

**Established 1889**  
**The Kings Mountain Herald**  
 206 South Piedmont Ave. Kings Mountain, N. C. 28086

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**  
 For he (Pilate) knew that for envy they had delivered Him. St. Matthew 27:18.

**Christmas 1972**

The world enters the Christmas season with some expectancy that United States involvement in the Viet Nam family fight is soon to end—though the expectancy is hardly as great as it was a month ago.

The reason is not completely apparent, but seems to lie on one or all of these areas: North Viet Nam intransigence, road-blocking by the South Viet Nam allies, and/or wishful thinking on the part of the United States negotiators.

It is tragic that celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace is marked by warfare.

Viet Nam is not the only trouble spot.

The strife in Ireland's internal "holy war" continues.

The Middle East situation between Israel and Egypt, another "holy war" (as usual with economic overtones) has cooled, but remains a tinder box.

There have been overtones of potential trouble in South America and President Marcos has established a virtual dictatorship in the Philippines.

There is, though, an optimistic side.

It has been more than 35 years since Hitler's whermacht invaded Poland and shortly conquering Holland, Belgium and France, thereby plunging a great portion of the globe into World War II.

**County and Water**

The county commission struck its water policies from the books Monday, the commission presumably planning a refurbishing of the ground rules rather than attempting to get out of the water business.

Indeed, County Manager Joe Hendrick voiced the opinion that the county may find itself needing to go full-scale into the water business in the foreseeable future.

That's a possibility.

It has now been several years since J. N. Pease and associates, engineers, told the county planning board water service was not then economically feasible. The county has obviously grown and is continuing to grow.

The county government's first in-road into water and sewer service was in supplying these services to the Pittsburgh Plate Glass (now PPG Industries) plant at Washburn's Switch, the funds voted by the citizens via a \$415,000 bond issue, an investment that has paid handsomely—directly from Pittsburgh via annual tax bills, indirectly by the taxes Pittsburgh's growing number of employees pay.

A mistake was made by the county in not requiring the water seller, in this instance the City of Shelby, to provide line maintenance.

After this incursion into water service, there were a few others, including two in Kings Mountain, before a subsequent county commission sought to forsake water service participation.

The effort proved abortive as was expected.

Once in, the county was in.

The Herald pointed out when the PPG proposal was made that fact. It's immoral to provide services for one citizen and deny it to another.

**News Blackouts**

It's not unusual for government officials to be wary of the press, be the product go to the public on newsprint or vocally.

In turn, many newsmen are equally wary of office-holders, whether elected officials or hired employees.

Undoubtedly, both sides have some cause for complaint.

The stock in trade of the press corps is the "public's right to know" and most particularly about public business where the public's money is expended, sometimes judiciously, sometimes rashly.

Sometimes the press folk get a bit rough, these times always occurring if the officials are found not to have played it straight—in short, told the truth.

That part's proper, the officials having pilloried themselves.

But some news gatherers sometimes fall into a trap which is very easy to fall into. They begin to feel they know more about the guy's job than he knows himself.

That part is improper.

But Governor-elect Jim Holshouser's dictum to his staff to keep their mouths shut is a bit off-base, antithesis of Mr. Holshouser's campaign statements about airing out state government.

If nobody's talking, there'll be little airing.

**Gratifying Vote**

The total was small, but the result was gratifying.

Saturday's school bond election for Kings Mountain district schools was approved by better than 2 to 1.

The bond election campaign passed for these reasons:

1) The campaign was well-organized, the school folk doing their homework and getting the facts to the citizens.

2) The voters could see the growth of the area and realized the already over-crowded conditions at the school plants. The high school, built for 1000 students, houses 1200. West school employs two mobile homes for classroom space. Neither West nor East have auditorium space, long-since split for classrooms.

The result can also be interpreted as a vote of confidence for the board of education, school administrators and teachers.

When citizens are unhappy with governmental operations, the same citizens tend to vote "against."

Superintendent Don Jones estimates the current building program should provide adequate space for ten years.

Cornerstone of the building program is a junior high school on property already acquired, which will relieve the high school. But additions and renovations are included for all existing elementary plants.

**Welcome Center**

The Interstate 85 Welcome Center near the state line, dedicated last week, has been on the drawing boards for several years and is now a happy fact for North Carolina Variety Vacationland.

The Kings Mountain-Grover center is the state's fourth.

Four more are currently planned. Their use:

The three then-existing centers logged in 911,811 visitors in 1971.

Already more than one million have visited the centers this year.

Hostesses at the center can provide the traveler with information on routes, attractions and any other questions that might arise in connection with their visit. The centers also provide literature on general travel as well as individual attractions.

Last year, 911,811 visitors checked in at North Carolina's then existing three centers. Visitations have already hit the million mark this year. Through November 1, 938,914 persons had visited the centers.

**MARTIN'S MEDICINE**

By MARTIN HARMON  
 Christmas comes but once a year. Ah, yes....

