

# Mounties Number 1

Heag & Sons  
Book Bindery, Inc.  
Springport, Mich. 49284

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers have been voted the number one 3-A basketball team in North Carolina in the final Associated Press Poll of the 1980-81 season.

The Mountaineers, 24-1 overall, climbed into the top position after scoring three impressive victories in the Southwestern 3-A Conference tournament last week.

North Davidson, the season-long leader, dropped to third place after losing its last two ballgames.

Durham Jordan, 21-4, which occupied the number one spot in the final poll last year, finished number two. Jordan lost to R-S Central in last year's state championship game.

This is the first time the Mountaineers have ever finished the season ranked as the number one team in the state in any sport.

Coach John Blalock's charges were unranked the first half of the season but were voted the number 15 position following their 69-67 win over R-S Central on January 6. They jumped into the fifth position following their second victory over the Hilltoppers on February 6 and climbed to the number two position last week.

The Mounties begin play in the District Tournament in Mooresville tonight. Details are on page 3-A.

Thursday

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

### Wall Damage Reported

By GARY STEWART  
Co-Editor

The City Board of Commissioners Monday night awarded a bid of \$51,540 to BDF Construction Company of Kings Mountain for wall restoration in the downtown redevelopment area.

The board learned, though, that its cost would run more

than that after representatives of one of the downtown businesses appeared before the board and told of seepage problems in their building caused by the destruction of another building next door.

Allen and Bob Myers, owners of Myers Printing Company on Mountain Street, said city

workers cracked their wall, known in the restoration project as the "Church Wall," several years ago when they leveled the old Grigg Garage next door.

According to the Myers brothers, city workers used a front end loader to carry off debris from the Grigg Garage site, and used their wall as a

backstop.

The result, they said, was a huge crack in their wall which allows rain water to seep through the building, and in wet weather, Bob Myers said, he cannot shut the door of his darkroom.

"We reported the problem to Gene White, and Gene said he would work on it and try to get something straightened out," Allen Myers said.

White, who at that time was director of the Redevelopment Commission, which no longer exists, acknowledged that he was aware of the situation and suggested that the city have a "pre-construction conference" with BDF, examine the wall, and "take whatever action is necessary."

But, Commissioner Jim Childers expressed displeasure that the Redevelopment Commission had not already taken care of the problem, and asked White why that body had not acted prior to its duties being assumed by the city. Several of the commissioners and Mayor John Moss told Myers they were not aware of the problem.

"We anticipated another building would go up," White said, "and decided not to do anything until the city decided."

"In the meantime," Childers said, "he (Myers) has suffered damages and the city is going to have to come along and pick up the tab for something the Redevelopment Commission should have paid for."

After another question by Childers, White said that Griffin Drug Store is also experiencing some problems but he did not

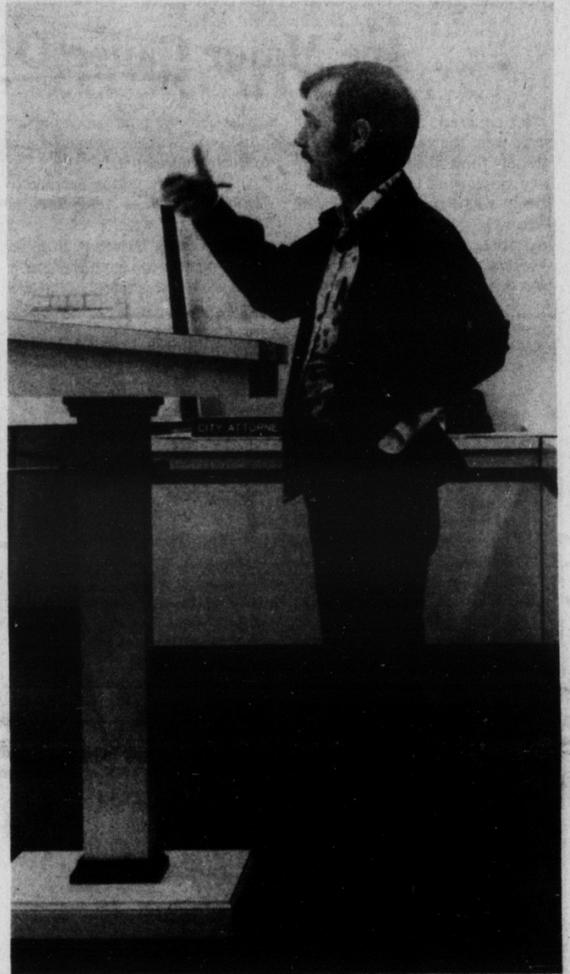


Photo by Gary Stewart

**QUESTIONS BOARD** - Allen Myers, partner in Myers Printing Company, takes the floor at Monday's City Board meeting to ask commissioners why nothing has been done to correct a leakage problem in his building, caused during demolition of an adjoining building.

