

KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

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Third 'Drys' Meet Set Next Tuesday

A third meeting of Kings Mountain "Drys" is slated for Tuesday at 7:30 p. m. at Central United Methodist church. All committees and other interested citizens are invited, says Publicity Chairman Don Parker.

Meantime, the committees against the sale of alcoholic beverages met Thursday night for a second organizational meeting and divided the city into voting districts, formulating plans to provide transportation for voters to the polls for registration purposes prior to the Feb. 17 deadline and for rides to the polls on voting day Mar. 18.

Outlining of duties of each committee was the feature of Thursday's session with members of the steering committee in charge. The committees were enlarged to include a

member from each church in the Kings Mountain area.

The "enlarged" committee of over 100 citizens will meet again next Tuesday, said Dr. Charles Edwards, overall chairman.

Mrs. Margaret Rayfield, West Kings Mountain precinct registrar, invites new voters to register at her home on Waco Rd. and Mrs. Ruth Hord, East Kings Mountain precinct registrar, has the pollbooks open at her home at 529 Katherine St. Registration is also conducted at the County Elections Office in Shelby five days a week.

To vote in the Mar. 18 referendum on question of legalizing sale of beer and wine for off-premises consumption and establishing ABC stores, a citizen must be 18 years of age and have resided in the city 30 days.



LINE HALLS - Unemployed workers from Kings Mountain line the halls of the community center Wednesday morning waiting to sign up for unemployment benefits. Over 1,400 are out of work here.

KM Area Catching Up

1,400 Unemployed Line Up, Sign Up

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

What has happened in other areas of the state - massive layoffs of the work force - is happening in the Kings Mountain area.

"The Number Four Township is catching up with the rest of the state," said Franklin Ware, manager of the Shelby Employment Security Office. "The squeeze was late in hitting this area, but once it began it didn't take long to catch up."

Long lines, up to 1,400 area residents, now form at the KM Community Center. The increased volume means the local ES office has expanded operations to five days each week to handle the mounting claims.

"The unemployment rate began to gather steam about Thanksgiving," Ware said. "And if people really want to know how bad it is, just let them compare 10 or 12 unemployed persons in

this area last June to the 1,400 unemployed today."

And, the unemployment checks have been slow in coming for many people, particularly if they are making first claims for unemployment.

"The long delays in sending checks are understandable," explained Ware.

"The volume state-wide is the cause. The Raleigh headquarters is handling 15,000 to 20,000 claims a day," he adds.

Ware said unemployment checks usually go out within two to three weeks and not more than four for first-time claims. Now there's a delay in the work load but more workers are being trained to handle the back-log of transcripts, working on three shifts, he said, at the Raleigh ESC offices.

He doesn't paint a brighter picture, however, for the many textile workers who have been placed on part-time layoff. At

least four textile plants in Kings Mountain have employees on part-time claim and Mauney Mills placed 130 workers on total layoff status this week. Some plants are operating three days a week, others are running a week and shutting down a week.

Overdue bills - car payments, rent, utility charges - are the most mentioned problem with the delay of unemployment checks.

Ware said 6,060 persons of the county's 27,700 insured work force claimed benefits totaling 7,670 weeks during the week ending Jan. 10. A total of 3,366 initial claims were filed during the seven-day period, he said. The week of Jan. 10 the ESC staff from the Shelby office went to 16 plants in the county, four in Kings Mountain, to take claims.

"It (unemployment) just doesn't look any better", said Ware.

Telephone Service Cost Going Up 20 Percent

The cost of telephone service in Kings Mountain is going up approximately 20 percent on Feb. 19, it was announced this week by Lin

Southern Bell Telephone Co. Hall said that Southern Bell is raising rates in all of its North Carolina territories because current earnings are too low.

In Kings Mountain, the cost of one-party residential phones will be \$7.67 per month, up from \$6.40. The same cost applies in Bessemer City, Stanley and Lowell.

