



Photo By Tom McIntyre

...BICENTENNIAL PLANNING — This large group of Kings Mountain Bicentennial committee members met last Thursday in the director's room at First Union National Bank to discuss projects for the city during the coming bicentennial celebration. Howard Jackson and Pat Plonk, co-chairpersons, presided over the meeting.

Bicentennial Projects For City Being Planned

Heritage music, a tour of homes, arts and crafts, restoration of an historic homeplace, a baby contest, movies of Revolutionary War events:

These were some of the ideas discussed by members of the Kings Mountain Bicentennial Committee last Thursday night. "This meeting was basically to discuss projects, get ideas, get some interest and participation started in planning our local Bicentennial celebration," said Howard Jackson, co-chairman of the committee.

Jackson and his co-chairperson, Pat (Mrs. John O.) Plonk, told the gathering in First Union National Bank's directors room that the committee was formed to serve for at least five years, until the actual celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain (Oct. 7, 1980), but that whether the same members will serve all five years is not known at this time.

"We have to begin working up some moneymaking projects

to finance these projects we decide on," Jackson said. "And our planning is not just for this year, but next year, too."

One of the moneymaking projects discussed was one of heritage music. This program would be about a two hour show featuring professional musicians to be held in John Gamble Stadium. The music would reach back two hundred years and move forward to today. Jackson said it should be a program to appeal to all tastes in music.

One project already scheduled is for Oct. 7, 1975, at Barnes Auditorium and that is a production of the musical "1776" featuring a traveling repertory company. The company will come to Kings Mountain from performances in Hilton Head, S. C.

Committee members were asked to write proposals on various projects to be discussed at a luncheon meeting at the Royal Villa today.

Qualifications Questioned

Public Works Director Under Citizens Attack

GARY STEWART Staff Writer

Kings Mountain public works superintendent Black came under heavy fire Monday's city board as numerous citizens charged black — told commissioners they felt Leonard qualified for the post.

promoted, said there were no applications from department employees and that the city needed a superintendent immediately. Leonard was the only applicant.

Several citizens claimed Leonard has been a "hindrance" to black employees. One woman said her son was

"left off" by Leonard because Leonard claimed he was "holding up the truck" on trash collections.

Citizens also expressed concern that blacks were not being given jobs. "When a black applies for a job, the first thing you want to know is 'what are your qualifications'

but you hire whites that aren't qualified," one woman said. Mrs. Sarah Manning told commissioners that at election time "you all come around and talked nice to us and we voted for you. Now, you do something for us. We

(Turn To Page 2A)

Other Increases Expected

Board Approves 9.6 Percent Gas Uppage

The city board of commissioners Monday night voted an immediate 9.6 percent increase to natural gas customers and voted to pass along further increases to the consumer, including a certain 6.7 rise Oct. 1.

The 9.6 percent increase will become effective with the August reading.

W. D. Edwards, city gas engineer and consultant, recommended the rate increases. He said the city had been absorbing increases and must raise rates to keep its income.

Edwards also told commissioners that Kings Moun-

tain can expect about the same natural gas allocation as last year. He said small industrial plants and residential customers will not have much cause to worry but large in-

dustrial plants will have some days next winter when they will be without natural gas.

In other business Monday,

(Turn To Page 2A)

Reward Offered For Info In Bridges Case

The city has offered a \$500 reward "for information leading to the arrest and conviction" of the hit-and-run driver who struck and seriously injured a Kings Mountain Rescue Squad member early Saturday morning while he was helping direct traffic during a massive power outage.

Meantime, Ned Bridges, 26, remains hospitalized in Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

According to police reports, shortly after midnight, Friday, a gold-colored car or truck heading East on King St. struck Bridges — knocking him 40 feet from where he was standing on Watterson St. There were no witnesses, said police, who said Bridges had told his wife he has no recollection of how the accident happened.

Bridges was wearing reflective night clothing at the time and was using a big battery-type flashlight to direct traffic in the streets blacked out by lightning — damaged circuits at 9:30 p. m.

Saturday night and most of Sunday members of the KM Rescue Squad kept a vigil while Bridges was in Intensive Care.

His teammates have also launched a Ned Bridges Fund

to help defray cost of mounting bills. Checks should be made payable to Ned Bridges Fund and mailed to First Union National Bank, Harris

(Turn To Page 2A)

Electrical Violations Are Found

Electrical violations are the major problems Codes Administrator Black Leonard is discovering while conducting a uniform city codes inspection in the downtown business district.

Crawford Murphy, architect for the KM Redevelopment Commission, is working with Leonard in compliance with a request from the downtown merchants group.

The inspection is expected to be completed tomorrow afternoon.

He also cited violations involving egress, such as doors. Leonard said he and Murphy are being well received. Their inspection is covering such areas, he said, as fire hazards, wiring, structural and general fix-up.

