

The Kings Mountain Herald

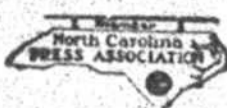
Established 1889

A weekly newspaper devoted to the promotion of the general welfare and published for the enlightenment, entertainment and benefit of the citizens of Kings Mountain and its vicinity, published every Friday by the Herald Publishing House.

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Kings Mountain, N. C., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1873.

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Charles T. Carpenter, Jr Sports, Circulation, News
Mrs. B. D. Herndon Society Editor
Telephones: Society 167, Other 283

SUBSCRIPTION RATES PAYABLE IN ADVANCE
One year \$2.00
Six months \$1.10
Three months \$0



TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. Psalm 23:1.

Hail '50

Kings Mountain will join the world this weekend in bidding goodbye to the interesting year 1949 and in hailing the beginning of 1950, marking the end of a half century and the start of another.

In the past three swift decades the nation has seen the Roaring Twenties, the Terrible Thirties and the Furious Forties. Most folk figure that the Fifties will be somewhat furious too.

It's a new era and a new day...

The problem, as usual, is the obtaining of balance. It applies in every field, business and every big business: how to get everything to run smoothly and get every operation to come out even with the other. In government it is a problem of balancing the budget, in labor relations it is how to keep the union satisfied or, from the labor viewpoint, how to get the most possible money without breaking the business. In ordinary society the problem is how to keep from being a hermit on the one extreme, or a social gadfly on the other.

Only in spiritual pursuits is the problem seldom one of two extremes. Here the problem sometime appears to be how to budget even a minimum of time for moral improvement.

It's probably impossible of attainment, but a slowing of the pace during the next decade would unquestionably be beneficial to almost everyone. Who would advocate a return to the old general store days with the pickle jars and the cracker barrels, when a store force stayed on the job for 12 to 16 hours? None would. But the pace was slower, and some measure of return to this more casual method of living would decrease the deaths from heart attacks.

But it's a New Year and a New Decade. The books are closing on the old and opening on the new, and America, the home of the vigorous, the strong and the optimistic is looking forward to it with as much excitement as the pioneers who moved to the new lands of the west.

The administration in Washington now seems to be soft-peddaling talk of more taxes, which is an about-face from the position of several months ago. However, the nation awaits with interest the President's annual State of the Union message to Congress. Reason for the change in policy is rather evident, for 1950 is an election year, and incumbents have never relished the task of explaining additional taxes when on the stump. But the people would also like to see a balanced budget for a New Year's gift.

Crowell Little

The news of last week that Crowell Little is going to Davidson next year as head football coach will be pleasing to both Davidson alumni and friends in Kings Mountain and to other citizens as well.

Mr. Little graduated from the player ranks to Kings Mountain as high school football coach and, though he was here only one year, he made many friends, from both the personal and gridiron standpoints.

In Kings Mountain, and since he has demonstrated that he can handle his assignments as a coach as well as he once quarterbacked a team on the field.

His friends are wishing him well in what for the past several years has proved a difficult coaching job.

There was the usual big wave of traffic fatalities during the Christmas season, and the big portion of it was attributable to carelessness and chance-taking on the part of drivers of automobiles. Those who successfully navigated the highways in making Christmas visits can almost uniformly report instances of meeting road fools who raced through intersections, passed on curves and over hills. New Year's makes another holiday weekend, and motorists should drive with extreme care. Increase in the number of autos is in greater proportion to the increase in roads.

This is the season of the year, insurance companies report, when fire losses are heaviest. But it seems that the cold statistics have had a more real meaning here recently, with more regular blowing of the city's fire siren. Many of the fires result from defective heating stoves or cooking stoves, and all who use one would be making a wise move to check it carefully. An ounce of prevention can save much pain.

How nice to be working! Most of Kings Mountain industry took only a short pause for Christmas before starting up again, and there were few, if any, complaints. The spectre of darkened, idle plants, seen frequently earlier in 1949, was most unpleasant for all concerned. The fact that most folk were working made Christmas '49 a much happier one.

It's tax listing time again. The books will be open next week for the first time, and early-bird listers may not get the worm but they will save themselves considerable time. There's always a last-minute rush on the tax listing job.

And don't forget to purchase a city auto tag.

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news taken from the 1939 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Fred Finger, charter member and one of the organizers of the two-year old Stag Club, was elected president succeeding Otto "Toby" Williams, president for the last two years, according to the election results announced at the Club's annual formal banquet last night.

Citizens of Kings Mountain are back on the job this week after spending a quiet but active weekend in observance of Christmas.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

A wedding of simplicity and quiet charm was that of Miss Ethel Hord and Jonah Falls both of this city. The

ceremony was performed at nine o'clock Sunday December 24, at St. Matthew's Lutheran church, with Rev. Boyd Hamm, pastor of the bridegroom officiating, using the impressive ring ceremony.

