



The Kings Mountain Herald

406 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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And we know that all things work together for good to those that love the Lord. Romans 8:28

Thoughts On "Shorts"

The message is getting through, says David L. Saunders, who navigated Interstate 85 from Atlanta Tuesday. Mr. Saunders said he kept his speedometer in the 55-60 range and by actual count was passed only 13 times en route, by 11 passenger cars, two trucks.

Some truckers contend their big diesel-powered rigs not only perform better but with less fuel requirement at 70 than at speeds now being posted all over the nation.

The United States is an automotive nation. It just might be a safe wager that a majority of the 200 million souls in the USA, given a choice between loss of the auto or a heavy dent to the pocketbook would vote to damage the wallet.

It looks at the moment that first effort in cutting auto gas consumption will be a Sunday shutdown. Long weekend trips will be prevented and the more voracious the car the more so.

The temperature was going down Wednesday afternoon, and the promise was for a chilly morning.

Already the federal establishment has said thermostats should be dropped six degrees, particularly if the heat is derived from oil, natural gas or propane. It's an honor system arrangement and supplies of oil appear adequate until December 27. Via the stay order on natural gas, North Carolina gas users are in good shape until January 3 when the Federal Power commission will tell a federal judge that the injunction against its curtailment order should be lifted.

Those living in houses with electric heat may prove to be the luckiest, as Duke Power Company, which supplies the bulk of power in the Piedmont Carolinas, thinks its potential power supply in good shape for the current heating season. Duke is less sure about 1974-75.

DST

Daylight Saving Time is to return again by Congressional edict not long after being "put up" for the winter season. DST can bring only a small amount of savings in power and heat on the theoretical grounds that citizens will bed down by the clock, an hour earlier than the sun operates.

WARMER CLOTHING

Bob Trout, the CBS television announcer, did a program recently out of England. It was pointed out that the British know how to dress for cold weather. His report was graphically illustrated by a pair of "long-handled" underwear, which, said Reporter Trout, no self-respecting Britisher would be without.

But in the USA are red flannels in short supply like five-gallon gas cans and auto gas tank locks?

Hints?

Federal officials hold little promise of relaxation by Arabic nations of the oil shipments ban without a settlement of the Israeli-Arab arguments and long-time differences.

But the "oil" or Arab world has relaxed its ban on shipments to the European Common Market nations and Japan. The United States and the Netherlands, for the moment, are left high and dry.

Are the officials' warning that there is little to be hoped of oil succor from the Arab world an invitation for public outcry for a change in policy that will favor the Israeli state less and the Arab world more?

The Arabs, of course, aren't hinting. They shut off the oil and say, in effect, "Change your policy toward us, or lump it." Or should the phrase be "hump it"?

Re-Bidding Costs

On the recent re-bid of the electrical section of the sewage system expansion project of the city, only two valid bids were received, as occurred on the initial bidding.

Austin Electric Company, of Charlotte, was low again at \$26,567, but about \$5000 over the bids taken October 31.

Bryant Electric Company, of Gastonia, bid slightly less than \$8000 more than the Austin bid and obviously didn't want the job.

This is another sample of the complete failure of the federal establishment's efforts to keep a lid on prices.

Capping one fellow and letting his neighbor go free will never work.

And that's what the Nixon Administration tried.

Lake Authority

Creation of a Lake Authority has been a city intention since the first motion was made and passed in July 1966 to proceed to Buffalo Creek for water.

With Buffalo's water slowly rising behind the big 84-foot dam, and, with possibility, pending on winter rains and/or snows, that the lake top will make spillway height by next summer, it was time to put the plan into action.

A seven-member group is to be appointed to manage what amounts to recreation on the lake.

Management and superintendence are required to assure the orderly development of the lake's potential.

The lake will inundate 1200 acres when the water flows over the spillway and the shoreline will slightly exceed that of Lake Lure's, promising a mecca for the fisherman, the boatman, the swimmer, and the water skier.

Congratulations to George H. Mauney, chairman, and P. A. Francis, vice-chairman, re-elected to these positions by their fellows on the Kings Mountain district board of education.

A best bow to Dean B. Westmoreland, Kings Mountain high school teacher of social studies, who has been appointed by Governor Jim Holshouser to the state school textbook commission. This is an important position in the public schools scheme of operation. Publishers of school textbooks are continually putting out both new and revised books in all fields of study.

