

# KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

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## Natural Gas Allotments Unknown For Next Year

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Some candid talk from William D. Edwards here Tuesday revealed users of natural gas in this city and all over the state are in for a disastrous curtailment of up to 40 percent in supplies next winter.

And even at that the cost will be more.

Edwards, of Engineering and Management Consultants, said the City of Kings Mountain is allotted 100 cubic feet of gas daily up to a total 1,172,625 cubic feet per year.

The city can continue using up to 4,100 per day without curtailment here and there and hope that the 1,172,625 total will not be reduced," Edwards said. "If it is cut, then this city will expend its gas allotment and still have weeks or even months to go before the year is up."

The Greenwood, S. C. engineer said at this point there are no guarantees on any amount of natural gas that will be available to this city or any other city during the coming year.

Edwards made mention of the city's proposed peak shaving plant in which propane air will be mixed and fed through gas customers as a substitute. But he said "it takes 11 gallons of propane to make one gallon of natural gas and the cost is much higher than that method."

Under Federal Power Commission guidelines individual homeowners get first priority under gas curtailment and large industry gets last consideration.

For this reason Edwards suggested that industrial users in the Kings Mountain area begin immediately finding a substitute or alternate source. In an earlier letter the commissioners here Edwards recommended industries now on a firm contract with the city for gas be placed on an interruptible basis. The letter was Kings Mountain Mica Co.

Paul and Hugh Lancaster, owners and operators of KM Mica Co., attended Edwards' meeting and commented on this recommendation.

Paul Lancaster said his firm went on a firm contract with the city in 1965 and has remained on such a contract for the past 20 years. He said the

Mica Co. product was so much superior being manufactured under natural gas usage that the entire operation was converted to gas use.

"We have paid for gas on a firm rate contract for 20 years, year-round, as insurance we would have gas in the amounts we need it," Lancaster said.

Lancaster said KM Mica Co. used (in round figures) 55,000 cubic feet of gas in 1966, 49,000 mcf in 1967, 53,000 mcf in '68, 52,000, 53,000, 52,000, 62,000, 60,000 and 65,000 in 1974. He said, however, the first six months in 1975 they only used 22,000.

"With the figures you are giving us now," Lancaster said, "Our company will be back operating at the same level it was in 1969. We haven't increased usage of gas, so why take us off a firm contract?"

Edwards said, "We cannot guarantee you a foot of gas for next year. I can only tell you

that you must make up your mind to find an alternate fuel."

Edwards said no plan of curtailment has been adopted at this point, but suggested that all distributors and consumers can look for an allotment the equivalent of what they were getting two years ago and perhaps 10 percent more. He said there is no promise even that amount will be available.



Photo By Tom McIntyre

**HONORARY COLONELS** — (Left) Rip Collins is shown presenting certificates to Kings Mountain Bicentennial co-chairpersons Mrs. John O. Plonk and Howard Jackson and Mayor John H. Moss declaring them honorary colonels for the Overmountain Victory March. The march begins in late

September in Sycamore Shoals, Tenn. and ends on Oct. 7 at Kings Mountain National Military Park. It is a re-enactment of the long march prior to the American victory over Maj. Patrick Ferguson's British troops at Kings Mountain in 1780.

## Bicen Planning Urged

Members of the city's Bicentennial committee have attended two meetings in the past week in which plans for the coming celebration were discussed.

On Tues., July 1 committee officials, Mrs. John O. Plonk and Howard Jackson, hosted a luncheon meeting at the Kings Mountain Country Club at

which Dr. Lawrence Wheeler, state Bicentennial commission chairman, spoke.

Last Thursday Mrs. Plonk, Jackson, Mayor John H. Moss and Tom McIntyre attended a joint meeting with representatives from Cherokee County, S. C., at Kings Mountain National Military Park.

In the July 1 meeting Dr.

Wheeler suggested that the community's historic sites be marked and efforts made at preservation. He said the local committee could work on brochures noting the things that distinguishes this community

from another, things such as the architecture, the people, the events that have shaped the community.

Second, festival occasions. Dr. Wheeler suggested such (Please Turn To Page 2A)

## Codes Inspection Monday

Codes Administrator Black Leonard will begin uniform city codes inspections in the downtown business district Monday, July 14, assisted by Crawford Murphy, architect for the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission.

Leonard said he and Murphy plan to work in half-day shifts on the inspections, which will cover areas such as fire hazards, wiring, structural and general fixup. The codes inspections are being done in compliance with a request from the downtown merchants group. Leonard has written letters to 39 tenants and landlords advising them of the inspection and Leonard said he feels they will comply with codes voluntarily.

