

But how does the public protect itself?

The state creates legislation to protect the citizens who suffer from mental instability, but no one has passed laws to protect the public from the mentally unstable.

Every community has people who are mentally unbalanced. Nowadays, the federal, state and local agencies established to work with such people put tags such as "mentally handicapped" on them. Back a few years ago everyone called such people "village idiots."

There really was no help for them in those days. Families with a relative afflicted thusly either kept them locked away at home or in an institution. Today the afflicted themselves can sign themselves in and out.

When I was a youngster there was one in my hometown. He was a hefty fellow who wandered the community as he pleased. Everyone knew him and most just plain ignored him. There were a few "good 'ol boys" who took advantage of him, kidded him unmercifully.

I guess he hung around these fellows because even in his very young mind he could tell they didn't pity him. But as this mentally handicapped man grew older he grew meaner. He could be downright vicious.

That was then.

Today, here in Kings Mountain there are a few citizens who can be classified mentally handicapped. No one picks at them. And their big thing has become religion. Another big thing they have is the feeling that everyone is out to get them. To combat this KM's resident afflicted strike first.

One of them gives the cops and the local newspaper more trouble than a barrelful of bankrobbers. This person reports almost daily of the plots hatched by neighbors, messing up the phone so weird voices are heard, rock throwing at the house, stealing mail from the box, etc. All of this to the tune of appropriate Biblical passages.

Then there is another who bills himself as a "Saint." His little tricks include putting up For Sale signs on the windows of businesses downtown, hanging around public businesses speaking abusively to other customers, even to putting "curses" on people he feels have wrong him. And if the business owner runs him off he merely moves operations to another locale.

It's a big problem. All of our upbringing tells us such people are to be pitied and helped, but no way have we learned how to get such people to help themselves.

We can have laws passed to protect them, but what does the public do to protect itself?



TOM McINTYRE

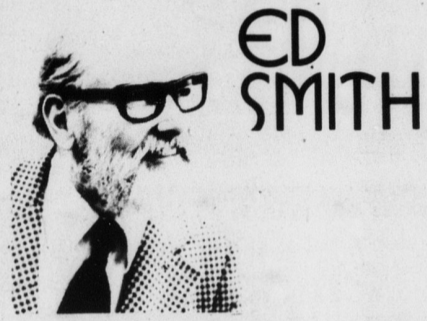
History altered off N.C. coast



On September 5, 1921 Brigadier General William "Billy" Mitchell, of the U. S. Army Air Service, altered the course of world history by sinking an obsolete battleship off the North Carolina coast by bombing it from the air.

Mitchell's famous demonstration before a predominately-hostile group of American military commanders is regarded as the real birth of modern air power.

His aircraft took off from a temporary field located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, in Dare County. The state was also involved in that a prominent citizen, Raleigh newspaper publisher Josephus Daniels, was then acting as Secretary of the Navy. Daniels, in fact, loyally sticking by his own "experts", had strongly opposed



ED SMITH

the tests, volunteering to... "stand bareheaded on the bridge of any vessel General Mitchell attempts to sink by bombing it."

In July of 1921, in an initial series of tests, Mitchell's aircraft had destroyed the "unsinkable" German battleship "Ostriesland." The Navy protested that Mitchell had not followed the "rules" laid down for the tests, however, and tried both to minimize the results and have Mitchell removed from his post of Assistant Chief of the Air Services. An outcry in the nation's press and in Congress forced a second series of tests in September. Mitchell's aircraft, World-War-One vintage, open-cockpit Martin bombers, flying at 2500 feet attitude and dropping 2,000 pound bombs, sank the old U. S. S. "Alabama" in twenty minutes.

Though our own military experts still

refused to accept the lesson, other nations did, particularly Germany and Japan, as we learned to our dismay in World War Two! General Mitchell refused to be silenced, however, and in 1925 he was court-martialled and dismissed from the Army.

Duelling, that utterly foolish custom of settling arguments with pistols at twenty paces or less, was responsible for the deaths of many prominent American citizens during the Nineteenth Century. One survey has reported that during the years 1800-1860, for example, a total of 27 such contests took place between prominent North Carolinians, involving political quarrels alone.

Richard Dobbs Spaight, Senior, however, was the only Governor of the state to be killed in a duel. He and his son R. D. Spaight, Jr., also share with Kerr and Robert Scott the distinction of being the only father-son teams to occupy the Executive Mansion.

