

There's still honest folks around

Mrs. Jeanette Mullinax wants it known Last Wednesday Mrs. M and a friend went there are still honest people left in the world. strawberry picking. Loaded with berries,

TOM McINTYRE



EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

A sound move

The question is... Does the Kings Mountain Commissioners' plan to determine the feasibility of purchasing the county-owned water line running from KM toward Grover smack of over-stepped boundaries? The water line was constructed at county expense and is maintained by county government, which also purchases water from Kings Mountain and resells it to customers and collects tap-on fees from new customers. The bill for the construction phase was tremendous and the county government had to form a non-profit corporation in order to float the loan for the work. The primary interest of the county at the time was to provide Eaton Corporation with water and sewer facilities. The county had also hoped other businesses and residences along the route would tap-on to help recoup the loan payback funds. So far not very many businesses or residences have tapped on. The big reason is the fee is too high.

Several southeast Clevelanders told the county board more people would tap on if the fee was reduced. The county is studying the situation, but commissioners did not indicate the fee-reduction idea would be put into effect. And this brings us back to an answer to the original question. We do not think the local governing body is over-stepping its boundaries by considering purchase of the southeast county area water line. It will probably cost a few bucks, should the county decide to accept the deal, but in the longrun it could mean a return of many times the cost in future development along the line. We have already learned KM will contract with the Town of Grover to treat domestic waste, which will mean construction of sewer lines and an expansion of the KM Pilot Creek Plant. So, why shouldn't the historical city look seriously at purchasing the existing water line reaching toward Grover. It is a sound move.

Mrs. Mullinax set her pocketbook on top of her car while she placed the berries inside. Then she drove on. Her pocketbook fell into the street. While this was happening, J.D. Carter of Gastonia, a retired Southern Bell district engineer, was making a wrong turn onto the same street. Riding with him was T.D. Walker. They spotted the pocketbook, retrieved it and looked over the ID. Later at Bridges Hardware Carter asked if anyone knew Mrs. Mullinax and was told she was active in senior citizen work at The Depot Center. Carter took the time to drive to the center, find Mrs. M and return her pocketbook. Inside the pocketbook was \$80 in cash and all her personal papers and cards. "It was good to find out there are still honest folk around," Mrs. Mullinax said.

got it. Jerry King heard some guys talking about the street work going on in Kings Mountain the other day, especially their gripes about the potholes left by the contractors. Then Jerry told them about a small town he heard about who hired a dentist to teach the town street department how to permanently fill those cavities. Har-de-har-har-har!

Okay. Go ahead. Get it out of your systems. "Hey, I saw your new Herald building down on Canterbury Rd. Kinda small, ain't it?" "I like the style of your new building, but I was a little disappointed in the size of it." "Hey, Tom. How come they built your office first?" Those three comments came from Wilson Griffin, James J. Dickey and Roy Hammett. My answer to the first two was... "Oh, it's okay now, but it will be a bit crowded when we get the press in."

To "Rodney" Hammett I replied, "Because my office is the one with the john in it." Actually, the little log house will be the construction office (if they ever get started.) The sign on the site indicates The Herald Publishing House will be the world's largest log building. Is that true? We don't know, but are checking on it. Our log cabin in the pines will be unique. We do know that. And the boss, Garland Atkins, is out scrounging around antique shops and special order houses for fixtures that really are unique. The front design on the building was stolen from "The Waltons" TV house. It's a wrap-around front porch. Ah, I can hear it now, at the end of the day: "Goodnight, Garland-Boy..." "Night, Tom-Boy..." "...Darrell-Boy...Clyde-Boy...Elizabeth-Girl..."

We're proud...

Dear Editor,

Just want you to know that we're proud of Lib Stewart and her "winning article". We enjoyed reading the article in the paper about her and her work. By the way, East people were very pleased with coverage of our Spring Fashion Show.

MRS. LARRY WOOD
EAST SCHOOL

...of Elizabeth...

