

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

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**TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE**

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. Proverbs 3:13.

### Housing Squeeze

A check with realty dealers and builders will confirm quickly the housing squeeze in the Kings Mountain area, as house-seekers, whether wanting to buy or rent, have already found.

There's a minimal number of homes for sale.

There are less for rent.

Most recent point-in-kind is report from the State Highway Commission to the Mayor on the Cansler street improvement project, on which bids are to be received this month and which the highway department wants to begin work not later than May 1.

Eight residences must be razed to accommodate the project. To date, occupants of two have found places to live. The other six are stymied, as is the highway department which, too, find no available accommodations for these six families.

Those in the business haven't seen fit to do it and apparently can't pencil out a modest profit on some needed apartments here. Kings Mountain is about the largest town in the area where apartments virtually are not.

A Gastonia builder relates his experience with 108 apartments there: they are designed for two groups, newly-wed couples, considered short-term tenants, and elderly couples or individuals, considered long-term tenants. The apartments are one-bedroom and rent for \$90 per month unfurnished. (Rentals on furnished apartments vary according to amount of furnishings.)

The problem on rentals for several years has been return on investment. Old rule of thumb was that the owner had to have 10 percent return per year to show a normal six percent profit, the extra four being used to pay taxes and to maintain the property. With current high interest rates, the rule of thumb may have, of necessity, widened.

Thus a \$10,000 property would require a rental of \$90 to \$100 per month, still high rent in Kings Mountain, the Herald understands, and a figure which would make the tenant a buyer or builder as quickly as he could make the market.

Many homes are needed now. More will be needed as new industry and expanding industry get on stream.

### Tax Loopholes

There are recurrent waves in the Congress of movements to remove loopholes in income tax laws whereby the few will not get a free ride on April fifteenth, while their brethren are paying through their noses.

Depletion allowances are continually attacked and few go past the word "oil".

Oil, of course, enjoys a 27.5 percent depletion allowance, highest in the schedule.

This was a World War II device to spur production of needed war materials. In the instance of oil, the device succeeded handsomely. In spite of all the oil used and all of that spilled in the ocean by tanker sinkings, United States proven oil reserves today are perhaps four times that before Pearl Harbor.

There is no question about the validity of depletion allowances. But perhaps the high "C" for oil should be cut to "G".

One shot-at (again) "loophole" is the tax-free status of state and local government bonds. Washington wants local level government to do more in providing services. Elimination of the tax-free status of bonds would deter in considerable proportion the ability of local governments to do what they are attempting to do now.

### The Negro Desire

More than 100 Kings Mountain area Negroes gathered Sunday in the rain at Bynum Chapel AME Zion church for a meeting of the Kings Mountain Improvement Association.

Guests included Mayor John Henry Moss, Commissioners W. S. Biddix and Norman King, visiting Negro ministers and members of the press.

To refine the elocution: Kings Mountain Negroes want job opportunities in Kings Mountain retail businesses.

Use of the boycott and public demonstrations was mentioned only in "we don't want" terms.

But the Negroes would like to become a salesman in a department store, clerk in a bank, etc.

From the standpoint of the invitation to the Negro to spend his improving income at a particular store, the advantage to the cash register of Negroes on the staff is apparent. Time Magazine reported recently the success story of Parks Sausage Company, founded by a Negro of the same name. It was a three-man operation at the beginning, in Baltimore. Baltimore Negroes asked for Parks Sausage in the super markets. In the recent year, the firm grossed over \$6 million and netted \$243,000.

From the standpoint of the retailer, if he thinks right (and most do), he seeks performance. Can the employee do the job?

His second point is that he does not have job openings everyday.

The Mayor, as he promised, already has been discussing the matter with heads of the Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association, with a view to a future gathering among all parties.

Meantime, high school Negroes should be investigating the courses offered in distributive education.

### Commission Agrees

With some comments they approved an election, if not a tax imposition of their own as empowered to do, the county commissioners approved Monday request of the three school districts for a county-wide vote of citizens on question of a 50-cent per \$100 valuation ad valorem tax for schools.

The tax would be for operations (in school accounting "current expense").

