

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Why Study If Against?

Last week, the Kings Mountain, Shelby and Cleveland County school boards met in an informal setting in Shelby to discuss the possibility of studying a merger of the three administrations.

The meeting was called by the chairpersons of the three groups because of a lengthy series of articles in the Shelby Daily Star.

The only thing the meeting brought out was personal opinions of school board members and nine of the citizens who attended the meeting.

The meeting was poorly planned, poorly moderated by a former member of the County School Board, and it was obvious that not many of the school board members were prepared to speak on the one question asked them: "Are you and/or your board interested in discussing a merger to such an extent to suggest that a qualified consulting group be called in to conduct the study, even though it could be costly?"

All of the boards admitted that they have not discussed the issue, but it was evident that the Cleveland County Board is 100 percent in favor of merger, and majority of the Shelby Board probably is in favor. It was also evident that the Kings Mountain Board is 100 percent against it, even though two of the four members present said they haven't made up their minds.

A study of a merger would cost the three systems—or the county commissioners, if they decide to foot the bill for it—at least \$12,000. It would probably cost more like \$20,000 or more. Jerry Blake, superintendent of the county schools, said Wake County paid \$45,000 for one several years ago.

We have no objection to the County and Shelby boards conducting a study, if they feel one is necessary and that they would really like to merge their administrations. But our question to the Kings Mountain Board of Education is, why should Kings Mountain participate in a costly study if Kings Mountain is not interested in merging its school system?

Whether the three systems or the county foots the bill for the study, it still is a lot of money out of the taxpayers pockets. If the schools have that kind of money to spend, spend it toward educating the 4,200 children in the school system.

If the county has that kind of money to spend, it could best be spent by distributing it to the three school systems. The county cut its appropriations to the Kings Mountain Schools this year by \$108,000 causing our children to lose some programs they needed.

We don't feel like Kings Mountain has anything to gain by a merger of the administrations, or by consolidation of schools, which will come eventually if an administration merger is accomplished.

Kings Mountain has one of the best school administrations, some of the best programs, and some of the best facilities in North Carolina, and there is no reason to believe it cannot be as good or better in the future. If the other two school systems believe they can improve their programs through merger, more power to them.

But, we urge the Kings Mountain board to take an official stand now, and not participate in a study.

Letters

Thanks For Support During Scott's Illness

To the editor:

We want to express our appreciation to the many friends in the Kings Mountain area for their support to us during Scott's illness.

We want to say thanks to a very special family, Leonard and Tina Wright, whose love and support went beyond the responsibilities of a normal friendship.

To the greatest family a person could ever hope for, Mom and Dad, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Carrigan, Brothers Buell, Bob, Jim, and Gerald; and sisters, Faye House and Elaine Parker, thank you for always being with us and never leaving us alone. For all your love and prayers, your hundreds of phone calls, your visits to Florida.

For getting up at 4 a.m. to cook hamburgers and, along with Leonard Wright, sell them to help make our burden a little lighter. For keeping your bags packed and being here when needed.

Thanks to all who bought the hamburgers and threw in that extra fifty cents. This is what helped make it possible for Scott to have the things he needed and a few extras for his enjoyment.

Those who knew Scott will share our great loss. He inspired a lot of people in Florida, and I am sure he did there too. He made us strong with his love for life, his positive attitude and his concern for others. Even in his worst of pains, he never had self pity.

God does not measure quality by size and age. Scott had a job to do, and wasted no time to fulfill his mission. He was our youth and our old age for 12 short, brave years. He was you, he was me, he was us. He touched us all. One more special thanks. Thank you, God, for choosing us to be his parents.

Bill and Pat Carrigan
Ocala, Fla.
Formerly of Kings Mountain

Bernardo Joins Carmet Staff

William A. Bernardo has been named controller for Carmet Company's Minetool division, a member company of Allegheny International, Inc.

Bernardo was formerly affiliated with International Platem and NCR Corporation, and most recently with Fisher Scientific as a plant controller before joining Minetool.

A member of the Planning Executives Institute and the National Accounting Association, Bernardo received his MBA in accounting from Southern Illinois University. He is married to the former Cecelia M. Roco of Philadelphia.

Carmet Minetool is a major supplier of mining and construction tools.



W.A. BERNARDO

Electricity Rates Increase

The Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners Monday night approved a 6.3 percent increase in electric rates, effective immediately.

The increase was necessary because Duke Power, the city's supplier, increased its rates by 9 percent on October 18.

W.H. Little Jr. of Southeastern Consulting Engineers told the board that by increasing the rates 6.3 percent, it will be charging its customers only the exact dollar that it will be increased by Duke.

The increase will be reflected on the December 1 billing.

The increase will mean about a \$3.00 average increase. A citizen who had been paying \$61.10 will now pay \$64.95 and a citizen who had been paying \$110.45 will now pay \$117.41.

The increase will mean that the city will pay \$184,261 more to Duke.

Little said Kings Mountain's rates will be competitive with Duke's retail rates.

In other action Monday:

The board again reviewed the proposed West Gold Street alignment plan and agreed to submit a plan to Southern Railway for its approval. The board hopes to align East and West Gold, change West Gold from a two to four-lane road, relocate the railroad crossing and signalization, and tie-in water lines to Cansler Street.

Mayor John Moss said he has had preliminary discussions with the Department of Housing and Urban Development about the possibility of using HUD funds for the project. The cost has been estimated at more than \$300,000. The board hopes to put the project out to bids by December 1 and begin construction early next year.

*Heard a report from Jonas Bridges on the progress of Cable

REVIVAL

Revival services will be held at Ledford's Grove Baptist Church Nov. 4-7 at 7 p.m. nightly. Tommy Taylor of Lawndale will be guest speaker. Rev. Robert Wright, pastor, invites the public to attend.

TV for Kings Mountain. He said head-in equipment, tower and office equipment has been installed and that the Earth Station is on the site on City Street.

Cable Systems is working with Southern Bell to finalize a pole agreement. The board also approved a revised cost estimate to Cable Systems of \$6,000 for its

services.

*Authorized initiation of legal procedures to demolish two houses on Ark Street, owned by James Wallace of Gastonia.

12.9% Financing On CAVALIER AND CITATION AT

Testa Chevrolet

Downtown Kings Mountain

Jim Testa, Carl Bell, J.T. McGinnis, Larry Crotts

You Save \$736²² on finance charges thru Nov. 11th on the CAVALIER.

You Save \$878⁴⁰ on finance charges thru Nov. 11th on the CITATION. List \$8,637.49 sale \$7,798.34 Stock No. 1207.

Large Selection Of One Owner Used Cars. Let's Trade - Your Car Is Worth A Lot More Than You Think.

SAVE ON MEN'S SUITS

OUR ENTIRE STOCK

Men's New Fall & Winter

Famous Brand

SUITS

With or Without Vests

Including

"Palm Beach" - "Cricketeer" - "Mountaineer"

Choose From

- Wool & Polyester Blends-
- 100% Woven Polyesters-
- Solid Colors-Stripes-Checks-Tweeds-

20%

OFF REGULAR PRICE ON ENTIRE STOCK

Use Our Lay-A-Way Plan



PLONK
Bros. Co.

Downtown Kings Mountain