

KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

"Cleveland County's Modern Newsweek"

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA 28086 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1975

VOL. 86 NO. 42

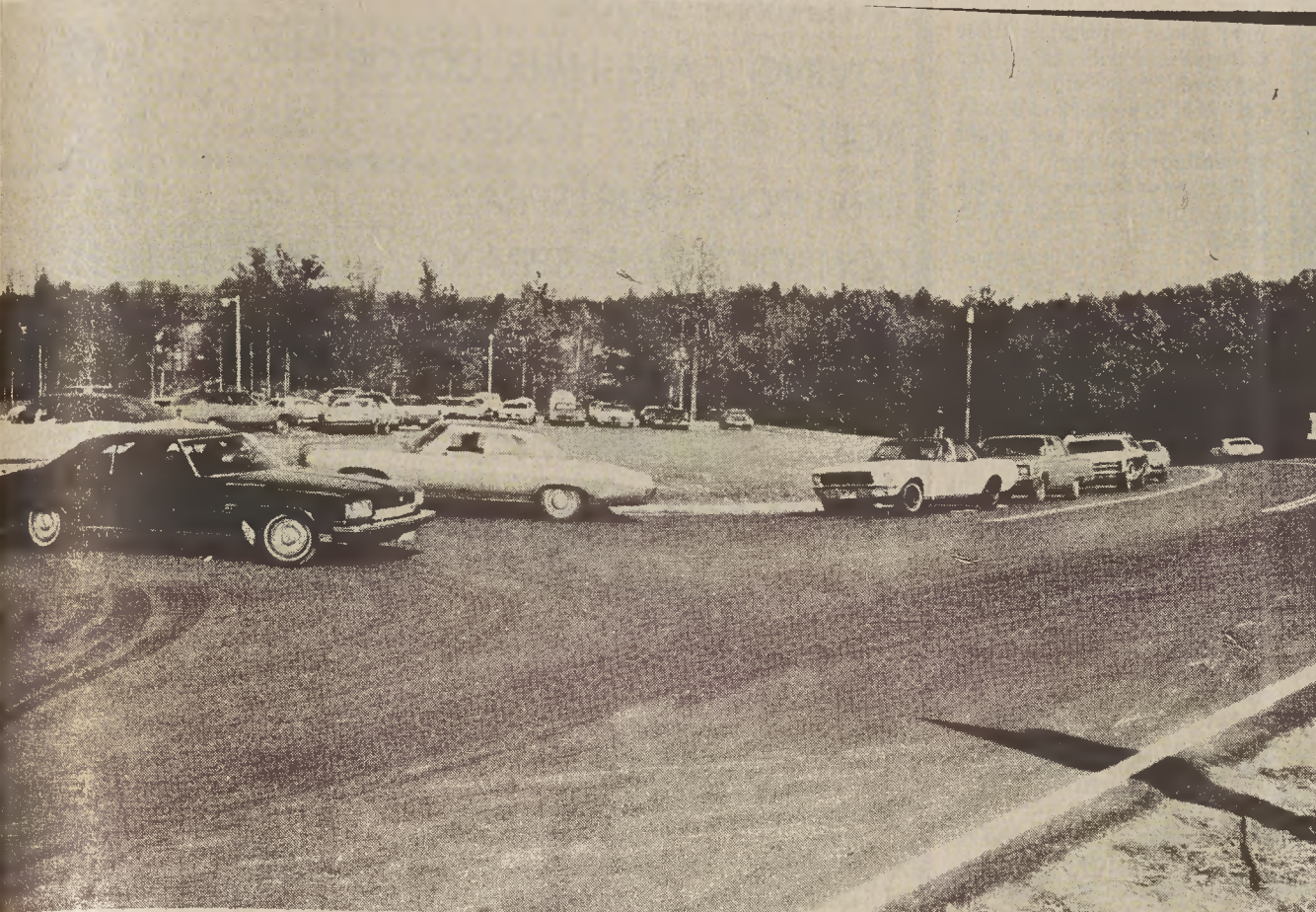


Photo By Gary Stewart

IN AND OUT — This turn is the entrance-exit for Kings Mountain Junior High. The driveway is at the top of a long curving hill, which has been the subject of concern by some

Kings Mountians. It is almost a blind curve for motorists leaving the school, but highway officials say it is safe if the speed limit is obeyed.

