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The Kings Mountain Herald

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MARTIN'S MEDICINE

Ingredients: bits of news, wisdom, humor, and comments
Directions: Take weekly, if possible, but avoid

By MARTIN HARMON

Bill Bridges, the barber, was teasing Dr. John C. McGill recently about a sign his wife and daughter found on his office door recently.

m-m

The text read something like this: "Wanted: Cowboy for immediate employment. Good working conditions. Fringe benefits: cut-rate medical care (milk fever, broken bones). Apply inside, leave horse hitched outside. 'Rancher' J. McGill."

m-m

John's cows in neighboring South Carolina had crashed through the fence and taken French leave. At the time, an even dozen were still AWOL.

m-m

Author of the joke was Bill's barbering cousin, Roy Bridges, and he was merely repaying John for an earlier prank perpetrated by the doctor. Shortly after the barber shops started closing all day Wednesdays, John was going to a reunion on a Wednesday and was in dire need of a trim, both for general good grooming and to remove some five years worth of gray. But no shops were open. John put a sign on Roy's emporium reading: "For emergency haircut service, phone the number of course being Roy's home phone."

m-m

Pop Simmons, the county commissioner, paid call recently to buy some campaign advertising. We started talking about baseball and Pop remained more than an hour. I told Pop my first memory of him was when I was a youngster and he was making regular calls next door to court my beautiful blonde neighbor Helen Collins. Pop had the unwelcome news that she had succumbed three years ago.

m-m

The first money Pop earned playing baseball was for the Margrace semi-pros of 1923. He declares the competition was too heavy for a fellow of his youth in that era. He chuckled about Badeye Guthrie, one of the star pitchers for Kings Mountain. "Man, he was wicked," Pop recalled. "He would have cursed his grandmother had he thought it would produce a single strike on the batter." Bill Saunders, Bob Southwell's father-in-law, was playing manager. Runt Lowe the catcher. Snag Ormand, Charlie Moss recalls, was released by Shelby, walked from Shelby to Kings Mountain, signed on with the Margrace team and defeated Shelby the following day. Shelby fans found it hard to understand why Snag could lose for Shelby and win for Kings Mountain.

m-m

When my wife was about age ten, her church had a visiting evangelist. At one morning session the subject was alcoholic beverages and attendant ills. Near the conclusion, the youngsters were invited to sign a pledge that they would never use alcoholic drinks in any form nor vend it. Anne didn't sign, and won the accord of her grandmother, who said, "You were right for never is a mighty long time." A recent event confirms her grandmother's good judgment.

m-m

My wife owns a few shares of Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company stock. What I thought was the regular quarterly dividend check arrived on proper schedule. I didn't open the letter and delivered it sealed to Anne. That evening when I arrived home, she declared she was going to sell Liggett & Myers.

m-m

"Wasn't that the regular dividend check?" I inquired. Oh, the check was enclosed, she replied. "Then what's the trouble?" I queried. She handed me another enclosure which was an announcement that L & M in late May had acquired The Paddington Corporation. Paddington's claim to fame is that it is sole distributor in the United States for high-toned J. & B. Scotch whiskey, and in turn controls another company which markets two other "premium" beverages, including Bombay gin.

m-m

"I've always had a mental reservation against being a party to selling that stuff," she declared.

m-m

Mrs. O. J. Coffin, of Chapel Hill, widow of the late Skipper of the journalism school, is native of Haywood County and full of what many consider native mountain wit. Her son had brought her to a press dinner but couldn't remain himself.

m-m

What did her son do? "He took my advice," she replied. "I always told him not to try to sell something people didn't want much of but to sell something they'd take away from him, like liquor or tobacco. He works for American Tobacco Company."

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. *Romans 8:28.*

Vote Saturday

Have a favorite, or two or three in Saturday's run-off primary? If so, vote!

There are three run-off races in Saturday's Democratic primary, for two county commission seats and for county treasurer, and, for Republicans, there is a run-off for United States Congressman from the tenth North Carolina district.

Nominally, in Cleveland county the tenth North Carolina district, Democratic nomination is tantamount to election.

Odds are that the "tantamount" business holds true again this year, though the commission nominees and Congressman Basil L. Whitener, unopposed nominee for re-election, have Republican opposition.

