

Established 1889 The Kings Mountain Herald

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 Thursday by the Herald Publishing House.

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 1 Corinthians 11:31

Auto Accident Problem

It wasn't too many years ago that North Carolina passed the million figure in auto and truck registrations.

Recently, the registration total crossed the two-million mark. Meantime, the traffic accident toll has zoomed up. Last year, no less than 1,575 persons died as a result of traffic accidents on Tar Heel roads, while 49,129 suffered injury.

Only from 1955 to 1956 did the auto death total improve (by 57), yet the injury total escalated even in that year.

Is there an answer to this multi-sided problem, involving not only the chief problems of life and freedom from injury, but sideline matters such as insurance rates, road improvements, mechanical excellence of autos, and the ever-present driver error factor?

Soon to be presented before the General Assembly will be an auto inspection bill, which the author thinks will pass muster with the people and without the sad fate of the inspection program of the late forties.

The insurance company statisticians, the Motor Vehicles Department, and experts in the field of safety will be quick to relate that driver error is by far the leading cause of auto accidents.

What driver, no matter how careful normally for 364 days per year, hasn't failed to heed the big red stop sign on the 365th, or, at least, the 730th?

With over two million vehicles in operation, it is quite possible the state's aggregate driving record per miles driven is better than before, yet the aim must continually be paring of the death and injury total.

Insurance costs are rather quickly explainable due to 1) compulsory insurance requirements, and 2) inflation, which has upped the price of autos, costs of other properties damaged in wrecks, hospitalization costs, and damage awards.

Speaker Ban Law

Whether there will be any changes in the state's hastily enacted speaker ban law preventing the appearance of known communists on campuses of state supported schools, is a moot point.

It was adopted in flash-fire fashion in the closing moments of the 1963 General Assembly and has been roundly criticized in some quarters.

Perhaps last week's appearance in Greensboro of the Polish ambassador is an item that should be considered. UNC-G students marched to hear him in an uptown locale.

North Carolina citizens, apparently, are well-divided on the question of repeal, amend, and leave-as-is.

It is the contention of this newspaper that the known and self-advertised communist is hardly the person to fear, while the wolf in sheep's clothing is.

The ambassador from Poland represents a nation labeling itself communists. Yet he is welcome in Washington.

The other chief valid argument against the ban is that scientists and other specialists from communist nations are banned, just as are the politicians. Some think it just possible that free world scientists do not know everything and that something of value might be gleaned from these visitors.

A sample of the state's divided thinking appeared in the results of First Union National Bank's recent monthly poll: 51 percent did not approve of the speaker ban law; 49 percent did approve, with over 18,000 persons participating.

Congratulations to Kings Mountain native Dr. Dewitt Blanton, awarded a three-year research grant by the National Institute of Health, the end-point aim a means of combatting some forms of mental illness.

"Stop Spinning Wheels"

Dr. Charles F. Carroll, state superintendent of public instruction, advised North Carolina's local boards of education to cease filing any plans of compliance, in re school desegregation for compliance with the 1964 federal civil rights act until some definitive information is obtainable from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Dr. Carroll wrote: "In personal conferences in Washington and through telephonic conversations with Federal officials this week, we have been informed that official guidelines and criteria for structuring and evaluating a plan for school desegregation have not yet been developed. Representative desegregation plans submitted by some of you were carried to Washington for evaluation. No decision was obtained on any of these plans in the absence of the adoption of written guidelines and criteria at the Federal level."

Some 50 Tar Heel school districts had filed plans.

Unanswered, wrote Dr. Carroll, by HEW to date are these questions: 1) Will the same desegregation yardstick be applicable to all states? 2) Will school districts now desegregated via federal court order be deemed in compliance? 3) Will boards of education executing the compliance agreement be deemed in compliance prior to an HEW check of the plan? 4) Will HEW read into the act a requirement (not in it) concerning desegregation of professional personnel?

The compliance problem is not limited to North Carolina and the South but to all of the 50 states.

Compliance due-date is July 1.

Here is a sample of the common bureaucratic problem. Congress passes a law, then the administrative agency seeks to establish ground rules within the framework of the law, sometimes without the intent of Congress. Additionally, the question of whether the law applies in same form to all is questionable interpretation of the law.

Kings Mountain's board of education is more pressed, and therefore more needful than some, for a quick decision on plan by HEW than some, as Kings Mountain has not used its current-year appropriation of science fund grants and stands to lose these monies if the compliance agreement is not executed soon.

In the instance, the Kings Mountain board intended and intends to make best possible use of these funds by buying science equipment for the new high school plant scheduled to open next September.

In effect, one school official commented, "We've been instructed to stop spinning our wheels."

