

The Kings Mountain Herald

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. Hosea 4:1.

New Drama Season

"The Sword of Gideon" opens tonight, as the Kings Mountain Little Theatre, Inc., a small non-profit group of interested citizens, launches for the fourth time a historical outdoor pageant commemorating the Battle of Kings Mountain.

At the first season, it is conceivable that the group was guided greatly by enthusiasm and less on knowledge of the great task involved in presenting a 90-cast show. Ordinarily, such spirit would have been heavily tempered by the first experience, perhaps to the point of making the drama presentation a one-season event.

But not for the Kings Mountain Little Theatre.

Banking their experience, the members have moved ahead on their plan toward making a summer outdoor pageant at the Military Park amphitheatre a permanent annual summer attraction, developing the long-dormant inherent connection between Kings Mountain, the city, and Kings Mountain, the historic shrine where Ferguson met his end, dooming the British to eventual defeat at Guilford Courthouse and Yorktown and assuring for the struggling colonies a chance to live, breathe and grow in freedom.

The contribution to the cultural and civic development of the area being made by the hard-working, unselfish members of the Little Theatre and by their aides from surrounding communities, deserves not only the applause and appreciation of all citizens, but their monetary support too, in the form of ticket purchases for the 1954 showing.

The 1954 season will feature an edited script, a largely new cast, improved staging and lighting, and new costumes. It will be well worth the price of admission.

Our best wishes to the sponsors for a fine run, capacity crowds, and good weather.

Each year since enactment of the Powell Bill finds checks for street work coming to the cities and reminds that the Bill, which provided the gas tax rebate to municipalities, was a fair and workable division of the monies. Prior to the time, cities were faced with a huge street-maintenance bill, yet obtained no funds (other than for state highways through their borders) from the great consumption of gasoline. Kings Mountain's share is not great, in comparison with many other cities, but \$28,652, the amount received via the Powell Bill last year, figures to approximately 30 cents on the city tax rate. Assuming the city earmarked the same amount of funds for streets expenditure, the city tax rate, without the Powell Bill funds, would be \$2 rather than the prevailing \$1.70.

Our congratulations to the city board of school trustees in employing a baseball specialist for coaching duties. It has been many years since the conference championship team of 1935, coached by W. J. Fulkerson, and the subsequent championship team of 1941 in the Ervin Smart era, and it's time for Kings Mountain high school to return to the higher echelons of performance in the national pastime. Of course, a few victories will make the turnstiles click and quickly repay the added investment in coaching.

When is a debt not a debt? The answer customarily is when a federal government official is doing the talking. Latest in this fallacy-filled group is Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey who wants Congress to declare tax anticipation notes not a debt. This is comparable to a man getting an advance against his pay, due next week, or end-of-month. He may not owe it, but the payroll clerk makes short work of deducting the advance when the next check is drawn. It is strange indeed to hear such a fallacious suggestion from one of the biggest business men in the "Business Man's Cabinet". It is inconceivable that Mr. Humphrey handled the financing problems of the huge Hanna Company, which he formerly headed, in that manner. The bankers would have thrown him out, and quite justifiably.

10 YEARS AGO Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events THIS WEEK taken from the 1944 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

J. H. Patterson of Lynchburg, Va., has assumed duties here as assistant manager of the Gastonia district for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

Social and Personal
Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Loftin are spending their vacation this week in Newport News, Virginia.

Mrs. Bryan Hord, Miss Mary Beth Hord, and Mrs. Joe Hord expect to leave Sunday for a stay at Ocean Drive Beach.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By Martin Harmon
Ingredients: bits of news, wisdom, humor, and comment.
Directions: Take weekly, if possible, but avoid over dosage.

While the actual idea, planning and work began sometime before, I suppose it could be said that Lake Montonia, Inc., the popular summer playground shared by Kings Mountaineers and Gastonians, formally passed its twenty-eighth anniversary on June 30.

This piece of history became available because of the willingness of Mrs. J. C. Williams to part with the July 8, 1926, copy of the Kings Mountain Herald, which, on the earlier day of 1926 had been labeled for her father, J. F. Allison. The label is still stuck to the yellowing newspaper. The paper actually came to the medicinal hand via Mrs. O. P. Lewis, who had remembered the appeal of this department to local folk for copies of the Herald prior to November 1913 and during the period 1925-34.

