

## While Strikers Wait, New Men Hired

By Jay Ashley  
Mirror News Editor

The strike by the Kings Mountain Sanitation Department is almost a week old and no action has been made by the city to the satisfaction of the workers. The strike started Thursday of last week when the sanitation workers walked off demanding better working conditions and a salary hike. Since Thursday a "skeleton crew" has been at work picking up the garbage.

Johnny Short, leader of the striking workers said that all the men wanted was "better conditions in working and an increase in our salary. Many of these men make barely enough to live and feed their families." Median income seemed to be around \$65 per week after taxes.

The strikers were asking for three basic items as listed in their demands. Miles "Smiley" Myers, another spokesman for the group drew up the demands which read:

(1) Better working conditions which consists of three pickup men to each truck until new equipment arrives.

(2) When they (workers or city) have a complaint let both sides be heard out before anyone gets chewed out.

(3) Salary is insufficient to meet the high cost of living. The pickup men want \$2.10 per hour and the drivers want \$2.25.

The pickup men were making \$1.93 and the drivers \$1.98. Although the city board had voted to increase the salaries by 5%, this would have made the wages be \$2.03 and \$2.08 respectively.

"This is not enough," said Short, "With the personnel we have and the present equipment, it is impossible to do the job."

Most of the controversy seems to have arisen over Roscoe Wooten, New Director of Public Utilities. Short said, "Wooten has come in and tried to push us around. He has insisted we step up work or else." We have close to 2,000 pickups in the town and with what we have to work with, getting over the route twice a week is impossible." The men also said that presently one truck and three men cover the entire east side of town.

Mayor Moss had told the men that every effort to resolve the conflict was being made. He told them that the situation was being studied and a result to benefit both the men and the citizens would be forthcoming.

The strikers then met Monday morning at the city garage with Roscoe Wooten. They read to him their demands and afterwards he issued them a statement of the Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners written at a special Sunday meeting. It read:

"Sanitation Department employees of the city of Kings Mountain walked off their jobs Thursday a.m., July 20. These men were performing a sanitary service for the city of Kings Mountain, therefore when they walked off, they in effect quit their jobs. It is up to the city officials to replace these men in order that the necessary services of garbage pickup for the taxpaying citizens be continued. This is the position of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Kings Mountain."

Short told newsmen, "We haven't quit. That's the way the city treats you though."

After issuing the statement, Wooten told the men to either leave the city garage area or else be indicted for trespassing.

The men then went to city hall and waited outside for an audience with the Mayor. Mayor Moss met with the strike leader Short about noon and told him that he (the Mayor) would talk with each man individually to hear any complaints. The Mayor then talked with one of the drivers, Smiley Myers and told Myers that a meeting of the board would take place that afternoon (Monday) and for the men to come back. Myers said "The Mayor said he didn't think our demands were unreasonable and that he hadn't seen our demands before today." They returned Monday afternoon and were told that the Mayor had contacted five of the commissioners and after talking with them all would give them the decision. No more action was taken Monday.

The strikers became irritated at the slowness of action and said "if the trucks go out, we will ask them to come back or else carry them back."

Grievances were many as we talked with the men. They complained that no work clothes (raincoats, etc.) were issued and that "you can't even get a pair of gloves that match." Behind many of the stores,

they said, garbage has to be picked up by hand. "We don't have the equipment. This work by hand slows up the men and thus the garbage pickup."

"The city is wasting money," according to Short. "Instead of buying new and better equipment for garbage pickup, the city

As of Tuesday the "skeleton crew" had been increased to 17, the number of men before the strike. Short had received vacation checks for six of the strikers and planned a meeting at his home Tuesday afternoon. Although the men are considered "fired" because of their actions Short says they aren't. "We just wanted better conditions and you see what we got."

Short had talked of keeping the sanitation trucks from making their rounds as a means of protest. He had stated Monday that "if they don't do us right we will go out on the route and ask the trucks to come in. If they don't then they will be carried in. It don't really matter to us." No violence had taken place as of Tuesday.

Short pointed out a few workers that had been with the city for 18-25 years. "These men have worked hard for the city. I have seen them go out and dig out frozen garbage with a pick. It was hard but they did it. Now we want something and you see how we get treated...Like dirt."

Tuesday night the situation of the strike was unsure. Roscoe Wooten had told newsmen that the new crew was on the job and that the strike was over and everything was back to normal.

The MIRROR then got in touch with Ros-Johnny Short but did get in touch with "Smiley" Myers one of the spokesmen. Myers told the Mirror that the striking workers had heard nothing from Wooten and that they "are still waiting to hear something from the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners."

Indications that things are still not quite "normal" came from the manager of one of the local stores in Kings Mountain. This man reported that the garbage behind his store had become a fire hazard and desired action. He was told by Wooten that the new crew would be working overtime to pick up the excess garbage that has collected over the period of the strike.