The school district representatives requested an April 1 election date.

Decision on date was deferred, pending checking of attorneys.

Sideline issues to the supplemental tax would be an \$850,000 bond issue and five-cent tax for the Cleveland County Technical Institute.

There is no question but the county district, without any supplemental operations tax, is in competitive pain, right at home with Shelby (40 cents, 38 levied) and Kings Mountain (20 cents, 20 levied), not to mention other districts throughout the state which have greater wealth and usually greater supplements than the homefolk in Shelby and Kings Mountain districts.

The need for the technical institute is apparent, too, even moreso as industry expands and new industries arrive.

Principal objection this newspaper has heard to the tax vote is the matter of date: these folk would like to know what role the State of North Carolina, which supplies probably 85 to 90 percent of school operational funds, is going to do before voting on the supplemental district tax proposal.

There has been some conversation among veteran taxpayers about statements the districts won't necessarily levy the maximum allowable. These veterans of the trip to the tax collector feel by experience that any moratorium would be short-lived.

## MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

I have not discussed with Senator Jack White the bill he has introduced in the Senate which he was quoted as saying would "take politics out of liquor in North Carolina and return the question to the people."

m-m

I haven't seen the bill either but I believe what the Senator meant was that it would take the politics of liquor out of the General Assembly, that is, the infighting of local wet and dry groups when liquor election proposals are presented to the General Assembly.

m-m

Recalling rather graphically the liquor election here of 19 months ago, I rather doubt politics and liquor will ever part company.

m-m

Dr. Harold Kattman, who is director of the Hebron Colony, remembers it too. He was asked to appear at a dry gathering. He recalls, "I didn't much like the arrangements. I was told the rally was to be held at the American Legion building after churches held Wednesday night prayer services. I envisioned myself holding a round-table discussion with perhaps 30 or 40 people at most."

m-m

Considerable surprise was in store. It was a standing-room-only audience. A collection was taken to defray Dr. Kattman's not-great travel expense from Boone. Suggestion was made and agreed to that average go to the Hebron Colony. "Gee," said Dr. Kattman, "I brought \$350 home for the Colony."

m-m

I believe I've seen Jack's bill before and presume it is the same one he introduced last session — after some four senators had indicated they would, then declined. Representative W. K. Mauney's invitation to introduce it.

m-m

Billy had shown me the bill the attorney - general's office had drawn with the remark, "I don't particularly want to introduce it." I read the title and laughed, inferring the hot potato issue.

m-m

No, that wasn't the point, Billy explained. As a member of the House propositions and grievances committee, he knew that this 15-member committee had split down the middle on liquor bills already, with the unfortunate chairman, Jack Euliss, of Alamance, having the dubious pleasure of breaking the ties. Billy doubted his bill's getting out of committee, unless it was previously passed by the Senate.

m-m

Billy's estimate of the situation proved correct, but the bill hit trouble on the House floor. It was defeated on second reading. On a point of personal privilege, Billy asked a day's layover before the bill was finally laid to rest — and went to work.

m-m

"I had the passage by at least ten votes," Billy said, "until some guy back of me said something about a roll-call vote." Billy guesses he's never seen, outside of half-time at a football game, as many men suddenly require services of a men's room. The bill was defeated on standing vote and head count by 44 to 41.

m-m

The bill makes sense. It becomes mandatory on the governing body of a city to call a referendum on the liquor and/or beer-wine question on petition of 25 percent of the total vote in the previous municipal election.

m-m

In the instance of Kings Mountain dries, the bill would mean a possible defense of the ramparts subsequent to June 1970. In the instance of Gastonia wets, the bill would indicate possible defense of the ABC establishments slightly later in 1970. There would be no waiting for legislative sessions to get down to business.

m-m

I presume (hopefully) that the three-year rule respecting liquor referendums is retained. That's as often as they can be held.

m-m

And in a newspaper, battleground in an emotional community fight, once each three years is quite often enough.

