

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Audit more critical of HUD than the city

In the minds of many, Kings Mountain has a black eye right now. An audit recently completed concerning the city's use of some HUD funds and facilities is the reason. The auditors raised some questions as to the town's use of some \$700,000 in Community Block Grant Program funds, and concentrated most of its attention on two recent building additions at the Kings Mountain Community Center. The audit, just like most other federal reports, is a mile long. But to make a long story short, HUD feels the two recent building additions at the community center were not needed, and the building is being used as a sports arena for college and professional sports to which high admission fees are charged. But, when the city applied for funds for the community center project, including the building additions, its plans for use of the money were spelled out, then approved by HUD. As for the fees for admission to sporting events, HUD permits a "nominal" fee, but doesn't

spell out its definition of nominal. It appears to us the audit is more critical of HUD's regional office in Greensboro than the city of Kings Mountain, because that office approved the use of the funds to start with. The city may be hooked on some minor technicalities, such as admission fees. However, we do not feel like the government is going to come in and move the community center or tear it down because some higher than nominal admission fees were charged.

It should also be pointed out that before CDBG funds may be spent, public hearings are held to give the community input into how the money should be spent. A HUD official conducted the public hearing in which the community center project was discussed and said at that time the project would be permissible. The city has secured \$10-12 million of HUD money since 1967 and in our opinion has spent it wisely and within the guidelines.

Rumors aren't stories

This newspaper should state again its policy concerning rumored news stories. We, like everyone else, hear them everyday and are constantly urged by our readers to print them. We heard the audit rumors over a month ago and we actually made several telephone calls to HUD officials in Atlanta and Greensboro to check them out. But we were told the audit was routine and there was no evidence of any crooked dealing in the use of federal money. We've also heard the rumors that teacher aides in the Kings Mountain

School System are still not happy with the pay they're receiving and the pay scale recently adopted by the board of education. Some newspapers, as well as individuals, get a big kick out of using rumors to destroy public officials and show what a big man they are. But we don't do that. People who want to get to the bottom of a story should be willing to have their name mentioned in the story. We don't mind digging into stories. But more often than not, "reliable sources" are not reliable at all.

Depression bad times

It was 50 years ago this week that the big news of the day was the crash of the stock market, resulting in the wiping out of many paper fortunes, and heralding the beginning of the Great Depression. "Variety," the newspaper of show business, was credited with the best headline of the event labeling it in the vernacular of the trade, "Wall Street Lays An Egg." It must have been an unhappy time, not only for ex-financial greats who found themselves broke, but for the man in the street as well. We've been told that those who lacked sufficient moral stamina found what they thought was an easy way out. Jumping out of hotel windows was one of the more popular ways of ending it all, as far as earthly being was concerned. But the world went on, if not at the same pace. The end of the depression was "just around the corner," though the particular corner was hard to find. Finally, under the impetus of government spending, the economic cycle started upward and things looked better.

There were some benefits of the depression's ill wind. Depression's children grew up with a keen awareness of the value of money, because it was hard to come by and a little bit had to go a long way. Someone was remarking the other day that her youngest child, too young for the benefits of the depression school, hasn't learned the value of savings as did the other son who grew up about that period. More important, probably, was the depression lesson that morals are more important than material wealth. There was no wealth as far as the majority of the people were concerned and still life was worth living. Unfortunately, it is typical of human nature to forget these lessons. The anniversary of the "Great Crash" should serve as an excellent reminder of the values of character, hard work, neighborliness, and brotherhood, in contrast to the sometimes fleeting joys of material plenty, on which almost all of us place too great importance.

Attend Vet Day service

Sunday, Nov. 11th, marks the 61st anniversary of the cease-fire order which ended World War I. Since that time, another World War, the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts have been fought and much more costly in blood and material goods. It reminds of the Biblical dictum of "wars and rumors of wars" and it reminds that wars must be fought and won. Yet wars are never really "won," for the victor also loses too. Hopes for Armistice Day (Veterans Day 1979) Nov. 11th will be just as great as ever, but the methods of obtaining

and insuring permanent peace are as difficult of finding as history has previously recorded. We would urge, not only patriotic organizations such as the local American Legion and VFW and auxiliaries, but all citizens to attend the community-wide service in Shelby of Veterans Day on Saturday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., in Cleveland County Veterans Park, a service which we are told will pay honor to all veterans, and particularly World War 1 veterans in this county.

