

HERALD SPORTS

By JIM DEAN
Wildlife Afield

A long cloud of chalky dust billowed up behind the truck and rolled across the tobacco fields as I left the highway and drove up the narrow dirt road.

I looked at my watch. It was 5 o'clock. I was early, but that was okay. For the first time in what seemed like months, I was in no hurry.

I came to an open gate, turned through it, then bumped across the grass and stopped in the shade of several old oak trees. The pond shimmered darkly under the brassy mid-summer sky as I walked down to the edge. It was not a large pond, maybe two acres.

The upper end was already shaded by the trees on the opposite bank. I wrestled the small aluminum boat out of the truck and dragged it down to the bank. Then, I got my tackle box, cushion, rods, net, paddle, and the small cooler and put them in the boat.

It was hot, and there was no breeze. The man on the radio had said it was 93 degrees. At least, I thought. I took a drink from the cooler and then walked back up to the truck and sat under one of the oaks to wait and watch. It was funny how already the pond was working its spell. Overhead, two doves flew past. In the distant, a lone buzzard hung in the sky. Insects buzzed and whined, but other than that, it was quiet. Not even the noise from the highway could be heard, and for once, there was no ribbon of jet vapor in the sky.

Across the pond, tobacco was curing in a log barn, and several times I thought I detected the faint smell of the leaves. I looked at my watch. It was past six. Time to get going.

I walked back to the boat, pushed it into the water and sat on the front seat where I could scull with the paddle with one hand and fish with the other.

I rigged a popping bug on my fly rod and a blue worm on my casting rod, then I quietly paddled along the banks casting the bug into the grassy nooks.

Several small bluegills took the popper, but they really didn't seem to want it—eating just to be eating.

After I had fished past the stumps without a strike, I paddled out into the deeper water and began to fish with the plastic worm.

I fished very slowly, and by 8 o'clock, I had covered the pond rather thoroughly, but without success.

Okay, be that way, I thought. I don't care if you don't bite. And strangely enough I didn't. I was content to stretch out across a boat seat with the cushion under my head and watch the high clouds while the boat drifted.

A snake doctor lit on my foot, and I left him there. A leaf drifted past like a tiny sailboat. The shadows lengthened across the pond, and the sun glittered behind the trees for awhile, then dipped under the bridge.

I need to do this at least once a week, I thought. Sitting at my desk a few days later, I happened to notice a sign I have hanging on a nearby file cabinet.

Find Peace In A
Violent World
Go Fishing

I don't know who wrote that, but he knows something about you and me.

High School Coaches Attend Prep Clinic

Members of the Kings Mountain High School coaching staff are in Greensboro this week attending the annual North Carolina High School Coaching Clinic. The clinic is held each year in conjunction with the East-West All-Star basketball and football games.

KMHS coaches attending the clinic are head football coach Bob Jones, assistants Bill Cashion, Tommy Pruitt, Warren Goforth and Blaine Froneberger, and head basketball coach Allen Dixon.

Southwestern Conference athletes taking part in the all-star week are football standouts Marcus Mauney and Gaylord Bailey of Shelby and Crest basketball sensation David Thompson.

Kings Mountain Captures Title In Tee League

Kings Mountain Drug won the Kings Mountain tee league baseball championship this year with a 10-2 record.

Darrell Forbes, Bob Williams and Richard Styers coached the team.

Players receiving trophies included Ricky Proctor, most valuable; Scott Cline, most improved; Mike Spears, best hitter; Dwane Brown, best fielder.

The team also received a trophy for winning the regular season title.

Wildlife Protectors Get Equal Benefits

RALEIGH, N. C. — It took an act of the Legislature to put all of North Carolina's wildlife protectors under the same retirement benefits as police, sheriffs, and other law enforcement groups.

Senate Bill 204 passed the House of Representatives on July 12 after a long but little publicized struggle that lasted more than three months during which the bill was considered dead several times.

Back in 1951 the Law Enforcement Officers Benefit and Retirement Fund Board ruled that 53 wildlife protectors were not eligible to participate in the retirement system for reasons that never were made clear to the Legislature or the wildlife protectors involved. Employed prior to 1951, 25 others had been eligible to join the Law Enforcement Officers Benefit and Retirement Fund, but were apparently not informed of this by that organization.