The "Theft" Easy

Nick Smith, the Kings Mountain native and lawyer now working with the state, dreamed up an interesting play this week when he and some assistants visited the state vehicle pool in Dorton Arena in Raleigh and conducted a theft.

Mr. Smith and his friends, clad in business suits, had no trouble making off with some trucks and other equipment.

The keys were in the switches, which made the "job" quite easy, Mr. Smith and his aides declared.

"Such looseness must be tightened," Mr. Smith was quoted as saying.

On a television show the other morning, Mickey Mantle, the former Yankee star, was jesting about his performances with the Yankees. He struck out more than any Yankee in history, but walked more than he fanned.

The walks and the strikeouts amounted to 3518. "Since the major league regular goes to bat approximately 500 times a season," quoth Mantle, "Seven of my eighteen years with the Yankees I didn't even hit the ball."

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

Bob Gidney, the county tax supervisor, did a speaking job for me at the Lions club Tuesday night.

m-m

Bob's knowledge, of course, is not limited to tax matters, but that was his subject Tuesday night and it was a timely one. Effective January 1, state law governing a county's (and city's) property taxes provides considerable changes, some of them rather complicated.

m-m

One change Bob detailed is of benefit to citizens age 65 and older. Under the expiring law, such citizen with gross income under \$3500 annually, the gross including social security payments, was not liable to property tax. Under the new law, such citizen is exempt if his gross income is under \$5000 annually EXCLUDING social security payments.

m-m

"Don't get too excited when you get your tax listing forms in the mail the last week in December," says Bob, "when you look at your real property valuation figure. You've been looking at 65 percent of actual value — ratio the county commission has been using. This time you'll be looking at a 100 percent figure. The new law requires use of the full-value figure." He conjectured that the county commission, in its wisdom, will make all effort to reduce the rate and keep the tax bills about the same.

m-m

Bob agrees that the ratio business is simply a matter of book-keeping. He wonders, however, if lowered rates might not encourage, in future years, higher rates and bigger bills.

m-m

Another change is a flat \$300 deduction for each and every property owner on personal property. (Tip: own two cars? Let the wife list one.) About 99 percent of Cleveland's citizens take the ten percent option on personal household property, rather than itemizing. Under the ten percent option the property owner or tenant in a \$15,000 house has an automatic listing of personal household property of \$1500. The rates in 1973 were: county-wide 96 cents per \$100 valuation; Kings Mountain school district 50 cents per \$100 valuation; City of Kings Mountain 85 cents per \$100 valuation. A taxpayer living in the city gets a \$693 deduction via the \$300 exemption.

m-m

Bob teased Senator W. K. Mauney, Jr. "I won't embarrass him by asking him to explain this bill, even if he did vote for it."

m-m

Bob lost me on the farm provisions. At any rate there's some kind of provision relating to size of farm and income therefrom, and the course is for five years. Should farm income drop below \$1000 per year in any one of the five, the owner owes some back taxes. (I think that's right.) Lawyer George Thomason had been to a recent seminar in which these provisions were discussed and advised, "Better be careful when you're buying a farm. You may be buying a back-tax bill, too."

m-m

Also retained in the law, wisely, is the long-standing provision that the county is the ooss in the matter of tax valuations. These must be accepted by the other local governmental units such as cities, water districts, etc.

m-m

My speaker was at home with the Lions, having logged 29 years as a member, having done about every chore the Shelby club had at one time or another. During his year as president, the Shelby club helped organize the Grover and Fallston clubs.

m-m

He joined the county tax office as collector July 1, 1945, later succeeding Max Hamrick as supervisor on Max's retirement.

m-m

I never ever prepared remarks when presenting a speaker. I count on the dinner conversation to provide some human interest tidbits. Tuesday night was no exception. Bob's wife, Nettie Rayle Gidney, is a very fine soprano. On one occasion, Bob was visiting the Fallston club and W. R. Gary announced that Bob would lead a song.

m-m

"I'm sorry," Bob replied, you've asked me to do something I can't do. When my wife and I were married, we made an agreement. If she wouldn't collect taxes, I wouldn't sing."

Viewpoints of Other Editors

THE CASE AGAINST GAS RATIONING

Gas rationing is a terrible idea. The best way out of the oil shortage is to pay higher prices. Fifty or 60 or 70 cents per gallon would be okay. Here's why.