Highway safety efforts are almost 99 percent commendable, most will agree, but to ban one-arm driving (see editorial cartoon this page) would be heresy! And so the vast majority of North Carolina's legislators agreed. It is a safe wager Representative Paul Robinson, who offered the anti-necking bill, has already collected some interesting nicknames from his colleagues and constituents.

Rural citizens are evidencing interest in more toll-free telephone service, desiring complete county-wide service of this kind. Obviously, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company will be glad to initiate a cost study if sufficient interest in the proposal is evidenced.

Attend the annual Kings Mountain high school senior class play Friday night.

Bills are to be introduced in the General Assembly which would set the biennial primaries in September, the run-offs, if necessary, about mid-September, leaving about six weeks for inter-party politicking prior to the general election. Some states follow this format and like it. Whether North Carolina would like it might be another matter.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON
Ingredients: bits of news, wisdom, humor, and comments
Directions: Take weekly, if possible, but avoid overdosage.

Anent the record of township lines or lack of it, I have found a clue, at least, via an historical piece of property given me a few years ago by Mrs. Cal Plonk, of Hickory.

It is a property map of Cleveland County dated 1886 and copyrighted by Paul E. Kyzer, T. E. The "T. E." designation was a new one for me and sent me scurrying to Mr. Webster's dictionary. The dictionary came through, as is its custom. "T. E." is the abbreviation for "topographical engineer". Mr. Kyzer, incidentally, is the first with whom I've made acquaintance.

The map was among the possessions of my late great-uncle and Mrs. Plonk, knowing of my interest in local area history, gave it to me. It was in poor repair and she suggested a Wins-ton-Salem firm specialized in repairing old documents of this and other types.

For some years, nothing was done about it. A few months ago, my wife decided refurbishing and framing the map would make me an ideal Christmas gift and be an interesting wall-piece for the Herald. Several telephone calls to Winston-Salem failed to ferret out the refurbisher. She then showed it to Mrs. Gladys White at the Glad Shop in Gastonia, who did a very respectable job of it.

The gift was still at home when the question of location of township lines came into the news and I gave it a closer perusal. The township lines are there and whoever surveyed and boundaried Cleveland out of portions of Lincoln and Rutherford (circa 1840) ran the lines rather straight. How accurately, of course, would be in the province of an engineer and perhaps a difficult chore for him.

The map should prove intriguing to about anybody with anything like long-term roots in Cleveland County, as well as others in nearby counties. The elevations on townships are clearly numbered, and the neat small script details owners of individual properties. Also included is an alphabetized index showing the addresses of the property owners listed.

A magnifying glass is of benefit in perusing the map.

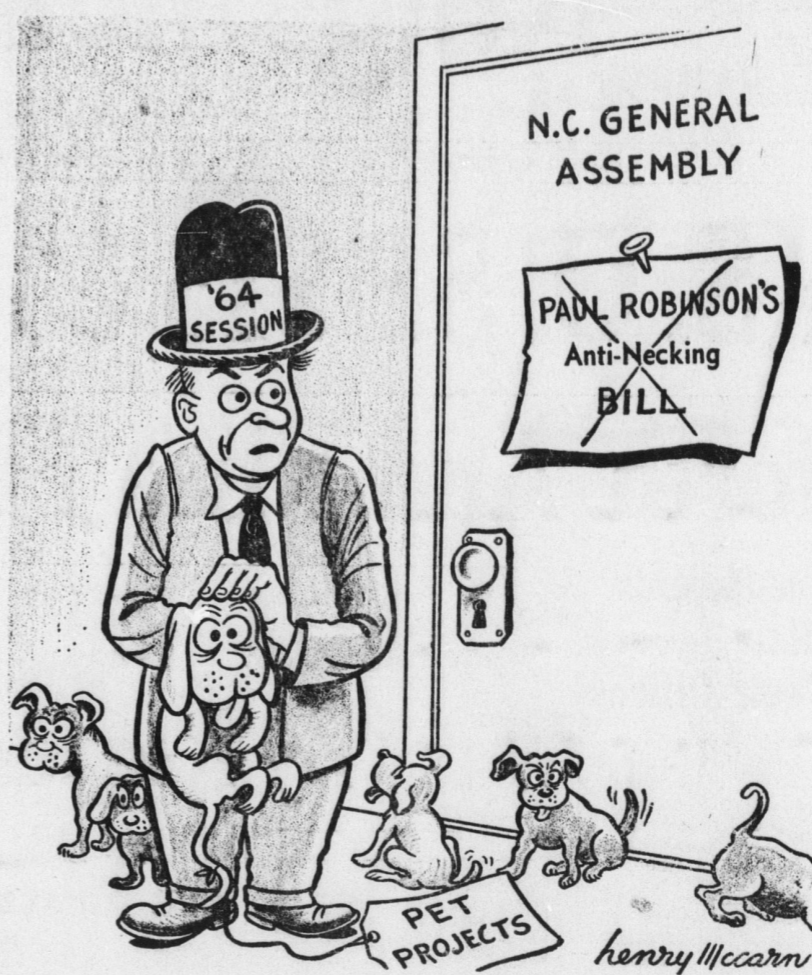
However, even at cursory scanning, I have been able to locate the homelands of both my father and mother. Grandfather Peter Beam Harmon lived near the Beulah community. His closest neighbor appears to be C. C. Roberts. Then there was J. Doggett and J. B. Rhyne, the latter a forebear of Mrs. Horace Ford. Grandfather W. L. Plonk's place, near what is now St. Luke's Lutheran church cemetery, is also clearly shown, his near-neighbors being Neal, McGill, Beatty and Hullender.

