

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Page 4A, Thursday, May 5, 1977

We hope Billings will be a go-getter

Kings Mountain now has a business development director, courtesy of the Community Development funding program.

The director's job, as we understand it, is to work in close association with the small businessmen and minority businessmen in the central business district to create new methods of stimulating the economy and customer traffic in the city's downtown area.

We also understand that the director will also work on possible grant assistance to help in the downtown area.

Just what the director has in mind at this point in the way of creating this business stimulus is known only by the director. However, if he has any ideas at all we are sure they will be received with open arms.

Another area the director will work in is wooing new retail business to locate in the downtown area. In this he has his job cut out for him.

The new municipal parking lots, constructed through last summer, was thought to be a way of encouraging more shopping downtown. However, that has not proven to be the case. The majority of the spaces have been and are being used as a parking for employees in the downtown stores. This was one of the things that was to be avoided.

Another means of stimulating downtown business was for the CBD merchants to enter into a facelifting project. The one or two meetings to look over architectural plans for creating a mall type atmosphere were enthusiastic — to a point. But it now appears that enthusiasm died shortly after each meeting.

Some of the downtown merchants cannot enter into renovation work simply because they are hampered by adjacent substandard buildings, which were contracted out to be demolished, but as yet have not been.

So, if the time was ever right for a go-getter type to help pump some of the old sing into downtown business, it is now. We trust Mr. Larry Billings, KM's director of business development, will be well received as he assumes his duties.

Area citizens urged to have pressure checked

High blood pressure plagues one of every seven adults in America.

A leading cause of heart disease, kidney failure and strokes, high blood pressure often goes undetected because it has no symptoms.

Area residents will have a chance to have their blood pressure checked at a free clinic Saturday, May 7, at Eastridge Mall, Gastonia. Between the hours of 11 a. m. and 7 p. m., trained hospital personnel will conduct the clinic sponsored by Gaston Memorial Hospital, Inc., and the Gaston County Heart Association.

This community service project is being held in observance of National Hospital Week, May 8-14, and National Blood Pressure Month.

A person with high blood pressure may look and feel healthy until it erupts suddenly causing premature sickness, disability, or death. For years, this massive health problem has been overlooked because of the lack of symptoms.

High blood pressure can be controlled, with proper medical treatment. But first it must be detected.

A check of your blood pressure at the free clinic May 7 will be a check of your health.

Locally, blood pressure screening will be conducted at TG&Y and at Kings Mountain Community Center on Friday, from 12:30 until 4:30 p. m. at TG&Y and from 8:30 until 11 a. m. at the Community Center; on May 13 and May 27 at K-Mart in Shelby and on May 20th at Mack's in Kings Mountain.

READER DIALOGUE

Let's ask ourselves, who is in control?

To the editor,

What's happening to our downtown face lifting? If anything.

Out of etc., \$3 millions of federal funding to our city within the past several years, how much progress has been really made in restoring our downtown business as an added attraction to the shoppers of not only those within our city, yet to those who would wish to shop in our city.

What are the thoughts of those out of towners' and out of state, thinking as they pass through our city?

What's happened to progress? Same old town, same old look, same old street, nothing new.

Perhaps it's just as well the thought are or bypass, which ever one may prefer to call it, came.

What's happened to those with dreams, with vision?

What's your opinion?

The Mirror-Herald welcomes letters from readers expressing your opinions on any subject you choose, or rebutting any editorial opinion we express.

All letters must be signed by writer with address included. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Address all correspondence for this page to Reader Dialogue, Mirror-Herald, P. O. Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086.

Who really controls our elected officials? Who makes the decisions as to what building goes where?

A hundred years and our city hasn't advanced too greatly.

Business yes, but with controlling outside interest.

A new city hall and a public works building in the making, great!

But what about our downtown business? What is holding back progress, 'Special Interest'? The new Blazer building was a great idea, but where do we go from there?

An election is forthcoming within the very near future, and there will be three offices up for grab. Will this be another year for change?

