

# The Kings Mountain Herald

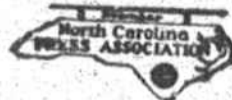
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### TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross. Proverbs 26:23.

### Over The Barrell?

Though they're not saying it in so many words, it is evident that the coal operators think they have John L. Lewis over a barrel.

Evidently John L. thinks it too, or he wouldn't be allowing his miners to work even a three-day week.

Word from the mines is that the rank-and-file miner was much disgruntled at the December 1 walkout call. Having already lost 52 days in work and concurrent wages, and with Christmas just around the corner, the miner felt he needed to be working and bringing home the weekly pay-check.

The miner was right, of course, and Lewis' three-day-week order was a compromise to pacify his own flock.

It may or may not work. John L. Lewis, a brilliant, if ruthless, man, is now running into the common trouble dictators always find. He has overplayed his hand. The day will come — may be coming — when the miners throw out John L. Lewis. The average citizen will be mighty pleased.

As the Herald sees it, the arrangements made by the city to purchase the water and sewer facilities of Crescent Hill Development Company and of Glee A. Bridges are quite proper. It is customary policy for a city to lay sewer and water lines, in fact, this service is one of the principal reasons for a city to exist. In addition, the purchase will have the effect of carrying out the city's moral obligations agreed to by the 1945 administration. While it is not always done, our feeling is that a government entity should meet its moral obligations just the same as a private business. Of course, the tax return on the properties improved by these facilities, will, in a period of years, return the funds to the city coffers.

The formation of another Girl Scout Troop is further proof of the hard work being done by the leaders of this movement in Kings Mountain. The expansion of this program certainly goes under the title of community betterment.

More gifts are needed for the Jacob S. Mauney Memorial Library Book Fund. There is no obvious reason the goal of \$2,000 cannot be reached. All the money goes to purchase books, and it takes books to make a good library.

Our congratulations to Ollie Harris, who has been nominated for an important post in the North Carolina Funeral Directors and Embalmers association.

## 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Two veteran Kings Mountain main line Southern Railway conductors, Capt. B. M. Ormand and O. C. O'Farrell, retired last week after serving approximately 50 years in active service.

The local NYA sewing room has been active for the past few weeks in making and repairing garments for distribution. During the days from November 11 through the 24, the following work was accomplished: made 6 pairs of overalls, 37 slips dresses; 13 shirts, 39 pairs of outer underwear for boys and girls; 6 baby aprons, 2 baby slipes; 2 quilts.

### Bus Stalemate

Last week's lengthy, non-decision discussion between the city board of commissioners, assorted bus company officials, and representatives of the State Utilities Commission proved interesting and rather well set forth the situation.

The bus company representatives made it plain they don't want, nor expect if they can help it, to spend any money here at all. They want to continue to operate on an agency plan and that alone.

The question was asked at the meeting, "What authority does the city have?"

It was plainly answered by the Utilities Commission representative. He said the board has no actual authority but as the elected representatives of the people, the Utilities Commission wants approval before it approves. "After all," said Mr. Taylor, "the people speak." And the people are responsible for our being where we are.

Fred Titlow, of Atlantic Greyhound, seemed most reasonable of all the bus company representatives. He advanced the possibility of getting the Kings Mountain Bus Company to put on a cross town schedule, operating on King street. This, it was agreed, would help make the temporary location a better one.

The man in the middle is Jack Arnette, local agent. He doesn't want to invest the necessary funds for improving the E. King street site, then see the investment prove worthless, and none can blame him.

But the city board is right in its stand. As commissioner Carl Mauney pointed out, it has been impossible to get decent terminals at most cities until the particular city's governing body held the bus companies' collective feet to the fire. That's what the Kings Mountain board is trying to do.

With December and cold weather, there seems little reason most folk can't get the Christmas spirit. Kings Mountain merchants have done a good job in obtaining the goods which make ideal Christmas gifts, and there will be a few people who should have to travel any further than the business district to complete their shopping lists.

The increase in number of crashes of airplanes calls for some stern safety measures. The companies themselves will have to take the lead in the matter, for the crashes unquestionably discourage air travel.

It's time to buy your city and state auto licenses for 1950.

### SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mrs. Davy John Smith of Goldsboro is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Haywood E. Lynch and family. Mrs. Smith is a sister of Mr. Lynch. Mrs. Henry Moss, Henry and Charles Neisler, spent the holidays with Mrs. Ralph Northcutt in Dalton, Ga. Rev. and Mrs. E. C. Cooper of Columbia, S. C., were recent visitors in Kings Mountain. Rev. and Mrs. W. M. Boyce of Charlotte were Kings Mountain visitors Monday. Mrs. Hunter Neisler entertained members of her bridge club on Tuesday afternoon.

