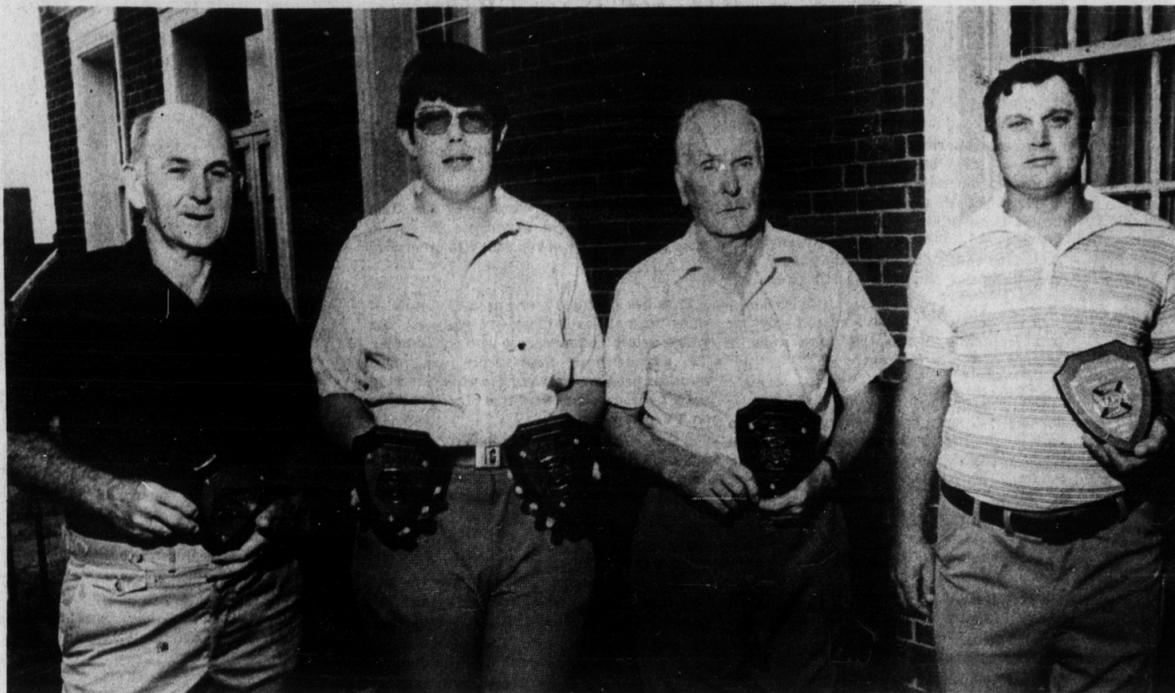


KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD

15c



HONORED FIREFIGHTERS—The Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department held its first annual awards presentation last Friday at Jackson's Cafeteria, Shelby. Earning awards were (left to right) Stokes Wright for Outstanding Service; Tim Griffin, Rookie of The Year and Most Fire Calls Answered; Howard McKee, Most Fire Calls Answered (a tie); and William Davis, Oak Grove Chief, for Fireman of The Year.

Photo by Tom McIntyre

Lithium Building European Plant

Lithium Corporation of America will construct a catalyst plant in the United Kingdom at Broomborough near Liverpool in the northwest of England.

Harold Andrews, president of LCA, said the expansion is necessary in order to supplement existing catalyst output at its Bessemer City operations which are now operating above rated capacity. The catalyst products find wide and growing use in the manufacture of specialty rubbers and plastics.

According to Andrews, the European site was selected for the expansion because Europe is a large and growing market now served from the US under competitive freight and EEC duty constraints. The specific site in England was selected on the basis of transport flexibility, expansion capabilities and financing considerations.

LCA has formed a UK subsidiary, Lithium Corporation of Europe, to produce and market the alkyl lithium catalyst and coproduct chemical called lithium chloride. Lithium metal, the principal starting material for the catalyst will be supplied to the UK plant from LCA's Bessemer City operations. The plant

is scheduled to start up in the third quarter of 1980 and to employ about 20 persons. Total investment in the new company is estimated to be \$3.5 million with approximately \$1.0 million provided by UK regional development and interest relief grants.

