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To Give Canal Away

Old Vet Against Treaty

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

President Jimmy Carter is determined to see his treaty through to give control of the Panama Canal by the year 2,000.

The treaties that President Carter and Panama's Gen. Omar Torrijos, the ruling dictator, guarantee Panama and the United States the right to defend the canal against any threat and that U. S. warships and auxiliaries will be given priority passage through the canal "in case of need or emergency."

The treaties also made it clear the U. S. does not have the right of intervention in internal Panamanian affairs.

At least one veteran of The Canal Zone patrol thinks President Carter is making a terrible mistake.

John Gladden of Kings Mountain spent three years in the Panama Canal Zone, 1915 to 1918. "The first ships had passed through the canal nine months before I was stationed there," he said.

Gladden, 82, of 213 E. Parker St., said, "The President is right when he says the United States has never owned the canal. We leased it for 99 years with an option to renew that lease. But I am against his

proposal that the canal be turned over completely to another country. I don't think any other country should have control or the right to guard the canal but the United States."

Gladden, who is still very active despite his years, said that it seems everytime there is unrest in a country it begins with a student revolution. "Communism is the biggest threat the free world faces today and it has been proven that Communist have infiltrated colleges and universities throughout the world to begin indoctrinating students. It wouldn't surprise me if this isn't what has happened in Panama."

Gen. Torrijos has been the ruling dictator of Panama for nine years and the treaties have been signed by him. Gladden questions whether or not "it is solid business sense to do business that could affect the lives of millions of people in the future based on the word of a dictator. Someone else could take charge the same way Torrijos did. Someone with Communist leanings. Then where would we be?"

Back in 1915, April 26 to be exact, Gladden and 15 other recruits were



FROM PAST — Here is Gladden in early 1916 at age 20 on a dredging crane high above the Panama Canal. Operations to clear a landslide from the canal were underway at the time.

shipped from Columbus Barracks, Ohio to the Panama Canal Zone to join the 29th Infantry, Regiment. While there Gladden advanced to private first class, corporal and finally to sergeant. As Sergeant he drilled troops and led guard patrols along the canal, in the jungle and along the beaches.

"When I was there everything was okay," Gladden said. "The Panamanians were just as happy to have the Americans there and to be earning revenue from use of the canal. This short cut for the ships of every nation is a valuable asset. But the canal itself is an easy target — for nature and for any political enemies."

Gladden was there when a mountain fell into the canal at the entrance to the Gallard Cut and piled dirt and stone 25 feet above the water level. It took American crews five months to clear the passage. Gladden said that was nature going wild. "It would be far more tragic if the canal was sabotaged," he added. "And I'm talking about Communist sabotage. If they ever got control of the canal they would have a big club to hold over our heads."

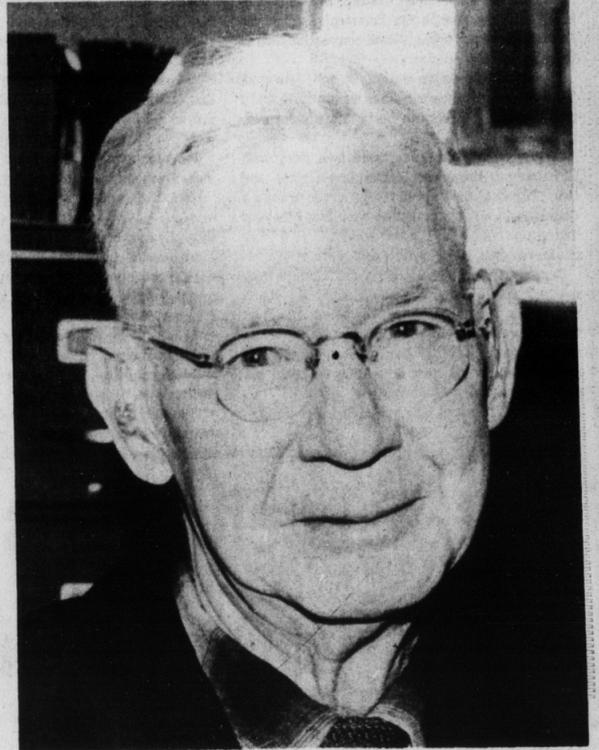


Photo By Tom McIntyre.