Higher prices would end the gas shortage. An extra 10 or 20 cents per gallon would bring prices to a level where oil could be economically squeezed out of shale or coal. We have shale and coal mining coming out of our ears in this country.

Gas rationing would cause corruption and scandals and a loss of faith in government. It led to a major black market during World War II, in spite of 5,000 or 6,000 enforcement agents and the patriotic frenzy of the times. We already have all the scandal and corruption we can handle.

Higher prices would divert oil and gas to where it is most needed to where it is so necessary that people and business are willing to pay extra for it. This is called the law of supply and demand. It ensures that resources go into their most productive uses, creating more goods, jobs, and prosperity. That is the way our economy worked in the days when our economy worked.

Gas rationing would be as unfair as it would be uneconomical. There is no fair way to divvy up gasoline between Volkswagen owners and Oldsmobile owners, between skiers and TV-watchers, between doctors who make house calls and doctors who don't. Some people will be more respected than others in the business and pleasure (unless they buy black-market gas coupons) and others will have gas coupons left over (unless they sell them on the black market).

Most important, gas rationing will be another long step in the Russification of our economy further substituting the economic judgments of myriad bureaucrats for those of the people who actually make the economy go around. We've seen how well this setup works in Russia; we've seen it totter along her through Phases I, II, III, and IV. It would likely be a permanent step toward Russification too. If higher prices aren't allowed to squeeze oil out of rocks and coal, we will have less and less gasoline and need more and more bureaucrats to divvy it up.

The price of gas rationing is prohibitive, socially, morally, and economically. The price of gas on a free market would not be prohibitive. A boost of 20 cents per gallon would mean a penny-a-mile more to run a Volkswagen, 2 cents more to run an eight-cylinder Dinosaur. Figure one or two dollars per week for ordinary commuters. You could make it up by reducing your unnecessary driving, but it would be you, not the bureaucracy, that defined what was necessary.

There has been a lot of hogwash about how crushing this burden would be to the poor. But what the poor need is money, not gas. The really poor can't afford cars in the first place, and nobody has ever paid much attention to that. If we must take this occasion to begin subsidizing poor car-owners, we could do it by adding gas stamps to the food stamp program, or by making the food stamps exchangeable at gas stations, or in a lot of ways that wouldn't require an army of energy police to mess up the economy and harass the entire populace.

Higher prices and rationing both require sacrifices. But higher prices would let you choose the sacrifice yourself—paying more or driving less. They would leave the economy free to create the affluence that would eventually make the prices bearable. Higher prices would eventually end the shortage, but rationing, with all its evils, would go on and on.—Michael T. Malloy in The National Observer.

"CAPSULES OF WISDOM" FROM A NEW ALMANAC

Ray Geiger, editor of the Farmer's Almanac, has come out with his 1974 edition, and here are a few "capsules of wisdom" featured in the almanac:

Acupuncture is nothing new; my boss has been needing me for years.

Reduce errors at work. Arrive late, and leave early. Old lawyers never die. They just lose their appeal.

Some stretch pants have no other choice.

Prejudice is a time-saver; it enables you to pass judgment without getting the facts.

When a will is read, heirs listen to it with profaned breath. Before credit cards, we always knew exactly how much we were broke.

A flea circus may be a good act, but it takes permits to bring down the house.

An intelligent girl is one who knows how to refuse a kiss without being deprived of it.

Sign on an organic farm: "We till it like it is."—(Pete Ivey in The Chapel Hill Newspaper).

WHY POOR MAIL SERVICE?

This winter's fuel shortage, among other things, is expected to affect delivery of U. S. mail during the coming Christmas rush. Three hundred mail-carrying airline flights have recently been scratched because of fuel cutbacks, and Postal Service officials warn that fuel scarcities are bound to curtail mail deliveries by truck in weeks ahead.

The situation points up the short-sightedness of a Postal Service decision several years ago to discontinue large-scale use of passenger trains in carrying intercity mail.

Not only did that decision precipitate the decline of rail passenger service in America (mail-carrying fees helped subsidize marginal passenger-train operation in many parts of the country), it also seems that mail service has experienced a steady decline since trans stopped carrying our letters and parcels.

Say what you will about latter-day passenger trains — but they were reliable mail carriers even if they often irritated passengers by running late. And with the energy crisis upon us, what more efficient mode of rapid transportation is there than the rail-guided train?