The European plant will complement the previously announced \$20 million expansion in Gaston County which Andrews said will add 30 percent capacity to the existing North Carolina basic lithium production facilities.

Lithium Corporation of America is a subsidiary of Gulf Resources and Chemical of Houston, Texas, and is the largest producer of lithium chemicals in the world. It markets over 50 lithium products to companies engaged in the manufacture of greases, aluminum, glass and ceramics, air conditioning equipment, dyes, pharmaceuticals, batteries, rubber, polymers and electronic components.

All of LCA's products are now being produced from its integrated mining, extract ion and production facilities in Gaston County, also the location of one of the largest known lithium reserves in the world.

At Oak Grove VFD

Firemen Cited

Four Oak Grove Community volunteer firemen were cited for top honors Friday night at the annual Awards Banquet at Jackson Cafeteria in Shelby.

William Davis, Chief of the 30-member volunteer department, received a surprise plaque as "Fireman of the Year". Tim Griffin was voted "Rookie of the Year", Stokes Wright received the "Outstanding Service Award" and Fireman Tim Griffin and Howard McKee won plaques for answering the most calls during the year, a total of 36 each.

Commendations from Governor James B. Hunt in the form of certificates were presented to Don Griffin, Tim Griffin, Donny Griffin, Jerry Blanton, Jerry Shull, Stokes Wright, Howard McKee, Tim Bolin, Ray Blair, Moffet Scism, Jack Scism, Gilbert Patterson, Mack Hopper, Herman Wright, William Davis, and Charles Grigg which

recognized their "courageous action as volunteers" in the Shelby fire disaster of May 25th in which five people lost their lives.

Fire Chief Williams Davis also commended the fire department, organized 11 years ago in the Oak Grove Community, and termed the Unit "best in the county". "We can't do this job alone, we work together", he stated, as he presented the awards which were handsome engraved plaques. All firemen voted in the competition for the honors, which was a first-time recognition ceremony which firemen said they plan to continue annually.

Members of the Kings Mountain Traffic and Safety Committee met Tuesday night to hear preliminary details from a traffic study underway in the central business district.

Fred Rosendahl of the N.C. Department of Transportation Urban Planning Division, municipal engineering section reaffirmed that there are traffic and parking problems in the downtown area.

Rosendahl suggested the city consider realignment of East and West Gold St. at the Battleground Ave. intersection to eliminate the offset situation. The suggestion did

not include either a bridge or underpass in connection with crossing the railroad tracks.

City Engineer Alvin Moretz said Rosendahl will return to Kings Mountain next week to oversee synchronizing traffic signals in the CBD. Rosendahl suggested the city consider upgrading all traffic signals to meet federal standards.

The preliminary study, which will be completed in about two months, also indicates the city should consider improving East Gold St. from Battleground to York Rd. and that the York Rd. intersection be improved as soon as possible. Rosendahl said Gold St. is heavily used now and projections indicate the street will be even more heavily traveled.

from vehicles backing out into oncoming traffic.

His report also indicates that parking in some areas gets 90 percent use and 40 percent in other areas, giving an average of 50 percent usage overall in the CBD. Rosendahl also suggested the city control the truck traffic in the parking areas, which currently reduces the usage of the parking lots by other vehicles.

The committee also heard that accident printouts indicate the city's most dangerous intersection to be W. King and Cansler Sts. The report even indicates that on any Monday between 3-5 p.m. during April the chances of accidents there are greatly increased.

Rosendahl said the study will be finished by October and will be presented to the city commissioners at that time.

Committee Hears Update

Traffic, Parking Study Underway

Legion Member Drive Begins

The Otis Greene American Legion Post 155 will kickoff its annual membership drive at the post Sat., July 28 from 1-5 p.m.