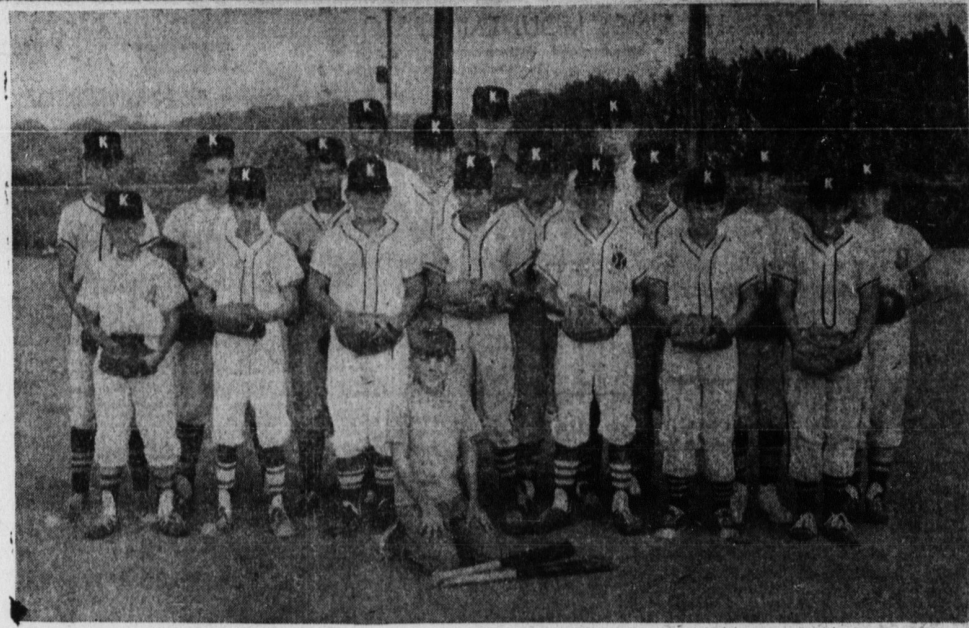
"It was simply a matter of equity," said Clyde Patton, Director of the Wildlife Resources Commission. "We had 88 men who

were members of LEOBRF, and 78 who were not, yet all were full-fledged law enforcement officers whose duties were the same as those considered eligible for LEOBRF membership," he added.

"Meanwhile," Patton said, "the work of those who were denied membership contributed money to the LEOBRF court cost fund, but from which they would not have been eligible for retirement benefits.

"S. B. 204 was introduced in the opening weeks of the General Assembly," Patton said, "and its basic purpose was to rectify a discriminatory situation whereby some of our men, by arbitrary ruling of the LEOBRF Board, were unable to share in the more attractive retirement benefits of that fund.

"The bill was finally passed in the last few days of the 1971 General Assembly over strenuous objection on the part of other law enforcement groups and agencies of state government. It was a long struggle but justice and equity prevailed."



KINGS MOUNTAIN LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS—Pictured are the Kings Mountain Little League All Stars who opened district tournament play Wednesday night in Hickory. Batboy Norman Smith is pictured in front of the group. Front row, from left, Tim Chapman, Preston Short, Tim Spicer, Ronnie Wilson, Scott Ellis, Beanie Smith, and Tim Riddle. Back row, from left, C. L. Peterson, Don Henderson, Rusty Bell, Steve Lancaster, Tommy Parker, Kevin Tinsley, Ricky Deaton, and David Roy Robinson. Coaches, from left, are Max Bolin, Optimist; and Carroll Ledford and Bill Tinsley, Rotary. (Photo by Lem Lynch)



ROTARY CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM — Winner of the ship Team was the Rotary team which completed batboy, is pictured in front of the group. Front Gamble, Chris Bumgardner, Tim Riddle, Beanie Carroll Ledford, Coach; Ronnie Wilson, Tommy and Bill Tinsley, Coach. (Photo by Lem Lynch)

Little League All-Stars In Dist

Rotary Club Cops Regular Season Title

Kings Mountain's Little League All-Star team was scheduled to open district tournament play last night (Wednesday) at 9 o'clock in Hickory. The local squad was to play the Hickory Jaycees.

Fifteen players, representing the six league team, make up the all-star team which is playing for a spot in the state tournament in Asheboro.

Carroll Ledford and Bill Tinsley, who coached Rotary to the regular season title, and Max Eolin, who coached Optimist to the third spot, are coaching the all-star outfit.

Members of the all-star team include:

Rusty Bell, Rotary, shortstop and pitcher; Kevin Tinsley, Rotary, first baseman; Tommy Parker, Rotary, catcher and pitcher; Tim Riddle, Rotary, second base; Ronnie Wilson, outfield; Beanie Smith, Rotary, outfield and second base.

