

# KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

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## Electric, Streets Crews Respond

# Ice, Fallen Limbs Cause Power Blackouts Tuesday

Ice and fallen tree limbs on power lines plunged major portions of Kings Mountain into a blackout early Tuesday night.

Crews from the electrical and street departments worked around the clock clearing obstructions on power lines and transformers to restore power. The work continued through most of Wednesday afternoon to complete electrical service to the stricken areas.

The work Wednesday was contained mostly to clearing individual power lines from poles to private residences.

During the early hours Wednesday 20 residences were restored with power. Nine more were cleared by 3 p. m. Wednesday.

Mayor John H. Moss, who spent most of the night moving from trouble spot to trouble spot with the crews, said the areas blacked out Tuesday included Southwoods, Northwoods, S. Cansler and Crescent Hill, W. Gold St., Charles St. to the Galliee Section, From N. Piedmont to Ridge St. to Wells St. All but the Galliee Section were restored with power during the evening Tuesday and early

morning hours Wednesday.

According to Harry Wilson, electrical department supt., two feeder lines were down Tuesday night because of heavy ice on the lines blacking out the York Rd. area, Pine Manor Apartments and Royal Villa. Service was restored to this area about 1 a. m. Wednesday.

Mark Sisk, Princeton Dr. told The Mirror-Herald that power in the Southwoods Subdivision was knocked out about 7 p. m.

About 8 p. m. police reported a tree down on a line had knocked power off in the

Northwoods Subdivision.

Sisk called The Mirror-Herald office (which was temporarily blacked out for a couple of minutes around 7 p. m. due to a tree down on a nearby line) to ask for assistance.

"I've called everywhere trying to get someone to report this power failure," Sisk said, stating that he and his neighbors were getting "madder by the minute." He said efforts to contact the mayor and electrical department head had been fruitless "and calls to the police department gave us no answers to our questions either."

information given out to citizens by our men Tuesday night."

Roper said city hall was not spared during the blackout because the ice and limbs falling on lines knocked out power there for about 45 minutes early Tuesday evening.

"We had to work with flashlights and kept contact with our patrolmen on the road with walkie-talkies," Chief Roper said.

Shoppers in the Kings Mountain Plaza found themselves in the dark about 7:30 p. m. Tuesday, but store managers aided them by supplying candles so they could find their way about without injuries.

Grady Howard, Kings Mountain Hospital administrator, said the power failure "apparently extended out W. King St. on the left side because power at the hospital was unaffected."



**Photo By Gary Stewart**  
OOPS! - Lovely Pam Allmond of Kings Mountain had her feet slip from under her and hit the deck of her ice driveway during Tuesday's freezing rainfall. Pam, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Allmond, is a junior at Kings Mountain High School.

## Could Drop To 82 Inflation Cuts Low Rent Housing Units To 90

Kings Mountain's proposed 100 new units of low rent housing, for which federal money of \$1 million has been approved, has been cut to possibly 82 units, Director Tom Harper said this week.

Harper gave the "bad news" at Monday's regular meeting when directors discussed how the pinch of the economy affects new production as well as administration and management.

The "good news" was that construction on the new housing will begin in April or May following Redevelopment Commission.

The construction work should give local builders nine to 10 months of regular employment.

Sites for the proposed housing are: 36 apartments for the elderly on W. King across from the overhead bridge on the former M. L. user property; 10 units of family dwelling on N. Cansler and City Sts.; 14 all-family units on City and Cansler which is Site 13; 18 all-family units at the North end of Tracy St.; four units for the elderly on E. Ridge St. adjacent to the MPH office; and eight units for elderly on Ark St. in Margrace area. This last 16 will be struck from the new construction if only 82 units, instead of 90, are approved.



**JOHN L. MCGILL**

percentage are not paying all of their reduced rents, causing more property damage and are dishonest in reporting their true incomes. These are all violations of their lease, although our board of directors is a most compassionate group", Harper continued.

"Only action we can take is eviction", declared the board.

The recession has upped the administrative work, Harper continued, due to more applications and constant change in rent fees due to the fact that rental payments is based on percentage of the family income. In some families in the 200 units of low rent housing the change of income is almost weekly and "mostly downward", he noted.



**Photo By Gary Stewart**  
WINTER IN KM - This week's snow and ice made driving and walking a little slippery but a couple of cars managed to make it up and down this hill on Parker Street near Central School. This photo was snapped Monday shortly after the white stuff began falling.

## HUD Tells KMRC To Take Action

The Area office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has directed the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission to "move" and take "firm" action on acquisition of 14 final parcels of property required for completion of the Central Business Project.

Specifically, James K. Rhodes, writing the letter Jan. 31 for R. B. Barnwell, area director of the Greensboro HUD office, charges that the KMRC is dragging its feet on the project.

Members of KMRC in regular Tuesday morning session were informed of the directive which also asked that a "deadline" be set for proceeding of plans and schedule be given for finalizing them.

KMRC Director Gene White and Assistant Director Dean McGinnis were given approval of the full board to reply that firm schedules would be established following conferences with a Winston Salem consultant yesterday.

The Central Business District Project is now in its fourth year, and a project of its magnitude takes from four to six years to complete.

"We are to set up a schedule for acquisition of remaining properties in the downtown area, proceed to make offers and either acquire them or

initiate condemnation proceedings," explained White.

