grew up in Birmingham, Alabama.

The former professional catcher for the Satchel Paige All-Stars, the Kansas City Monarchs and the Baltimore Elite Giants and Grays from 1939-54 was among the elite group of Black Living Legends of Negro League Baseball honored in Atlanta, Ga. during the weekend by BellSouth and The Atlanta Braves.

Fifty years ago this year Jackie Robinson, no kin to Frazier, broke the color barrier in baseball. The reunion in Atlanta of the Black Living Legends of Negro Baseball coincided with baseball's recognition of the debut of Jackie Robinson in the major leagues and centered around the series between the Braves and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Frazier's wife, Winnie Robinson, and their niece, Diane George, accompanied Frazier to the festivities. Tired on Monday due to the long trip and navigating his wheelchair, Frazier said so many young black baseball players today don't know much about Jackie Robinson.

"It bothers me that players don't know enough about who paved the way for them," said Robinson who moved to Kings Mountain eight years ago. He and his wife have two children, Carolyn Robinson of Kings Mountain and Luther Robinson of Baltimore Md., 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Robinson, a big sports fan, pulls for The Atlanta Braves. The Braves gave him shirts, hats, autographed bats and balls.

"I know that baseball is a better game because he played it," said Walt Sessoms, Group President



FRAZIER ROBINSON

for BellSouth and primary organizer of the Legends reunions.

Robinson's activity belies his age.

He also sings in the All Male Chorus at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Shelby where his friends call him Bob. He and his wife travel extensively to cities where ball clubs pay tribute to him.

From Robinson's position as a catcher for 15 years he saw batters struggle but part of the struggle was due to Frazier. As Satchel Paige's catcher, he was calling for those pitches they couldn't hit.

Robinson is a modest man now who doesn't like to talk about those glory days behind the

See ROBINSON, 2A

County fighting Clary Lake Bill, hires lobbyist

City Council plans to take "whatever measures are necessary" to preserve Kings Mountain's ownership of Moss Lake, City Manager Jimmy Maney said this week.

Maney made the statement after Council voted 6-0 following a closed session Monday night - and formally - to hire Gastonia lawyer Carl Stewart as the city's legal counsel to fight new proposed legislation that would create a state authority to run the lake and introduced by Rep. Debbie Clary, a Moss Lake resident.

A hearing before the House finance committee has not been set but Maney said city officials hope to be able to give their side of the controversy before the vote gets to the floor of the House. Both the House and the State Senate would have to vote on the proposal.

"This is not our Bill and we are totally against it and hope that Kings Mountain citizens will contact their elected officials in Raleigh now," he said.

The seven-member City Council had already approved the hiring of Stewart during a telephone poll by City Attorney Mickey Corry Friday afternoon.

Stewart, who will be paid \$10,000 as the city's spokesperson, legal expert and lobbyist at the state capital, was present Monday for the special meeting. The board went into closed

session for over an hour to talk about possible litigation and get advice from the attorneys.

After Corry left at 6:55 p.m. for another meeting, the Council remained in the City Hall second floor conference room to get advice from their new lake counsel.

"We did not violate the Open Meetings Law as some folks have accused of us doing in this matter," said Maney.

The Clary rewrite of the city's original annexation bill - House Bill 777 - was a surprise to city officials who said they had no knowledge of it until they read the newspapers last Thursday. The bill revision is also supported by other members of the Cleveland County delegation, Rep. John Weatherly, who also resides on Moss Lake, and Rep. Andy Dedmon of Earl, who also owns property on Moss Lake.

City officials are angry they were not consulted about the substitute bill by Clary or given the opportunity to address it before a House Committee. Clary, who canceled a planned House vote in April on the original Moss Lake annexation bill, said she acted after hearing protests from lake residents about user fee hikes.

Clary estimates the new bill will get to the floor of the House in about two weeks.

See COUNCIL Pg 3A

Grass grows higher on city control strip at lake

A posted sign stands in knee-high grass at the waterfront edge of Tom Mayhew's property at Moss Lake.

"I'd like to cut the grass but the city says I'm trespassing and I don't want a ticket," said Mayhew who bought the first lot at Moss Lake nearly 25 years ago.

Mayhew said the sign was posted by the city's codes department April 4 on the city's control strip. He got a letter from the city April 29 saying that he has to pay past due fees before entering into a new lease agreement.

"We have no gripes about paying the fees for the current year but I don't think I ought to have to pay for last year since my wife Ruth and I didn't use the waters," said Mayhew.