Leonard said he feels downtown merchants will comply with codes voluntarily.

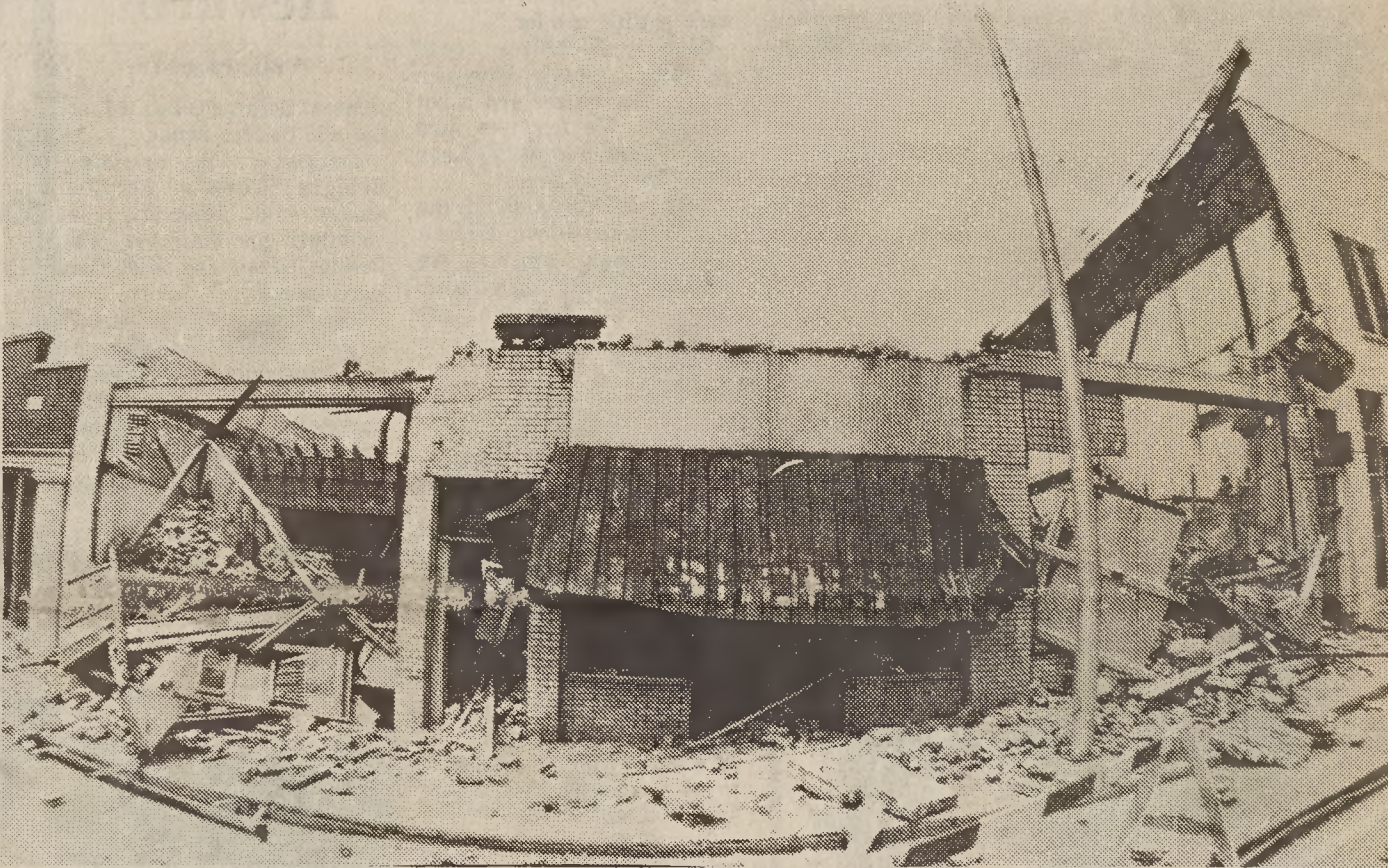


Photo By Tom McIntyre

STRUCTURE DEMOLITION — A wrecking crane on one side and a bulldozer on the other soon made rubble of three buildings between the Cox and Old Imperial Theatre buildings on W. Mountain St. last week. This was the first of 30 building sites due to be demolished by Bradley-Jenkins Enterprises under a KM Redevelopment Commission contract.

Demolition Begun In City

By TOM MCINTYRE Editor, Mirror-Herald

Bradley-Jenkins' crew moved in on W. Mountain St. late last Wednesday and by the next afternoon three buildings lay in rubble.

The first leg of a 30-structure demolition program was underway under the Kings Mountain Redevelopment project. The old Sterchi's warehouse on Cherokee St. was scheduled to fall at the beginning of this week.