An important day

Today is another election day. Voters in Grover will be going to the polls to elect a mayor and five councilmen and voters in the Kings Mountain School District will be deciding an out-of-city seat. The Grover vote is going to be interesting. From all indications, there will be a heavy turnout. The School Board vote is probably

going to be light. With no city runoff election being held, it appears the man that wins the seat will be the one who does the best job of getting his supporters to the polls. Even though there is only one race to decide, we encourage you to get out and vote. There are over 4,000 students in the Kings Mountain School District and the board of education is responsible for seeing that every single one of them is properly educated. This is an important election day.

Chasing the goblins ...



Lib Stewart

While this piece was intentionally titled to open up a new month, the subject, "November Opener," is really a misnomer. It really should be captioned, "October Closing," and is a continuation of comments on Halloween doings in the city, just in case I goofed on the pictures. Little and big hobgoblins were out in full regalia Wednesday and I was out too, chasing them with Gary's camera to record their scary faces in The Herald. Those friendly ghosts will probably become unfriendly tomorrow, if their pictures don't appear in the paper, since my record in the photography department has been more "misses" than "hits." At any rate, those goblins wouldn't have wanted to chase me Wednesday. My "roving photography" assign-

ment began at Grover School where all kindergarten students presented a scary Halloween program with witches dancing on broomsticks and around pots of witches brew, goblins of all sizes and descriptions, ghosts and the cutest costumes which depicted many cartoon characters from Mickey Mouse, Wonder Dog, Sylvester, Superman and more. The spooky sound effects were so real that the kids in the audience were exclaiming, "Teacher, I'm scared." The teachers got in the act too and were dressed up as Raggedy Ann and Andy, etc. and so I waited around longer than I meant and snapped a picture of them after the program was over. Everyone was having a ball, and I was supposed to have covered the West School Halloween, beginning at 10. Arriving at West School at 11 a.m., I was greeted by a little tyke who berated me for being late and declared, "I have already changed my Halloween costume four times; 'Do you think maybe you could put it back on just once more?'" I pleaded, "You know, son, Halloween only comes once a year." "I know, I know," he replied, "I don't think I could stand it if it came more." "Me too," I made a mental note silently.

Earlier, Pat (Mrs. Bob) Boggan, wife of the Central Methodist preacher, had been met by youngsters who mistook her for this tardy photographer. Pat had come to volunteer as a library aide for the day. At that moment, the kids weren't looking for books. They wanted their pictures made. "I wish you had brought your husband with you to make their pictures," I replied. Rev. Boggan is much more expert at photography than I. Miss Jackie Hope, fifth grade teacher, quickly quieted all the commotion I caused with the camera and her students redressed to pose for "Halloween Night In Any Neighborhood" and "Strange Spooky Sights," original Halloween plays which the students had presented. The cast included a chorus of Belinda Black, Darlene Hulsey, Shawn James, Larry Weather; the following "cats," Nicole Gnaadt, Gina Holmes and Kimberly Moretz; owls, Paul Hendricks, Ricky Stone, Jared Wright; Goblins, Travis Clark, Sean Ramsey; Witches, Bobbie Byrd, Renee Johnson, Julie McGinnis, Kimberly McGinnis; Jack-o-Lanterns, Debra Baggett, Baynard Roberts; Ghosts, Kevin Gass, Junior Henderson, Bryant Wells; Bats, Rusty Bumgardner, Aubrey Hollifield, Brian Wood; and Halloweeners, Greg Conner, Robert Duncan, Robert Murphree and Misty Shockley. A "Casey Coffin" decorated the stage.

Helen Owens Belcher, mother of a West fifth grader, was visiting in the classroom and entertaining as the wicked witch of the South, chasing the kids with her broomstick. Helen (who used to work with me at one time on the Herald staff) and one of her co-workers, Derice Valentine, got some television publicity for their Halloween antics. A passing cameraman for WBTV saw the two beauticians practicing their witchcraft on U.S. 74 West and in front of Scissors and Styles, where all the beauticians were decked out in Halloween garb. I was due to make pictures of the Senior Citizens Halloween costume contest winners at 11:30 at the Depot Center. Late on arriving, Julia Roberts, one of my favorite people in the