The MIRROR then got in touch with Roscoe Wooten. Mr. Wooten told us that "as far as I'm concerned the strike is over. The Board issued their statement and so our new personnel is working. They are getting the same wages as the men did who quit."



JOHNNY SHORT  
...Leader of Strikers



Some of the city's striking Sanitation workers group on steps of City Hall Monday where they waited for about 4 hours for an answer to their demands. Here they talk with news reporters. Others were across the street when photo was made. (Mirror Photo)

## 6 Wrecks Occur Within City

Kings Mountain Police were kept busy this past week investigating 6 wrecks. Two wrecks occurred on Wednesday of last week, fortunately there were no fatalities.

Forest Clegg Weaver, 60, of 410 Tate Terrace in Kings Mountain was charged with failure to yield to the 1971 Ford driven by Kenneth Wayne Carroll. Carroll, 19, of 707 N. Piedmont Avenue in Kings Mountain was hit by Weaver at the intersection of Candler and Walker at 10:50 a.m. D. E. Howell investigated the accident.

A total of over \$2300 damage was done in a three car accident Wednesday at 6:22 p.m. at the intersection of West King and Railroad Avenue. Involved in the wreck was, Debora Janice Crouch, 20, of 4849 Randolph Road in Charlotte, James

Derek Roper, 35, of 514 Rhodes Avenue in Kings Mountain and Carleton Brown Harris, 63, of 313 East King Street in Kings Mountain.

According to the report filed by Patrolman L. D. Beatti, the Crouch car was going north on Railroad Avenue. The impact sent the Roper vehicle into the Harris car. Debora Crouch was charged with disregarding a stop light. Both Crouch and Roper were taken to Kings Mountain hospital, treated and released.

Damage to the Crouch car was figured at \$1100, Roper's car sustained \$1200 worth and the Harris car at \$150.

Thursday at 10:30 p.m. an accident on York Road, about 50 feet from Gold Street, saw Leroy Watkins, 27, of Route 1, Grover, charged with improper overtaking. According to reports of Patrolman Robert Dodge, George Washington Ramsey, 32, of 622 East Gold Street was attempting a right hand turn. Watkins stated he thought Ramsey was turning left and started around him on the right. Ramsey's car was damaged \$200 worth and Watkins' vehicle was damaged \$150 worth.

A 1963 Chevrolet owned by Orr Cab Company was damaged \$250 worth when the driver, Thomas James Smith of Route 1, Grover hit a car driven by Amanda Christine Blanton. Amanda Blanton of 207 Brice Street told investigating officer Bynum Cook that she was turning onto Brice Street from Candler as Smith was pulling out to Candler. The Blanton car damage was estimated at \$150. Smith was charged with failure to yield. The wreck occurred at 1:28 a.m. Saturday.

Two cars and a utility pole were damaged in a wreck Sunday at 8:05 p.m. Sgt. Johnny Bell reported that Paul Mauney Neisler Sr. of Box 72 Kings Mountain pulled out into the path of Rayfus Mansfield Wilson of 511 Piedmont, in Shelby. Neisler's car

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## Patrol Car Scares School Burglars

Police in Kings Mountain reported that the City Schools Administrative Office on Parker Street was broken into sometime Monday night.

Patrolman Cook said that Monday night report came in that someone was breaking into the building. Officers were dispatched and they found that someone had broken a window on the north side of the building. Further investigation later revealed that someone had broke out a 9" x 9" hole in the window and that someone, apparently very small, had climbed through the hole and opened another window. A search of the building found a new calculator at the rear of the building and a television set, unbolting from its stand in the hall. Cook surmised that the patrol car had scared the burglars off and in their haste had left everything inside. Nothing was reported missing.

## New Voltage Regulators

# KM Takes Precautions Against Future Blackouts

Preventative measures to insure against "blackouts" and "brownouts" have been taken by the city of Kings Mountain. According to Mayor Moss "This is one of the biggest steps Kings Mountain has taken in a long time."

These measures include five voltage regulators and a new substation.

Duke Power has increased the supply of electrical energy to Kings Mountain from 10,000 to 12,000 KVA. To take care of this increase, the new substation will be erected. The new structure will be located off York Road on land leased by the city from Martin Marietta (Superior Stone Company). The power supply will then be

equally distributed between the old substation on Gaston Street and the new station. They will carry 6,000 KVA apiece.

Earl Turbyfill, Head of Electrical Division said that voltage regulators are also planned for five sectors of the city. Those already in operation are one on Sipes Street, behind Kings Mountain Hospital, one on York Road and the new one just finished on Phifer Road. This latter regulator will serve the whole southwest section of the city, including Southwood subdivision and the High School area. Two planned for the immediate future will be located in the Crescent Hill section and

one serving the Linwood and Northwood area. As soon as personnel and equipment are available, these two final regulators will be installed. As for the substation, there is still paper work to be cleared away but Turbyfill said, "It will be in the near future."

