



Mike Loveless speaks at postal stamp service...

## Postal Card Cancellation Ceremony Held On Tuesday

"This is our moment in history and a great Tuesday morning in history."

The statement was made by KM Postmaster Fred Weaver at a fifth Bicentennial Series commemorative postal card dedication service at 10 a.m. in B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Weaver's remarks were echoed by platform speakers and guests throughout a day full of activities on the battle anniversary.

Gerald F. Merna of Washington, D.C., executive assistant to the Postmaster General, was in the city to dedicate this unique piece of postal stationery, offer congratulations to the city celebration committee, the National Park Service, and the Kings Mountain Postoffice. He also congratulated Postmaster Weaver who he said was 24th in line of succession to June Abernathy, who was appointed the first postmaster of Kings Mountain in 1837. Merna also took the occasion to present a stamp album containing the first commemorative card to local officials and visiting dignitaries and said he would hand deliver a copy to President Carter. "I'll tell him what he missed," he said.

Describing the mountaineers as "tough, hardy, stout, brave,

impoverished," the speaker struck a familiar chord when he talked of his experience in service with personal memories of names affixed to weapons. The mountaineers also labeled their rifles as "hot lead and sweet lips," he said.

Merna said the designer of the new card, David Blossom, has effectively made the viewer feel he or she was at the scene and captured the atmosphere of that fierce struggle.

Prior to the address by Merna, Miss Elizabeth McGill, recipient of the DAR Good Citizenship Award and a student at Erskine College, recounted the Battle of Kings Mountain in a vivid oratory and KM National Park Supt. Andrew Loveless made remarks. Mayor John Henry Moss, Celebration chairman, recognized a large number of distinguished guests from the five-state celebration area and a Color Guard presented the colors. Rev. Robert E. Boggan Jr. gave the invocation.

Prior to the opening of the First Day of Issue Ceremonies, the KMSHS Band, under the direction of Donald Deal, presented a program of patriotic and religious music. The KMSHS Chorale and Ensemble, under the direction of Gene Bumgardner, sang the National

Anthem and presented an American Trilogy of familiar songs, "Dixie," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "All My Trials," to the delight of the audience attending.

Among special guests were Congressman Jim Broyhill, General William C. Westmoreland, David Crawford, British Consul General, Joe Brown, regional director of National Park Service, Robert L. Collins, president of Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Senator J. Ollie Harris, Senator Helen Rhyne Marvin, Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Dalmus, representing the state Legion auxiliary, National Vice Commander Ralph Godwin of Mississippi, representing the American Legion, and members of the Carolinas Bicentennial committees and representatives of the Park system, Miss North Carolina Janet Ward Black, as well as representatives from the five state area planning the 200th Celebration.

Mrs. D.F. Hord, whose husband, the late Dr. Hord, KM dentist, suggested a commemorative stamp of the famous battle, was recognized on the platform and was presented a stamp album from Mr. Merna, along with his acknowledgement of her late husband's efforts.

## Five States Represented

From 1A

freedom, liberty and independence as they did at Kings Mountain."

"We like to make our own history and that's what distinguishes us as Americans. You are making history at Kings Mountain today," said Hunt, who delivered the stirring address from a red, white and blue decorated platform filled with dignitaries from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia and an audience filled with many descendants of heroes at the Oct. 7, 1780 Battle of Kings Mountain. "I'm optimistic about the future of this country," said Hunt.

"This is a great day in Kings Mountain as we recognize the heroic great Patriots of a march that ended with the Battle of Kings Mountain. Some historians say that battle, in which the American Rebels defeated Maj. Patrick Ferguson's troops before Cornwallis, was the turning point of the American Revolution.

Governor Hunt pointed with pride to the establishment of the Overmountain Victory Trail signed into law by the President on Sept. 8th this year. That march has been developed into an annual social and cultural function in five states and participated by thousands who live near the trails.

"That dedication earned with the blood and dedication of your forefathers helped create the America we know today."

"Your reenactment of this important turning point in history will become even more valuable to your children and grandchildren as the years go by. This celebration this week has taught them where they came from and how independence and liberty came about in this country. It's very appropriate," said the Governor.

The Governor, alluding to the world situation of unrest, called for a stronger national policy on defense.

Senator J. Ollie Harris of Kings Mountain gave the welcome and recalled the great celebration at the battlefields in 1930 when President Hoover came to town. "That was a great celebration. But today's is just as great," he said.

Senator Helen Marvin Rhyne of Gastonia presented a number of dignitaries including: Rep. Jack Hunt, Rep. Edith Lutz, Rep. David Bumgardner, Mrs. Joyce Cashion, Congressman and Mrs. Jim Broyhill, Former Mayors Kelly Dixon and Tom Fulton, Mayor and Mrs. John Henry Moss, City Commissioners Jim Childers, Humes Houston, Corbet Nicholson, Norman King, Bill Grissom and Jim Dickey. Dr. Larry Kice, director of Archives and History, General of the Army William C. Westmoreland, honorary chairman and parade marshal, N.C. Adjutant General Ingram, Gen. Carl D. Walker of Tennessee, National Vice Commander Godwin of Tennessee, of the American Legion, State

Legion Commander Fred Corbett of Charlotte, State Auxiliary President Virginia Dalmas of Valdese, and representatives of the DAR, patriotic groups and descendants of battle heroes at Kings Mountain.