Candidates Warned Of Sidewalk Talk

Five of six candidates for two school trustee seats up for grabs Nov. 4 were warned that "making sidewalk decisions" are the pitfalls in which new board members "sometimes fall."

The speaker was Cecil Gilliatt of Shelby, national president of the School Board Association and a board of education member in Shelby for 22 years.

Mr. Gilliatt led a workshop for the candidates following Monday night's regular board of education meeting at the invitation of Supt. Donald Jones and the board.

Pointing out that a board of education is a "purely policy-making body", he advised that members should listen and make decisions later "inside and not outside" the board meeting.

"Never be guilty," said Gilliatt, "in meddling in the administrative affairs of the school". "Hiring a good superintendent is the major responsibility of a school board. He (the superintendent) makes recommendations and the board adopts or rejects them."

"Lines of communications must always be open between the school board and the administrator", he declared. "If you don't like something your superintendent does, tell him about it. Don't air your problems outside the board room."

Mr. Gilliatt recalled how he learned "the hard way" 22 years ago as a brand new school trustee and minus a good handbook.

To question by Kyle Smith, Gilliatt replied that a good answer to a person wanting to know your plans if elected, "We're going to make this the best system in North Carolina."

"If any of you have an axe to grind, it's better you stay off the board," Gilliatt declared.

Other questions directed by the candidates concerned policy on dismissal of a teacher, structure of the board of education, hiring practices, and the school calendar.

To questions by Herman Greene, Supt. Jones explained that the two school trustees elected next month will represent the corporate limits of the city to succeed Mauney and Herndon but all citizens of the school district, which also

includes Bethware and Grover, can vote their choice of two of the six in the running.

Polling places will be: East Kings Mountain, KM Community Center; West Kings Mountain, National Guard Armory; Grover Rescue Squad Building; and Bethware School.

To question by Herman Greene, Supt. Jones pointed out that an act of the legislature spells out the number of people and staggered terms on the board of education, two representing the outside district, Bethware and Grover, and three from inside the city.

Replying to Kyle Smith, Supt. Jones said that the board at an organizational meeting after the swearing-in ceremonies elects a chairman and vice-chairman. George H. Mauney is currently chairman and P. A. Francis of Grover is vice-chairman.

Other candidates present for the meeting were Marion (Mrs. George B.) Thomasson, Charles F. Mauney and William Orr. June (Mrs. Joe) Lee had sent regrets stating that she would be attending a state hospital auxiliary meeting out-of-the-city.

Supt. Jones suggested the candidates obtain a copy of the "N. C. School Laws", he termed "our Bible" and gave each a copy of the N. C. Handbook for board of education members.

Congratulating Supt. Jones and county and Shelby city administrators for their ability to "work together on problems", Mr. Gilliatt said that the question of county-wide school consolidation "bothers me" as well as "court-ordered busing".

Chairman Mauney quipped,

(Please Turn To Page 2A)



Photo By Lib Stewart

SCHOOL TRUSTEES HONORED — Retiring Kings Mountain Board of Education members George H. Mauney, left, and James E. Herndon, right, were honored by the Kings

Mountain Unit Association of Classroom Teachers at Monday night's district board of education meeting. Presenting plaques to the trustees is Steve Wells, ACT officer.

ACT Honors Retiring School Board Trustees

Retiring school trustees George H. Mauney, chairman of the board, and James E. Herndon, Jr. were honored with plaques for long service at Monday night's meeting of the Kings Mountain District Board of Education.