Under the demolition contract all structures demolished must be cleared away before the next phase in the plan is to be undertaken.

Gene White, executive director of the redevelopment commission said that costs estimates are being compiled presently on construction of the pedestrian walk slated for the sites on W. Mountain St. The buildings demolished were the former Dellinger's Jewelry, Warlick and Ken's Snack Shop structures.

White said Bradley-Jenkins has a deadline of July 31 to have the first phases down and cleared away, but said, "I anticipate seeing the contractors already at work demolishing the old Bonnie mill and outbuildings on Gold St., on or before the July 31 date."

Last Monday Black Leonard and C. Crawford Murphy began on site inspections of downtown business structures, another part of the redevelopment of the downtown

area. Leonard, the city's public works director-codes administrator, and Murphy, an architect working for the redevelopment commission, were following up on a request of downtown merchants for guidelines in updating buildings not slated for demolition.

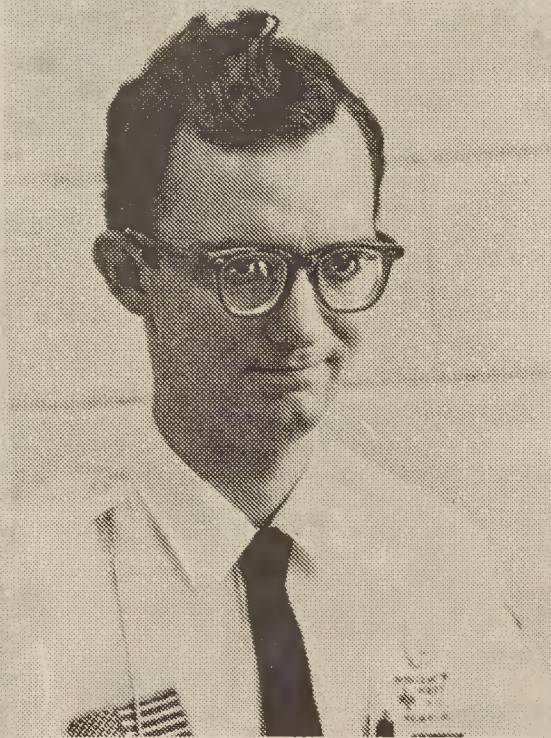
"The next move will be to have a general meeting with the architect and the merchants to discuss grade levels in the parking area off Cherokee St.," White said. "The architect is also supposed to have several recommendations on the uniform facade plan for the rear of business structures to give the merchants for consideration."

Water Safety Offered

A 21-hour Red Cross advanced water safety and rescue course is scheduled for August for Kings Mountians.

The course is open to persons 15 and older, according to Lyn Cheshire, water safety instructor. At this point the locale is not decided as to the city pool, Moss Lake or a combination of both.

Anyone interested in enrolling in this course is asked to contact Cheshire (739-8572) no later than Aug. 1.



MARK HUGHES

One Day He Could Save Your Life....

Mark Hughes, Kings Mountain native who joined the KM Rescue Squad two and one-half years ago, said "The only mistake I made was not joining earlier."

Hughes said he likes helping people, and adds "It's nice to know you're needed."

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hughes of the Dixon Community and married to the former Patty McDaniel, Grover native, he said he wishes he had more time to give to the Rescue Squad. Two members of his family have utilized the services of the KMRS the past six months and they share with Mark the importance of this work.

Said Mark, "I used to think everyone was crazy to get involved in something like this without pay but that opinion soon changes after you become involved."

Mark's wife is behind her husband 100 percent. They live in the Dixon Community and are members of the Antioch Baptist Church of Grover.

A licensed ham radio operator, Mark sold most of his equipment when he joined the team so that he could devote 12-18 hours each week with the Squad, his main interest.

Service Manager for Shiflet & Dickson of Gastonia, he is a member of the KM National Guard and is a graduate of KMHS and Gaston College.

Sub-Station Damages Cause Power Failure

Electrical crews all night Friday and Saturday to restore power after lightning struck sub-stations at the Allen Sub-station on Gaston St. and 70 percent of the city was without power for 10 hours.

The second time this that the city's power lines were hard hit by lightning was the first thunderstorm accompanied by flood-

estimated at three and one-half inches during a 60-minute period.

Light rain was still falling late Tuesday.

Supt. Leonard said the whole city was without power for over an hour Wednesday afternoon, and in some sections the outage was longer. Tree limbs had fallen across lines in some parts of town and city crews worked until after midnight.

Mr. Leonard said catch basins just couldn't take the heavy rain.

No accidents were reported during the Wednesday storm but a KM rescue squad member, Ned Bridges, 26, was seriously hurt Friday night when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver as he directed traffic after the power went off.