Also, Steve Lancaster, Parkgrace, outfield and pitcher; Scott Ellis, Parkgrace, catcher; Don Henderson, Optimist, pitcher and outfield; Ricky Deaton, Optimist, outfield; David Roy Robinson, Optimist, third base; Tim Chapman, Optimist, catcher; Also, Tim Spicer, C&C Metal, outfield and shortstop; Preston Short, Kiwanis, second base and shortstop; and C. L. Peterson, Childers, pitcher and outfield.

Mitch Howze of Rotary and Bill Easley of Jaycees were also chosen to the all-star team but were not able to play for various reasons.

Rotary won the regular season title with a 13-1 record, Parkgrace finished second with a 10-4 mark and Optimist was third with a 9-5 record.

Members of the championship Rotary Club team included Rusty Bell, Chris Bumgardner, Jeff Cloninger, Eric Dixon, Johnny Gamble, Mitch Howze, Mike Howze, Barry Ledford, Tommy Parker, Tim Riddle, Beanie Smith, Kevin Tinsley, Bruce Valentine, Baron Wilson, Ronnie Wilson and Norman Smith.

The Rotary Club coaches were honored at the monthly meeting of the Rotary Club last Thursday at the country club. The coaches presented the league championship trophy to the club at that time.

The Rotary Club players will be taken to Spartanburg later this month for a Western Carolinas League contest.

Softball Tourney Begins Aug. 16 At Deal Park

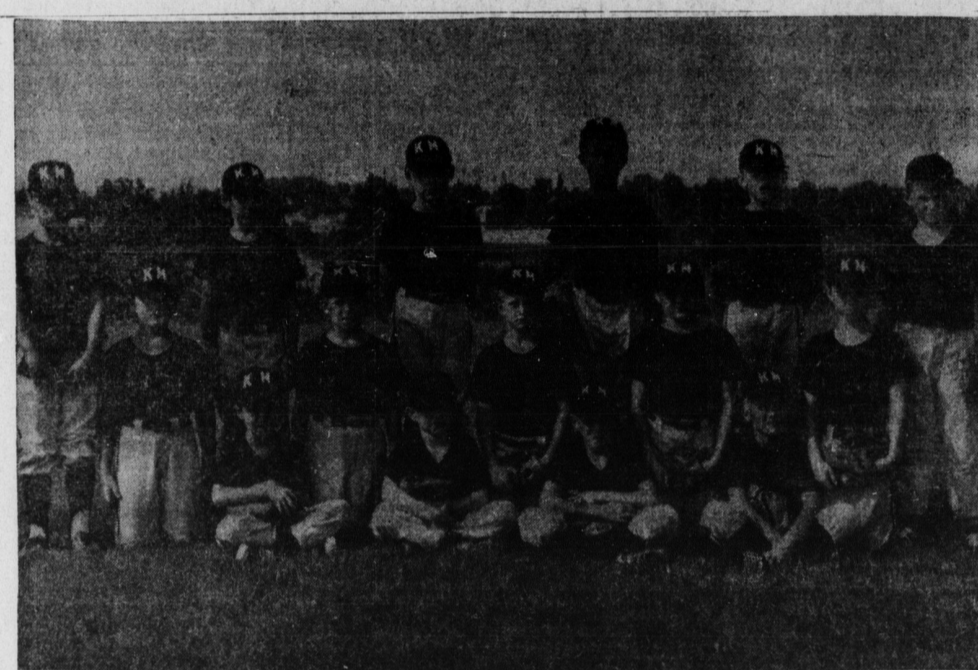
The Greater Kings Mountain Men's Invitational Slowpitch Softball tournament is scheduled to open at Deal Street Park on August 16.

Any team interested in participating in the double-elimination event is asked to have a representative present at the Community Center on August 9 at 7 p. m.

Entry deadline is set for August 11 and pairings will be drawn on August 13.

A team roster must be submitted before opening game. Teams may carry 20 players on their roster.

Roy Pearson, Elmer Ross and Jim Guyton are directing the tournament. Any team seeking further information may contact Pearson or Ross at the community center.