Three upseated could make a great difference. Just perhaps there should be another ward or district added, to break the power structure.

Perhaps it's time for a change back to the two year term, as the four year terms will lead to excessive power and the people will have no voice.

It's time to take another look and to examine and to re-evaluate as to where the public stands.

Let's take another look at the transportation system of which we once nae. 'The City Bus System.' There would perhaps be more shopping for our inner shopping for the downtown shopping as to where the public were given a choice of transportation.

Perhaps it would help to alleviate some of the traffic and congestion. As the way it now stands, our downtown business has to keep its prices high in order to compete with these second's in merchandise materials.

Yes, by all means let's take another good look at our city and ask ourselves, 'Who is in control of our city?'

EVERETTE PEARSON

The smell of spring...

By Elizabeth Stewart
Guest Columnist

(Ed. Note — Editor Tom McIntyre is on vacation this week. His column will be published Thursday.)

Out beyond the pavements the earthy smell of Spring plowing is underway. The seedbed for the footstuff of the nation is being prepared for plowing.

The farmer, diminishing minority though he may be, is doing the seasonal chores on which the well being of civilization ultimately depends.

Spring plowing is the age-old part of the year's demands, the beginning of the process that leads to harvest.

Farmers are of a long line of people. Those furrows are his signature and he writes it carefully, even proudly.

On a recent trip to Eastern North Carolina attending the 22nd of 25 district meetings I will attend as state president of the American Legion Auxiliary, I have noticed the darkest and prettiest soil I have ever seen.

It seemed to me that spring planting, and I observed it a lot during my swing through the eastern part of the state during April, that spring plowing is more than a chore, but almost a ritual.

The farmer stirs the earth, plows his furrows and in a sense demonstrates man's dependence and cooperation with the soil and seasons.

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TOM MCINTYRE

SPRING NOTES

Chief of Police Earl Lloyd is a firm believer in classified ads in the newspaper.

He was placing his ad and picture of his straying "Gypsy" at about the same time Tuesday that his neighbor, Tim Taylor, was advertising that he had found a silver grey Schnauzer and was looking for the owner.

The Chief said his family is probably the happiest family in town today since the five-year-old German puppy missing since last Wednesday, is back at home.

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Folks at City Hall like to have fun with Al Morets and last week during National Secretary Week, Al received the flowers, and incidentally the daisies were from the two secretaries in Mayor John Moss' office, Katy Wilkes and Boots McDaniel.

Tom Dula hanged...

Tom Dula, the subject of legend and ballad, was hanged on May 1, 1868, in Statesville.

The town's saloons and public buildings were closed for the event, and a crowd of over three thousand was in attendance, including a large number of newspaper reporters. Tom did not disappoint them. He rode to his execution sitting on his coffin and — according to legend — playing on his fiddle. He was under extra-heavy guard because of his size of the crowd and the fact that he had made an "escape" attempt the night before. Dula laughed and joked with friends in the crowd, and when given time for a final statement, made a one-hour speech from the steps of the gallows!



ED SMITH

For some reason, this sordid story of a ner-do-well, young Confederate veteran who stabbed his "sweetheart" and was unsuccessfully defended in court by the famous Zeb Vance had caught the entire nation's interest. Dula's two trials and execution were faithfully recorded, and the next day, May 2, papers as far away as New York City devoted an unusual amount of space to his death. Within a few years, the Ballad of Tom Dula (Dooley) was a familiar one in mountain folklore.

To the last Dula protested his innocence, yet he left a written statement absolving Ann Melton, his mistress, and companion that day, of any part in the murder of Laura Foster. The prosecution at his trial had contended Dula killed her in revenge for infecting him with venereal disease. His supporters believed that Ann Melton had killed Laura out of jealousy and that Tom had taken the blame for her. Dula went to his grave without ever telling what had really happened on the slope of Brushy Mountain.

