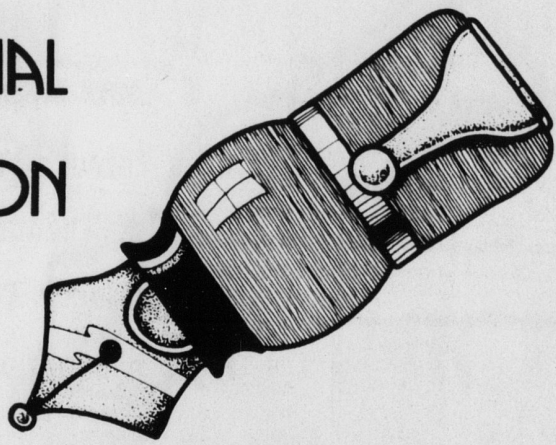


EDITORIAL OPINION



Helping other people to stand on two feet

The Kings Mountain United Fund one-day campaign is coming up Fri., Sept. 30 and the goal for the 1978 drive is \$45,000.

The campaign kick-off luncheon was held Monday and division chairpeople report the campaign is well underway throughout the community.

Of late there has been some rather negative dialogue about the effectiveness of the United Fund program. In our opinion negative dialogue is all it happens to be. The truth is the United Fund program is a great help within a community. Better than 90 percent of the monies collected are used right here in Kings Mountain.

There is financial help, under the UF, for the boy scouts, girl scouts, rescue squads in Kings Mountain and Grover, the American Red Cross, the senior high band and chorus, the Salvation Army, the county drug abuse prevention organization and the ministerial association. These organizations, with the exception of band and chorus, help a great many individuals in need in this community. And the band and chorus are made up of young talented people from this community who also deserve consideration.

It's great to be able to say you stand on your own, two feet. But, it's even greater to be able to say you didn't hesitate when someone else asked you to help them stand on their own two feet.

The citizens' problem is where it's at today

Last Tuesday's local government meeting in district four was more like it.

Twenty-two men and women gathered in the fellowship hall of Second Baptist Church to hear a few words from the mayor and the district four commissioner and special guest Ken Mauney, chief division engineer for N. C. Department of Transportation, then to voice their own opinions and complaints about the City.

Listening to citizens complain about such things as low water pressure, backed up sewer and surface drainage may seem like small potatoes when you consider there are millions of Federal dollars out there just waiting for the right grantman to come along.

However, the individual citizens' problems and not the awarding of a grant is where it's at today. What good is the "big picture" if a resident can't get his curbside trash hauled away?

The mayor and the commissioners want to be more responsive to the citizens. In fact, they must be more responsive. Besides this series of "one-on-one" meetings in each district, the commissioners are compiling a list of the day to day problems citizens are having with city services and are setting about to remedy those problems. There are quick answers to some woes, other answers will take longer and for some there may be no answer at all as far as the city is concerned. But these are the things that will never be known unless the citizen with that problem makes it known.

Small potatoes? You can't fight city hall?

In the first place, no citizen is insignificant and none of his problems related to what he pays for in taxes is small potatoes. And the person who said you can't fight city hall was probably a politician throwing up barriers to keep citizens from bugging him.

The third one-on-one meeting is tonight at 7:30 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church (district five). Be there.



ED SMITH

Most Tar Heels are familiar with that old question "What did the Governor of South Carolina say to the Governor of North Carolina?" It is, in fact, one of the most famous, though unimportant, episodes in the state's history.

Far fewer know the answer to the question, however, and almost nobody today knows the circumstances under which the event took place. (In most cases, even the roles of the two participants get reversed, with the chief executive of our state supposedly doing the commenting.)

It was during the early fall of 1867 (exact date unknown) that the famous incident took place. In those gloomy days of Reconstruction with both Carolinas under the iron hand of Federal military control, it was frequently necessary for Governor Jonathan Worth of North Carolina and Governor James L. Orr of South Carolina to confer with General Daniel B. Sickles, the one-legged military governor of their district. Both dreaded the meetings, for Sickles, though tactful and often sympathetic, was a stickler for details, and the sessions dragged interminably.

On one occasion, as Sickles recounted it in his memoirs, the gregarious,

convivial Orr turned to Jonathan Worth and groaned "The Governor of South Carolina feels constrained to say to the Governor of North Carolina that at these military cabinet councils there is a damned long time between drinks!"

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Judge William Gaston was one of the most gifted and outstanding citizens of this state during the first half of the 19th Century.

He was born in New Bern, September 19, 1778. Though Gaston was repeatedly elected to the state's General Assembly and ultimately rose to the position of Justice of the state Supreme Court, he was never sent to Congress or the Governor's Mansion for one single reason: he was a Catholic, and the state's Constitution then prohibited the election to high office of anyone not of the Protestant faith!

As a delegate to the convention called in 1835 to rewrite the state's constitution, Gaston fought long and hard to insert a provision guaranteeing religious freedom in North Carolina, making some of the most brilliant and impassioned speeches in the history of this state's political history. Ironically,

After careful scientific consideration and geometric logic I have arrived at a conclusion that lying has become more acceptable to everyone than telling the truth.

Examples:

A mother asks her small son, "why did you pick Mr. Jones' prize winning roses?"

"For you, mommy, because you're sweet and pretty, too."

Junior gets a hug and kiss for that. If he had told the truth, he picked them because he wanted to get back at Jones for chasing him out of the roses in the first place, junior would have gotten the seat of his pants dusted.

A wife asks her husband, "why are you so late getting home?"

"I've been working late at the office to make extra money to buy you a nice present."

He gets a hug and a kiss. The truth might be that he was out whopping it up with the boys and forgot the time. Tell the little woman that and it's curtains.

