

Letters To The Editor Onetime Citizen Carpenter Fought In Thirty Battles

Attention!! Parents, Why do you object to the social activities we formerly enjoyed as Kings Mountain High School students. We want you, parents, to explain why we are not allowed social activities, such as dances and club outings. The impression that the students have is that some few parents stopped our social activities in the school.

When we were in the old school we had no such problems. In fact, we were under the impression that we would be granted more privileges in the new school. But, do we have more? No. We have fewer, if you consider social activities as a privilege. I do, and so do many more of the students. We have had only one dance in our new school this year. Why? Is it because of integration, outside intrusions, or lack of chaperones?

First, integration — Many students protested the integration at first, but we could not stop it. Now, we have accepted this change even at our school dance. No problems presented themselves. In fact, it was one of the best dances Kings Mountain High School has ever had. Second, outside intrusions — We admit that there were intruders, people who are not members of our student body, but this could be stopped by issuing student I. D. cards. Third, lack of chaperones — Several teachers, who were present during our dance as chaperones will defend our conduct. But, some few parents feel that we need a policeman present. If we can get one for our ballgames, why can't we get one for our dance? Our dance profits could pay for the extra cost. There are auxiliary policemen available that we can get.

We want you, parents, to take into consideration the fact that we only have a bowling alley and a theatre in Kings Mountain for recreation, and these are unsupervised. It is a shame and disgrace to Kings Mountain that we do not have a recreational center, Teen Club, or at least school dances, where our activities would be guided and supervised by qualified adults.

We feel that we are being cheated and mistreated, and we wonder why you, parents, are opposed to social activities in Kings Mountain High School.

We, the students, of Kings Mountain High School, ask you, parents, to help us re-establish social activities in our school. You are the only people who can help us.

Earnestly,
Ray White,
Senior at Kings Mountain High School

Open letter to: My wife, son, family and Temple Baptist Church

In writing this you will know why I had to come to this War-Torn Land, and why I had to leave my wife and family. To cross the ocean and join the strife, some may suppose, and some just don't care. But I had to come and do my share. We are fighting here, so you won't know the fright of a look on the door during the night and find terror awaiting. So that our child can have a land that is free to worship God with you and me. If the Viet Cong are not stopped, our country is next, and our home can die. I am willing to give my life for my wife and son, and my family, and all my friends.

I know while we are here, you're free from war, free from fear. We sacrifice the sweat of our lives, to defend the place where our heart lies. I sit here thinking about the world outside, and time goes by. Knowing that people will have to die, and there is no place to hide.

There are many people back home, that think draft cards are only paper. But they mean a lot to the people who respect them. There will be no draft card burning for my family as I die.

I wish those marchers back home were here fighting along with us. You would hear them moan and say, I wish I was back home in the United States. This, my friends, the draft card burners and the marchers are why we are in Viet Nam. And so you won't know the fighting and the bombing in our home land.

I pray that God take the time the marchers use to burn their draft cards, so they can have time to pray for the men here in Viet Nam, because we are here for a good reason.

James R. Ivey
124th Trans. Co. (TS)
11th Trans. Bn.
APO 96307
San Francisco, Calif.

Adams Finishes Airborne Course

FORT BENNING, GA. (AHT-NC) — Sgt. Maynard E. Adams, whose wife, Ethel, lives on Highway 24 E., Box 116-1, Midway Park, N. C., completed a three-week airborne course at the Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., Feb. 5.

His training, which included five jumps from a C-130 airplane flying more than 170 miles an hour from an altitude of 1,250 feet, qualified Sergeant Adams as a parachutist.

Sergeant Adams entered the Marine Corps in January 1958. The 25-year-old marine son of Mr. and Mrs. Maynard E. Adams, 1462 Summer St., Stamford, Conn., attended Stamford High School.

(Ed. Note: The following account by Sara Smith, appeared in the Gaston Gazette of February 6, 1955, and features the late John T. Carpenter, onetime Kings Mountain citizen and grandfather of Miss Alida Deal.)

Among Cherryville's very oldest and best loved citizens is Mr. John T. Carpenter, one of six remaining Confederate veterans in Cherryville township, who, with his daughter, Mrs. Espey Plonk and Mr. Plonk in South Cherryville, Mr. Carpenter and one sister, Mrs. Sarah Linberger of High Shoals, are the only survivors of a family of 14 children, sons and daughters of Frederick and Barbara Fronberger, Carpenter.

Mr. Carpenter will celebrate his 95th birthday anniversary on Sunday, February 8, 1940, and although there will be no public birthday dinner, the immediate family will spend the day with him and enjoy a private celebration.

Mr. Carpenter began his life, which now approaches the century mark on February 8, 1840, in the section of Lincoln County which was chartered into Gaston in 1846, nearly seven years after his birth. His father, a farmer of the Beavertown section, owned extensive lands in that vicinity, and although living in slavery days, owned no slaves as he had refused to accept any when his father's property was settled. Partly for that reason the Carpenter children early became good farm workers, the boy, John, handling a plow in the field at the age of eight. Mr. Carpenter received his education at the school now known as Lander's Chapel.