The issue of July 8, 1926, features the June 30 lot-drawing for Lake Montonia sites and lists each partaker in the lottery with his lot number. It would be interesting to know how many of the lots originally drawn are still held by those drawing, who, then-Editor G. G. Page notes in his "Fool Column", waited with a bated breathe as "little Louisa Carpenter" extracted the sealed drug envelopes from a tobacco can. Some were happy and others less happy. Mr. Page noted, and there was some swapping done before the assemblage broke up. Majority of the original owners of Lake Montonia lots appear to have been Kings Mountain folk, which would lead to the guess that the appeal of Lake Montonia to Gastonians resulted from the opening of U. S. Highway 74 to Gastonia in 1936.

Names of lot-drawers unfamiliar to this department are C. C. Armstrong, J. L. Adams, J. L. Blair, C. M. Boyd, S. R. Clinton, W. E. Gibson, V. G. Grier, Dr. C. Highsmith (whom Mr. Page noted was a "pullekin" or dentist), A. S. Kresh, Mrs. Emma Merrick, B. F. Norris, Jr., C. B. Partin, Mrs. Peacock, James Sloan, D. L. Struthers, C. L. Spencer, C. S. Thomson, and Arch Wakefield. Mrs. Lewis said she understood that Mrs. Peacock became interested in the development while vacationing from Florida at the Mountain View Hotel and added she thought the lot (No. 71) is still held by a daughter of the late visitor.

Mr. Page wrote that his lot, No. 41, had some nice neighbors. Paul Neiser and his brother, the late Hugh Neiser, E. W. Griffin, Dr. Highsmith and "another pullekin" Dr. L. P. Baker, while just over the hill was Dr. J. E. Anthony. The late J. O. Plonk, who had provided the tract for the lake development drew 19 lots, the only person drawing more than one. It was noted however, one stockholder only got one vote in Montonia business, no matter how many lots he held.

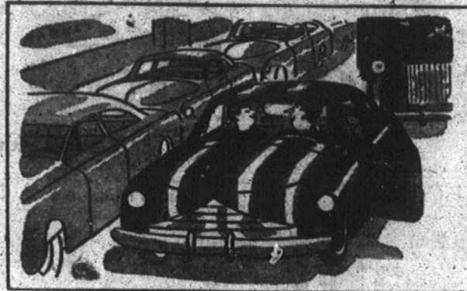
Sharing lead billing in the July 8, 1926, Herald was the second primary of that year, in which A. M. Hamrick had defeated George Washburn for clerk of court and Spurgeon Spurling, of Lenoir, had defeated Sam Ervin, Jr., of Morganton, for district solicitor. Mr. Spurling was solicitor until his death, 20-plus years later, if I'm not mistaken, and, of course, the loser didn't let a defeat get him down. He was subsequently Judge Ervin and is now Senator Ervin, North Carolina's junior U. S. senator.

A graph on the front page was headlined "Autos Still Climbing Hill of Death", which would be apropos 28 years later, and another travel note, clipped from the Cherryville Eagle, noted that some dastardly fellows had strewn at least 500 nails and tacks on the Cherryville-Shelby Road. Also, the lone Herald auto advertisement of that issue featured new low prices (at \$1095 FOB Detroit plus government tax) on the Hudson Coach, being vend by I. Ben Goforth. Standard equipment included front and rear bumpers, automatic windshield cleaner, rear view mirror, transmission lock, radiator shutters, motorometer, combination stop and tail light. Indeed, the auto has come a long way, but I must check with Mr. Goforth on the definition of a motorometer.

A good portion of the Herald's second page of that week gave excerpts from Black's History of the First Baptist church. It was noted that the church was organized in 1890 by Rev. M. P. Matheny, who died in Texarkana, Texas, 1918. The copy also gave credit to St. Matthew's Lutheran church as the oldest in Kings Mountain and still in 1926 the

The Passing Scene

by Ted Key



"Won't take me more than a minute, Alice"



"...this nasty truck"

Viewpoints of Other Editors

SECRET FROM WHOM

Early last February — more than five months ago — the United States expelled two Russian officials from this country. They were charged with "espionage and improper activities". A third was expelled May 29.