A feller everyone knows around KM recently had some passport pictures made by The Mirror-Herald's Gary Stewart. The feller was asked if he planned to go on an extended vacation out of the country. "I might," feller answered.

We found out the truth a few weeks later when another newspaper announced the feller was going to a foreign country to work for his firm.

Another local well-known citizen recently had the audacity to tell the county commissioners that the citizens of KM had no newspaper to give the citizen's organization news coverage.

That was a lie. The truth is the KM newspaper has published everything about that citizen's organization we could find. Another truth is after repeated calls to the citizen's group asking for a representative to meet and give the lowdown, no representative showed up.

Don't people realize that all newspaper people are sensitive artists and such things just crush us beyond imagination?

Shoot, dang and goshamighty!

I know a man who suffered ridicule and abuse from his wife because he didn't have as much clout as a certain politician was supposed to have.

Seems the wife had got a speeding ticket and she asked her husband to ask their friend the politician to call his friend the judge and get the tickets fixed. Husband dutifully called politician who called judge who laughed in politician's face. Husband ended up having to get a garage mechanic to make out a sworn statement that wife's speedometer was on blink, taking statement to district attorney, who agreed, if judge didn't object, to go light on charge. Prayer for judgment continued was the verdict, which means the charge is filed away until next time wife speeds and is caught.

People like to lie...

Wife didn't go to court. Husband had to grin and bear it when wife said, "Isn't politician a wonderful person?"

"Yes. He certainly saved your bacon, didn't he?"

"Yes. Why can't you have pull like politician?"

As far as I know husband is still keeping the secret.

I wonder how things got so turned around like this in the first place.



TOM MCINTYRE

READER DIALOGUE

Problem needs to be solved soon

To the editor,

The controversy over the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad greatly saddens me. This fine public service organization is being damaged by unnecessary argument.

Many people have a lot of time invested in the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad. In the five years I was a member, a year and a half of which I was an officer I spent over 6,000 hours in training, stand-by time and in transport. Many other members have invested much more time than I. Needless to say, they feel very strongly about charging fees for transports and tempers have run short.

Like Mr. (Bob) Hope, I was sick when I heard a member ask a caller if he could pay for ambulance service. I eventually resigned because I could not charge someone for something I did as a volunteer.

The argument presented by the county and certain local officers for charging fees for ambulance service is that health insurance, VA, medicare and Social Services will pay 95 percent of the cases. This is not true. I recently had to transport my mother from Kings Mountain Hospital to Gaston Memorial Hospital and back after she had been in an accident. Had the fee schedule been in effect at the time I would have had to bill my own mother \$50 for transport. I pay over \$70 a month for Blue Cross insurance and it does not cover ambulance charges. A member of the Shelby Rescue unit did have to charge his mother for ambulance transport recently. Also anyone who has ever dealt with medicare knows it does not always pay ambulance charges. And if I'm not mistaken, the law gives the county the power to attach wages to recover unpaid emergency transport fees. I was in rescue work to help people, not add to their troubles.

It has been suggested that the rescue squad drop the fees for ambulance services. Because of the agreement with the county this may not be possible, although it would solve the problem. I suggested the same thing, but the new leadership rejected it and began pressuring me to resign as equipment officer. Unfortunately, several of the rescue squad officers have axes to

grind. I've talked with men on both sides of this issue and they all agree that if charges are dropped the problem would be solved.

There is more involved in this debate than the question of another volunteer rescue squad in Kings Mountain. The very survival of all five volunteer units in Cleveland County could depend on the outcome. If, by my count, at least three more EMTs leave the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad for Kings Mountain Emergency Services, Inc., then the former is going to suffer. Trained, experienced EMTs cannot be replaced overnight.

Whatever the answer is, the problem needs to be solved and the sooner the better. Kings Mountain does not need nor can it support two independent rescue squads. What the citizens of Kings Mountain need and no less deserve is a single trained, dedicated, and well-equipped rescue squad.

MARK HUGHES
Rt. 2, Kings Mountain

Concern for squad

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter out of concern for the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad.

I have had several experiences with the Squad and each and every time they have given me excellent care.

The Rescue Squad has been serving Kings Mountain for 20 years and they have always given excellent care. They have taken courses to increase their knowledge of their work. So, I would not hesitate in paying them for their services.

I feel that if Bob Hope really wanted to help the citizens of Kings Mountain he would have given his time and effort in helping the Rescue Squad that now exists. The citizens of Kings Mountain have been upset about the Rescue Squad charging people for their services. Some people don't understand that most insurance policies pay for ambulance services. The Rescue Squad is not heartless, for the people who need the services but are too poor to pay and have no insurance I feel the Squad would not charge.

Thank you for reading my letter and I would like to challenge the citizens of Kings Mountain to write and express their thoughts about the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad, whether they are against or agree with me.

DEBBIE SMITH
Kings Mountain

unimportant quote....

however, his success in this matter was overshadowed by his authorship of the state's official song, "The Old North

State," and it is for this that he is principally remembered.

Both Gaston County and the city of Gastonia were named in his honor.

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Lieutenant Kiffin Rockwell, of Asheville, was the first American to shoot down an enemy aircraft in combat, and the first to die as a result of such action. He was shot down in France, on Sept. 23, 1916, during World War One.

Rockwell and his brother Paul were members of the famous Lafayette Escadrille, a squadron of volunteer American pilots fighting with the French.

Another member of the group from North Carolina was James R. McConnell, of Carthage. There were 38 American pilots in the Lafayette Escadrille, and in all, some 180 who served in the French service.

A "born flier," Rockwell was one of the first air aces in history, being credited with the destruction of four German aircraft. (His contemporaries maintained he destroyed many others for which he received no official credit.) As the first American to die in aerial combat, his death brought him much attention here and in Europe.



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