### Hijacking Jet Age



### Viewpoints of Other Editors

#### HELPING MIDDLE EASTERN PEACE

In yesterday's issue these columns expressed their strong and unequivocal condemnation of Israel's having hanged 14 persons (nine Jews, four Moslem Arabs and one Christian) on what appear to be the flimsiest of charges of having spied for Israel, United Nations Secretary General U Thant has voiced "regret and concern" over the possible effect of the action. And the French Government, notwithstanding its present brisk effort to woo the Arabs, pled with Baghdad not to go through with the killings.

Heartless and shocking as the mass hanging was, it should not become either the occasion or the excuse for a retaliation which could only worsen the already perilous and tragic Middle Eastern situation. We thus beg the government of Israel not to strike back physically in any wise. Such a setback for peace in the area. Nor, in the particular circumstances, could Israel lawfully or diplomatically defend retaliation. For, while Israel's indignation is understandable, those executed were not its citizens.

We believe that, by limiting itself to verbal condemnation of the deed, Israel will have a better chance of rallying world pressure behind it against any such further act. And Israel would also, by showing restraint, strengthen the hand of those, above all in Washington and Moscow, who today show a growing readiness to make major effort to bring about a final, peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Indeed, among the most significant and hopeful words spoken by President Nixon at his first press conference was his forthright statement that "new initiatives and new leadership on the part of the United States" are needed to cool off the Middle Eastern situation. If the United States, which has long shown its sincere friendship for Israel, is about to undertake new peace-seeking initiatives in the area, the latter would be well advised, for its own sake, not to do anything to complicate or worsen the situation.

Just as the Israeli raid on the Beirut airport redounded to the Arabs' diplomatic advantage, so the Baghdad killings will rebound to Israel's if the latter does nothing to throw this advantage away.

It is imperative that a road to Middle Eastern peace be found. We think that there is growing evidence that both America and Russia realize this. No new roadblocks must be set in the way.

Christian Science Monitor

#### FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE

New York City's politicians are true friends of the people, or at least that's what they say.

They say so as they continue rent control long after every other major city has abandoned it. Control may benefit those lucky enough to find apartments with artificially low rents, though even these tenants suffer since landlords cannot afford adequate maintenance. Other New Yorkers would be New Yorkers are hurt because the competition of rent-controlled units discourages construction of new apartments with moderate rentals.

In another version of rent control, New York's City Council

#### Ten Years Ago

Items of interest which occurred approximately ten years ago

Cameron Ware, Shelby road fruit grower, is Cleveland County Young Farmer of the Year and winner of the annual award given by Kings Mountain and Shelby Jaycees.

J. R. Davis, veteran school trustee, said yesterday he won't seek re-election. Mr. Davis will complete 10 years of service on the board of education in May.

#### Social and Personal

Kim Cashion will reign as Queen of the Bethware High School Homecoming celebration Friday.

Grover's First Baptist church was the setting Saturday at 7 p.m. for the wedding of Miss Virginia Dale Gold and Rev. Donald Hoyle Cabanis.

#### THE FARMER LOSES

Cost of living is a popular topic these days, by press and politicians.

One news story to cross the desk put it like this:

"The American worker last month found himself earning more dollars but able to buy less bread than a year ago."

He didn't define "bread." But the impression his story leaves is misleading.

Food costs are up about 3 percent. But the entire index of retail prices shows a 5 percent hike. The big increase to consumers continues to be in services, primarily medical care which has climbed a whopping 16 percent since 1966.

Further, the relatively small rise in food costs has not found its way to the farmer. Nearly all the increases in food can be credited to higher costs in packaging, processing, and selling.

Farmers simply have not gained from this inflation. Many have lost ground, through stable or lower prices combined with higher production costs.

A basic part of "living" is food. When you groan about the "cost of living," don't blame the farmer. He has it worse than the average consumer. — Hutchinson (Kam. News)

now is wallowing in self-praise for its decision that rents on city-financed, middle-income apartments cannot be raised more than once in each two years. The decision, according to one councilman, will aid "tens of thousands" of New Yorkers.

The council was unperturbed when Mayor John Lindsay pointed out that the action violated state law. Even if the city somehow got around that obstacle, Mr. Lindsay noted, the only result would be a bunching-up of rent boosts every two years — hardly a favor to the tenants.