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Elizabeth Stewart and the Mirror-Herald for honors in the N.C. Press Women's Association. We are all very proud of your effort.

VIVIAN WOODARD COSMETICS
GASTONIA, N.C.

...for winning

Dear Editor,

Just a short letter to congratulate Lib Stewart on the most deserved award. My knowledge of her work has not been intensive but what I do know is of its excellence.

The award story sounded quite humanistic and I do commend her willingness to capture the coverage of a human struggle.

Again congratulations on the award!

BRENDA POSTON CAUSBY
Council on the Aging
Cleveland County

Rat control is very difficult

Rats--millions and millions of them--there is about one rat for every person in the world and they are very hard to control.

According to Tom Blalock of the Vector Control Section of the Division of Health Services, N.C. Department of Human Resources, about the only way to control rats is to combine a clean up campaign with a poisoned bait program. But in North Carolina the first rats which are resistant to anticoagulant poisons have developed, so in some parts of the state, rat control is even more difficult.

"Rats are very adaptable. They can live in sewers, barns, in undergrowth. They can swim, climb and walk wires. They are very intelligent. They parallel man and they eat almost anything," Blalock said.

There are several different kinds of rats, but the main ones found in North Carolina are Norway rats. Norway rats range in size from nine to 17 inches long.

Rats are not only destructive, damaging crops, buildings, fences and other structures, they also carry disease. Rats are the main carriers of plague and murine typhus. Plague is still found in parts of the far west.

Rats live best in junk piles, trash, piles of lumber or in any other areas in which they can hide.

Farms are often rat infested, especially hog farms, because the food supply for the

farm animals is spread for easy access. It makes it easy not only for hogs but also for rats to get a full supply.

"Rats usually won't range any more than 150 feet to 200 feet from where they burrow. But if you disturb the burrow and don't use poisoning the same time, they'll just move on to some place close by," Blalock said.

Although the incidence of plague and murine typhus is fairly rare, rat bite fever is

not. Because of the bacteria which rats carry on their teeth, rat bites often cause a flu-like illness. Children are especially susceptible to rat bites.

Rats often find homes in city slums, but farm rats are those which have the best life.

Describing one hog farm visited recently as "rat heaven," Blalock said that he saw rats so fat they waddled away from the corn spread for the hogs. There are reports of rats

climbing down wires in chicken houses in broad daylight to eat eggs or baby chicks. The best way to control rats, Blalock said, is to keep foods enclosed and to not build up junk piles. Occasional rat kills do not reduce the population nor is it effective in controlling the rodent.

A combination of clean up campaigns in any area where rats live and effective careful poisoning is the only effective method of rat control, Blalock concluded.



CONTRARY DECLARATION

Flower lovers are hanging baskets With dangling rope and chain, the baskets are not guilty of any crime Not even of raising cane. Hanging them out in the open on the porch or behind a screen, And hanging them from a tree Where ever they can be seen.

Flower lovers are bold They are open with their deeds, On top of hanging baskets They delight in killing weeds; They are known to chop up a garden With any kind of hoe,

And bury little seeds alive if they ever wish to grow.

Flower lovers are never satisfied They cut flower heads off the stem, take them in the house and then try to drown them; When their beauty has faded how they toss them away, How can flower lovers ever act in such a way!

Flower lovers are never satisfied With blossoms of pink and blue, They are forever and always digging up something new.

VIVIAN S. BILTCLIFFE

Good self-concept is important

By SELBY BATEMAN
Special to Mirror-Herald

What makes one child a failure in school, another youngster an average student, and still a third child a scholastic superstar?

As educators try to answer that question, they are increasingly looking at the way children view themselves--their self-concepts--in relation to academic achievement.

But a study carried out by a doctoral degree student at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro indicates that when self-concept criteria are used as predictors of academic achievement, the results are generally less accurate than IQ testing and can be misleading for subgroups of students.