It is a season of joy, for the most part, though sometimes marked by tragedy, too. In a wreck in Delaware United States Senator-elect Biden, at 39, youngest man to be elected to the senate in this century, lost his wife and 18-month old daughter, and his two sons were injured. In a Tuesday afternoon fire, the Rosa Bess family lost all their belongings excepting the clothes on their backs. The Halbert Webbs lost their dog to a car's turning wheels.

Prices aren't too joyful. A two-dollar bill once bought an all-silk tie and the \$9 to \$13 a merchant is advertising on shirts would have bought a silk shirt. (Do they make'em anymore?)

Already their have been some public gifts. The citizens of Kings Mountain school district gave their school children \$2.5 million Saturday for plant expansion. Previously, the city had given motorists, at least for a three-month trial period, free business district parking, removing those glutinous meter heads. In spite of being one of the best over-parking customers the city had, I confess to wondering if the decision were wise. After all, the point of meters is to keep traffic moving, not revenue, which in the city's instance went in toto to the recreation program. It was thus a total loss charge to the police department budget, additionally, after 24 years of service for most of the meters, many were in bad repair. I confess to habit as I sometimes still reach in my pocket for a coin when parking downtown, but it's quite a pleasure not having to worry about being armed with pennies and nickels when headed downtown.

Another community gift will be provided by Stewart & Everett, owners of Joy Theatre, shortly after Christmas, with a complete renovation of the plant, including new seats and carpeting.

The year 1972 marks a new record for construction of residences in Kings Mountain, and home-building has also been heavy in areas adjacent to the city. And these residences are being occupied about as fast as they are completed.

Out in Kentucky a couple of brothers had a grocery store and developed the proper formula for curing country hams. They sold the store ten years ago and their successor asked them to continue curing hams for him, which they did. They still supply him, but have increased their capacity to 600-700 per year, selling some privately, but selling only in the Christmas season. "Everybody knows what ingredients to use in curing hams," one commented. "The secret is in knowing how much of each ingredient." Most of the hams, on which the brothers start the curing process in January, are marked the first year. They save a few for special customers who like older hams and buy them the second Christmas.

I write it every year, but the Christmas cards do get prettier, it seems, with each passing year.

One of my interesting gifts to date comes from Edward H. Smith, a diploma from the State of North Carolina Electoral College, where Eddie, an elector for the second time, cast his vote for President Nixon and Vice-President Agnew. It's a spoof Ed dreamed up to promote attention to some ills in the electoral college system, such as the guy from Charlottesville, Va., a Nixon-Agnew elector, cut his ticket, voting for a guy nobody ever heard of. For the last few elections there has been one defector. One time it was an Alabamian, another time an Oklahoman. The inscription reads "Be it known that Martin Luther Harmon has steadfastly and dutifully served as official journalist during this state's official voting for Richard M. Nixon for President and Spiro T. Agnew for Vice-President of the United States. Having thus completed the required course of action, the officers and trustees of this honorable but outmoded and unnecessary assemblage are pleased to confer on him the honorary title of DOCTOR USELESS DEGREES (DUD), MAGNA CUM LOYAL."

Amén and Merry Christmas!

**Viewpoints of Other Editors**

**EDUCATION: IT IS NOT AS WE MIGHT THINK IT IS**

If there is one thing that all Americans of whatever political or ideological bent have shared in common, it is the belief that the road to personal success and social equality is through education.

Up to now it has seemed to work. The good life being lived by the children and grandchildren of poor, unskilled immigrants can surely be cited as proof of the value of education. It is obvious that an employer, given a choice between a high school dropout and a person with a diploma will hire the latter.

Where it hasn't worked, the answer has been more and "better" education. Educators continually come up with innovations from the New Math to "classrooms without walls" to programmed instruction to educational vouchers—in pursuit of the goal of equality and competence for all.

We will this year spend a record \$90.5 billion on classrooms and instruction for 60.4 million students. Public schools will employ 20,000 more teachers than they did last year.

But belief in the ideal has received some bruising blows of late. One of the most devastating

is a report called "Inequality: A reassessment of the Effects of Family and Schooling in America," usually referred to as the Jencks report.

The report is the result of a four-year review and analysis of data from various studies on the effects of schooling by a team headed by Harvard professor Christopher Jencks. Among its most surprising conclusions: Eliminating the difference between elementary schools would reduce the range of test scores among sixth-graders by less than three per cent.

Economic success seems to be as dependent upon such slippery factors as luck, timing and personality as on I.Q., heredity, family background and the cognitive skills measured by standardized tests.

In sum, the way to attack poverty and inequality, says the authors, is not through educational institutions but through economic institutions—by means of what can only be called socialism. The primary basis for judging an educational system should not be how many employable adults it turns out, but whether students and teachers find it a satisfying place to be and whether their lives are enriched.

While the word "socialism" is guaranteed to turn off noneducators as much as its other findings have offended professionals, the Jencks report does not provide strong evidence that we may have expected: too much from education in one sense and too little in another.