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On May 6, 1865, near Waynesville, Brigadier General John G. Martin surrendered his Confederate troops to Union brigadier A. C. Gillen, of Stoneman's



LOOKING BACK

20 YEARS AGO
FROM THE FILES OF THE
KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD

Tilman Pearson became the fifth candidate for Ward Two Commissioner this week as he posted his filing fee. Mr. Pearson opposes A. Dewitte Cornwell, Boyce Gault, Bryant Wells and J. C. Clary.

Neisler Division of Massachusetts Mohair Push Co. handed lay off notices to 70 employees during the past week.

Delbert Dixon was elected president of the Kings' Mountain Jaycees Tuesday night. The campaign speeches and voting required more than two hours.

Jerry King was graduated March 18th from Western Carolina College with B. S. in business administration.

Kings Mountain will tangle with the powerful Shelby Lions Tuesday in the South-western AA Conference baseball opener.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Miss Etha Hawkins and Donald Bumgardner were married Sunday afternoon in a 4 p. m. wedding in Grace United Methodist Church.

Judy Rae Ware, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erskine Ware, celebrated her third birthday Saturday, March 20th.

Mrs. Alvin Yarbrough entertained Saturday afternoon at her home on Shelby Rd. at a birthday party for her daughter, Janice, on her 12th birthday.

Members of the city's Downtown Building and Revitalization Committee got a chance to meet Larry Billings, 37, new director of the newly-created Kings Mountain Development Office Monday morning just before the North Wilkesboro native was hired by the city board of commissioners.

Charles Blanton, chairman of the committee, said he was elated to meet him and hear that the new offices were to open in the new Depot building which is now being refurbished, commenting that the total effect is really a boost to the city and the hiring of a director to assist in all phases of developing new businesses and expanding present businesses.

Blanton said his customers wanted one area where they could receive all services such as haircuts, groceries, legal services, clothing and that downtown is the logical place to develop this concept of service. "Our philosophy is that we can understand larger cities becoming so diversified but we're getting more dispersed than what our customers want us to be," said Blanton.

Billings said he was ready "to dig in and go to work." "Our door will always be open," he added.

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Don Jones, the retiring school superintendent, chatting in sentimental vein about the first time he visited Kings Mountain 10 years ago, said his children on the drive home to the mountains voted unanimously not to move from Asheville.

Now they all want to stay, he said Tuesday after a luncheon hosted by his staff.

command. Martin had successfully opposed Federal troops in western North Carolina, defeating them in several times in a campaign that is largely neglected in N. C. history.

Several days later, on May 9, a force of Carolina militia under Col. J. R. Love would skirmish briefly with Union Cavalry near Waynesville, and the last shots would be fired on North Carolina soil. Only one other Southern force would surrender at a later date, on May 16 in Alabama.

Because there was no longer any central military command, and because news travelled so slowly then, there would be no one overall surrender of Confederate forces. The last shots of the war, would be fired at sea, in the Pacific Carolinian, James Waddell, of Fayetteville.

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Charles Manley, the last Whig governor of the state (1848-50) died on May 1, 1871. Manley was also born during this month, on May 13, 1795. He was the last governor of North Carolina to be born in the 18th Century.

The principal achievements of Manley's term were in furthering the causes of public education and transportation, as well as in passing the act establishing the first state mental institution.

Manley was defeated in his bid for reelection to another two-year term by David S. Reid, the state's first Democrat governor. In those days, the Governor could succeed himself, but was limited to four years in office during any six-year period.



The Poet's Corner

KINDNESS IS SO DESIRABLE

The simple art of kindness
The souls refresher mist,
Is like the fragrance of a rose
Or a love that brings sweet bliss.

To the spirit it is the same
As sunshine to budding flowers,
Practiced by angelic souls
To golden tint the hours.

How sweet this charm flowing naturally
The beauty of being nice,
A rainbow shining through the clouds
And a breeze from paradise.

This simple little courtesy
Like a fragrant spring bouquet,
Is a kiss of benediction
But where have you fled, I pray?

VIVIAN STEWART BLTOLIFFE

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