The engraved plaques were presented by the KM Unit of the Association of Classroom Teachers. Making the presentation was Steve Wells.

Mauney was cited for his outstanding contributions to the teachers and children of the KM Schools from 1963-1975 and for his leadership as chairman of the board for the past 10 years.

Herndon was cited for his outstanding contributions to the teachers and children of the KM Schools from 1963-75 and for his leadership as chairman two years during 1963-65.

Neither men are seeking re-election. They will complete their term of office Nov. 30.

Both schoolmen expressed appreciation to the ACT Unit and applauded their co-members on the board and Administrator Donald Jones for good service to education in the community.

Mr. Mauney commented that he had missed only one meeting during his long tenure on the board of education.

Hill, Blind Curve Danger?

'No Problem If Speed Limit Obeyed'-Mauney

By GARY STEWART
Staff Writer

A hill that can't be seen over and a blind curve in the road at Kings Mountain Junior High School are raising some concern among local parents who are finding it hard to get in and out of the school entrance at dismissal times.

Several parents have phoned the Mirror-Herald during the past several weeks and KMJHS Principal Fred Withers said he has also received some complaints.

The school system has no control over the road layout and Ken Mauney of the Highway Department says the road is safe as long as motorists abide by the 35 miles per hour speed limit.

The road doesn't present too much of a problem except when school is being dismissed. A motorist approaching the school entrance can easily stop his car should another car pull out from the school, providing he is within the speed limit.

But there is a severe problem during school dismissal when traffic is usually backed up from the school entrance all the way back to the blind hill near the Kings Mountain School tennis courts.

Withers says the persons who have complained to him mentioned the problems of "getting in and out off the road and the dangers of it."

"They want to know why we don't have policemen out there directing traffic," he said. "I can't assign policemen and they (the police department) don't have policemen they can put all over town."

Withers said he has discussed the problem with Chief of Police William Roper. "They just have so many policemen," Withers said, "and they need them more at the elementary schools."

Roper was on vacation and could not be reached for comment.

Kings Mountain High School has a traffic director, Bill Young, who is a teacher there, but Withers said Young volunteers his time.

"So far, I haven't had anybody to volunteer here," Withers said, "and I certainly don't intend to assign a school teacher to direct traffic."

Supt. Don Jones said the school board "tried to get the highway department to shave off that hill and even the road out but they said it was safe."

Mauney said the highway department has never had any complaints about the road.

"It's a lot better than it was," he commented. "We at least widened it and made turning lanes into the school. If the people drive at the appropriate speed limits it should be no problem."

"I'll admit it's not the best road in the world," he continued. "It's just a county road that's suited to the particular terrain here. We have a lot of roads like that."

"It's posted for a 35 miles per hour speed limit and you can stop a car driving 35 in the length of the car. I don't see any problem if the people are obeying the speed limit."

County Delaying Approval

Cleveland County Commissioners have received bids on construction of a sewer line to serve Eaton Corporation and the Grover area, but have delayed final word on acceptance until final word is on a \$300,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

The commissioners have been urged to accept the bids on the larger line to service southeast Cleveland County in the future. Hickory Sand Co., which built the water line, submitted the low base bid of \$842,463.54. The low electric bid of \$46,406 was submitted by National Electric Co. The total low bid is \$898,869.54.

Financing of the larger line would include \$224,717.13 in State Clean Water Bonds, \$300,000 from EDA and \$374,152.41 in county funds.

Set Clock Back An Hour

Before you retire this Saturday night be sure to turn your clocks back one hour. Daylight Saving Time will end officially at 2 a. m. Sunday and for the remainder of the winter and until spring we will be observing Eastern Standard Time.

The Uniform Time Act of 1966 provided that on the last Sunday in April clocks would be set ahead one hour, then turned back one hour at 2 a. m. the last Sunday in October.