Mayhew said he had an agreement with the person who sold him his lot that he had the right to go from any point on his property to the lake but the city disagrees with a notarized

letter bearing the signature of the late city attorney in October 1968.

"A lot of people had oral stipulations which should be honored," said Mayhew's son, Tommy, who lives nearby on Peninsula Drive.

"We get no services for our lease payments," said Tommy Mayhew, a school teacher, who said his fees double with the new fiscal year because he owns two boats, a jet ski, a pier, two fishing permits, a water pump and lease.

"I'm not into politics," said Tommy Mayhew, "but something is wrong when we can't settle all this controversy by talking about it."

He thinks it unfair in the city's policy that boating and fishing permits can't be issued to property owners unless the waterfront is leased.

"If Kings Mountain had only gone up about 25 percent on fees nothing would have been questioned," said Mayhew.

"We had no notification from the city of increased fees until we got the lease notices," said the senior Mayhew.

"We weren't consulted about our concerns, I guess it's just the principle of the thing," said Tommy Mayhew.

Tom Mayhew said he planned to pay his lease but for now he'll let the grass grow higher.

"I don't think they (the city) wants it cut. Kings Mountain's got a beautiful lake and I don't want to see them lose control of it because I remember when it was built and how John Henry Moss got turned down by Shelby city and county officials when he asked for help and Kings Mountain citizens paid for it," said Tom Mayhew.

"But we put up walls to keep the water pure and pick up trash on the edge of the water and we get criticized for doing it."



High grass nearly covers a city posted sign at waterfront's edge on Moss Lake.

Lake residents paying up under protest

Over half of the 430 Moss Lake property owners have submitted applications for new leases under the city's new fee schedule for 1997-98 effective Monday.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said 70 of the 250 people submitting payment for leases "under protest of new fees" included 70 who had given the city an altered version of the lease. He said the city has returned the leases for correction and extended the grace period until July 8 for leases to be in hand.

Maney said he would give another update at the July 8 meeting of Council at 7:30 p.m. and also review the city's current financial status on the lake operating budget.

Maney said that the controversy over fees had snowballed into demands that the city had not been able to respond to at

this time. He said that six or seven months ago when the city started looking at the current fees structure that Council and management saw the need to run the city-owned lake like a business.

"We said at the work sessions that we'd revisit the fee structure and hope that the lake property owners would help us form a partnership so that we could do a better job in making that lake even more beautiful and help us to pinpoint those who may never have paid lake fees over the years," he said this week. "But apparently that side of the story was never made known," he added.

He said the additional fees would be used for lake upkeep and maintenance and salaries of patrol officers. Maney said a boat capacity study is in the works and lake security is a pri-

ority. "We will know exactly where the money goes and the lake will be operated like a business," he said.

"It will be business as usual at Moss Lake Monday, the deadline the city set for new fees to go into effect," said Maney.

Maney said the same issues that lake residents have been addressing are the same the city brought to the forefront in budget sessions this year, including long-range planning for the lake, financial responsibility on the accountability side and viability of the lake. "We have started putting together some ordinances to address some of the concerns."

But Maney says as the lake area grows that the city staff must increase to run it and operational costs will go up.

Lakefront property owners are charged annual fees for piers, docks, ramps, boating and fishing permits.

The city owns an eight foot buffer strip around Moss Lake and leases that buffer to lakefront residents. When a resident makes an application for a lease, he checks off those things he will be using during the fiscal year. A codes officer physically inspects the property to match up the application.

Codes Officer Jeff Putnam said that in the past a family who has paid \$200 for a boat, pier and land lease will now pay \$305 under the new plan. However, if that family has additional items which would impact its use on the lake the fees would increase. Fees include \$25 for a pier, \$50 minimum for a pump, \$50 for existing concrete ramp, \$60 per jet ski, up

from \$30, \$12 a year for fishing permits and \$30 a year for boating permits.

"This is the only fair way," said Putnam who said new codes enforcement officers Jeff Curtis and Lee Hayes would assist lake officer Larry Ware and reserve patrolmen in enforcing the lake regulations.

"They will be checking to see that boats have stickers and fishermen have permits and that the lake is safe and in the next few days will be conducting a shoreline survey," he said.

Putnam said his staff usually gives a warning to a boater who doesn't have a permit and directs him to the lake office to buy the sticker. A citation for violation would cost \$65.

No trespassing signs were put up at the lake several months ago on buffer strips

See LEASE, 3A