

Member
North Carolina Press Association

Kings Mountain Herald

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Since 1889

Vol. 109 No. 30

Kings Mountain, N.C. • 28086 • 50¢

Petitions urge defeat of lake bill

"It's time to take the gloves off."

-Rick Murphrey
KM Councilman

City officials headed for Raleigh Monday to protest the latest Moss Lake bill sponsored by Rep. Debbie Clary and armed with protest petitions from 1,500 citizens.

"It's time to take the gloves off," said Ward 4 Councilman Rick Murphrey Friday at a hurriedly-called 3 p.m. press conference at City Hall that attracted an at times cheering crowd of 125 people.

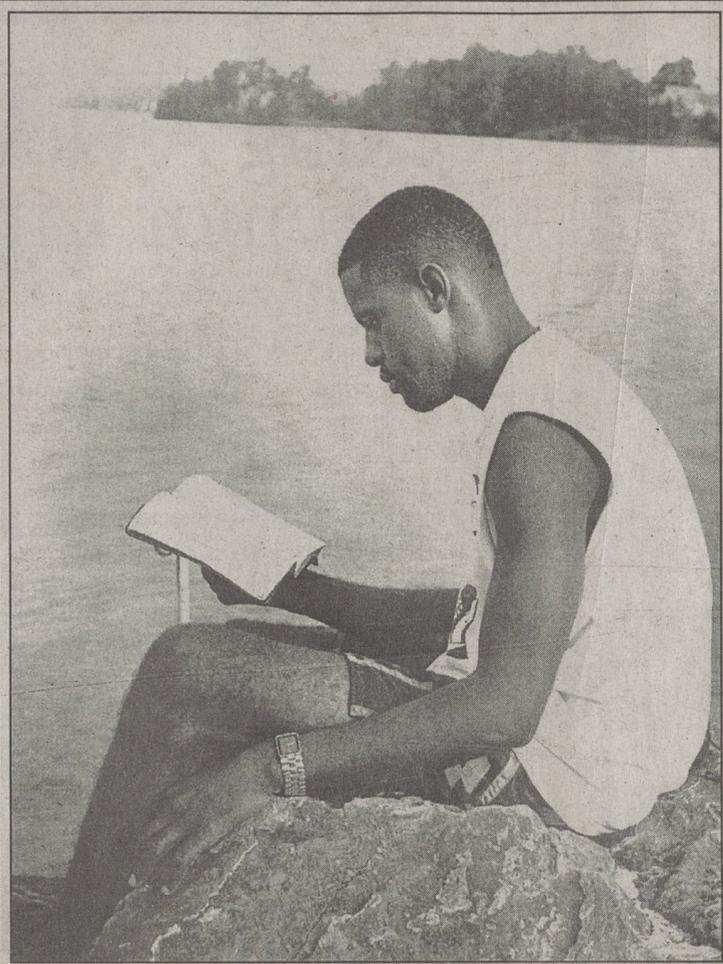
The city has been locked in an ongoing fight for weeks with lakefront property owners over new user fees imposed by City Council July 1.

Last weekend after talks with property owners, City Council voted to reestablish a lake commission of seven members to operate as a city advisory board but with two members from the Lake Property Owners Association.

But property owners led by Mike Bolt said the city deviated from an agreement he said was reached in negotiations. City Attorney Mickey Corry said both groups were to return to their respective boards after the negotiation sessions and City Council had the ultimate decision by a vote.

See Petition, 6-A

BESIDE THE STILL WATER



Jason Allen of Cherryville loves the serenity of Moss Lake and the opportunity it affords him to read his Bible and "hear the voice of God." Allen said he goes to the public picnic area of the lake early every morning to meditate and read the Bible.

N.C. House washes hands of lake bill

"Part of the action was to get rid of this thing."

-John Weatherly

"They just wanted to wash their hands of it and let the Senate make the decision," said two of the three local Representatives who voted on different sides of the issue as the third and amended Moss Lake Bill sailed through the N. C. House of Representatives Wednesday.

Rep. John Weatherly, who voted along with seven other legislators against the bill and Rep. Andy Dedmon, who voted for the bill along with 97 other legislators on the second reading Tuesday, said "part of the action was to get rid of this thing."

Rep. Debbie Clary, R-Cleveland, said she was happy with the House members' overwhelming support.

But city officials were not happy with concessions offered in the revised legislation by Dedmon. The House agreed to the revised bill by a 100-3 vote and then approved the legislation on a 98-8 preliminary vote Tuesday. Local legislators voting for the bill, in addition to Dedmon and Clary, were state Reps. John Rayfield of Belmont, Joe Kiser of Lincoln County and Cherie Berry of Catawba County. State Reps. Dub Dickson of Gastonia and John Gamble of Lincoln County did not vote.

Now city officials and Moss Lake Property owners will step up their efforts to sway votes in the Senate which may or may not get the bill at this session of the N. C. legislature.

Both Weatherly and Dedmon said House members have been inundated by property owners with calls, faxes and

letters from residents. On Monday, City Councilmen Rick Murphrey and Dean Spears and City Manager Jimmy Maney presented petitions with the signatures of 1,500 citizens opposed to the new bill.

"We knew House Bill 420 would be an uphill battle to defeat since two of the three local legislators supported and spoke in favor of the bill," said Murphrey.