"A CBD project is much tougher to finish on a timetable, continued White, who said he was quite proud of downtown redevelopment.

"They (HUD) really want us to adopt a timetable and stick to it" he said.

In other actions, the board: 1) adopted uniform lease and rental policy which is basically the same as adopted in Dec. 1972 except that a former owner of a building (if he becomes a tenant) would pay rent on a scale of one-half of one percent per month, his rental fee based on the purchase price of the property. Director White pointed out that it is essential that KMRC develop a standard way to determine rent and apply the rule in every case. Rentors would not pay any more rent to new owners (KMRC) than they are now paying their present landlords.

Club Buffet

Kings Mountain Country club will serve Sunday buffet starting in February on every other Sunday, said a club spokesman. The menu will include a meat, vegetables and dessert with adult and children's plates available.

## Additional Exemption Rep. Hunt's Tax Relief Bill Now In Committee

Rep. Jack Hunt of Cleveland County introduced his bill to give tax relief to lower and middle income persons on the floor of the General Assembly Wednesday.

In a phone interview Wednesday Rep. Hunt told The Mirror-Herald he expected the bill, which would give Tar Heels earning under \$8,000 annually an additional \$1,000 tax exemption, to go immediately to committee and look for some action within two months.

"I've been working on this bill for the past couple of years," Hunt said, "but now the bill is even more relevant than before. I would hope the committee works quickly on the proposal."

Hunt's bill, an act to provide tax relief for \$8,000 to \$12,000 annual wage earners in North Carolina, if passed would



**REP. JACK HUNT**

mean a revenue loss of \$60 million to the state, but the act also provides for means to recoup at least \$49.24 million. The rest, Hunt feels, "should be taken from the general fund."

To recoup the major portion of revenue loss through the additional tax exemption, Hunt proposes increased tax rates on liquor, beer and wine.

"There is no sales tax on liquor as the consumer knows it," Hunt said. "Not like tax on milk and groceries. My proposal is to add three percent sales tax to total price of liquor and that would bring in an estimated \$5.045 million."

"The beer tax in North Carolina has not been adjusted since 1969 and since then beer sales have doubled," Hunt continued. "Each penny on the equivalent of a 12 ounce can of beer would bring in over \$8 million in revenue. This proposal would add five cents to the price of a 12 ounce beer and would bring in \$42.57 million."

Hunt said there has been no adjustment on wine taxes since 1946. The representative's proposal would add 30 cents per gallon to the 60 cents (unfortified) and 70 cents (fortified) taxes and that would bring in an estimated \$1.62 million.

The total estimated revenue, which would offset the losses on Hunt's tax relief bill, is \$49.24 million, leaving \$10.76 million which could be taken from the general fund.

"We should take that from the general fund," Hunt said. "We must give the taxpayers in North Carolina some indication that the state is willing to do a little belt tightening also."

## Ideas Talked By Group

The Mayor's utility rate study committee Tuesday night agreed to suggest to the board of city commissioners:

- (1) to retain the surcharge rate of 50 percent for all relatively small water users (residential and industrial users of 40,000 gallons or less per month)
- (2) that the surcharge be decreased to 20 percent for all users of greater than 40,000 gallons of water per month, thus decreasing revenue to the city by three percent or less, noting that this decrease could be acceptable without any other revenue to offset this decrease.
- (3) that the board of commissions did not give any advance notice to customers that the water rate would be escalated;
- (4) could not duplicate the figures presented to the board by Supt. Roscoe Wooten May 27, 1974. Mr. Wooten stated the cost of producing 1,000 gallons of fresh, potable water and of treating all necessary waste water at \$1.09, the Sincox committee a figure of 2.38.
- (5) that the increase in water rates was placed primarily and unduly on users outside the city limits;
- (6) that the city makes a higher operating profit on water than by any other utility (94 percent as compared to 57 percent for gas and 28 percent power)
- (7) Minimum water charge should be .2320, based on 1973-74 charges and on a total water sale of 1,182,650 gallons by 1,000.

These opinions came near the close of another fact-finding session chaired by Dr. Frank Sincox and attended by Buford DeFore, Bill Bates, Dennis Fox, Jim Roark and George Ross, Black Leonard and Lloyd E. Davis were absent.

The study committee was called by Mayor John Moss after Spectrum Industries, large outside-city water user, complained to the city commission.

Members will meet again Tuesday night at 7:30 for more deliberations before presenting final recommendations to the commission.

## More Jobs Available Here Soon?

The figures don't show it, but Employment Security Commission Franklin L. Ware is optimistic that more jobs will be available soon for the 1,600 in this area who are signing up for unemployment.

The bright spots are that Eaton Corporation is going up on Grover Rd. and will supply jobs for 600 by summertime, Foote Mineral Co., expanding in Kings Mountain, is reviewing its labor supply, another industry in town which has been filing many claims for unemployment may call employees back to work in about 10 days, and business in the garment industry is still booming.

A total of 1,600 claims, up 200 from January, were filed in this area last week and Monday continues to be the lightest day at the ESC quarters at the Community Center, said Ware.

The Cleveland County ESC took 9,486 new and reopened claims during the month of January.

**COURSE VARIETY**

During the 1973-74 school year, \$35 of the 151 secondary school systems offered a variety of courses in 5 or more of the 8 occupational education program areas.

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