## Bicentennial Group Meets

The Kings Mountain Bicentennial Committee will meet tonight at 7:30 in the director's room at First Union National Bank.

The large planning committee, co-chaired by Mrs. Pat Plonk and Howard Johnson, has asked members to attend with ideas for discussion on projects to be planned for the city during the coming celebration.

This will mark the first planning session by the local committee since it's organization almost one month ago. Members of the committee met with Lawrence Wheeler, state bicentennial chairman, last week to hear guidelines being followed by other communities in project planning.

## Condemnation Suits Filed

The state attorney general's office has filed suits in Gaston County Civil Court to find known and unknown heirs to 46 acres of land on Crowders Mountain formerly owned by Rebecca Brevard and son, Hilliard, of Kings Mountain.

The state issued the condemnation suits in efforts to add the 46 acres to the Crowders Mountain State Park, which opened in February.

The suits name 69 heirs, including Alma and Gaddis Partlow, Auterway and Lillian Floyd, Maggie Brevard Morgan and Grace Brevard Starr of Kings Mountain. Also James Crawford of Gastonia and Frank and Ruth Randleman of Belmont.

Defense attorneys and trial date have not been set.

## Griffin Drug Hit By Thief

An undetermined amount of cash and some priceless family heirlooms along with an undisclosed quantity of drugs were taken Tuesday night in a break-in and robbery at Griffin Drug Co.

Kings Mountain Police Chief William Roper said the break-in occurred sometime between 10 p. m. Tuesday and 9 a. m. Wednesday.

"The thief or thieves came in through the roof by ripping out an air vent and kicking through the ceiling of the second floor," Roper said. "Entry downstairs in the drug store was made by kicking a connecting door off the hinges."

The cash and heirlooms were taken from a safe in Wilson Griffin's office. Entry to the safe was made by "chiseling or ripping" the steel face plate from the door, removal of lock and workings from inside the door. Griffin said the 57-year-old safe was destroyed.

The drugs were taken from a cabinet after the doors were broken open.

Investigating officers, Chief Roper and Det. Sgt. Richard Reynolds, commented in their opinion the entry and robbery was the work of a professional or professionals.

Jim Woodward, with SBI Crime Lab is assisting in the investigation.

## Second Doctor For Grover

**GROVER** — Dr. Frederick Maurer of Ventura, Calif. will begin practice here in mid-July to fill the town's second and final vacancy.

Dr. Richard A. Hardeman of Miami, Fla. told town officials he would come to Grover to begin practice by September.

Charles Harry, who headed a search for two doctors to fill the town's needs following the announcement the local clinic would be without medical practitioners this summer, said,

"we've come to the end of a long, hard struggle" to get replacements for the two doctors who are leaving for other positions.

Dr. Maurer is a recent graduate of the University of Mexico. He has completed his internship in Canada and two year's residency practice in Peoria, Ill.

Local industry sponsored the search for new doctors and is providing medical facilities for the practitioners.