Current mail-delivery problems dramatize this nation's failure to pursue a balanced transportation policy in recent years. We have poured all our public resources into the development of more and more automobile and airplane transit systems, while neglecting America's premier transportation network, our railroads.—The Smithfield Herald.

SIGNS OF A MILD WINTER?

Each fall as a service to our readers, The Chapel Hill Weekly and its successor, The Chapel Hill Newspaper, have presented Hugh Wilson's Folk Signs of Coming Winter Weather.

The service has been generally well-received, even when totally inaccurate. We have gotten high praise from any number of people, most Mr. Wilson and his cronies.

The forecast is a little late this year, and both The Newspaper and Mr. Wilson apologize. Due to the prolonged semi-drought, the Squire of Bingham township has had difficulty reading the signs. He has also had difficulty with his back, politics, and the general condition of the country, although they had nothing to do with the forecast.

Anyway, the readings have been completed and this is what the grand old man found:

Fall of Acorns—Much lighter than usual, heavier than last year.

Persimmons—Almost zilch, possibly due to the "Pete Ivey Caterpillars" which checked 'em everywhere.

Walnuts and Hickory Nuts—Lighter than usual, better than acorns.

Horses' and Cows' Coats—Short aplenty.

Lespedeza Crop—Some tall, some middlin, some short, unreadable.

Conclusions To Be Drawn From Folk Signs—Mild winter generally but probably a big snow sometime, maybe late if the harder shelled walnuts and hickory nuts are to be needed by our furry friends.

In an aside, the Squire said, "My personal prediction is the winter will be generally mild as to temperature, but following the law of averages we are due for a good bit of snow." "The long-distance weather scientists forecast us a normal November and a real warm December. One should note that they also forecast a dry September (it was) and a rather wet October (ha) and since the hurricane season is fading, the chances are that this usually driest month of the year will be even drier."

Consider yourself warned. (Chapel Hill Newspaper)

MAN BITES TRAIN

Taking things in your own hands can sometimes make you feel better. Like the man in Fort Worth, Texas, who was held up 15 minutes on his way to work by a passing train.

The motorist got his revenge by parking his pickup truck on the track and walking off to work with the doors left locked. Before the police could locate him and ask him to move his truck a freight train was delayed 20 minutes.

Probably a lot of people secretly feel the same way about such things. The police, at least, showed understanding. They declined to hand the driver a ticket.

It was not quite a Walter Mitty dream, come true, but close. Mem-phs (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal.

OTHER EDIT'S—EARLY AMERICAN PRICES

We just redid the house in Early American. We know it's Early American because the prices made us the town crier.—Changing Times.

HOSPITAL LOG

Gary L. Allran
Rochelle Lee Conner
Mrs. Robert Curry
William Jake England
Mrs. Vivian Fulton
Grover W. Greene
Mrs. Mary R. Hill
Mrs. Mattie T. Hill
Daisy Houston
Ruby Mae Martin
Manuel A. Moss
Mrs. Parthenia McMullen
Mrs. Lillie E. Reynolds
Mrs. Ronnie D. Robertson
Robert T. Ruff
Freddie A. Smith
Mrs. Marvin Wright
Mrs. Charles E. Stewart
Mrs. Daisy F. Ledford
Martha Ann Messick
Calvin S. Falls
Mrs. Benton J. Neal
Harry A. Pate
Lacy E. Price
Mrs. Forest C. Weaver
Ira L. Camp
James P. Carter
Mrs. Virgie L. Cole
Della Mae Fraley
Talmadge G. Sullens, Jr.

ADMITTED THURSDAY

Mrs. Sandra Paye Brooks, 495 Southside Avenue, Gastonia
Mrs. Clarence E. Conard, 2712 Crescent La., Gastonia
Leon Huffstetter, Rt. 2, Box 490, Bessemer City
Mrs. Bertha D. Lemmons, 404 Cherry St., City
Mrs. Frank E. Reynolds, 322 E. Gaston Avenue, Bessemer City
John Van Dorn Stewart, 606 W. Gold St., City