Furthermore, even the delay of needed rent increases would probably weaken the city's credit, which already isn't the nation's soundest. There would be higher interests costs on the city's borrowing and even without that, the city is thinking of soaking taxpayers still harder as outgo sails far above income.

Yes sir, those politicians really know how to befriend people.

Wall Street Journal

#### PLAIN TALK ON PAYMENTS

In recent months there has been talk of a new international conference to "solve" the world's continuing balance-of-payments problems. Correctly, in our view, Canada's Finance Minister takes a rather dim view of any such conclave.

Most nations, whether they admit it or not, are looking for some sort of system that would permit them to handle their domestic finances any way they please without getting into international difficulties. Yet as Edgar J. Benson, the Canadian official, says, no system can "serve as a substitute for the determined and concerted efforts of countries to maintain internal and external equilibrium."

A special conference, Mr. Benson says, would have only one predictable result: A large increase in speculative activity for as long as the parley lasted. "In particular, I cannot conceive of any payments system accommodating itself successfully to persistent inflation."

A nation with payments problems can postpone serious trouble for a while by adopting various forms of restrictions on its international commerce, as the U. S. has been doing for some years now. Sooner or later, though, the nation has to face up to the fact that it has only two realistic choices.

It can adopt a policy of domestic financial restraint; this step can have painful results, but the potential pain is only increased the longer the restraint is put off. Or the country can simply accept devaluation of its currency, either eventually or immediately.

Maybe that seems a hard choice. But there are no miraculous alternatives to be found by convening a new world monetary conference.

Wall Street Journal

### Letter To Editor

To The Editor:

How public can you get when millions of people who listened to the Inauguration Ceremony on TV, radio and newspapers with all the prayers being said and published? What is our public schools compared to this? The only difference is we are all grown up. We have been taught our prayers and most of them in our schools. Now we don't have prayer in school. It might lead some one in the wrong direction.

Well, how are our schools going? Since prayer was taken out of our schools and forbidden to be said. What do we have? Do you call rioting, demonstrating, marching, the racial problem and this new sex morality, going in the right direction?

We can't have one that can teach or show them the right way. But we can say, "God lead us in the right direction." In our highest offices of our nation, they have five or six different ones to lead their prayers. If our highest officers of our country and its leaders have to have God to lead, so do our children.

And who took the prayers out of our public schools? Our highest officers that lead our country. If they need prayers to lead our teachers need prayers to lead I've heard children say, "Why do they bow their heads?" when they saw it on TV. If our schools don't teach our children to pray, no one else will.

There are so many more in school than there is in church, the church of their choice. How can they know they have a choice? Why should they know they need a choice? If there is no reason to seek a choice. The ones that do have a choice will always keep that choice.

But look at the ones that don't. What about them? We older people, and our leaders of our nation, are responsible for our young people and for what they know about God.

But if our lawmakers won't let our teachers lead our children in prayer, who will? It's too late when they get old enough to vote. What are our teen-agers looking for today? A way to live, what to live for, what to live with and why.

Do we live at all? What is right or wrong? If you tell them, they say (who said) they need to learn to pray for themselves. So help me God, they can only know what we teach them. I think it's time to put prayer back in the public school and in our colleges. We even have to pay our own Bible teacher from our churches just to teach Bible history as a subject.

Our government won't favor a Bible teacher. No wonder we are in such a mess and God didn't make it for us either. We made it ourselves. Because we took God out of our schools and now we seldom have him in our church. So I think we all need to say, "So help me God."

Even in our schools every little child should say every morning at the start of a new day, so help me God. Then we will see a change in our schools as well as in our government and all the people of the world.

Mrs. Gerald L. Eaker  
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#### ON THE CARPET

Progress note: The world's first nine hole golf course with carpeted tees and greens has opened for business in Knoxville, Tennessee. The outdoor nylon carpeting is said to have all the bounce, reaction, roll and bite of bent grass and, according to the resident professional, puts better than any natural green.

But there's a serpent (or two) in every paradise. It just means another hazard for weekend duffers to look out for—vacuum cleaners. And instead of green fees there'll be carpet tax. — Ft. The Eristol (Va.) Herald-Courier

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