Postmaster and Mrs. W. E. Blakeley returned last night from Wrens, Ga., where they spent Christmas holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Arnold Kiser spent the holidays with Mrs. Kiser's relatives in Eastern North Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Summers are spending the holidays in Florida.

Mr. J. E. Herndon and family are on a holiday trip in Florida.

martin's medicine

By Martin Harmon

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

Exit '49

Father Time is about to wield his sharpened scythe on another year and, this time, another decade, as old '49 gives way to new model '50.

It's been an interesting, jam-packed year and 10 years, and, as usual, there are many events which would bear repeating, many which would not.

But the medicinal department today is the result of some digging in the encyclopedia and other books of facts for an older '49, the one of 100 years ago. There are some marked similarities in the trends of the times, and also some considerable differences. The airplane, of course, was many years distant, as was the automobile, but the train had arrived. The historians note as one of the high water accomplishments of the year the construction of a railroad between Boston and New York. The horse, naturally, was the prime means of getting where one wanted to go on short hauls.

The year 1849 closed out a decade in American history which had also seen a war, the one with Mexico in 1846. The result of that was not only establishment of the boundary between Texas and Mexico, which started all the trouble, but resulted in addition of California, Utah, Nevada and parts of Arizona and New Mexico for the sum of \$15 million which probably made the citizens of that day sick, but which is only a drop in the bucket in this day and age of billion-dollar budgets.

Another event of 1849 was the death of James Knox Polk, eleventh president of the United States. Polk, a native North Carolinian, was a Democrat and died three months after leaving office. Incidentally, the present-day Democrats probably have Polk turning over in his grave. He believed that government should collect no more tariffs (no income tax had been heard of) than it needed to pay costs of government, and he was against chartering national banks. He was also a strong pro-slavery advocate. Compare this to the tax-more, spend-more, social welfare, FEPC Democrats of today and it's hard to see the connection, other than the name. Another change from Polk's '49 can be found in the fact that the decade of 1849 saw no less than five U. S. presidents. As the decade began, Democrat Martin Van Buren was completing his one term and was followed by Whig William Henry Harrison. Harrison died after holding office only a month, and Whig John Tyler took over. Polk went in next, served his term and evidently no kin to the late FDR, declined to offer again. He was succeeded in '49 by Zachary Taylor, a Whig. Note that these were the days before the Civil War, and the Solid South was unknown. Taylor, representing the party which is now known as Republican, had a plantation in Louisiana, had never been in politics. His war record and Louisiana residence brought him enough Southern votes to win.

The list reminds that the Republicans have long loved to run war heroes for vote-getters. There was Washington, the first Harrison, Taylor, Grant and Teddy Roosevelt. They haven't changed much. During the recent war they were trying to get MacArthur and now they're after Ike.

The big question of 1849 was slavery, and a fellow named Abe Lincoln who was later to lead the government in a bloody civil war, had already been on the record as Congressman Abe Lincoln against the War with Mexico.

Other 1849 facts: It was the year of the California gold rush, but gold had been discovered there a year earlier... The Germans had been fighting as usual, and had completed an armistice with Denmark... It was one year before the birth of poet Robert Louis Stevenson, and one of the nation's 14-year-old lads was Sam Clemens, later to become Mark Twain. Louisiana May Alcott, since responsible for many a sad-eyed tear for many a generation with her "Little Women," was 17... chief inventions of the year included the magazine-type gup, the steam pressure gauge, and the latch needle for knitting machines. Another was the daddy of the modern big-paper newspaper press: curved plates for a rotating cylinder for printing presses. Mercerized cotton, like Stevenson, was a year away...

Wonders, what news, inventions, literary works, and names will still be worth mentioning a hundred years hence? For my part, I'm willing to hang around and see. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Turkey Schools To Be Conducted

Three meetings for turkey growers will be held by the State College Extension Service in large turkey-producing areas of the State during January.

The first will be held in the city hall at Cherryville, Gaston County, at 11 a. m. on January 16; the second at Marshville, Union County, at 10 a. m. on January 17; and the third in the schoolhouse at Harrels Store, Sampson County, at 10 a. m. on January 30.

The program for all the meetings will be the same. Poultry breeding will be discussed by L. W. Herrick, extension turkey specialist; production of oats and corn, by Dr. E. R. Collins, in charge of agronomy extension; feed requirements for turkeys, by Dr. Jor Kelly of the State College poultry department; and poultry diagnostic service at State College, by Frank Craig, also of the poultry department.

Colored slides will be used to illustrate some of the talks.

With interest in large-scale turkey production increasing in North Carolina, large attendance are expected at the meetings, according to Herrick. He added that all large and small growers, feed and equipment salesmen, and allied industry men are invited to attend the meeting most convenient for them.

United States Historical park, Colonial, in Virginia, has an acreage of 7,233.49 acres.

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