## martin's medicine

By Martin Harmon

(Containing bits of news, wisdom, humor, and comment. To be taken weekly. Avoid over-dosage.)

### Shop Early

This would have been a worthy piece about two weeks ago, but I'm not sure whether a person could start today and still get his Christmas shopping done in the "early" category.

It would be sufficient to say, however, that, if the medicine department started today it would be "early," comparatively speaking. The medicine dispenser finds himself in the same class with the renegade preacher who made famous the saying, "Do as I say, not as I do." Which reminds that advice is much easier to give than to follow.

I have always envied the early shopper, who, when I'm just beginning to think about the problem at hand, can blithely say he's plumb done, with just a little bit of wrapping left on the docket.

However, I will also make an amendment to the previous sentence. The "he" should become "she." I don't know of any man who starts early, though there might be one.

People give much thought and work to their businesses, and Christmas shopping should get the same attention, for successful Christmas giving requires forethought and planning.

I can not claim my first suggested step as original, but it is to get on real friendly terms with the banker. Of course, this can not be done overnight, and if you've offended the banker during the year, the best you can hope for is to accept the invitations which have been coming through the mail lately from the out-of-town loan houses. They say you can borrow \$50 to \$300 real easy, but my advice is to carry along the title to your car, the bill of sale to your furniture, and other legal proof to all collateral you happen to have. The "invitations" mean what they say, all right, but you'll come back pretty well tied up.

The next step is to make out a Christmas list. A mental listing is insufficient, as someone will surely be left out. Put down the name, and, as you list what you plan to buy beside it, try to think what the person needs and wants. Sometimes the "want" will rule exclusively, because some people don't like the so-called practical gift. After this is done, total the cost. Undoubtedly, the total will astound, but it still must be done. Early totaling aids in a firm approach to the banker.

After this is done, set up an extra contingency fund. There are always contingencies of one kind or another. An item may cost more than originally planned, or you might suddenly remember a rich relative who hasn't got around to making his will.

After getting the banker to fix you up with a 30-day note, you're ready to make the merchants happy. Incidentally, Kings Mountain merchants are well-stocked with Christmas goods, and the Herald columns will make a good shopping guide. The merchants spend some considerable time and effort in planning their advertising, and there is no danger that they will fail to list their best and most desirable Christmas merchandise. For the merchants who advertise are merely following the Biblical dictum of keeping the light from under the bushel.

There's not much else to say about early shopping, except that everyone should put on the list one or two folk who really need a gift. It's better still, if the prospective recipient doesn't expect anything.

Some are prone to bemoan the fact that Christmas annually seems to become more of a merchandising event than a spiritual re-awakening, but I have never gone along with this theory. After all, the Bible says it's better to give than to receive, and I believe the people of Kings Mountain can count on the churches to fill the air with the true spirit of Christmas.

Some may think early shopping isn't so good, I heard one lady remark she could hardly contain her four-year-old son. Every night he calls for a rendition of "The Night before Christmas," and his last remark before moving to dreamland is, "Mama, I just don't believe I can wait."

## Farm Fires Prove Costly In State

Much of North Carolina's costly property destruction and tragic loss of human life from farm fires this fall could have been prevented, believes H. M. Ellis, in charge of agricultural engineering for the State College Extension Service.

Nearly a dozen farm residents have lost their lives in disastrous fires in the eastern part of the State during the past month. Wake County suffered two bad blazes in 10 days and several other counties have been similarly hit with family tragedies. The loss in farm buildings and even rural schools has been considerable. Ellis recommends steps to keep down farm fire loss. First he suggests a periodic inspection of the home heating plant. He urges checking for rusted stovepipes, fallen leaves gathered in a place where they may be ignited by sparks, collections of soot in the chimney, and inflammable material on the roof.

Second, Ellis advises an active program of fire prevention. This includes keeping matches away from children, storing gasoline and kerosene in tight containers, and avoiding use of these materials in building fires. At least one of Wake County's disastrous fires is thought to have been due to pouring kerosene on live embers.

Third, says the State College specialist, the farmer should have a good fire protection system. Ladders and fire extinguishers should be readily available, as well as pails and barrels filled with water so that precious time will not be wasted at the well. A good source of water has saved many a building.

Ellis says the U. S. Department of Agriculture has just published a new bulletin on farm fire prevention. Its title is Farmers Bulletin No. 1643, "Fire Safeguards for the Farm." The county farm agent has information as to where copies may be obtained.

### REMARKABLE!

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