Republicans are not accustomed to primaries and come nowhere near voting their strength until the autumn campaign, when it is often too late. W. Hall Young, of Avery county, held a sizeable lead over Challenger Don Wirick, of Gastonia, in the May 28 voting. He has predicted, likely correctly, he will again be the GOP choice to face Mr. Whitener in the autumn. Yet GOP strength in Gaston alone, if put into the ballot box, would swamp Mr. Young. He told Gaston folk as much in recent days.

There is no GOP candidate for county treasurer. Thus Democrats will elect a treasurer on Saturday.

The prediction is for a quite light vote total, which means that the candidates who get their friends to the polls will be the winners.

The Whammy

This newspaper, as never, does not appreciate action of the city board of commissioners in ratifying use of the radar speed control system — better known as the "whammy" — to control traffic speed.

From the looks of the Monday court docket, the officers must have done little else in recent days, other than manipulate this instrument (or instruments, since the city has two).

The city's financial well-being does not indicate need for money is the reason. Or is that the route for employee pay raises?

The Herald would remind the commissioners, all of whom are sufficiently aged to remember, of the reputation of Bessemer City for harrying travelers in the days of the motorcycle policeman.

Nor would any of the commissioners pass through Petersburg, Virginia, or Brunswick, Georgia, could they possibly avoid it.

Kings Mountain is trying to stretch up and does not need to develop the reputation of being a hick town. Via U. S. Bureau of the Census edict Kings Mountain 1) qualified for "city" designation by attaining 5,000 population in 1930 and 2) showed population of 8,256 in the recent special census of the bureau.

Irvin Allen, Sr.

Irvin M. Allen, Sr., is among the better police officers Kings Mountain and Cleveland County has known.

He also was among the more shrewd politicians to grace this county. His dictum: do your politicking after dark. It was reference to fact that, in heat of a campaign, people put two and two together and often derive answers of three or five, neither being correct.

Mr. Allen's longtime interest and continuing activity in local politics taught him how to read minds and attitudes, and the same stood with him to his seemingly inherent ability as a police officer and sheriff with the detective's mind — in the tradition of Dashiell Hammet, Earle Stanley Gardner, and Perry Mason.

There is much to remember about Sheriff Allen:

- 1) The hard-fought Allen-Raymond Cline races for high sheriff of the county.
- 2) His adherence to and support of the Democratic party.
- 3) His determination, after a stroke of paralysis, to retain a driver's license (he did).
- 4) His farm-grown wisdom.
- 5) His fine family.

Mr. Allen always clowning during political seasons, but those who jostled with him in both victory and defeat would attest he was never a clown.

In a coma prior to the May 28 primary, he aroused thereafter to understand that his son had been re-nominated as sheriff.

It can be safely surmised that Sheriff Allen died at peace.

Price Of Eggs (Milk)

The Charlotte Observer made big headlines out of the news story that the price of milk likely will advance by two cents per quart come August.

Why not, or as the French say it "pourquoi non"?

The farmer has been one of the more protected souls of the United States. Reasons are several, including the native rural background of this nation, fear of the farmer by urbanites, the farmer's native conservatism and consequent appreciation of protectionism as represented one time by his tariff policy, today by his willingness to lean on arms of government for marketing quotas, farm extension services, and, in this state, the milk commission.

The federal government has continually excluded the farmer from the minimum wage law. The farmer, unlike the grocer, is not required to report as income for taxes, what he removes from inventory (his products) for the home table.

There comes a time for reckoning and the prospect of an increase in the price of milk is a harbinger.

No longer can a man become a farmer with a mortgaged mule, an in-advent crop lein for his food, a plow and set of plow points.

His investment is large and his tools are complicated. His onetime tenants are now in so-called public works. Many dairymen, selling quantities of milk in bulk, go to the super markets for their dairy products.

To keep in business, he must raise his prices.

Two cents on 30 is 6.67 percent, shade higher than the President's hold-the-line 3.2 percent.

But it is hardly likely the increase will bankrupt many — even a guy like Senator Robert Kennedy with nine youngsters to serve with milk, ice cream and butter.