Charles Hampton, membership chairman, invites current members,

former members and potential members to come by Saturday for free refreshments.

Former post employees will return to serve visitors.

Rosendahl also reported on the parking problems he has studied so far and made recommendations to the committee. He said the angled parking on Battleground should be eliminated to prevent accidents

Agenda Heavy With Rezoning Requests Monday

Public hearings on rezoning requests consumed the bulk of Monday night's city board meeting.

Two items, which drew citizens from Canterbury Rd. when being considered by the city planning and zoning commission, went quietly by the boards Monday.

The first was rezoning a portion of the Paul Mauney property bordering Canterbury Rd. and Hwy. 74 from light to heavy industry. The board approved the request which will allow the outside storage of metal fabricated parts and raw materials stock.

No delegation appeared at Monday's meeting and during the brief public hearing the board heard no one speak either for or against the matter.

The second item, a request from Rufus Thomas to rezone his Canterbury Rd. property from R-20 to light industry, was tabled until the August 27 meeting.

Thomas' request was to allow him to make addition to his machine shop. This item drew more comment than the first during the P&Z meeting and that board had recommended that the city commissioners deny the request. Monday night Mayor John Moss told the board that Gastonia attorneys J.B. Garland and Joe Roberts, representing Thomas, had requested the matter be tabled until August 17 or longer. The commissioners agreed to table.

Following other public hearings, the board voted to approve requests for rezoning from Neisler Brothers, Inc., Mrs. Peggy Guin and M.E. White.

Neisler Brothers, Inc. requested a change from R-10 to light industry about eight acres fronting on Margrace Rd. The property contains a former store, a dwelling house, wood and coal sheds. The former

store building will be renovated for use as a machine shop.

Mrs. Guin's request was to rezone 403 York Rd. from NB (Neighborhood Business) to R-8 (residential) in order to add onto her home.

M.E. White's request was to rezone 26.16 acres on N. Cansler St. from R-20 to GB (General Business). The property borders the Kings Mountain Mica Mine property and a former city landfill just beyond the city limits.

The planning and zoning board had recommended all three be approved.

In other action Monday, the commissioners:

—Approved signing a lease-purchase agreement with Auctioneers, Inc. to furnish equipment for the Governmental Services Facilities Center (City Hall);

—Approved advertizing for bids for one air compressor for use in the city's gas department;

—Approved authorizing liability insurance for city officials and law enforcement officers through the state coverage program.

On WCU

Dean's List

Angella Bumgarner, Mary S. Goode, Sherry O. Maddox, Frank G. Maner and James B. Payseur of Kings Mountain and Charles W. Patterson and Virginia B. Patterson of Grover have been named to the dean's list at Western Carolina University for the spring semester.

Bethlehem

Celebrates

Anniversary

Bethlehem Baptist Church, third oldest church in the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, will celebrate its 137th anniversary at Homecoming Day services Sun. Aug. 5th, with special services.

The church was organized July 16, 1842 with 26 members. The church membership roster now totals 498 members.

Special morning services will be culminated with a picnic-style luncheon at the noon hour.

KM School

Board Will

Meet Monday

The Kings Mountain Board of Education will meet in special session Mon., July 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Supt. William Davis said the meeting will be for educators to set salary schedules for non-certified personnel; establish lunch prices for the 1979-80 school year; take action on employment of new personnel; and other business management matters.

The regular monthly meetings of the board will begin August 13 and continue each Second Monday night at 7:30 throughout the school year.

At the August meeting, Davis said the focus will be toward instructional matters and programs.



Photo by Tom McIntyre

PRESENTATION—Ralph Goforth (center) presents Rev. and Mrs. James Sanders Jr. with plaques honoring the Kings Mountain natives for their 15 years of service as pastor and pianist at Bethany Baptist Church in Grover. Bethany has been Rev. Sanders' first

and only pastorate since he became an ordained minister. The presentation, made Sunday morning during services, also included two car-loads of gifts from the church congregation.