Mrs. Larry Wood sang the National Anthem, accompanied by a U.S. Marine Band from Camp Lejeune, the invocation was given by Rev. Robert Boggan and the benediction was said by Rev. M.L. Campbell.

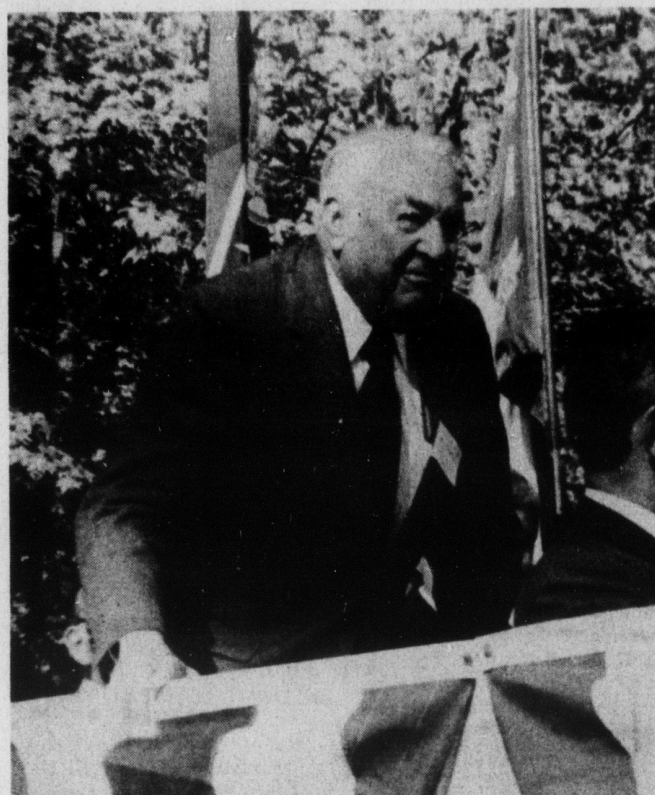
Mayor John Henry Moss, general chairman, welcomed the crowd and echoed the Governor's statement that this is a great day for Kings Mountain.

The weatherman smiled approvingly on Tuesday's parade and onlookers sat on the streets in short shirt sleeves to view a red, white and blue display of floats, marching bands, pretty girls, including Miss North Carolina and Miss South Carolina, and military bands. About 50 exhilarated Overmountain men joined the parade route at one point but did not make the hour long journey to the stadium because program delays would have prevented their arrival at the National Military Park at 3 p.m. The marchers left the parade route and boarded Military Park buses to the Park.

School students and numerous Kings Mountain employees of business enjoyed a holiday Tuesday, much to the delight of the kids who rode on floats and participated in many events of the day long activities.



Luncheon at Kings Mountain Senior High



Senator Sam Ervin attends park ceremony...



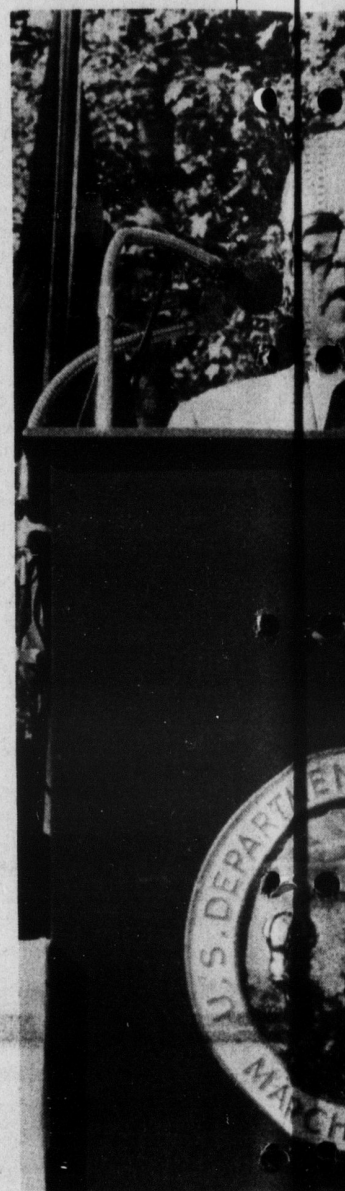
Overmountain men arrive

at KM National Park...



Secretary Andrus places

wreath on monument...



Bradley Morrah, emcee



Gerald Merna speaks at postal



Bill Stronik displays r given in memory of b