



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 Thursday by the Herald Publishing House.
Entered as second class matter at the post office at Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086 under Act of Congress of March 3, 1873.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Martin Harmon Editor-Publisher
Miss Elizabeth Stewart Circulation Manager and Society Editor

MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT

Dave Weathers, Supt. Allen Myers Paul Jackson Steve Martin
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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee. Proverbs 2:11.

Cemetery Development

The city commission is embarking on a program to develop the eastern portion of Mountain Rest cemetery, which is the remainder of the area in what many have termed North Carolina's "most beautiful municipal cemetery".

Mountain Rest cemetery is almost as old as the city itself, its use dating from 1876.

It was in 1924, however, that small, struggling, water-short (then, as now) Kings Mountain had the foresight to launch the development program that brought the cemetery to its prestigious place. The town board of that time, under the leadership of H. C. Dwelle, adopted a permanent program for continued landscaping and beautification.

When a person buys a grave site in this cemetery, his contract pledges the city to give it permanent care. Indeed, half of the cost of the grave site is placed in a special fund for that purpose.

It is this fund, which, in spite of other expansions and physical improvements over the years, has reached \$50,000 and is being tapped for the eastern area development.

The fund may not have mounted to that extent, likely would not have, had not several attorneys-general interpreted the "permanent care" agreement to require the fund to be used only for permanent improvements.

One cannot confer with the foreseeing forefathers of '24, but it is likely they thought they were promising use of the funds operationally — to keep grass and weeds at bay and other items of regular, seasonal maintenance.

As the city has grown, this agreement is no longer needed and it would be well for the legislature, at least, to define the intent of the agreement to provide for operational maintenance.

The development of the eastern section will enhance further the beauty of the site.

Hail, Gardner-Webb

Gardner-Webb College is on the road to becoming a full-fledged four-year college, immediately as a result of last week's action by the North Carolina Baptist convention.

Much went before.

Through the years, with growing accent, Gardner-Webb has enjoyed excellent administrative direction and, perhaps more important, the growing support of the Cleveland - Rutherford community Gardner-Webb serves.

This area needs a full-fledged, four-year liberal arts college, which Gardner-Webb soon will be.

President Eugene Poston's remarks were pleasing.

While acknowledging that, in the short term, lack of student accommodations will limit the size of the student body and therefore pose more stringent entrance requirements, Dr. Poston also said grades would not be sole determining factor in an applicant's admission test.

That is good.

Just as runners don't get their second wind at the same distance post, so do students.

Many seeming high school sluggards have found themselves academically at the college level.

Hail, Gardner-Webb, and all good wishes!

Buy a fruit cake from a Lion and help the poor of sight.

Joe Hendrick

The title would be a steal: "The Way of All City and County Managers".

It was rather apparent, following the second primary last June when three challenging commissioners were nominated that Joe Hendrick, Cleveland County's first county manager, was likely to be discharged. One winning candidate had made Hendrick's ousting a platform plank.

Word was in some quarters that Mr. Hendrick would weather the storm, that the atmosphere, in the light of victory, wasn't as stormy as reputed.

But Mr. Hendrick likes to eat, like most folk. He decided the new climate in Lumberton's city manager seat would be more to his palate and so told the county commission Monday.

Having witnessed the managerial operations of government, here and elsewhere, over a period of several decades, this newspaper decided at least 15 years ago that the managerial form of government just ain't what its cracked up to be. Unless the right horses win, the manager becomes the holder of the losing ticket.

Some decry the Kings Mountain system of the paid elected manager, to wit, the Mayor. But this system is quite simple. If a fellow gets himself elected to the managerial job and fails to discharge his responsibilities, the voters will attend to his pasturing.

An elected official, inately, is responsible to all the people.

Best wishes go with Cleveland native Joe Hendrick to Lumberton and Robeson county.

Economy Hits Home

It's mighty easy to wax eloquent over governmental waste particularly at the federal level.

Yet Kings Mountain has a direct stake in some federal economy moves and wonders about the wisdom thereof.

Latest case in point is Kings Mountain Military Park, where shortage of personnel (on the percentage of replacement formula) has forced Superintendent Ben Moomaw to curtail activities on two of seven days per week. No longer is the museum open on Mondays and Tuesdays, the "lighter" days. That may not apply next summer.

After all, the folk at Kings Mountain National Military Park are logging a half-million visitors yearly.

Ho, Hum

Safest potential wager of the season is that Hubert H. Humphrey will NOT be speaker of the House of Representatives.

On basis of past performance, an almost equally safe wager is that the United States House of Representative Democrats will NOT scrap the venerable, praised and damned seniority system in staffing its committees.

