

Merger Discussed

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"study", Bailey said "I am definitely in favor of a study for consolidation" and Kenneth Ledford said "I would be in favor of merger."

The first three KM members questioned—Mrs. Thomasson, June Lee and Bill McDaniel—all said they had not had time to study it, but Kyle Smith came straight to the point. "I'd like to go on record as saying I am strictly opposed to the idea of a study," he said. After Smith made his remark, Mrs. Thomasson took the floor again and said "I am also opposed to it."

Two members of the Shelby board—Dr. Lee Gilliatt and Sally Barker—said they favored the study, Dr. Robert Litton said "at this time I really don't know", Campbell said he was not prepared "at this moment" to say, and Bobbie Peeler said she was "in favor of it if it can be shown that we need a study."

The superintendents of the three bodies were not allowed to express an opinion but they did estimate that a study conducted by an "outside" professional group could cost from \$12,000 to \$45,000.

Some board members suggested that the County Commissioners foot the bill for the study, and Forney suggested that Jack Palmer, county commissioner chairman who was present and said he supported a study, bring it before his board.

County Commissioner Pete Stamey said he also supported a study and John Griffin, president of the Greater Shelby Chamber of Commerce, said his organization voted during a meeting earlier in the day to "go on record approving a study be made."

During the second round of response from the board members, Cabaniss said a merger could result in energy savings, and lower prices in school lunches. "We may not need to merge the systems, but may need to merge some of our services," he said.

Mrs. Lee said she wanted to be "as open-minded as I can. I really think I would like to have a study but I don't want the Kings Mountain Board of Education to be bound by anything."

The three boards did agree on one point—the study would be costly and that it should be conducted by an outside group with no local prejudices built into it.

McDaniel made the point that the talk of merger was prompted by the articles in the Shelby paper, and added that "only two people from Kings Mountain" were contacted by the writer.

Mrs. Thomasson wanted to know "just how did this get started?", and Forney said he was contacted by Bill Campbell and asked if he would moderate a meeting. "The Editor of the Star knew more about it than I did," Forney said.

At that point, Cabaniss said he and Campbell had discussed it "because of the series" of articles in the paper. "I feel like we owe it to our constituency to look at it," he said.

Campbell added, "I think Mrs. Thomasson is asking who investigated it, and everybody knows who started it. I don't think that's even an issue. But the writing has been done and the reading has been done, and the result has been that it's a lively issue at this time. If we don't take advantage of it now, we won't reach this point again."

"I don't want us to leave here tonight with having missed a mission by alienating Kings Mountain," Campbell went on. "If we have another meeting, they might not be back and that would be a mistake."

Mrs. Thomasson also questioned why the Shelby Chamber of Commerce was involved, and Mike Chesson of the Chamber said that group only wanted to "look at the cold, hard facts" and after that it "may or may not take a formal stand."

Forney suggested that all three boards call meetings to discuss their stand on calling for a study, then meet together again jointly and "tell each other how you stand."

Shelby Superintendent Johnny Presson told the board members that a merger can be accomplished by one of three ways—a vote of the people, by a vote of the boards of education with the approval of the county commissioners, and by legislative action through a local bill.

OBITUARIES

W.E. PEARSON

Funeral services for William E. Pearson, 78, of 207 Fairview Street, Kings Mountain, will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday at Central United Methodist Church, conducted by the Rev. Kelly Dixon, Rev. Mitchell Pruitt and Rev. Eugene Land. Burial will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

He died at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday at Kings Mountain Hospital after three days illness.

A Burke County native, he was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William P. Pearson and was a retired textile employee. He was a member of Central

United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Katherine Foster Pearson; one son, Ronnie Pearson of Kings Mountain; two daughters, Miss Wilma Pearson of Kings Mountain and Mrs. Michael (Kay) Shelton of Elizabeth City; two brothes, Robert and James Pearson, both of Kings Mountain; and one sister, Mrs. James (Alice) Connor of Kings Mountain.

The family was to receive friends from 7 until 9 p.m. Wednesday night at Harris Funeral Home.

DAVE VAN DYKE

Funeral services for Davis S. (Dave) Van Dyke, 87, of Route 4, Kings Mountain, were conducted Friday at Love Valley Baptist Church, where he was a member, by the Rev. Lloyd

Sanders, the Rev. Buddy Williams and the Rev. L.E. Ramsey. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

He died Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at his home following an illness of many years.

He was a native of Gaston County and the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John L. Van Dyke. His wife was the late Lula Mae Harlow Van Dyke.

Survivors include one son, James R. Van Dyke of Kings Mountain; four daughters, Mrs. Mary Melton, Mrs. Belle Griffin and Mrs. Lois Moss, all of Kings Mountain, and Mrs. Lucy Crawford of Gastonia; 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

RUFUS CHAMBERS

Funeral services for William Rufus Chambers, 71, of 937

Canterbury Road, Kings Mountain, were conducted Friday at 4 p.m. at Long Branch Baptist Church by the Rev. Howard Shipp.

Surviving are his wife, Margaret Crocker Chambers; three brothers, the Rev. Clyde Chambers of Shelby, and Wardell and Lawrence Chambers, both of Kings Mountain; and one sister, Mrs. Myrtle Chambers Moore of Kings Mountain.

W.R. CARPENTER

Funeral services for William Ray Carpenter, 57, of Route 5, Bell Road, Kings Mountain, were conducted Sunday at Temple Baptist Church in Gastonia by the Rev. Randy Jenkins and the Rev. Louis Batchelor. Burial was in Westview Gardens in Gastonia.

Carpenter died Thursday at

Kings Mountain Hospital.

A York County, S.C., native, he was the son of the late William Mark and Fannie Earney Carpenter. He was a member of Maranatha Baptist Church in Shelby.

Surviving are his wife, Dorothy McKinley Carpenter; a son, William Scott Capenter of the home; two daughters, Ms. Margaret Carpenter of Kings Mountain and Miss Deborah Carpenter of the home; a foster daughter, Deedray Stroupe of Kings Mountain; a brother, Robert Carpenter of Kings Mountain; four sisters, Ms. Johnnie Carpenter, Mrs. Vera Moore, Mrs. Ruby Jones and Mrs. Margie Wray, all of Gastonia; and two grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Maranatha Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1505, Shelby.

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<p>Limited Quantities On Items Listed Below</p>			
<p>Wood Bar Stools Reg. \$49⁹⁹ \$32⁰⁰</p>	<p>Gravy Train Dog Food \$5⁷⁷ 25 lb. bag</p>	<p>Wyler's Lemonade and Flavors \$1⁰⁰</p>	 <p>Nestle® Instant Tea 3-oz. jar for 30 qts. of 100% tea! Limit 2</p>
 <p>2/\$1⁰⁰ Delta® Bath Tissue 400 sheets per roll. 4 roll pkg.</p>			

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