AGAINST TREATY — John W. Gladden of Kings Mountain, who spent three years in the Army in the Panama Canal Zone, feels President Carter is making a mistake in his push to give up control of the canal.

Vandals Fail To

Enter WKMT

Vandals ripped a hole in the front door of Radio Station WKMT on Bessemer City Road sometime Thursday night but apparently did not gain entrance.

Jonas Bridges, owner and manager of the station, said damage to the front door was approximately \$200.

Mr. Bridges said the hole in the glass door was large enough for a man to gain entrance. "Apparently they decided they wouldn't go on in," said Bridges.

Gaston Rurals investigated.

Boy Scout Day Is Next Monday

Next week is Boy Scout Week and Boy Scout Day in city government is slated for Mon., Feb. 13.

Beginning at 9 a. m., that day the various department heads will meet the Scouts assigned to them for the day. Scouts will be serving as Mayor for a

Over \$4-million in construction was committed in Kings Mountain during 1977, according to building permits issued by the city codes department.

A total of 414 building permits were issued from Jan. 1, 1977 to Dec. 31, 1977, earning the city \$16,704.70 in revenue.

The largest number of building permits were issued for utilities tap-ons, zoning in

the one-mile perimeter, new home construction, home repairs and additions and demolitions.

Permits numbered 57 for water and sewer and gas tap-ons for a total of \$5,753; 37 one-mile perimeter zoning permits were issued for a total of \$195; new home construction permits numbered 54 for a total of \$1,785,250; house repairs and addition permits totaled 74 for \$2,642; and demolition permits totaled 79 for \$25,980.

The three largest single permits were issued to the city for the construction of the Citizens Service Center — \$184,000; Governmental Services Facilities Building (city hall) — \$660,000; and additions to the community center \$228,000.

Six permits were issued for new businesses with a total cost of \$336,345

January Permits Run High

During the month of Jan. 1978 the Kings Mountain Codes Department issued 24 permits for \$173,915 worth of work.

The department earned \$1,233 in revenue through the sale of permits.

There were six tap-on permits issued totaling \$425 for water and sewer and gas utilities; three zoning permits totaling \$15 were issued in the one-mile perimeter outside the city limits. The perimeter fee is \$5. There is no charge inside the city.

Permits were issued for the construction of four new single family homes last month with a total construction cost listed as \$150,000. Permits for additions and repairs to homes totaled six for \$13,475.

James Lybrand bought one permit for the construction of a warehouse on his carpet sales company property. Cost of the project is \$6,500. Two permits for accessory buildings costing \$1,000 were issued and one permit issued for moving a house. That cost is \$2,500.

There was one permit issued at no charge to Southern Bell for repairs to phone cables.

Two permits for industry repairs totaled \$297,782. Permits for retaining walls number two at a cost of \$46,400. Ten business repair permits issued was for total projects cost of \$61,400.

There were 15 house moving permits totaling \$32,500 and 28 permits for accessory buildings totaling \$24,399. One mobile home permit was issued for \$17,000 and one permit issued for accessory building repairs for \$1,500. Seven

swimming pool permits were issued for \$57,925 and four parking lot permits for \$28,700.

One permit for a church building was issued for \$20,000 and two permits for church repairs for \$2,300. Sign permits numbered 11 for \$22,755, and one fence permit for \$13,300.

Three patio permits for \$1,519, eight door driveways at \$3,100. One permit for carport at \$900, one permit for repairs to

the KM Rescue Squad building for \$1,200 and one permit for moving a building for \$100 were issued in 1977.

There were two plumbing permits for a total of \$20,250, two electrical permits for \$4,000 and one heating and air conditioning permit for \$2,600 also issued during the past year.