It will be recalled that the Republicans once dumped aging Joe Martin as minority leader — but for one of their own, not an outlander.

It will be recalled, too, that the young buckers frequently call for an end to the system of seniority. But the call is never answered sufficiently. The upper classmen remember their days of youthful woe.

And it seems rather proper, when the record is examined.

Good news: bids will be received Tuesday on the state highway commission project to improve dangerous N. C. 161 South to the South Carolina state line.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

Child of Reconstruction, lawyer, North Carolina legislator at age 20, minister of the gospel, author, play right, actor, movie scenarist. . . .

m-m

About all I knew about Thomas Dixon, Jr., 1864-1946, was that he wrote the script for the famous motion picture "Birth of a Nation", that he was native to Cleveland County and one of its famous sons.

m-m

I now know much more about this interesting, strong personality of an interesting, strong family. The reason: I have read "Fire from the Flint—The Amazing Career of Thomas Dixon", a biography by Raymond Allen Cook, John F. Blair, Winston-Salem publisher, 255 pages, publication date November 30, 1968, \$6.

m-m

The review copy arrived in Saturday's mail.

m-m

The author, a Georgian, labels Dixon: proud, humble; contentious, conciliatory; abusive, charming; grasping, generous; vindictive, forgiving; liberal, reactionary; versatile, narrow. Whatta man was Thomas Dixon!

m-m

His paternal grandmother was Amanda Hambricht Dixon, of Kings Mountain's nearby Dixon community, and he was reared in early life in the New Prospect church community. Before the family moved to Shelby, he went to Wake Forest at 15, later studied at John Hopkins University where a fellow student and lifelong friend was a young man named Woodrow Wilson. When Wake Forest tendered an honorary degree a few years after to its quite young but distinguished alumnus, Alumnus Dixon suggested Wilson instead and his suggestion was honored.

m-m

In his campaign for the state house, at the tender age of 20, Dixon had two opponents, the incumbent, and a Confederate war veteran major, the latter his cousin. It was in the days when a political speaking was a major event. Dixon ruined the incumbent by squinting at a piece of paper the size of a postage stamp, purporting to read the record of the incumbent in the recent session. The cousin wasn't as easy, privately threatened to whip Dixon physically if Dixon didn't "lay off". At first public speaking opportunity, Dixon exposed the threat.

m-m

It was the beginning of an intriguing adult life of battle, usually intellectual, sometimes litigant. He preached—and fought—at Goldsboro, Raleigh, Boston, and New York. He wrote — and fought — all over the nation.

m-m

"The Clansman", from which came the movie "Birth of a Nation" was his answer to "Uncle Tom's Cabin", considered by Dixie on libelous of the South. At a time when movies were known as the nickelodeon (nickel for admission), "Birth of a Nation" commanded \$2 per admission. It is undocumented whether this early film still is the front runner at the box office, according to the biographer.

m-m

It was indeed a strong family: Brother Clarence was an outstanding Baptist preacher, Brother Frank, crippled from youth, became president of the Chattanooga association; Dr. Della Dixon Carroll was a famed physician. She was third of 609 applicants examined for internship at what is now Pennsylvania General hospital and turned down because she was female. Before a review board she impressed sufficiently that the chairman claimed her services.

m-m

Principal criticism of Cleveland Countians to Dr. Cook's biography would be that the author does not delve deeply enough in his first chapter entitled "Antecedents". Only Dixon's paternal grandmother is given attention. She was a whiskey-swilling, pipe-smoking tower of strength and the recorders differ on whether she lived to 106 or a mere 104.

m-m

The narrative races, as it would of necessity, with such a racing, sometime down, but never say-die subject, who lost his first fortune in the stock market during the Panic of 1907, his second in Little Switzerland (Wild acres) real estate in the Depression of 1929.

"Giddyap! We got a job to do!"

FINISH OF ELECTION RACE



Henry McCarn

Viewpoints of Other Editors

ABOLISH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Despite fears of a Constitutional crisis, the nation last week managed to elect a new President. The fears alone, though, should be enough to put new steam into movements to reform the electoral system.

Through the nation's history hundreds of efforts have been made to alter the method of choosing a President. Except for the Twelfth Amendment, whose main purpose was to see that there would be separate candidates for President and Vice President, all of the reform efforts have foundered.

One reason is simply the old one that it's tough to work up enthusiasm for roof patching when it's not raining. Campaigns for change tend to peter out as disputed elections recede into the history books.

At least equally important, reform has often been stalled by disputes among would-be reformers. At times nearly everyone has favored some sort of change, but there has been no real consensus on just what shape that change should take.