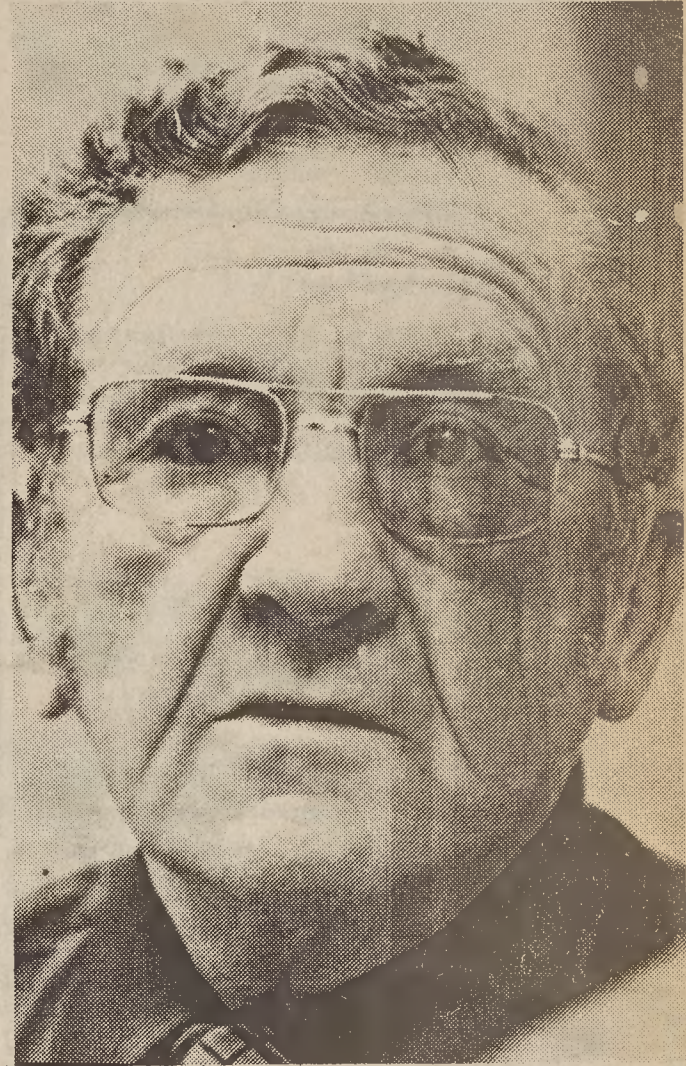


Photo By Tom McIntyre

**GAS SITUATION BAD** — W. D. Edwards, natural gas consultant for the city of Kings Mountain, explained last week just how bad the curtailment of natural gas will be next winter and advised large users to look for alternate fuel sources.

## Kiwanians Will Honor Joe Thomson

The Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club is sponsoring a "Joe Thomson Night" to honor the club's charter member.

The meeting is tonight at 6:45 at the Kings Mountain Woman's Club, E. Mountain St.

## Local Elections Board Instructs City Candidates

With the city election only 12 weeks distant, Luther Bennett, chairman of the board of elections, reminds that filing period for mayoral and city commissioner candidates opens at noon Aug. 12 and closes noon Sept. 5.

Meantime, citizens may register to vote or transfer by visiting registrars in the two Kings Mountain precincts — East and West Kings Mountain — or at the County Elections Board offices in Shelby. Bennett said names and addresses of registrars will be made public as soon as appointment of an East KM registrar is made. Sept. 8 is the final day to register to vote in the coming election. Candidates will follow this

policy in filing with Elections Board Secretary Betty Mercier, 902 Monroe Ave., Ph. 739-2192.

"Pursuant to Section 163-294.2 of the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina, each person offering himself as a candidate for election to any municipal office in municipalities whose election are non-partisan shall do so by filing a notice of candidacy with the Board of Elections. The notice of candidacy shall be either signed in the presence of the Chairman or Secretary of the Board of Elections, or signed and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgements who shall certify the notice under seal.

Staggered terms for mayor and commissioners will go into effect in the Oct. elections. If a run-off is required, the run-off election will be held Nov. 4.

The above described notice may be mailed to the Elections Board, but it must be received before the filing deadline regardless of the time it was deposited in the mail. The filing fee shall be set by the city governing board of not less than \$5 or more than one percent of the annual salary of the office sought unless one percent is less than \$5. The fee shall be paid to the Board of Elections at the time notice of candidacy is filed and the money turned over to the city treasurer."

Voters will elect a mayor for four years along with the top three vote polling commissioner candidates. The three low pollers will serve for two years. In 1977 the three low wards will run commissioner candidates for four year terms.

Citizens will go to the polls every two years, but will vote for only three commissioners. A mayoral candidate will seek office, after this October, again in 1979.

**One Day He  
Could Save  
Your Life....**

A native of Shelby, James Robinson has lived in Kings Mountain, 808 Rhodes Ave., since 1958. He is married to the former Frances Wilson of Shelby.

The Robinson have one daughter, Mrs. Mickey (Yvonne) Floyd and one grandson, Chris.

Jim earns his daily bread at Wix, Gastonia, and volunteers an almost equal amount of time as a member and officer with the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad.

Now serving as a lieutenant, Jim joined the squad seven years ago after "a friend invited me to attend a meeting. It got into my blood."

Jim spent four years in the U. S. Army and served in Korea and said doing rescue work is like being in the service. At first you might be scared, but once you're into it you get more used to the service.

"To me the scariest thing about rescue work, as far as I'm concerned, is being called on in assisting a mother in delivering her baby," Jim said. "So far I've always managed to get them to the hospital on time. But I suppose once I help with the first one, the next time it won't be so scary."

Jim said since joining the squad he has spent more time in a classroom than all of his education years put together and now it means more to him than it did then.

"I think the rescue squad offers a total service to the community," Jim said. "I like being a part of it. I think it makes a more well rounded citizen to become involved."