Clearly mapped are Buffalo and Mealy Fork Creeks and, of course, the Broad River, as well as the Airline Railroad, we now know as Southern Railway, and the C. & C. Railroad, which entered the county both from Cherryville and South Carolina and some of which is now the Seaboard Airline Railroad.

Herald Shop Superintendent David Weathers spotted the 1886 lands of his great grandfather, S. C. Wilson, in what is now Cleveland Springs, and where Mr. Wilson is buried in a family cemetery. Says David ruefully, "I wish his lands were still in the family."

In a side box, Engineer Kyzer lists U. S. Postoffices by township, apparently inadvertently omitted Shelby, for there is no listing for Number 6 or Shelby township. Surely Shelby had a postoffice in 1886. Including Shelby, there were no less than 30 in the county. Number 4 Township had only Kings Mountain and Grover, but Number 9 Township was the postal champion with five, at Belwood, Beam's Mill, Cleveland Mills, Double Shoals and Fallston. All those are familiar names. But examine some of these strangers to us today: Number 1, Byarsville, Erwinville, and Vavery; Number 2, Nicholson and Sharon; Number 3, Durbo, Swangs, and Stice's Shoals; Number 5, Buffalo Paper Mill, Fancy, Perry, and Waco; Number 7, Autro, and Mooresboro; Number 8, Camp Cell, New House and Folkville; Number 10, Knob Creek; and Number 11, Casar, Holly Bush, Point and Lark.

Back to the Pound, You Mutts



Viewpoints of Other Editors

ENTERTAINMENT ON THE RUN

In what some still think of as the good old days a man could choose his entertainment when and where he wanted it. There were those who actually chose not to be entertained on occasion. And others seemed to accept their choice without the slightest raising of eyebrows.

In those days people had the unsophisticated notion that the home was a possible place of entertainment. On the other hand, if one felt so inclined, he could attend the theater, concert hall, or sports arena. But was not something missing?

The amusement seeker had to make the transition from home entertainment to outside entertainment without the possibility of sustained entertainment in between. What to do about it?

Having duly noted this lack in our society, American know-how began to discover ways to provide all the blessings of continuous entertainment.

Now, when we catch our bus we are thrilled to hear just the tune we had been waiting for piped in for our benefit. When we begin our vertical ascent, our automatic elevator thoughtfully provides us with still another of our favorite tunes. How did it know?

Off for a winter holiday in the Caribbean, we need no longer wait until we arrive for the amusement to begin. Served our (how did you guess?) favorite movie, we note with some satisfaction that the only moments of possible entertainment we missed were on the way to the airport.

We note with dismay that one of the airlines has suggested eliminating "inflight entertainment" on both transatlantic and domestic flights. What do they want us to do? Go back to enjoying the scenery, engaging in stimulating conversation, reading a good book or magazine, or doing a bit of creative thinking? How retrogressive can we get? Christian Science Monitor

THE STRUGGLE TO DEFEND NATURAL BEAUTY

President Johnson's message on beauty, both natural and man-made, draws the issue sharply: Is this country going to be America the beautiful or God's own junkyard?

The outcome is in doubt. As of now, the United States is losing to the forces of ugliness. There are fewer good-looking new buildings being constructed in most cities than there are handsome old landmarks being torn down. The suburban sprawl produced vast groups of identical little houses which look as if they were all stamped out of a monstrous machine by a mindless idiot.

The nation once had clean and beautiful rivers, but they are rarities today. The problem of impure air is as close as the next breath you take. It spares nothing and no one. Against these and other forms of ugliness, the President has now issued an inspiring order of battle.

Mr. Johnson proposes to continue to extend in many useful ways the protection of woodlands, wildlife and natural beauty begun sixty years ago under Theodore Roosevelt. He also calls for "a new conservation" that will encompass our man-made urban environment. He is probably the first President to tell Americans they should "sal-

THE CASE FOR PLAIN ENGLISH

A school teacher out in Orange, Calif. is spurring her advanced-reading students on to bigger vocabularies. She asks them to invent more elaborate phrases for old sayings.