Spaight died on Sept. 8, 1802, in New Bern, of a wound received the day before in a duel with John Stanley, his successor in the U. S. Congress. Criminal charges were brought against Stanley, but he was pardoned by Governor Benjamin Williams. This duel brought about the passage of stronger legislation against the practice in this state, but it nonetheless continued for another half-

century. On Sept. 6, 1875, in Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina reopened its doors.

Before the Civil War UNC had been one of the biggest and most important universities in the nation. It had been forced to close, however, during the bitter political fighting of the Reconstruction Period in this state.

The dismissal of the university's highly-respected President, David L. Swain, by a Republican Governor W. W. Holden, and his replacement by the relatively unknown Solomon Pool, along with the appointment of many new faculty members and trustees, enraged the state's prewar power structure. A state-wide campaign of speeches, newspaper articles and letters followed, accusing the new "carpetbag" administration of being incompetent, and of producing inferior education. Enrollments dwindled, assisted also by the general level of postwar poverty in the state, and the University was forced to close.

In 1875, after years of ceaseless lobbying by supporters of the school (particularly Mrs. Cornelia Phillips Spencer, for whom dormitories were later named at both Chapel Hill and UNC-Greensboro) the school was reopened.

One-On-One program set

The local government "One On One" program is scheduled to begin next Tuesday.

One On One is an attempt by the mayor and commissioners to get closer to the citizens, to hear what the taxpayer wants for his community.

The program is broken-down into a series of district meetings, the first, District One, being planned at Kings Mountain Baptist Church Tues., Sept. 13. The time will be announced in Thursday's Mirror-Herald. Commissioner Jim Childers and Mayor John Moss will host the meeting. The other five commissioners have also been invited to attend.

Each succeeding week, with the exception of Tues., Oct. 11, meetings will be held at churches in districts two, three, four, five and six. The final meeting will be held Tues., Oct. 18 because October 11 is local election day.

Commissioner Humes Houston, Corbet Nicholson, Norman King, William Grissom and Fred Wright Jr., along with Mayor Moss, will host the meetings in their respective districts.

These district meetings have been removed from city hall on purpose, to give the citizens in each district a chance to meet with officials on neutral ground. Citizens should take this opportunity to air whatever they have on their minds concerning local government, good, bad or indifferent.

It is an opportunity to express on a one to one basis citizen thinking on the directions the city is taking or the way it should be going. There is absolutely no sense in citizens suffering the same frustrations concerning local government that they do with state and federal government.

Maybe we don't know who to talk to on the state and federal levels, but locally we know very well who is in charge, who makes the decisions that ultimately affect our lives.

The Mirror-Herald urges citizens in all districts to attend these meetings as your turn comes and make your thoughts known.

Where are the candidates?

With three and a half days to go before the commissioner candidate filing deadline is up the City of Kings Mountain has only four men seeking three seats.

Incumbent Commissioners Humes Houston, William Grissom and Fred Wright Jr., districts two, five and six, have all filed for re-election. Jerry Mullinax of district two is the only challenger in the race.

This is the lowest number of candidates to file for local offices in the past three elections. Two years ago, long before the deadline was up, citizens had a choice of 35 commissioner candidates and four mayoral candidates to choose from.