"I suggest that the purpose of education is not to improve competence but to improve desirable human characteristics usually associated with the word 'civilization,'" says Cleveland newspaper publisher Thomas Vail.

"Ethics, integrity, kindness, tolerance, human dignity, respect for others. These are the things, it seems to me, that education is driving at. Education is a step toward tolerance and understanding, and that is what civilization is all about."

But to drive at these goals, education has to start somewhere. Thus an even more primary purpose of education would seem to be to inquire into how civilization got where it is, to acquaint each new generation with the accumulated wisdom as well as the accumulated follies of mankind and to impart at least a basic understanding of the structure of the physical universe in which the human species has its existence.

For most of us, the grade school and high school years are the only exposure to "what civilization is all about." —The Gastonia Gazette.

**KINGS MOUNTAIN Hospital Log VISITING HOURS Daily 10:30 to 11:30 A.M. 3 to 4 P.M. and 7 to 8 P.M.**

- Edna Lou Barrett
  - Mrs. Sarah M. Boheler
  - Mrs. Pearl E. Bridges
  - James Clyde Brown
  - Sammie Bryant
  - Rochel Lee Conner
  - Moses Crank
  - Mrs. Annie K. Dulin
  - Mrs. Shirley D. Gainey
  - Mrs. Thomas W. Gibson
  - Mrs. J. J. Hicks
  - Mrs. Emma H. Homesley
  - Mrs. Lottie B. Jackson
  - Mrs. Verdie C. Kale
  - Haywood M. Mackey
  - Walter M. Moorhead
  - George Edwin Peck
  - Mrs. Marie H. Ramsey
  - Mrs. Lesley Sprouse
  - Jessie Taylor
  - Leroy Glenn Whiting
  - Mrs. Grady W. Wylie
  - Jedeth R. Davis
  - Mrs. Henderson W. Herndon
  - Mrs. Hunter G. Wylie
  - Mrs. Willie O. Caldwell
  - Mrs. Martha Rhea Deese
  - Mrs. Carrie R. Lutz
  - Mrs. Frank E. Self
  - Robert D. Smith
  - Shelly Marie Woodard
  - Keith Richard Allen
  - Mrs. Pearl S. Carroll
  - Johnny Marion Jackson
  - Mrs. Dennis Elizabeth McCurry
- ADMITTED THURSDAY**  
 James W. Jones, 319 E. Georgia Ave., Bessemer City.  
 Mrs. Mamie S. Kennedy, 305 N. Watterson St., City.  
 Robert G. Metcalf, 814 North Weldon Street, Gastonia.  
 Mrs. Ethel McMillan, Bessemer City.
- Luther Edward Shearer, 817 Wilmington Street, Gastonia**
- ADMITTED FRIDAY**  
 Mrs. Hary F. Cook, 103 Mint Street, Clover.  
 James Jerome Seagle, Route 1, Box 426-B, City.  
 Johnny William Whetstone, Rt. 2, Box 35, City.
- ADMITTED SATURDAY**  
 Mrs. Manatosh Dey, 108 East Airline Ave., Gastonia.  
 Mrs. Broadus England, 904 Church St., City.  
 Mrs. Robert L. Grindstaff, Rt. 1, Box 8, Clover.  
 Mrs. Richard A. Hildreth, General Delivery, Bessemer City.  
 Mrs. Lawrence D. Styers, 106 East Gold St., City.  
 Eunice R. Warlick, Route 3, Box 202, City.  
 Roger Lee Wood, 1000 First Street, City.  
 Donald W. Blanton, P. O. Box 787, City.  
 Mrs. Rhea K. Lewis, 116 East Georgia Ave., Bessemer City.
- ADMITTED SUNDAY**  
 Thomas Frank Ballard, 708 Linwood Road, City.  
 Mrs. Manda R. Barber, 107 Water Oak Street, City.  
 James Steven Crocker, 405 Crocker Road, City.  
 Mrs. Ray B. Herndon, Route 2, City.  
 William H. Morgan, 1616 Shelby Road, City.  
 Mrs. David Phillips Jr., 1700 Oak Valley Drive, Gastonia.  
 Mrs. William Stewart, 609 Candler Street, City.  
 Lowell B. Turpin Jr., 509 South 11th Street, Bessemer City.  
 Willis B. Bagwell, 813 North 3rd Street, City.  
 Randy Michael Emory, 1010 E. Park Avenue, Gastonia.  
 George W. Sellers, 101 Water-oak Street, City.
- ADMITTED MONDAY**  
 Mrs. Erenda E. Barber, Bessemer City Trailer Park.  
 Virgil G. Campbell, 832 First Street, City.  
 Barry Randal Dellinger, 606 Bridges Drive, City.  
 Mrs. James H. Jenkins, Route 1, Kings Creek, S. C.  
 Sarah Frances Smith, Route 1, Box 178, Grover.  
 Billy M. Bagwell, Midpines Trailer Park, City.

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 For further information contact  
**The Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission**  
 112 S. Piedmont Avenue  
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 Kings Mountain, North Carolina 28086  
 12:14-14

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