In Gastonia, the cost of a private residence line will increase to \$7.68 per month. The current rate is \$6.40.

The cost of one-party business phones will rise to \$19.38 per month, up from \$16.15.

Belmont and Mount Holly families with one-party residential lines will pay \$8.52 per month after the increase.

The cost of private residential service in Cherryville will rise to \$7.38 per month and in Lincolnton to \$7.08 per month.

Hall said Southern Bell filed a request last year with the State Utilities Commission for \$62.5 million of rate increases. Hearings have been held, but a final decision has not been made by the commission.

Under state law, a utility may raise rates as much as 20 percent above current rates if the commission has not acted on its request within six months.

"We are going ahead with the increases Feb. 19", said Hall, "but the money collected will be kept under bond and will be refunded to customers with 6 percent interest if the commission rejects our petition."

Reduced Surcharge Discussed

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The Mayor's utility rate study committee took what appears to be a giant leap forward in its deliberations over water fees for the city's heavy water users Tuesday night.

Dr. Frank Sincox, committee chairman, suggested the group cut through all of the philosophical discussion and pick a number as a starting point.

The number (s), although only approximates, suggest the city could do with less operating profit from water-sewer (the two are inseparable at this point) in order to give heavy industrial customers a fair shake in their rate schedule.

Committeemen agreed the water surcharge of 50 percent to outside industrial users, coupled with a .5225 cents per thousand gallon minimum break, is too high a price to pay without benefit of city services.

Before adjourning for two weeks the committee had agreed to begin hashing out the situation by considering an approximate 50 percent surcharge for all residential customers and a 50 percent surcharge for light industrial customers. And to consider

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2-5 p.m.

Junior High Open House Set Sunday

Brief dedication ceremonies and open house will be held Sunday afternoon at the new Kings Mountain Junior High School and East and West elementaries, it was announced at the monthly meeting of the board of education Monday night.

Open house will be observed at each school between the hours of 2 and 5 p. m., with members of the school board, administrators and special guests taking part.

Dedication will be held at 2 p. m. at KMJH, 2:30 at West and 3 p. m. at East. At East, board member Jim Herndon will present a plaque to principal C. A. Allison in honor of former East teacher Irma Williford Thompson.

The new B. N. Barnes Auditorium will not be included in Sunday's open house programs, Supt. Don Jones reported, as its construction has not yet been completed. Its dedication will be held on Friday, Mar. 14.

In other action Monday, the board:

-- Changed the name of Kings Mountain High School to Kings Mountain Senior High School.

-- Discussed naming a committee to study the 1975-76 school calendar. The committee will be comprised of Bill Bates, chairman; one principal, one black teacher, one white teacher and two lay per-

sons.

-- Heard that the schools had been allocated \$8,636.51 from the county to employ four persons in the maintenance department.

-- Received letters from the faculty of Kings Mountain Junior High commending Ronald Nanney and Richard Hamrick for the work they did as interim principals at the community center and Com-

pact prior to the opening of the new junior high.

-- Approved several student assignments and transfers.

-- Repealed the retirement of Myers Hambright, granted leaves of absence to Mrs. Sandra Harris and Mrs. Margaret Hunter Smith, and elected Mrs. Brenda Blanton, Mrs. Phyllis Misenheimer, Miss Mary Ann Bennett and Mrs. Sandra Conner to teacher posts.

-- Was informed of the district school board meeting to be held here on March 6 and was told by Supt. Jones that it will be the first meeting in the new auditorium.

PERMIT ISSUED

Kenneth Bush, 1007 N. Piedmont Ave., obtained city permit Monday to park a mobile home, the city building inspector's office reports.

To Finance Museum Centennial Produces \$12,723.63 In Profit

With \$12,723.63 on hand, thoughts now turn toward the development of an historical museum for Kings Mountain.

The above total, as reported by Charles F. Mauney, president of the Kings Mountain Centennial Commission, is the net profit from the 1974 celebration.