So, if you hit the rack at 11 p. m. Saturday, turn the clock back to 10 p. m. and when you get up Sunday you'll be right with the world — except for Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, The Virgin Islands, Arizona and 80 counties in Indiana. These places do not observe Daylight Saving Time.

Bloodmobile Here Monday

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will again visit Kings Mountain Mon., Oct. 27 from 11 a. m. until 4:30 p. m. at the community center. This visit the goal has been set for 200 pints of blood.

Co-chairmen Lyn Cheshire and Bill Grissom said this trip the bloodmobile will set up facilities in the gym at the community center and that additional personnel would be here that day to cut down on the waiting period for donors.

Nursery facilities and transportation at the center will also be provided during this visit. For transportation to and from the center Oct. 27 call 739-3549.

Changes Studied By Fox

City Engineer Dennis Fox is studying requests for changes in the initial plan for the off-street parking lot on Cherokee St.

Detailed blue prints of the engineering drawing of the proposed 76-space lot were left with merchants and businessmen connected with the lot location for a week for study and suggestions.

Fox said all suggestions were requested no later than last Friday by 5 p. m. When the deadline passed Fox said he, personally, had heard from only one businessman, but that Dean McGinnis of the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission had gathered about four other suggestions from the downtown merchants.

"The five suggestions had to do with grade levels, location of the Dempsey Dumpster cash receptacles, planting of trees along the sidewalks near the backs of the buildings, locations and depths for utility lines, electric and gas lines and non-permanent coverings for those lines," Fox said.

The engineer said the trees along the sidewalks have been

(Please Turn To Page 2A)

Supreme Court Paddling Decision Against Teacher

By TOMMcINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

A fry-cook in a local cafe was overheard Wednesday morning commenting to a teacher "I guess you teachers are happy now the Supreme Court has given you back the right to beat the hell out of students again."

According to Dean Westmoreland, a teacher at Kings Mountain Senior High and President of the North Carolina Association of Educators, the U. S. Supreme Court ruling has done the opposite.

"Newspaper headlines have created the impression that the court has approved paddling children," Westmoreland said today. "In actuality, the court has upheld a lower court ruling which, in effect, makes it extremely difficult for a teacher to legally paddle a student."

Judge Braxton Craven's decision stipulates that North Carolina law which allows corporal punishment of children is constitutional, but only if stringent rules are followed.

Westmoreland said "The rules are so strict that it is my opinion that most teachers will hereafter refrain from spanking for fear of a liability suit."

The NCAE official said the rules announced by Judge Craven, who was considering the ruling of a three-judge federal court which had decided a Guilford County spanking case, included a stipulation that corporal punishment can be used only after other lesser forms of punishment have been tried and then only after certain procedures designed to assure the student due process have been followed.

The due process requirements outlined by the court include:

The student must be forewarned of the behavior that will result in corporal punishment.

Another school official must be present when corporal punishment is administered.

Parents who request a written explanation should be given one.

Westmoreland said the required procedures leave many unanswered questions for teachers, the major one of which is what constitutes "forewarning." He said an official of the Institute of

Government in Chapel Hill has questioned whether it would be adequate forewarning to tell a kindergarten child, for example, on the day before administering the punishment.

"North Carolina teachers should be fully aware that failure to follow the guidelines outlined by the court could result in personal damage suits being filed against the teacher," Westmoreland said.

The NCAE has publicized to members the Guilford County case and have urged them to seek alternatives to paddling.

"As usual, the teacher is left holding the bag in this whole matter," Westmoreland said.

One such alternative as spoken of by NCAE officials was related to this reporter. A teacher in one of the local schools thwarted the attempts of a student to bully smaller children out of their lunch money by taking the student aside and telling him he would be expected to fork over a dollar a day. Of course the teacher had no idea of collecting money from the student and that bit of psychology worked. Now, we are told, the student is pulling his own weight and refraining from riding roughshod over his fellow student.