Bill White

The Herald regrets the departure of William H. White, assistant city attorney and solicitor of recorder's court, to the Brevard law firm of Hamlin and Ramsey.

Those who worked with him closely mark him as a step step ahead of the average young lawyer.

Best wishes attend him and his family in Transylvania County.

Congratulations to Charles D. Blanton, Jr., newly installed president of the North Carolina Pharmaceutical association; Carl Weisener, Jr., tapped for the superior and gifted student project at Western Carolina College; Larry Patrick and David Wilson, 1966 representative of Otis D. Green Post 155, American Legion, to annual Boys' State.

Death Valley Days

Viewpoints of Other Editors

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC SYSTEMS NEED RELIEF FROM 1965 LAW

It is now abundantly clear that the 1965 legislation setting territorial rights for private power companies and rural co-ops was passed at the future expense of the 73 municipally owned electrical systems in the state.

This peace package for the companies and the co-ops was widely hailed as a major triumph for the Moore administration. The voices of the municipalities unfortunately were all but drowned out in the approbation of those who benefited.

While it was highly desirable to effect some kind of truce between the private, taxpaying companies and the tax-subsidized rural cooperatives, the interests of the cities were given little consideration.

Gov. Dan Moore, who urged the territorial agreement, obviously did not understand at that time the possible consequences to the city systems. His recent comments about their predicament reveal that in 1965 he was merely engaging in some wishful thinking about their welfare, rather than assuring it through provisions of the law.

Prior to passage of the 1965 law, which permits non-municipal systems to serve consumers within 300 feet of their existing lines, even when the lines are within cities which have their own systems, the municipalities were reasonably able to expand their systems as city limits lines were expanded.

The standard practice when an annexation took place was for the city to purchase existing facilities from private power companies or co-ops, usually at a negotiated price that took depreciation into consideration.

The 1965 law has all but ended that practice, and in the process has ended much of the incentive and desire for cities to add to their populations and areas by annexation. Ironically this comes at a time when cities hard-pressed for revenue depend more and more on expanding utility revenues to make ends meet.

Cities all over the state have reported either no definite response or flat refusal from cooperatives, Carolina Power and Light Co. and Duke Power Co. when they sought to acquire facilities within their limits or in areas to be annexed.

There was a slight break in this pattern this week when it was reported that Duke would negotiate with Shelby for the sale of facilities serving six customers inside the city limits. Shelby began seeking these facilities in 1964, but all progress on the matter stopped after the 1965 legislation was passed.

Now, after direct contact with Gov. Moore and Duke Power's president, it appears that the sale will be worked out. Still pending, however, is a decision of Shelby to annex a substantial residential area, a move that could not profitably be made unless there was some assurance that its electrical sales can be expanded as well.

This is only one case. Gov. Moore now says that he gave no firm assurances to cities but simply had no reason to believe that the power companies and the co-ops would refuse to sell under the new law.

It is with good reason, then, that the N. C. Municipally Owned Electric Systems organization plans a 1967 amendment to the territorial agreement law. It would provide that system-owning municipalities would be able

EARLIER TO SCHOOL

Why should a child be required to wait around until he is six to go to school? Educators are finding that small boys and girls will do much better work in the first grade if they have attended kindergarten, and still better if they have had experience in what is termed "pre-kindergarten" classes. They think children who begin this kind of preparation when they are four are less likely to fail in later grades.

But only about half of the nation's five-year-olds are now in kindergarten. Less than 25 percent of the nation's school districts offer classes. A much smaller number are enrolled in nursery schools. Project Head Start, and the like.

It is encouraging to note a growing movement among educators in favor of extending public education downward to the very young. The National Education Association's policy commission has just recommended that free preschool education be offered to all the nation's children at the age of four.

We approve this objective. There are indications that lack of preschool education is one cause of the high dropout rate in elementary and high school classes.

But these recommendations raise a question. If preschool education is made universal, will it be the right kind? Are there enough teachers who know how and what to teach very small children? As the NEA recommendation makes clear, preschool teaching must not be merely a simplified version of first grade work but a program "uniquely adapted to children of ages four and five." It must be free of regimentation, giving rein to a teacher's imagination and spontaneity. It would call for a vast recruitment effort and many new courses in teacher colleges.