"The amendments as proposed in the bill still do not solve the flaws in the bill. The city strongly opposes HB 420 along with the latest amendments and will continue to fight for the right to manage our lake for which the citizens of Kings Mountain hold a fee simple title," said Murphrey.

Mayor Scott Neisler said he was humbled by the heavy support of local citizens in their effort to try to halt the bill in the House.

"We will continue to fight the bill and encourage residents to write Senator David Hoyle and Senator Walter Dalton and all other legislators in the N. C. Senate," he said.

See House, 5-A

Clary: City could have avoided bill

"They raise fees on two groups of people: those who can't vote and dead people."

-Debbie Clary



Clary said the whole issue of the lake could have been settled by "coming to the table without the city manager."

"Our problem at the lake is not fees but how the city spends the money," she said.

"We watch kids drive boats, people carrying in coolers of beer and no patrolman in sight," she said.

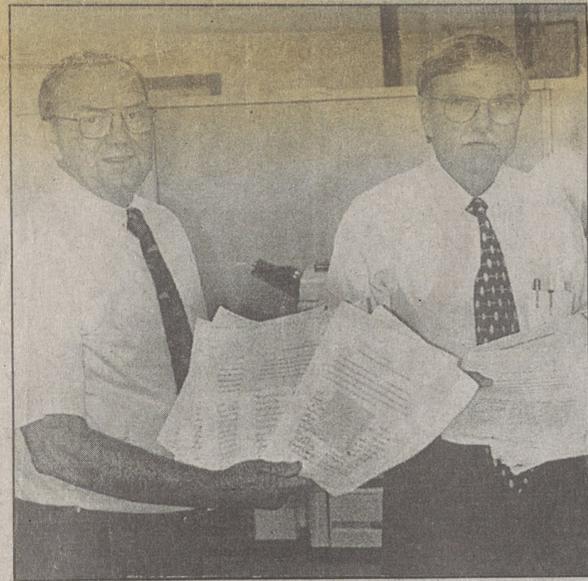
However, Clary said she appreciated the city manager sending more police to patrol the lake.

Clary said she was home on a recent Sunday and was proud to see security on the lake.

But Clary said 3,200 boat stickers are sold by the city at Moss Lake. "That many boats and 1,500 personal watercraft are too much for 57 miles of shoreline," she said.

Clary said a boat capacity study will be ordered by N. C.

See Clary, 5-A



OFF TO RALEIGH - Kings Mountain City Councilmen Dean Spears, left, and Rick Murphrey gather up petitions containing over 1,500 signatures of area residents to take to representatives in the North Carolina House Monday.

Deadline for filing is August 1

White, Childers join race

A contest developed this week for the Ward 4 city council seat with the filing of Pat Childers, of 206 Maner Rd., and Eugene White of 315 Fultón Drive.

Their filing brings to 11 the number of local people who have filed for elective office in the November election.

The filing of Childers and White now assures contests in Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 4 and Ward 5. Incumbent Ward 4 city councilman Jerry White says he plans not to offer for reelection.

Filing for all seven seats open on the Kings Mountain City Council and the mayor's seat closes at noon on August 1 with



CHILDERS



WHITE

the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

Incumbents, Mayor Scott Neisler and At-large Councilwoman Norma Bridges have not announced.

In the Kings Mountain Board

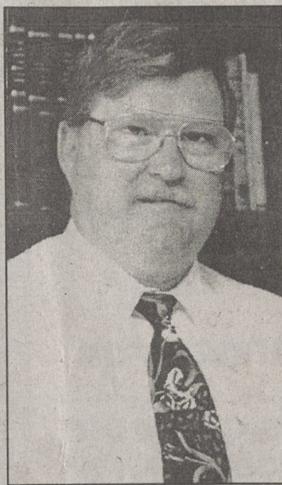
of Education race where three seats are open only the chairman of the board, Ronnie Hawkins, has announced for reelection. Both Connie Allison, who represents the outside district seat along with Hawkins, and Billy Houze, member at large and current vice-chairman of the board, have not announced.

In Grover the terms of councilmen, Tim Rowland, Mayor pro tem, Robbie Sides and Noel G. Spivey are up.

Filing closes at noon on August 1.

Childers, wife of former

See Filing, 2-A



REV. HAROLD BUMBY

Bumby: Crusade a collective effort

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

The co-chairman of Kings Mountain's Jay Strack Crusade, Rev. Harold Bumby, has been involved from the very beginning in an evangelistic effort he believes will greatly benefit Kings Mountain.

The second career minister, 40, was called to preach 10 years ago. He remembers that day vividly because he was sit-

ting in his Ford pickup at an aluminum dye casting plant in Liberty, SC where he had worked up the ladder from machine operator to management and dye design engineering.

Bumby came to Kings Mountain six years ago as pastor of East Gold Wesleyan Church. His first crusade job was working publicity for the Rick Gage crusade several years ago.

Now he's helping a large volunteer crusade team get the word out about the upcoming event.

Helping organizing the cru-

See Bumby, 5-A

New Plant in Grover to Employ 100... 13A

Bethware Fair Opens Tuesday, July 29 See advertisement on Page 11A for discount on rides

KM's Seth Denton to pitch in Blue-Grey Classic..... 11A