The museum was the suggestion of the centennial gift committee and under the centennial commission charter this committee has until Feb. 1976 to form a new non-profit corporation for the purpose of establishing the museum.

"We realize less than \$13,000 is a small amount of money to actually form such a project," Mauney said, "but we feel that the first steps taken with this money and in the next few years, with the backing of our community, the project can be started and maintained."

The \$12,723.63 net profit was earned through the sale of

stock certificates and centennial souvenirs. Mauney said \$1,200 worth of certificates were redeemed.

Until the new non-profit organization is formed, the commission has purchased a certificate of deposit for \$12,000 at Home Savings and Loan Association and left the remaining \$723.63 in a checking account at First Union National Bank.

Mauney said the \$12,000 will draw interest and also he expects more revenue will be added to the account through the sale of remaining centennial items on hand.

The non-profit organization to establish the local historical museum is to be formed from the centennial gift committee, according to Mauney. The committee includes Donald Jones - chairman, Mary S. Neisler, Jinny Arnette, Victoria Bess, Charles Carpenter, J. Ollie Harris and James E. Herndon Jr.

FUNBank Has Fund For Kidney Patient

First Union National Bank has set up a fund for David L. Winebarger, the 21-year old Kings Mountain who has suffered the loss of both kidneys.

A fund to help the young married man defray his mounting hospital and medical bills was started several weeks ago in Lincoln County, David's mother's home-county. The Kings Mountain fund was started this week, according to Mrs. Ruth Winebarger.

David currently makes three trips each week to a Charlotte hospital for treatment on the dialysis machine. It's the purification treatment that keeps him alive.

Out of a job, which held no insurance benefits, and in and out of hospitals here and in

Charlotte since last November, David is faced with the nerve-racking wait for a kidney donor to be approved and at the same time is left to wonder how all of his medical expenses can be met.

Mrs. Winebarger, said, hopefully, the two fund accounts will help the financial situation to a degree. "And hopefully the doctors will approve either my husband, daughter or myself as being able to donate a kidney to David," she continued. "We are still waiting on some word."

Anyone wishing to aid David Winebarger may contact Brenda Layton or Mary Ann Kerns at First Union National Bank about depositing funds in the special account.



WIN PRESS AWARDS - Gov. James Holshouser poses with Mirror-Herald Editor Tom McIntyre and Sports Editor Gary Stewart after presenting them with awards for First Place

Editorial Page and Second Place Sports Coverage for 1974 during the 50th Annual NCPA Winter Institute at Chapel Hill last week.

Mirror-Herald Wins Two NC Press Awards

The Mirror-Herald has two new plaques on the office wall following last week's 50th Annual North Carolina Press Association Winter Institute at Chapel Hill.

In the 1974 competition judges declared The Mirror-Herald a first place in editorial page and second place in sports coverage competitions.

Gov. James Holshouser, who delivered remarks at the institute banquet at UNC-CH's Carolina Inn, presented the awards to winners of daily and non-daily competitions. Tom McIntyre, editor, and Gary Stewart, sports editor of The Mirror-Herald accepted the awards on behalf of the paper.

James Featherston of the School of Journalism, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, judged the editorial page contest and commented on the Mirror-Herald's entries: "Two highly readable staff-written editorial columns enhance the appeal of this editorial page. Another plus factor is the locally drawn

editorial cartoon, a rarity in the weekly press. The editorials are well written and deal with local issues. The editorial page photographic feature is also appealing."

Ronald Gibson, University of Texas, Department of Journalism, judged the sports coverage competitions and commented of M-H's entries: "Writing quality matches that found in the (first place) winner. The sports editor of this entry produces a readable and interesting column. There is some variety present, a balance between local high school and area college teams, as well as excellent golf coverage on the appearance of a top pro in the area. Generally good display invites readership of well written stories which often need much better picture support."

In daily competition, columns and criticisms category, Joe DePriest won a third place award. DePriest, one of the most outstanding reporter-columnists in N. C., is employed by The Shelby Daily Star.