All this is obtainable in time. But it is important that any program adopted on a nationwide scale take into account these basic needs and not overlook itself. With a view to the future, preparation for earlier education should begin now—on a national scale.

Christian Science Monitor

JOB CORPS JITTERS

The New Bedford City Council's demand that the Federal government close the Ford Rodman Job Corps Center has quite properly been rejected by R. Sargent Shriver.

Admittedly, a small minority of the center's 250 trainees became embroiled in skirmishes with local youth and the police. But the answer to the problem does not lie in panicky demands to throw out the baby with the bath water.

An article in the current New Yorker magazine by John Bainbridge on the Job Corps Center at Camp Kilmer, N. J., vividly illustrates both the same problem and how to solve it.

Jerome M. Ziegler, director of the local center, pointed the way to appropriate corrective action when he asked that "our neighbors in New Bedford... meet us and above all get to know you (trainees) as individuals." What happens at Rodman, as Ziegler said, "may well affect the whole Job Corps program of the country."

Boston Globe

AMBASSADOR OF UNITY

We'd conceded Linda Louise Sherrer of Kings Mountain to be a lovely and gracious recipient of the Miss Shelby title well in advance of reading the results of staffer Pat Borden's girl-to-girl interview, which was published on woman's pages of last Saturday.

It appears now that she'll be an ambassador of unity as well. "You know," she told our reporter, "I hope my being Miss Shelby this year will help Kings Mountain and Shelby form some sort of unity. It's about time and I hope I can help in some way."

It is about time! Beauty and youth just may be the perfect antidotes for longstanding two-way cussedness. At any rate, Miss Shelby of Kings Mountain has our best wishes for a reign of unity.

Shelby Daily Star

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news about King Mountain area, people and events taken from the 195 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Basil L. Whitener made up his first primary deficit to Ralph Gardner with plenty of room to spare last Saturday as he won the 11th District Democratic Congressional nomination by 1106 votes.

SO THIS IS NEW YORK

By NORTH CALLAHAN

With people living ever closer together, with automation noisily abuzz and still with human nature requiring the same amount of relaxation and repose, sleep has become one of our major problematic goals. There just is no substitute for it and as far as I know, medical science is not even trying to find one. I shall never forget what our football coach said to a group of us once, after we had been out late on a week-end and showed up at practice bleary-eyed and wobble-legged: "Boys, just remember this. There's nothing that will put it into you like sleep." The importance of slumber can be found in the writings of our greatest literati. Mark Twain once defined a snorer as a "sound sleeper" and wrote one of his incomparable essays on wonderment of why snorers could not hear themselves sawing logs. Then there was the lady who became exasperated with her husband instead of talking in his sleep, he just grinned.

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The most famous sleep in America was said to have taken place some miles above here at storied Tarrytown but some one has observed that the twenty-year siesta of Rip Van Winkle was not disturbed by loud television sets of neighbors. Benjamin Franklin, who had something to say about virtually everything, commented that "sleep is the best medicine, fatigue is the best pillow." And what schoolchild does not recall his memorable, "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." Although no one is known to have died from it, insomnia can be a troublesome thing, resulting in health hazards, loss of vitality and even illness. In the Biblical book of Proverbs there is a saying, "Drowsiness shall clothe a man in rags." Many figures of speech have originated around the idea of sleep. For example: "Now you have made your bed, sleep in it." There is an old custom of stuffing money into mattresses, references to getting out of bed on the wrong side and remarks about sleeping with one eye open.

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After a nation-wide survey, the National Association of Bedding Manufacturers have come up with the conclusion that one reason people have trouble getting to sleep is that their mattresses are too small for them. Statistics show that millions of Americans are taller than their fathers but are still sleeping in the same short beds. Sixty-five years ago, only one out of every 25 American men between the ages of 25 and 30 reached the height of six feet or more. Today one out of every five is six feet tall, and with all the milk, orange juice and vitamins, today's kids are growing even taller. More roomy beds are necessary and king-size mattresses are coming more into demand. Though the big beds are more expensive, this is said to represent a good investment in the sleep and rest which are so essential to today's fast pace of life. It is well, the manufacturers urge, to measure the mattresses of your growing youngsters to assure that they are long enough for them.

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