ADMITTED FRIDAY

Mrs. Manda R. Barber, 107 Waterock St., City
Mrs. Josephine M. Davis, 812 W. Mtn. St., City
Mrs. Hugh Lee Ivester, Rt. 3, Box 144C, City
Jack Moss, 3090 Midpines, City
William Edward Murray, Rt. 1, Bess Town Rd., Bessemer City
Mrs. Glenn E. Patterson, Rt. 2, Box 179A, Dallas

ADMITTED SATURDAY

Leonidas B. Falls, Rt. 4, Box 113, City
Carl W. Foster, P.O. Box 84, Bessemer City
John Thomas Houser, Rt. 4, City
Shirley C. Lunsford, Rt. 2, Bessemer City
Mrs. William O. Ruppe, Rt. 2, Box 607A Oak Grove Road, City
ADMITTED SUNDAY
Mrs. Robert T. Beggs, Shelby Road, City

Mrs. Hubert E. Jackson, 216 Catherine St., City
Guy C. Moss, Rt. 2, City

ADMITTED MONDAY

Mrs. Donald D. Ivey, 300 1/2 S. Oriental Avenue, City
Darvin G. Moss, 319 Fulton Drive, City
William Bruce Whaley, 101 Liberty St., York S. C.
Mrs. Howard E. Thornburg, 510 E. Georgia Avenue, Bessemer City

ADMITTED TUESDAY

Mr. Howard O. Smith, 700 Marion Street, City
Mrs. Carl T. Frazier, Gen. Del. Grover
James M. Hicks, Jr., 3070 Midpines, City
Mrs. Lelia D. Hoffman, 2224 Union Road, Gastonia

Birth Announcements

Mr. and Mrs. Delton Postall, 716 York Road, announce the birth of a daughter, Tuesday, November 20, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. George L. Brice, 615 Bradley Street, Gastonia, announce the birth of a daughter, Thursday, November 22, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Holland E. Gant, Route 2, Edgewood Acres, Bessemer City, announce the birth of a daughter, Friday, November 23, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve McNeely, 309 E. Parker St., announce the birth of a son, Monday, November 23, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman L. Carroll, Route 1, Gastonia Highway, Bessemer City, announce the birth of a daughter, Saturday, November 24, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Beggs, Shelby Road, announce the birth of a son, Monday, November 26, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert E. Jackson, 216 Catherine St., announce the birth of a son, Monday, November 26, Kings Mountain hospital.

Recent Bride, Mrs. McGill Is Honored

Mrs. Leroy McGill, recent bride, was honored Tuesday evening at a drop-in bridal shower held in the fellowship hall of Boyce Memorial ARP church.

Entertaining together were Mrs. Paul Ham, Mrs. John Yarbro, Mrs. Menzell Phifer, Mrs. Wendell Phifer and Mrs. Eugene McCarter.

A yellow and white motif was featured in decorative details and refreshments. The bride's table, highlight of decoration, was overlaid with white linen cloth and held a silver candelabrum set with candles and arranged with yellow roses, daisies and white mums as central decoration. Punch was served by Paul-ette Phifer and Jean Phifer from a silver punch bowl at one end of the table. Silver trays held an assortment of party pick-ups. The bride, the former Mae Sue Goforth, received friends in her wedding dress, a long-sleeved full-skirted blue ensemble with corsage of white mums, gift from the hostesses.

Mrs. McGill opened gifts from the 75 friends who called and displayed them on a table also decorated in the yellow and white motif.

-PERSONAL-

Mr. and Mrs. David Hughes and Mrs. Gordon Hughes spent the past weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Audrey Erwin of Whittington, West Virginia.

Short Forms Are Available

Registration forms and a program outline are now available from the County Extension Office on the Farm and Small Business Income Tax Short course scheduled for this area.

The short course, which is sponsored by North Carolina State University will feature the recent changes in tax laws and regulations.

H. W. Dameron, county chairman, said the short course for this area of the state will be held at the Sheraton Inn, Market and Woodfin streets, Asheville, and on December 5 at the Holiday Inn No. 3 in Charlotte.

A total of four short courses will be held across the state. A fifth short course of a more advanced nature will be held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh on December 10-12.

Dameron said the short course will be primarily for persons who assist other people in filling out both state and federal returns for businesses and individuals.

Instructions are provided by the Department of Economics at NCSU in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Internal Revenue, the N. C. Department of Revenue and the Social Security Administration.

Persons interested in attending the short course are urged to come by the county extension office, 130 South Post Road, or to call 482-4365 for an enrollment form.

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