program, wanted to finish her hot lunch and another favorite lady, Daisy McCurry, volunteered to help me. I waited until the group finished their meal, then took a picture of the costume winners: Daisy McCurry, first; Julia Roberts, second; and Ruth Burris, third, all of whom received prizes from Verlee Roberts Mask, who sponsors the Halloween party each year. From the Depot Center I went to First Citizens Bank and snapped pictures of the "Kiss" group, including Joann Hall, Betty Grant, Renee Thornburg and Jean Shear, and the Halloween spooks, Vickie Smith, Susan Stewart, Terry Hord, Debbie Montgomery and Cathy Moretz. My last stop was at Scissors and Styles, where I took a picture of Sandi Rhea trying to repair Helen Belcher's black wig, which appeared to be an impossible task. Others on the staff were contributing to the fun and included Ginger Hall, Derice Valentine and Arlene Smith. Halloween wasn't over for me when I left work. We had about 20 little Halloween trick-or-treaters who came from about 6 until 8:30 p.m. and beginning with the visit of my young niece and nephew, Leigh Anne and Dee Stewart, who dressed as "Wonder Dog" and "Little Miss Muffet."

Reminding Dee that I had seen a Sylvester costume among the many that paraded in front of the camera, he wanted to know if Tweety was around. (In case you don't baby sit with youngsters who like the Saturday morning cartoons, Sylvester is a black cat and Tweety is a little yellow bird whom the cat is always chasing.) "I didn't see Tweety," I told Dee, to which Leigh Anne joined in the conversation. "Aw, said Leigh Anne, 'one of these days that cat is going to eat him for sure.'" "No," said three-year-old Dee, emphatically stamping his new cowboy boots and acting like a grown-up for sure, "He's the main character." Out of the mouths of babes.

Reader Dialogue

We owe debt to veterans

As we approach Veteran's Day, let us stop and think about what this day really means. We owe a debt of gratitude, which is impossible to repay, to those valiant men who gave their all for their country—and to the living disabled veterans and all others who served.

Have you visited in a veteran's hospital? There you will find many "living dead"—mental cases, alcoholics, drug addicts, and others—who did not want to go to war, but did because that is The American Way.

Many, perhaps most, are in this condition because of war experiences. Oh, to be sure, their material needs are being met—but what of personal concern? A visit, a call, a note, a small gift? Are many of these patients "forgotten Americans"? And, of course, there are veterans at home who would appreciate any gesture of love and concern.

Except for those boys—now men—who know what would have happened to our beloved country? Where would we be today? Yes, it is time to stop and think—and do something personally for the disabled American veteran in a small overture of appreciation.

Thank God for our great country—the best on earth!

BETTY T. NANTZ
Charlotte

Thanks for Halloween fun

Dear Editors, My wife, Audrey, and I would like to compliment the churches and other organizations in the city who sponsored the highly successful Halloween parties and carnivals.

Not only does the entertainment provide good, clean, wholesome fun for our children but it keeps them off the street and helps local law enforcement as well in providing police protection.

The church parties, we have found, cuts down on the number of trick-or-treaters in some areas of the community and that is good. Some of our senior citizens would like to give candies to all who call but are not able to buy the goodies, which the churches and civic clubs are providing at parties. Why not give a little more at church and, or assist some of these organizations financially in sponsoring these Halloween events annually for our young people to enjoy. Our hats are off to you.

COMMISSIONER AND MRS. JIM DICKEY

LOOKING BACK

From the Nov. 6, 1952 Edition of The Kings Mountain Herald

No. 4 Township citizens turned out to the polls in record numbers Tuesday, returning a majority to the Republican candidate for president for the first time since 1928. The township total votes: Eisenhower, 1,918 to Stevenson's 1,854, a margin of 64 votes.

Social and Personal

Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Page and Mr. and Mrs. John C. Smathers attended the Tennessee-Carolina game Saturday in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Thornburg and daughter, Becky, and Mrs. R.S. Thornburg were Sunday guests of Otho Thornburg of Rock Hill, S.C.

Miss Frances Goforth has returned to New York City after visiting relatives.



Poets Corner

A PARABLE IN THE LEAVES

What are the leaves saying
When their colors are red and gold,
On mountain slopes and valleys wide
When the brush of Autumn touches
every leaf and every twig,
Regardless of the size of tree
the small and the big.

What are the leaves saying,
When they lie brown upon the ground,
and even a gentle breeze
Can make them come falling down.
When chill winds that blow
stacks them silently in a mound,
Ice and snow may blanket over
the sparrows hop around.

What are the leaves saying
When leaves are green in spring,
Birds nestle happily among them
and build nests on boughs that swing.
When warm breezes play among them
Once again they make their shade
And the patience of bare trees
have more than been repaid.

VIVIAN S. BILTCLIFFE

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Today's Bible Verse: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14