Thus, "Dead men tell no tales" becomes "Lifeless males of the human race communicate negative false truth." And the rocco version of "Nothing ventured, nothing gained" is "Avoidance of speculative enterprise precludes profit."

It's an imaginative approach. The only trouble is that here in Washington, we seem to have some graduates of that class who never got over the experience. Now they write governmentese.

In the day's mail, for example, appears this sentence from a Congressional report: "An integrated theory of the determinants of the distribution of personal income has lagged behind our capacity to collect and process vast amounts of relevant, if not always the most relevant data." "We can't see the forest for the trees."

What should have happened in this sort of thing had been fashionable among the men who made the statements that get into history books? What would General McAuliffe have said at Bastogne, or John Paul Jones aboard the Bonhomme Richard?

What those schoolkids need to do in California, when they get done enlarging their vocabularies, is to reverse the whole game. Let them practice making plain sentences out of fancy ones. That's a talent every office can use.

The whole business reminds us of a cartoon a while back which showed a school official dealing with an urchin in his office. On the official's door was lettered the title, LIFE ADJUSTMENT COUNSELLOR. And the man is saying to the youngster:

"Listen, punk. Shape up or ship out." Washington Star

vage the beauty and charm of our cities." The steps he urges in this direction are modest, but he has promised to recommend additional measures in a forthcoming message.

The central weakness in the national effort to combat ugliness is that the problems are so diverse and many sided. What is everybody's business too often becomes nobody's business. For that very reason, the most important fact about the President's message is that he sent it at all.

In so doing, he has provided the public with a proper sense of underlying coherence in the diffuse struggle to create beauty in our man-made environment and to defend it in our natural environment. By defining Government's responsibility, he stimulates a new awareness of the responsibilities of individuals and interest groups. The White House Conference on National Beauty which he has scheduled for May will also help in the long arduous effort to rescue the physical appearance of this country from the mess that man has been making of it.

The New York Times

Speaking Out

By GEORGE T. MOORE, President Kings Mountain Ministerial Assn.

The news of this week, and of the past week, is nothing new. Such a comment is not meant to be unimpressive. It is intended to shock the reader because of the tragic implications.

The news at hand, of course, is the on-going clashing of races, highlighted by the awful affairs in Selma, Alabama. Currently, standing out above all else, there is the news of one man being attacked and beaten to death, plus the brutality of others who use the protection of a badge of legal authority for their actions.

It is nothing new for such has always been the pattern of human relationships. More and more laws are being passed to protect the rights of people. More need to be enacted and enforced. Yet, brutality persists. It rears its selfish, egotistical, sinful head every day and will continue to do so.

Such a reaction of violence is not limited to any one area or people. It knows no bounds of South or North. It knows no limits of race. It could, and probably will, happen here. The true intent of the law is ignored whenever man feels threatened by outside forces. Push a man far enough and he will strike back. Some do it by law, some by demonstration, some by threat, and others use a night stick or a white hood.

Actually, the motivation is both fear and hate. The result is conflict wherein the strong have their way and the weak suffer, and all lose! Ours is a long history of such repeated fears and hates, brought to the surface and unleashed. They are never kept in check except where fear of the law is greater than the selfish fears of fearful and little men.

In that sense, the appalling news of the moment is nothing new. Such is our heritage. Such is our future. Laws will help to hold most people in check. For many the issue of Civil Rights will always be a battle cry, a smoldering fire which will burst forth and destroy.

What's the hope in all this? Will there ever be a change for the better? Yes, there will be, but only a change which comes from changed men. The hope of the world lies in the birth of the new and the redeemed. This newness is the kingdom of God, God's living and true Church. It is the newness of transformed men, responding in love to God's love. Then, and only then, will men live in respect and harmony.

What can we do, beyond condemning tragic brutality and hatred? Every man must act according to his own conscience, based solely on his personal relationship to God. Beyond that we can ask for and receive forgiveness. We can pray that God will touch and change the un-changed. That will be news, indeed!

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news about King Mountain area people and events taken from the 1955 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Henry P. Neisler was elected president of the Kings Mountain Country Club for the coming year at a meeting of the incoming board of directors Wednesday afternoon.

Three more candidates entered the city's political arena this week, including two for city commission positions and a lone candidate for school trustee. The new candidates are Sam Collins, Charles Ford and F. R. McCurdy.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL
The Fine Arts Department of the Woman's club will stage a three-day art exhibit beginning Thursday at the Woman's club.

Mrs. Anderson's Rites Conducted

Funeral rites for Mrs. James A. Anderson, 76, of Anderson, S. C., were held Monday at 3 p.m. from Oak Grove Baptist church, interment following in the church cemetery.

Rev. James Holder officiated at the final rites. Mrs. Anderson, a native of Cleveland County, died Sunday. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Eli Lovelace of Cleveland County. She is survived by one son, Walter Anderson, of Easley, S.C.

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