Certainly there is no consensus now, and just as certainly care should be taken in reshaping the nation's institutions. Some of the proposals that appear most attractive could, in practice, have most undesirable results.

Contested ballots, court suits, recounts, absentee votes — all could combine to prolong the suspense almost indefinitely. Thus direct voting would not meet what is, or should be, the prime aim of the system: The selection of a President as quickly and surely as possible.

The present setup also can delay a decision for a long time, since the absence of an Electoral College majority throws the matter into the House of Representatives. No system will be perfect, but perhaps thoughtful consideration can construct a plan that would provide for prompt decisions and, at the same time, meet some other important political needs of the country.

For a start, suppose that the present arrangement of allotting electoral votes to the states is retained. While it gives small states somewhat more say than they would rate purely on a popular basis, it also assures that no national Government can safely ignore the diverse interests of this huge country. A President elected in this way is more likely to be truly a national leader than one chosen on a strictly one-man, one-vote basis.

Retaining electoral votes does not require that we continue to choose electors. The electors are seldom the carefully chosen sages envisioned by the writers of the Constitution; more often, they are local political hacks being rewarded for minor services.

In addition, to insure that the electoral result will be more likely to reflect the popular vote, the electoral votes of each state could be allotted in proportion to the popular outcome. To minimize the chances for a deadlock in the national electoral vote, a candidate might be adjudged the winner if he achieved an electoral plurality of, say, 40%.

A frequent objection to ideas such as this is that it would imperil the two-party system, which over the years has given our Government great stability. Indeed, third and fourth parties have a greater opportunity to

Ten Years Ago

Items of interest which occurred approximately ten years ago

Judy Medlin, high school senior, will represent the city in the Carolinas Carrousel in Charlotte Saturday.

Minus public ceremonies and concurrent ribbon-cutting, the new four lane Kings Mountain-Shelby highway has been opened to traffic. The opening marks virtual completion of the \$1,500,000 four lane boulevard which has partial control of access.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Beilke of Wausau, Wisconsin, announce the engagement of their daughter, Elaine Caroline, to John H. Moss, also of Wausau, son of M. A. Moss of Kings Mountain and the late Mrs. Moss. The couple will be married in late December.

POOR 'POOR GIRLS'

Henri Bendel, the fashion tycoon who knows as much about these things as anyone and more than most, has predicted that the fashionable look in the season almost upon us will be that of the "poor girl."

Mr. Bendel, preparing for his own prediction to come true, has offered his own contribution to the upcoming new look. The Poor Girl of 1968, according to her would-be creator, will wear a drab dress, unornamented, with long sleeves, high neck, plain white collar, plain belt in the old-time place. The favored color will be dull black or dingy gray. The outfit faintly recalls the frocks said to have been worn in 19th century orphanages of the third class.

Fashion is always out to astonish and the Poor Girl Look succeeds in this primary effort, even though it does so in reverse. The dress dazzles by being so undazzling. It reminds us once again how the simple pleasures of the poor arouse envy in the hearts of the rich, whether the pleasure be bouillabaisse, Shaker furniture or Georgetown residence.

Presumably because the real poor girl dresses would not be authentic enough, Mr. Bendel's imitation is price-tagged at \$259, an admirable touch of distinction and one that promises further authenticity by helping the poor girl's poor dad or poor husband along the road to poverty.

Washington Star

achieve electoral votes.

However, we cannot see that the aim of any democracy should be to squelch dissent. Furthermore, the minority party potential for chaos could easily be checked; if no candidate received the required electoral plurality, a national runoff election could be held between the two leading candidates.

Quite possibly, this proposal could be improved. Surely a great deal of study should precede any revision of the present system. When no completely satisfactory solution exists, the choice of the best possible answer is never easy.

Some reformers imply when they say that all we have to do is abolish the Electoral College.

The Wall Street Journal

TIME FOR NEW IDEAS

One of Washington's least pressing problems is what to do with some 45,000 pictures of Lyndon B. Johnson that presumably will come off the walls of Federal office buildings when he leaves the Presidency.

You will be glad to know that the pictures were originally paid for, according to the General Services Administration, by "private sources and various Democratic party groups." Similarly, reports Mike Causey of the Washington Post, Republicans will have to pay for any new pictures if they feel images of President Nixon "are needed to inspire Federal workers."

Frankly, we think the problem of new pictures is even more in need of new ideas than the problem of what to do with the old ones. Maybe the Nixon campaign committee has left over some of those ersatz-psychedelic campaign posters. Or to simultaneously give Federal workers greater inspiration and improve relations with France, officials of the new Administration could try pictures of Brigitte Bardot or Catherine Deneuve.