But these actions of the State Department were kept secret until last week. The explanation given for the secrecy was that, by keeping the matter secret, it was hoped we could prevent the Soviets from retaliating. That is to say, the State Department hoped the Soviet government wouldn't learn we'd expelled their officials unless the Russians read it in American newspapers!

The news dispatch failed to say whether the State Department offered the explanation with a straight face.

Be that as it may, any intelligent person can see that this secrecy about government activities makes just about as much sense as secrecy about the people's business usually does. Any intelligent person is pretty likely to reach the conclusion that the real reason for the Department's secrecy was to keep the people of this country in ignorance of what it was doing. It finally made the announcement only when the Soviets expelled some of our officials from Russia, and there had to be an explanation for that.

This nation is being led into an international situation without its people knowing by what steps it is being led, or where those steps may take us. The people are being kept in ignorance, though it is they who must pay, in dollars and in lives; for any mistakes that are made in Washington.

PREPARED FOR LIVING

The fine work being done with the young people of the county by the farm and home agents through the 4-H clubs was demonstrated recently when at least two of the local club clubs were privileged to enjoy programs given by a group of 4-H members.

Last week, some of these same young folks, in addition to several others, made a very creditable showing at the district contest held near Newton.

In presenting these programs, the young people revealed poise, ability, and a wholesomeness that certainly renewed the faith of an older generation in the future of the country.

The 4-H club work trains young people for living, and it gives them something which they do not get anywhere else. We should like to commend Miss Betty Watson and her assistant, Mrs. Peggy Hill, the home agents, and Vernon Huneycutt and his assistant, Ray Kiser, the farm agents, for the fine work which they are doing with the young people in the 4-H clubs of the county. — *Stonely News & Press.*

WHAT'S A PENNY?

The alleged story out of Waco, Neb., is about an alleged filling station operator who dropped a penny here and there around his

only church boasting a pipe organ.

Lake Montonia has come a long way since 1926. St. Matthew's Lutheran has built a handsome new church, and autos don't succumb to rackitis as they once did. I enjoyed very much the look backward into city history and I am depositing the edition with others in the file for those of missing years.

THE GOOD NEW DAYS

The "good old days" are supposed to have been around 1910. The prices of commodities at that time are forever being cited in nostalgic comparisons of the cost of living. However, there has been a real gain for the working man that belies the "good old days."

That gain is job opportunity. There are more and better jobs. The Census Bureau, in an analysis of how jobs have changed in the last four decades, passes along this information.

White collar workers have increased from 21 to 37 percent.

Farm workers have dropped from 31 to 12 percent.

Foremen and skilled workers have gone up from 12 to 14 percent.

Semi-skilled workers have gone up from 15 to 28 percent.

Common laborers have dropped from 14 to 6 percent.

Servants have dropped from 7 to only 3 percent. — *Dothan (A.S.) Eagle.*

"I LIKE IT"

A general feeling about tobacco is expressed in these famous lines by Graham Lee Hemminger:

"Tobacco is a dirty weed:
I like it.
It satisfies no normal need:
I like it.
It makes you thin, it makes you lean,
It takes the hair right off your head,
It's the worst darn stuff I've ever seen:
I like it." — *Chapel Hill Weekly.*

place to see the results. Older folks bent over and picked them up. Youngsters didn't bother — sometimes they even kicked the coins in disgust.

It's easier to believe the reaction than the story. But assuming both are true, the explanation is simple. Youngsters — and we assume that includes those from seven to 13 — have been reared in a different atmosphere. A penny-saved-is-a-penny-earned is no longer written on blackboards. It isn't talked at home. The talk is: "Might as well spend it, or the government will get it." And what's a penny?

Very little — except those same youngsters will have to pay for the profligacy of the period when they were young.

Some day they will go to work and look back in the lusty past and realize why the old folks bent over. — *Dallas News.*

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