"Looking at the overall sample we took, there was a significant relationship between self-concept and academic achievement, but when various subgroups were examined, there were differences broken down by sex, race, grade level, and socioeconomic status," said Mrs. Helen LeGette, of Burlington, author of the doctoral study in the UNC-G School of Education.

"The correlations between self-concept and academic achievement, while usually positive, have been rather low, especially when compared to correlations between intelligence test scores and achievement tests scores or grade point average," she wrote in her study.

A guidance counselor with the Burlington City Schools for the past 11 years and an English teacher for five years before that, Mrs. LeGette based her research on three separate tests she gave to 374 students in the seventh, ninth and eleventh grades in late 1977.

"A good self-concept is extremely important for students, but I think we have to be careful not to overemphasize and over-generalize the relationship between self-concept and academic achievement," she pointed out.

"A lot of people have been quite negative about IQ tests and have indicated that maybe they don't tell us that much. But I think this study revalidates the use of IQ testing in the school in so far as predicting academic achievement is concerned," said the Burlington guidance counselor.

Mrs. LeGette will receive a doctor of education degree during UNC-G's annual commencement exercises on Sunday, May 13, at the Greensboro Coliseum. Her doctoral dissertation was entitled "Self-Concept and Academic Achievement: Comparison of Intellectual and Non-Intellectual Variables as Predictors of Scholastic Performance and Analysis of Subgroup Differences in Self-Concept."

"We were trying to find out whether, if a student has a good self-concept, this indicates he will perform well academically," Mrs. LeGette said. "Much of the research literature indicates that he will perform well academically and that relationship has been played up. People have thought that if we can make students feel good about themselves then they will perform better in school."

Many previous studies of this subject, she noted, have been based on samples which were dominated primarily by white middle class subjects.

"So I think some from the subgroup characteristics have just been obliterated by the larger numbers of other groups," she said.

Among her findings were the following: +Self-concept consistency with academic achievement was strongest for white middle class students and weakest for black students and students (both white and black) in either the highest and lowest socioeconomic brackets.

+Seventh and eleventh graders (early and late adolescence) had self-concepts positively related to academic achievement while ninth graders (middle adolescence) tended to differentiate between success as students and success as individuals.

+Correlations between IQ scores and achievement criteria were generally much higher than those between overall self-concept scores and achievement criteria.

+In the highest and lowest socioeconomic brackets, students' feelings of personal adequacy would appear to function independently of their success as scholars.

"Much research literature indicates that for white middle class subjects, school is an important value," said Mrs. LeGette. "Parents stress success in school. Therefore, the students' feelings about themselves are tied in to whether they succeed in school or not."

"Particularly where some black students and students in the lower socioeconomic levels were concerned, there was a trend in the study for them to have somewhat lower overall self-concepts. As far as the schools are concerned, most significant is their lower academic self-concept (self-concept of scholastic ability)," she said.

"It is most important to help these students have success as students, to help them have a good academic self-concept and to have opportunities to succeed as students," Mrs. LeGette continued. "Let

students find ways of mastering successively difficult tasks and building up a supply of success experiences in the school."

Educators should not automatically assume that all students will see success in school as an important value at all ages, she pointed out. Such an indication appeared among the ninth graders in the study, who generally had lower correlations between self-concept and academic achievement than did the seventh and eleventh graders.

"It may be that just at that particular part of their lives, success in school is not as important a value," said Mrs. LeGette. "They're not yet faced with the pressure of high school, of getting into college and that sort of thing. And they have a little more social confidence than the seventh graders. Of course, this is conjecture."

A native of Burlington, Mrs. LeGette is a graduate of Williams High School there. She received a bachelor of arts degree in English from Elon College, a master of education degree from UNC-G, and currently is a guidance counselor at Cummings High School in Burlington.

What's your opinion?

We want to hear your opinion on things of interest to you. Address all correspondence for this page to Reader Dialogue, Mirror-Herald, P. O. Drawer 783, Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086. Be sure and sign proper name and include your address. Unsigned letters will not be published.

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