### Gas Increases Again

By GARY STEWART  
Co-Editor

Natural gas users in Kings Mountain will see their second price increase in two months on March 1.

The City Board of Commissioners Monday night voted unanimously to pass along to customers price increases from its supplier, Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corporation.

Transco will increase the city's costs 68.93 cents per 1,000 cubic feet on March 1, Mayor John Henry Moss told the board.

That action will represent around a 16 percent increase in the bills of Kings Mountain citizens. As an example, Moss stated that a customer who used 10,000 cubic feet will see his bill increase from \$42.21 to \$49.11.

Moss called the board's action "unpleasant" but stressed that the city's action is a "passing along of exact costs" charged by the supplier.

The board increased natural gas by six cents per dekatherm at its January 12 meeting, retroactive to January 1.

Meanwhile, the board urges citizens to take advantage of the

city's meter reading classes which continue today at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the Governmental Services Facilities Center.

Walt Ollis, section supervisor for the Public Works Department, is conducting the classes on how to read gas, water and electric meters, and Ollis also offers tips on how to conserve energy.

Ollis, who used a weather chart covering the last four years, pointed out that December and January were colder than normal, causing extreme jumps in utility bills.

As an example, Ollis said a person using 20,000 cubic feet of natural gas in January of last year would have paid \$55.06 for it. This January, because of the below normal temperatures, the same person probably would have used 25,000 cubic feet and because of that increase, plus the four increases in costs from last year, his bill would have been \$105.

During the last year, he said, price per 100 cubic feet of natural gas has increased from

2,753 cents to 4,574 cents.

"We're trying to teach the citizens how to read the meters and be prepared for the bill they are going to get, plus help them see little ways to cut back in their usage," Ollis said.

Ollis gave the following tips on conserving energy:

- Insulate your home, regardless of the type of heat you use.

- Install storm windows and doors to cut the amount of draft.

- When the time comes that you must purchase a new furnace, buy an energy-efficient unit. It will cost more but the energy saved will make you money after four to five years. The average life of a furnace is 20 years.

- Insulate hot water tanks. The cost is less than \$20.

- When purchasing a new television, buy a solid state. It uses 20 percent less energy than the tube type TV.

- Make sure furniture is not placed over heat registers.

- Use fireplaces wisely. Unless a fireplace has an extremely

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### Building Drive Begins

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Co-Editor

Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association officers kicked off Tuesday night a building fund to house a "permanent" home for the two organizations.

President Larry Hamrick Jr. said the organizations are "sound and strong financially" and need a permanent home. The two groups moved twice last year and are now located in the old City Hall on Piedmont Avenue. The C of C and Merchants Association will be moving again when the old City Hall is refurbished to house the projected Law Enforcement Center.

Hamrick reported a four percent gain in the membership during the first two months of this year and said that the Chamber and Merchants are cooperating with the City of Kings Mountain in a marketing survey to determine what citizens want in the business district. "This is an important survey because we want to know what our customers need and want our people to trade at home with local merchants." The group will also begin publishing a new pamphlet to welcome newcomers to the city and suggest to them shopping areas.

President Hamrick called attention to the services of the credit bureau and said that com-

plete and accurate credit information is available locally to merchants.

Dr. Stan Hardin of Shelby, singer, impressionist, guitarist and actor, delighted the large crowd with his impressions of singers from the 30's to 80's and of actors from the movies and radio, including John Wayne, Walter Brennan, George Kingfish Stephens, Sapphire and

others. He enlisted Glee E. Bridges as a volunteer for the audience for one of his renditions of "Blue Moon" and ended his performance with a trilogy of Civil War songs including "Dixie."

Hamrick recognized outgoing directors Glee Bridges, Charlene Ellis, Tommy Grayson, Hugh Lancaster, Lee McIntyre and Jerry Nation. He also recognized

Kay Little and Lucille Williams, office secretaries, and new directors, Doyle Campbell, Gary Whitaker, Dan Honeycutt, John Major, Jim Potter, Alan Propst, W.S. Fulton III, Bill Grissom, Andy Neisler and Larry Wood and other officers, including W.S. Fulton III, first vice president; Burris Ramey, second vice president and Dan Honeycutt, treasurer.



Photo by Gary Stewart

**INSPECTING METERS** - Walt Ollis, left, section supervisor for the City Public Works Department, tells citizens how to read utility meters during a meter reading class Tuesday afternoon at the Governmental Services Facilities Center. The final two classes are scheduled for 1:30 and 7:30 today.



Photo by Lib Stewart

**OFFICERS** - Corky Fulton, left, Dr. Stan Hardin, Burris Ramey and Larry Hamrick Jr. chat following the annual Merchants-Chamber

banquet Tuesday night. Impressionist Hardin mimics as actor as he greets Hamrick.