Turbyfill also stated that the regulators run somewhere in the neighborhood of \$6,000 a piece. He further reported that in the near future, his department plans to replace some of the smaller wire, such as feeder lines, in the city with heavier, more durable wire. "Right now the lines are carrying the load alright but a heavier wire will be better."

## Man Arrested For Assault

Three area residents were arrested last week by the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office.

James Donald Biddix, 33, of Foote Mineral Road in Kings Mountain was picked up for assault on a female.

A capias instanter for worthless checks was issued for Gene Holmes, 34, of 803 Second Street in Kings Mountain.

Driving after license had been revoked was the charge against Roscoe Petty, 44, of Route 1, Kings Mountain.

Willard Whitted, 24, of 703 Lee Street in Kings Mountain was charged with Non-support.

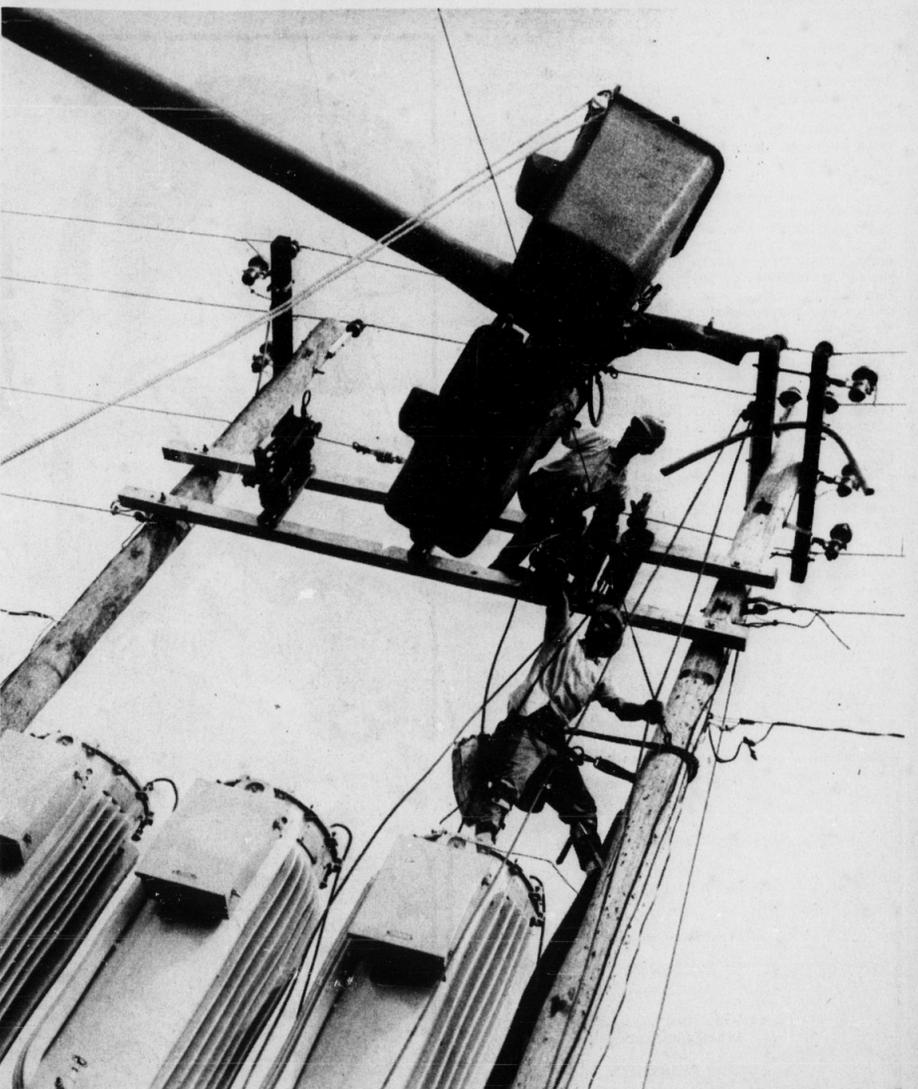
Other area residents include: Carl Mason Wray, 36, of Route 1, Grover for Non-support.

Kelly Joe Camp, 29, of Route 1, Grover for assault on a female.

Dennis A. Lowery, 27, Route 1, Grover for driving under the influence.

Paul Pettigrew, 30, of Route 1, Grover a capias for public drunkenness.

Also reported from the Sheriff's office was a breaking and entering of the home of Walter Hopler near Superior Feed. The breaking occurred after 11 p.m. Saturday night and a 16" Television was reported missing.



Workmen balance on the framework of the new voltage regulator being installed on Phifer Road. This is the third regulator to be installed in Kings Mountain for purposes of "pushing"

more electrical energy to citizens in the outlying areas. This program of increased electrical power is also part of a project to prevent future blackouts.