WAR AND EXPERIENCES

At the age of 21, on August 27, 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate army, a member of Company B, 28th North Carolina regiment, of which Rev. T. H. Edwards, a Methodist minister, was captain. During his four years of war life, he fought in 30 historic battles and numerous skirmishes, and suffered varied experiences. He was captured, at Hanover, Va., April 6, 1865 and taken to New York and later moved to Fort Delaware and finally released in an exchange of prisoners. At the battle of Fredericksburg nine men around him were killed by bayonets, he being saved only through a Yankee officer's kindness. Mr. Carpenter was personally acquainted with General Lee and often talked with him. On one occasion, a short time before the surrender, Lee,

on seeing him riding a crippled horse remarked, "Sergeant, have that horse shot." At another time, particularly vivid in Mr. Carpenter's memory, two members of his company deserted and were captured, tried and sentenced to be shot. Before the day set for the execution the men were reprieved and placed in battle, Sergeant Carpenter being appointed as a witness to their behavior under fire. After the fight the men deserted again and were recaptured, finally being saved from execution by Mr. Carpenter's testimony of their bravery in battle. On another occasion Yankee soldiers dug holes and stood up dead Yankee bodies as a ruse to permit their escape.

Having been wounded at the battle of Petersburg, just before the close of the war and placed in a hospital at Farmville, Va., six miles from the site of Lee's surrender, Sergeant Carpenter failed to witness the actual surrender but tells, as well as if he had been present of everything which took place.

At the conclusion of the war, having been released from the hospital, Mr. Carpenter returned to his father's home in the Beavertown section. By exercising strict economy in the two years following the war, he was able to save enough money to buy skins and hides sufficient to open a tannery. In 1870 he opened a tannery for the Craig and Wilson Company in Gastonia, remaining there until 1900 when he established a business in Kings Mountain, he being president and I. M. Deal, secretary and treasurer. This company was in business until 1909 when Mr. Carpenter moved to Cherryville.

MARRIED MISS CROUSE

Nov. 3, 1869, Mr. Carpenter married Miss Elizabeth Crouse, daughter of Rufus and Amanda Ecker Crouse. The couple established their home at the place now known as the E. am place near Bethel church, which the groom had built before his marriage for his future home. Of the children born to this couple three are living: Mrs. J. Garrett, 64, of Kings Mountain, Rufus Carpenter, 58, and Mrs. Espey Plonk, 51, both of Cherryville. They also reared five children of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Elliott, the latter Mrs. Carpenter's sister, who died, leaving the five young children. These are: Carl Elliott, Gastonia chief of police; Mrs. Simpson Bradley, Mrs. Flowers Clark, and Crouse Elliott all of Gastonia, and John Elliott of Atlanta, Ga.

Being almost seven years old when Gaston county was formed,

Mr. Carpenter of course knows the history of the county. He was prominent in the early political life of the county, having been a magistrate for a number of years, and also having served as a member of the board of education and the county commissioners. Among his capacities were the petitions for the establishment of voting precincts, roads, school districts and school buildings. For 10 years he was registrar for elections in the Beavertown precinct. The most important of the elections was the one held after the war concerning the return of the seceding states to the Union. At the polls where he presided 720 votes were cast, each voter taking the oath of amnesty. The ballot box was then sealed and sent to Columbia, at this time head of the Southern government under the military governorship of Canby. All this occurred since the days when numbers of residents of this section riding horseback to the Lincoln court house to vote, stopped for the night at the Carpenter home.

Mr. Carpenter is a staunch Democrat, and has never voted any other ticket since he cast his first ballot along with John Mose McGinnis and Sheriff M. Shuford's first votes for the Democratic party. At political meetings of those times fighting and drinking were common, and although a justice of the peace, Mr. Carpenter made no attempt to stop them, because it would have been well nigh impossible and also because he enjoyed a good fight.

RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY CHERRYVILLE

Along with these recollections of Gaston long ago, Mr. Carpenter also has vivid remembrances of early Cherryville. He recalls, as do other older citizens, when Cherryville was composed of a store, a church, half a dozen homes, and a two mile stretch of road lined with cherry trees. The store was under the proprietorship of Henry Summitt, who employed five clerks to attend to the customers who came here from far and near to trade. The church, Lutheran, was established by Albert McGinnis on the site of the present Lutheran church. Mr. Carpenter, although having lived continuously in

Cherryville only 25 years, was living in this section before he moved here and has seen the streets, church and line of cherry trees grow into the present enterprising town of Cherryville. When he came here he moved into the house where he still lives. He has the distinction of being the only Gaston county Civil War veteran living in a house built and owned by himself. He and his wife also have the distinction of being the oldest married couple in this section, having been married 86 years. They are both in good health. Mr. Carpenter reads without glasses, hears anything said in a conversational tone of voice, and possesses a memory anyone should be proud to own. It is really amazing how extremely well he recalls occurrences of any period of his life. For 18 years he has been compelled to remain in his home because of a broken hip, using crutches to move from room to room. That disability has not at all dimmed his mental powers. He loves to talk about war life and you could see his kindly blue eyes sparkle as he discusses it. He attributes his long life to the fact that each night before retiring he prays for the continuance of his good health, and begs for forgiveness for any sin committed unconsciously during the day. If his good health does continue he should easily reach the century mark and that without becoming a burden.