The total amount of construction dollars committed during the year was \$4,149,364

Dr. John Hunt Files As House Candidate

Dr. John J. (Jack) Hunt of Lattimore has filed to campaign as a Democratic candidate for a seat in the N. C. 40th House District in the May 2 primary.

Dr. Hunt paid his filing fee Monday morning prior to the noon deadline. His entry in the 40th House race makes it a four-way race with the three incumbents.

An unsuccessful U. S. House candidate in the 10th Congressional District, Dr. Hunt has served two terms in the N. C. House. During his state office tenure, he served as a member of the Appropriations, Base Budget, Highway Safety, Wildlife, Manufacturing and Labor and Blind Libraries committees, plus others.

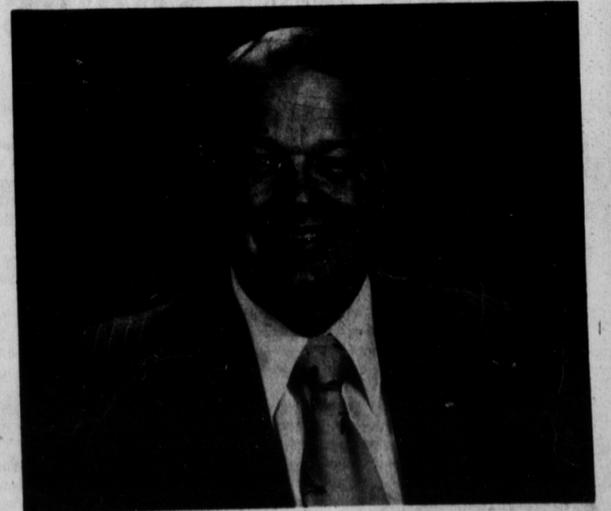
A native of Cleveland County, Dr. Hunt is a graduate of Wake Forest College and Emory University Dental School with a DDS degree. Besides operating a dental office, Dr. Hunt also owns the Roundup Stores, Inc.

In local politics, Dr. Hunt has served as a member of precinct committee and as

its chairman and as vice chairman of the Cleveland County Democratic Party. He is a Mason, a Shriner and a veteran of both World War Two and the Korean Conflict.

He is married to the former Ruby Crowder of Lattimore and the father of five daughters, Judy, Cindy, Sally and Mrs. Penny Corn and Mrs. Libby Sarazen.

In filing as a N. C. House candidate, Dr. Hunt said, "It is my sincere desire to represent the people of Cleveland, Rutherford, and Polk counties as your representative. With my experience as a state representative and my background as a small businessman, farmer and professional man, I would like to have the opportunity, and with the responsibility, to be your state representative."



DR. JOHN J. HUNT
... N. C. House candidate

Four executives of Burlington Industries' sportswear division will speak tonight at a community get-together at Kings Mountain Inn.

Business, industrial and professional leaders from the area have been invited to attend the 6:30 p. m. dinner meeting. The program is being sponsored by

Z&P Approves Two Requests

The Kings Mountain Zoning and Planning Board discussed two items last Thursday night and will recommend the city commissioners approve the requests.

The first item was a request from Luther Bennett on behalf of John G. Sanders, owner, to rezone from NB (Neighborhood Business) to GB (General Business) a lot located on the west side of Cleveland Ave. at the Linwood Rd. intersection.

Burlington's Phoenix plant and will be a discussion on general business conditions.

The speakers are Max Huntley, group manager; George Wildcox, vice president of manufacturing; Barney Miller, division personnel manager; and Bill Westmoreland, staff personnel manager.

Bennett proposes a "nice office and fencing" for the lot to be used for the sale of used cars only.

The second request came from David and Peggy Bayne on behalf of Carolina Western Express to rezone from R-20 (Suburban Residential) to H. I. (Heavy Industrial) land on the south side of I-85 service road for a trucking facility.

Larry Billings represented Carolina Western Express at Thursday's meeting. Both requests were unanimously approved by the Z&P Board.