Or, if instead they think it better to promote home-grown products, they could pick some good-looking native movie star from their own campaign entourage John Wayne, maybe?

Wall Street Journal

AH, THE JOY OF IT

Do-it-yourself fun is back with news that stiltis are big with children again.

Stiltis can be store-bought but they can be made on the spot. We used to nail pieces of two-by-four to discarded mop handles and stomp around to see what the world looks like from the height of a 12-year-old. It was a real thrill. . . .

This may be a beginning of a trend toward other simple pleasures, such as playing Knight of Old, with a broom for a horse and a helmet made from an old sauce pan. The best shields were the oval lids to copper wash bowls.

ers, hard come by any more. But a garbage can lid isn't bad and gives out a good martial cadence.

Detroit Free Press

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- Mr. M. L. Harmon
- Mrs. Clara Harrill
- Mrs. Aquilla Huffstetter
- Mr. Carl Mayes
- Mrs. Maggie McClain
- Mr. Earl Rhyne
- Mrs. Ida Smith
- Mrs. Bessie Wilton
- Mrs. Merle Wilton
- Mrs. Nancy Childers
- Mrs. Aaron Cook
- Mrs. Jack Day
- Mrs. Carl Frazier
- Mr. Kenneth Green
- Mr. Arthur Hawkins
- Mrs. Mary Heavner
- Mr. J. D. Hord
- Mr. William Houser
- Mrs. Sidney Huffstetter
- Mrs. Mack Jordan
- Mrs. William Lewis
- Mrs. Florence Lynn
- Mrs. Pearlina McClain
- Mrs. Horace Patterson
- Mrs. John Queen, Jr., route 2, Bessemer City.
- Mrs. Paul Sanders
- Mrs. Reba Shields
- Mrs. Clara Wright

ADMITTED THURSDAY
Mr. Warren Ballard, 300 Parker St.
Mr. Judson Whisnant, Rt. 1, Dallas.

ADMITTED FRIDAY
Mrs. Homer Kilgore, Rt. 2.
Mr. John Ware, Rt. 3.
Mrs. Bynum Cook, 403 Gantt St.
Mr. L. A. Smith, 103 N. Candler St.
Mrs. Ardist Byers, Rt. 1, Grover.
Mrs. Carl Ledford, Rt. 4, Gastonia.

ADMITTED SATURDAY
Mrs. Fannie Furse, Rt. 2, Summerton, S. C.
Mrs. Mammie Jackson, 507 Kings Mountain St., Clover, S. C.
Mrs. Dennis Badger, Rt. 1.
Mr. Otis Falls, 811 W. Mountain St.
Mrs. William Waddell.
Mrs. Charles White, 403 Carolina Ave., Blacksburg, S. C.
Miss Rebecca Canipe, Rt. 1, Sharon, S. C.

ADMITTED SUNDAY
Mrs. Belle Carric, Rt. 1, Bessemer City.
Mrs. Prudy Huggins, 607 Mauney Ave.
Mr. Seth Wilson, 306 Phifer Rd., Lorraine Gordon, Rt. 1.
Mrs. Ronnie Jones, 201 "c" St., Cherryville.
Mrs. Charles Leach, Rt. 1, Grover.
Charles Putnam, Rt. 3.
Mrs. George Royster, Grover.
Mrs. Billy Whiteside, Lake Montona Rd.
Mrs. Thelma Ransey, Grover.
Sheila Johnson, 935 Church St.
Elizabeth Fitch, Rt. 2.

ADMITTED MONDAY
Mr. Hubert Metcalf, 110 City St.
Mrs. Rosa Wilson, Rt. 3.
Mr. Press Lingerfelt, Jr., Sunset Rd., Cherryville.
Mr. Guy Moss, Rt. 2.
Mrs. Harold Roark, 710 Bridges St.
Mrs. Carl Williams, 216 Maryland Ave., Bessemer City.
Mrs. Tommy Ross, Rt. 1, Shelby.
Mr. Boyd Melton, 318 Dellinger Rd., Shelby.
Mrs. Allen Blackwell, 501 Lorraine St., Dallas.

ADMITTED TUESDAY
Mrs. James Champion, 504 Katherine Ave.
Mr. Carl Freeman, Rt. 1, Bessemer City.
Mrs. Willis Hiedell, 715 Lankford Lane, Atlanta, Ga.
Jake Nance, Jr., 223 Walker St.
Robert Harmon, Rt. 2.
Mr. John Lynn, Rt. 1.
Mr. Nelson Queen, Rt. 1, Grover.
Mrs. Sandra Moore, Rt. 2, Bessemer City.