Among the old pieces in his home prized by the aged veteran is a mahogany piano, Franklin Square, New York. This piano, still a very good musical instrument, was bought long ago from Rev. M. L. Mann who originally bought it for use in the first Kings Mountain school. Another prized article is an old oak dresser with marble top, also bought from Rev. Mr. Mann. Still another prized possession is a calendar of date 1911, distributed by the Gastonia Insurance and Realty Company, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the war. The calendar front pictures Lee and Davis, a map of the Confederate states, and numerous monuments erected in commemoration of Confederate army officials and battles. The back of the calendar gives the history of prominent battles in Confederate Song and Poetry.

Mr. Carpenter is delighted to have visitors, and anyone wishing to obtain first hand the story of his Civil War recollections should visit him and enjoy a pleasant afternoon.

Here's wishing for him as he celebrates his 95th birthday anniversary February 10, many more years of useful, happy life.

Mrs. Deveney's Rites Conducted

Funeral rites for A. Lee Deveney, 63, of route two, were held Friday at 4 p.m. from David Baptist church of which he was a member. Rev. N. S. Hardin officiated at the final rites, and interment was made in Mountain Rest cemetery.

Mr. Deveney died Thursday morning in the Kings Mountain

hospital following several months illness. He was a native of Cleveland County, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Deveney. He was a retired brick mason.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ocie Mae Wells Deveney; three sons, Worth Deveney of Springfield, Va., and J. C. Deveney and Stowe Deveney, both of Kings Mountain; a daughter, Mrs. Willie Allen of Kings Mountain; two brothers, Arlo Deveney of Shelby and Otto Deveney of Casar; a sister, Mrs. Rufus Brackett of Casar; and 10 grandchildren.

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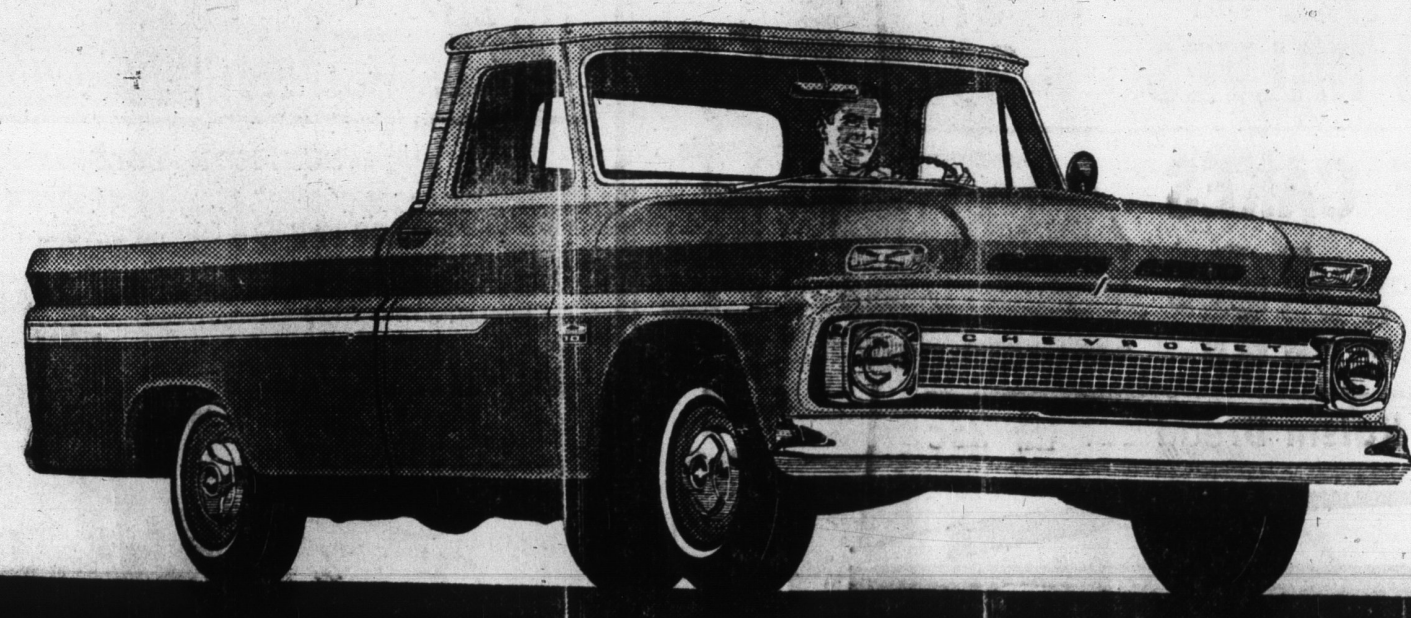


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