



**KMCC OFFICERS** - Ragan Harper (left) has been elected president of the Kings Mountain Country Club at the annual stockholders meeting held last week. Taking office also were (left to right) George Thomasson - vice president, Tom Tate - treasurer and Carl DeVane - secretary. New directors named were Thomasson, Dan Finger, Mickey Powers and L.D. (Josh) Hinnam. Directors remaining on the board include Harper, Tate, DeVane, Hoyte D. McDaniel, Grady Howard, Will Herndon, Bob Suber and Walt Harmon.

(From page 1A)

### Riddle Fabrics

## Up Well-Known Creek

By JAY ASHLEY  
Mirror Staff Writer

Riddle Fabrics has the unenviable position of being up a well-known creek without a paddle.

Their "creek" is a sewage line problem and their only "paddle" would be a permit from the State Department of Water and Air Resources, which from all indications, will be impossible to obtain. J.T. Malcom and Harold Riddle approached the city board with their dilemma several weeks ago, and the situation was given to D.L. Fox, consulting engineer.

Malcom, who is part owner in the new manufacturing venture on Second St. Ext., said the building had been erected with a promise that sewer service would be possible.

The business is concerned with the manufacture of narrow fabrics (ribbons for label tape).

Malcom said before he purchased the property, "the Mayor and several board members came to our site and

guaranteed we could connect onto the city's sewer line near the proposed building."

Malcom said with that information, building proceeded. "We have sunk more than \$125,000 into our business and recently found out we would need a permit from the State agency to hook onto the city's line like we had been promised."

In their Mar. 11 meeting, the city board asked engineer Fox to "work with the Riddle Fabrics people in obtaining a permit for sewage disposal."

The main problem, according to Malcom, is that a sewer line is needed to allow the business to go into the "bleaching end of our operation." Malcom said in the past their bleaching has been done by a firm in Greenville, S.C. and "we have to pay them to bleach plus pay the freight charges there and back."

"The new place", Malcom continued, "was designed to accommodate bleaching and would save us a lot of money." He said it is costing Riddle Fabrics "about \$1000 per week

to have our bleaching done." From a letter to the mayor and city board dated Mar. 22 from D.L. Fox, it would appear Riddle Fabrics will still have to pay the Greenville firm to do bleaching for them while they sit in a new \$125,000 facility unable to dump bleaching waste.

The letter from Fox said, "pursuant to your request and action at the board meeting of Mar. 11, (concerning Fox) directive to communicate with the State Water and Air Resources agency about the Riddle problem) I did contact Mr. William Mull, Regional Engineer with the Office of Water and Air Resources in Asheville to see if there was any possible way that Riddle Fabrics could discharge their waste to the City Sewer Collection System."

"Mr. Mull advised there is no way for such a discharge to occur without tremendous consequences. Even if the City of Kings Mountain could treat the waste satisfactorily, Riddle Fabrics would still be required to obtain a permit, in that a pumping station is

involved. Mr. Malcom of Riddle Fabrics was advised of the permit requirements on Mar. 13.

"In addition to the above, Mr. Mull advised that the Board of Water and Air Resources renewed the City of Kings Mountain 'Assurance of Voluntary Compliance' for the fourth and last time at its Feb., 1974 meeting with respect to discharges to the McGill Creek Plant. Furthermore, the board of Water and Air Resources directed that any future significant discharges to the McGill Creek Plant be transmitted to their Enforcement Division which, in turn, would ask the Attorney General for prosecution in violation of GS 143-215.79. Such a violation carries a \$5,000 fine for each event. Mr. Mull assured the writer that knowledge on his behalf of any discharges to McGill Creek Plant would bring about the above action.

"The status of the McGill Creek Plant should be of great concern for each of the

(See RIDDLE p.12A)

## Who Hired Tom Cox?

had been hired temporarily." Mayor John Moss then gave a chronology explaining how Cox was employed.

"On December 28, the Lake Authority requested an engineer be brought in acquainted with water use and control. After a few phone calls, the name Tom Cox came to our attention."

Moss went on to say, "on Jan. 12, Mr. Cox was invited to a Lake Authority meeting and on Jan. 26 he was unanimously approved for employment as consulting engineer."

The question then arose from Commissioner Nicholson, "how much authority does the Lake Authority have anyway?"

Ward Five's James Amos asked, "does the Lake Authority not have the right to operate within the framework set forth by this board?"

City Attorney Jack White said, "the Lake Authority is a legally constituted body, however, you would be delegating your authority to them if you allowed them to hire and fire personnel."

Commissioner Davis then said, "I understand Cox has been going out to residents around the lake and collecting money for his advice. I'd like to know where that money goes."

Mayor Moss noted "permits issued now carry the stipulation that a fee will be required later." The mayor said no fee schedule for permits had yet been established.

Moss then stated Cox had been asked to "review all permits as they come into my office. I send them out in the mail and he returns them as soon as possible with his recommendations attached."

Again Davis asked, "where does the money go that Cox has been collecting at the lake?"

Moss replied, "I don't know."

Davis continued, "if Cox has been collecting money at the lake, I want to know why the checks haven't been made out to the city or the Lake Authority instead of himself. I think if Cox is hired by the city, then all negotiations and money should come through the city."

Corbett Nicholson then said, "the Lake Authority voted to get Cox but the city board hasn't hired him."

Jack White said, "I understand Cox hasn't been paid anything yet for his services. I don't know what the agreement was between him and the Lake Authority." Nicholson said, "I thought

he was only supposed to draw up specifications and designs for the Lake Authority."

Attorney White then stated, "I think the best thing this board could do is to get together with Mr. Cox, either in closed or open session, and try to find out the details. You should probably have members of the Lake Authority present when you talk to him."

Corbett Nicholson made the motion the item be tabled until the board could contact Cox and Ray Cline seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The matter went further when the board was addressed by lake property owner, Buford Cline.

Cline talked at length about problems he was having with the city and then he made mention of paying Cox for advice.

Cline produced a xerox of a cancelled check made out to Cox in the amount of \$25. Cline said he had talked with Cox about a pier he was con-

#### MINISTERS MEETING

The Kings Mountain Ministerial Association will meet at Central Methodist Church Mon., Apr. 1 at 10 a.m.

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