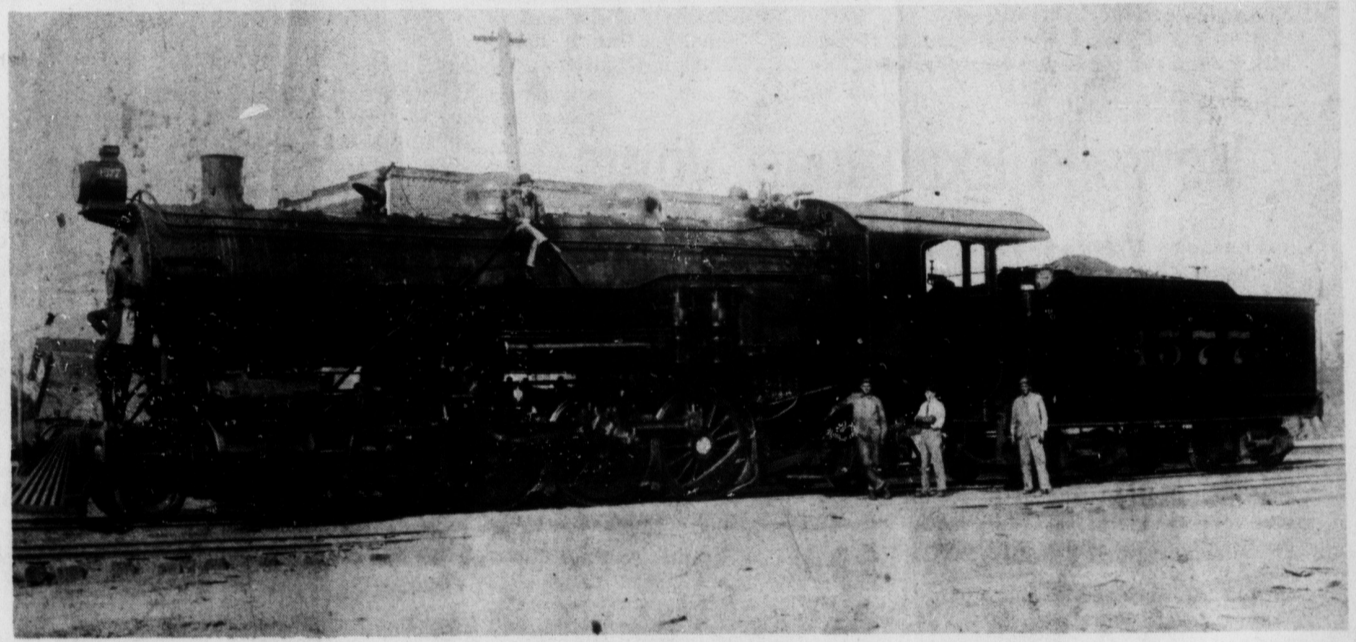
What happened this year?

For one thing this year citizens are asked to elect only three commissioners. Two years ago the city changed to staggered terms. The mayor and three top board vote-getters were elected for four years. The three low vote-getters signed off for two years. Those three, Commissioners Houston, Grissom and Wright and challenger Mullinax, are seeking four year terms this year.

Still that doesn't explain the lack of candidate interest. Could it be that the three incumbents have done such a splendid job that no one wishes to remove them? Or is it that there are a large number of contenders and former commissioners waiting out there to declare themselves at the 11th hour?

The latter sounds more like it considering the rumblings on the street. Either way the citizens of Kings Mountain must take more interest in local elections and follow that through by making themselves aware of what is happening in local government.

READER DIALOGUE



Something for depot center

To the editor
I have been so interested in what has been happening to the Kings Mountain Depot Center, even though it is not the depot I knew as a child living in Kings

Mountain. My family moved to Charlotte in 1915, then to Richmond, Va. in 1919.

I am sending some pictures I found recently in some of my father's old pictures. They may be of interest to those responsible for the depot project.

As well as I remember the train head south (Picture No. 1) was Number 37 and it came through Kings Mountain about 11 a. m. It was a fine train and only stopped there when flagged down. In the picture my father, Leslie McGinnis, is standing on the front of the engine. That thing on the front of the train was called the Cow Catcher. The man sitting up on the engine I think was Walter Dilling. The man in the derby hat between the two trainmen was George Modena, the ticket agent. I don't know who the trainmen were.

The car on the rear (Picture No. 2) was the private car of the president of the Southern Railroad, a Mr. Debuttes, whose nephew is now board chairman

and executive officer of the AT&T Co. He was raised in Greensboro.

These pictures were taken around 1910 or 1912. I wanted to have them redone and framed, but I wasn't sure whether they would fit into the decor of the new depot center. Now that Mr. Meek Ormand is gone I don't believe there is anyone living today who could establish the exact date these pictures were taken or could identify any of the people posing on the observation platform of the private railroad car.

I enjoy The Mirror-Herald so much and I imagine we are among the oldest, or rather the longest continuous subscribers you have. After my father's death I continued our subscription. I am sure we have taken the paper since 1915, the year we moved from Kings Mountain.

GAIL MCGINNIS MARTIN
409 W. Drive Cir.
Richmond, Va.

Yea, Dixie

To the editor,
No one thing has ever brought more enthusiasm to the football team and the fans (other than the school song) than the playing of "Dixie" by the band. Everyone could sense the feeling of everyone else coming alive at the onset of the music.

No disrespect was ever intended on anyone's part. In the interest of the team and the fans, I and many others feel that the playing of this music should be reinstated. How about it?
DAVID CLIPPARD
Kings Mountain

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