TEE LEAGUE STARS: Pictured above are the tee league all-stars. Front row, left to right, Robert Lutz, Alan Van Dyke, Scott Cline and Dwane Brown. Second row, Chip McGill, David Bolin, Ricky Proctor Mike Spars and Bobby Williams. Back row, Todd Blalock, Greg Tate, Don Sellers, Sherman Jenkins, Dick Styers, and Brian Morrow.

Wade Stephens Race Set For August 14

HICKORY, N. C. — August 14 has been set as the date for the running of the first annual "Wade Stephens Memorial 200" national championship Sportsman race at Hickory Speedway.

The 200-lap event has been named in honor of a rising star on the Sportsman trail who was killed in a truck accident in Virginia, June 2.

Stephens, a Hickory native, was a relatively newcomer to the Sportsman Division although he had been racing since 1963. The 30-year-old truck driver had been competing on the Sportsman circuit since 1970 in a 1988 Chevle.

Prior to entering the Senior circuit Stephens had posted two victories in the Limited Sportsman class and had set his goal of win-

ning the track's point championship.

A purse of \$5,110 has been established for the event and many of the nation's best Sportsman are expected to be shooting for it.

National Champion Red Farmer has already stated that he would be back and the number two man in the point chase. Sam Somers, is also expected.

The two nationally known aces will get a strong challenge from local hotdogs that will include Harry Gant, Bob Pressley, Jack Ingram, Ned Setzer, Bosco Lowe and Roy Trantham.

Gant won the last 200-lap championship race at Hickory topping one of the strongest fields in the track's history.

Sportsman Group Expect To Be Even Tougher

HICKORY, N. C. — The Limited Sportsman division at Hickory Speedway, made even more competitive this season with the addition of small V-8 engines to run with the six cylinder mills, figures to run even closer together in the near future.

For both safety and competitive reasons, the cars in the future will have to weigh at least 2900 pounds and bring in the wheels to measure no more than two inches on each side above the same model street car.

NASCAR officials and track manager Ned Jarrett have been concerned about the wide weight variations. An all-out effort to reduce the weight of a car could result in a weakening of the machine and make it dangerous for its driver and others on the track.

Some of the lighter cars will begin handling better in the turns and result in an overall faster speed, Jarrett and the officials believe. Bringing in the wheels to a lessened stance is also a safety factor.

Sportsman cars will have to narrow down the center-to-center of tread wheel width by August 7th. A track rule in the past allowed a wider stance for the senior division. The pending change will conform the Sportsman with the NASCAR rule book in all respects; it was pointed out.

The Late Model Sportsman cars have a minimum weight of 3300 pounds, figured on a basis of nine pounds per cubic inch of piston displacement.

This Saturday night the racing card includes seven events for Sportsman, Limited Sportsman and Rookie divisions, and a bonus personalities race between area newspaper, radio and teevee personalities.

With a week off because of a rainout last Saturday, a larger field of cars is expected for all classes. The gates open at 6, followed by warmups and qualifying until the first event at 8:30 p. m.

In an average lifetime the human heart beats three billion times and pumps 100 million gallons of blood, according to the North Carolina Heart Association.

Two Teams

Two Kings Mountain teams were among round winners in the Midwestern Open tournament which took place Friday night at Bryce Memorial Park in Gro...

Tignor's Garage Driver Florist 134 called after five im...

Mike Smith, for school and America baseball standou here...

Bob Green was the pitcher for Tignor's Black took the loss

LR Exp Things

HICKORY—Hanley Pa to look no further than North Carolina for thr...

But the head coach and director at Lenoir Rhyne figures he'll need them next few years.

Painter, who recently won the signing of long-term contracts with Furman and...

in addition to a solid returning from last year's squad, Painter will have Barger of Mocksville, Lar...

Barger, Beck and Estes, said today, stand the bes...

The Bear coach also announced the sale of season tickets will run Aug. 2 through Sep...

Painter said Lenoir Rhyne spectators can save \$3 by purchasing their tickets before Sept. 4. Individual tickets for the six games total \$21, and season tickets sell for \$18.

A 511, 205-pound center from Davie County High School in Mocksville, Barger played at Fork Union Military Academy last fall and rated the All-Military team.

The previous year he was the starting center for the victorious North squad in the Shrine Bowl game at Charlotte and last summer for the West team in the East-West All-Star contest at Greensboro. He was also All-State.

Beck, a 6-0, 185-pound running back from Bryson City, will be used as a tailback or a wingback in the Bears' single-wing offense, Painter said. Although injured his senior year in high school, Beck carried the pigskin for 20 touchdowns and over 2,300 yards the year before.

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