

Board Grants Transportation For 9 Students

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Co-Editor

The Kings Mountain Board of Education voted 3-1 Thursday to relax its recently adopted school assignment plan and provide school bus transportation for the rest of this school year for nine students who attend Bethware School but reside in the Grover District.

The action came after a lengthy discussion and over the objections of trustee Bill McDaniel who pointed out that the new pupil assignment plan spells out that parents, not the school system, are responsible for providing transportation for their children to attend schools outside their attendance zone.

Lee Perkins, a resident of the new White Plains subdivision in the Bethlehem Community, complained that nine students stand out on a busy highway congested with 75 Bypass construction to be picked up by a Bethware bus. He charged that school buses pick up six children and take them to Grover, carry three students to Central, and two students to Kings Mountain High School, all from that area, and contended that a Bethware bus should pick up the nine Bethware students at their residences. "That's what we pay taxes for," he told the board.

McDaniel contended that White Plains is in the Grover school attendance zone and Larry Allen presented tax maps that pinpointed the area's location in the Grover attendance

area. The board then voted unanimously to reaffirm the boundary lines established by the 1968 school desegregation plan but after much discussion agreed with Mr. Perkins that the board clarify where the lines are.

McDaniel said he voted against the matter because, in effect, the board would be setting a precedent. McDaniel, a resident of the Bethlehem area, said the White Plains subdivision was constructed only a few years ago and that only a couple of houses which face Bethlehem Road are actually in the Bethware school attendance zone. "Your kid was not picked out to be transferred from Bethware early in the year," he told Perkins, explaining that a child of Mr. and Mrs. Perkins had been transferred from Bethware because of overcrowded conditions, and along with many other out-of-attendance zone students. The new school assignment plan stipulates that if overcrowding occurs that the outside district pupil will be reassigned to the school in which he or she resides.

"If we have a policy we need to stick to it," McDaniel maintained.

June Lee, Kyle Smith and Harold Lineberger voted to provide the bus transportation the remainder of the year but Mrs. Lee said she did so because she was unsure of the boundary line separating the school zones and asked that information concerning the boundary line location be

presented at the May board meeting.

"It looks like we got the cart before the horse," said Lineberger. The board had earlier approved the narrative description of the elementary school zones currently being followed in pupil assignments to East, West, North, Bethware and Grover Schools. Larry Allen, who presented the narrative, said he had not located any written record describing the internal zones. Mr. McDaniel said the 1968 plan was devised by HEW to determine proper ratio of black and white students.

Perkins charged the board with "giving me the runaround" "It's unsafe for kids to be out on that busy highway to catch a bus. We've already had one accident. Until this boundary line business is settled, why can't we get a bus in there."

Perkins told the board he would abide by its findings on the location of school boundary lines and that his children will attend the school in the zone they reside next year.

In a related action the board tabled 13 requests for transfers of students.

"We can't flat out turn them down. Some have good excuses," said Smith. Lineberger said he was in favor of approving all 13 requests as long as schools are uncrowded. Supt. Davis estimated the board would receive more requests which represent appeals to the elementary school assignment policy which calls for all pupils entering Kings Mountain District Schools for the first time next year (81-82) to be assigned to the school in the zone they reside and includes an appeals process to the board of education.

Because of the lengthy meeting, which included two executive sessions, the board decided to table the requests for more individual attention next month.

After an executive session with a parent, Mrs. Dessie Morrow Loftin, Supt. William Davis announced that Kings Mountain High Principal Bob McRae will examine the cheerleader selection process at the school.

After an executive session the board renewed four year contracts for assistant superintendents Larry Allen and Howard Bryant.

The board also approved, upon recommendation of Larry Allen, changes in the ESEA Title I program which will involve moving five higher-salaried Title I reading teachers into state-paid positions and replacing them with state-paid teachers. Allen told the board that the changes are necessary because of proposed cuts in the Title I program which would have eliminated three or four of the teachers in the program. Under the new plan, nine of the 10 positions in the program will be maintained. Allen said that one teacher has resigned to take another position and that her position in the program here will not be filled.

HORSE SEMINAR

A horse seminar, "What You Always Wanted To Know About Horses and Didn't Know Who To Ask", will be held Sunday from 2 until 6 p.m. at Cleveland County Office Building. The public is invited and will include free door prizes.

POLICE REPORT

City police are investigating a break in which occurred sometime Friday night at Smith Grocery on Waco Road.



Photo by Gary Stewart

PEACEFUL SUNDAY - A good way to spend a hot, sunny Sunday afternoon is to pack your gear and head for the old fishing hole. This lone fisherman surrounded by the waters of the Catawba River makes for an interesting summer scene, and with the fish biting as they have of late, it also makes for an interesting afternoon.

Lightning Sparks Fire

Lightning striking the fusebox on the porch may have caused the Easter evening fire which gutted and heavily damaged the home of Mrs. Iona Guyton McClain at 513 West Mountain St.

Fire Chief Gene Tignor said cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Two units from the Kings Mountain Fire Department responded to the call at 8:05 p.m. during an electrical storm and remained on the scene for nearly three hours. The large frame house, at the corner of West Mountain and Goforth Sts., is in a heavily populated residential

area five blocks from the business district.

Tignor said that the house was heavily damaged by smoke and water and walls burned out in some portions of the residence.

Mrs. McClain was visiting a neighbor at the time of the fire.

Chamber Sponsoring Seminar

Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association will sponsor a seminar, "Are You Getting Your Money's Worth With N. C. Worker's Compensation," at Holiday Inn Monday morning from 9 until noon.

The seminar is open to all area employers or their representatives and will be conducted by Boyd Lane, Safety Representative. Mr. Lane has 23 years of experience in industrial safety programs ranging from manufacturing to development and ad-

ministration of loss control subjects.

A \$3 registration fee for Chamber members and a \$5 fee for non-members will be charged.

Secretaries Luncheon Set

A luncheon Friday at noon at Holiday Inn will honor Kings Mountain area secretaries.

Employers should make reservations for luncheon with Shirley Gossett at the Inn.

A mini fashion show will highlight the event which is be-

ing coordinated by the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce.

In connection with the week's activities, Mrs. Gerry Werner, of Kings Mountain, is among members of the Spindlette Chapter, Professional Secretaries

International, who will be giving Career Day talks to business students. Mrs. Werner will speak at Bessemer City High School.

Gert Fisher, also a member of Spindlette Chapter, will give a Career Day Talk at Cherryville High School.



EASTER CROSS—The congregation of El Bethel United Methodist Church decorated a cross of Spring flowers and placed it in front of the sanctuary early Easter Day. The cross replaced the large paper mache replica of Christ's tomb which had been set near the entrance on Good Friday.

Photo by Lib Stewart



KIWANIANS MEET - The Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club sponsored a visit by the District Lt. Governor Friday night at the Holiday Inn. Twelve district Kiwanis Clubs were represented from as far away as Boone. Pic-

tured above discussing some club projects are Lt. Governor of District 1-B Frank Vanstoy, Lt. Governor Jim Storie, District Secretary-Treasurer Waldie Bushaw and Kings Mountain President Jerry Ledford.