

Kings Mountain Herald

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

GARLAND ATKINS Publisher
 GARY STEWART Co-Editor
 LIB STEWART Co-Editor

MEMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION
 The Herald is published by Herald Publishing House, P.O. Box 752, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Business and editorial offices are located at Canterbury Road-East King Street. Phone 739-7496. Second class postage paid at Kings Mountain, N.C. Single copy 20 cents. Subscription rates: \$12.48 yearly in-state. \$6.24 six months. \$13.52 yearly out of state. \$6.76 six months. Student rates for nine months. \$8.50. USPS 931-040.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Be careful with lights

Christmas trees, lighted candles, arrangements of evergreen sprigs - traditional decorative touches which spread the holiday atmosphere all through the house - can also spread the horror of fire unless everyone is very careful.

This is the warning from Cleveland County Fire Marshal DeLane Davis as the busy Yuletide season nears. Quoting studies compiled by the National Fire Protection Association, the Fire Marshal pointed out that each year lives are lost in fires directly related to Christmas, and the value of property destroyed in holiday fires averages nearly 4 1/2 million dollars.

Fire Marshal Davis offers these timely suggestions for keeping Christmas "merry" by keeping fire out:

Natural trees should be fresh-looking and firm-needed when you select them. Saw off the butt an inch above the original cut, stand the tree in water, and keep it in water until you dispose of it - soon after Christmas Day. Set up the tree away from heat and where it won't block doorways or stairs ... Artificial trees should be clearly marked as made of slow-burning materials. Look for the Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) label on trees which have built-in electrical systems ... With metal trees, use only indirect lighting to avoid the possibility of electric shock.

Check lighting strings for frayed wires, loose con-

nections, broken sockets. Replace only with UL-labeled sets. Bulbs made in the U.S. generally are safest; imported bulbs may have dangerous hot spots. Electric cord sets with built-in fuses are strongly recommended ... Always turn off tree and other indoor holiday lighting when leaving the house or retiring for the night ... For outdoor lighting, use only sets UL-listed for this purpose.

Noncombustible materials such as metal, glass and asbestos should be used for decorations as much as possible. Make sure cotton batting, flock and decorating paper are flameproofed. Natural evergreen decorations dry quickly, burn readily, so keep them well removed from candles, the fireplace and other heat. Don't use polystyrene foam for table or mantle decorations where they are lighted candles.

Dispose of gift wrappings promptly and safely - NOT in the fireplace.

Be especially careful during the Christmas season to keep matches and cigarette lighters out of the reach of children, and try to keep the youngsters from playing beneath or near the Christmas tree.

Finally, Fire Marshal DeLane Davis emphasizes, it is especially important during this busy season that children never be left alone or without proper supervision - even for a short time - and that every family have a well-rehearsed escape plan for use in case of a fire emergency.

AN ODE TO MY WIFE

If I could just turn back the time
 To when I heard you say,
 That I could be your shining prince
 And all the dragons slay,
 I'd build a castle on the hill
 So all the world could see,
 The lovely princess that I chose
 To live and die with me.

If I could just turn back the time
 And start my life anew
 I'd plant some roses near the paths
 That I have led you through;
 There'd be no thorns to pierce your heart,
 No tears to dim your eyes,
 I'd leave no stones to bruise your feet,
 There'd be no sad good-byes.

But Father time will not turn back
 The hours that passed away,
 I can't remove the thorns and rocks
 From all those past gone days;
 I cannot live my life again
 But dragons I would slay,
 If I could be your shining prince
 For only one more day.

Myrtle Goforth

HIS NAME AT THE TOP

I had the nicest Christmast list,
 the longest one in town, Til daddy looked at it
 and said You'll have to cut it down.
 I knew that what he said was true,
 Beyond the fondest doubt, But was amazed to hear
 him say You left your best friend out.
 And so I scanned my list again, and Said O,
 that's not true, But daddy said his name's not there.
 That friend that died for you.

And then I clearly understood,
 'Twas Jesus that he meant, For him who should
 come first of all, I hadn't planned a cent.
 I'd made a Christmas birthday list,
 and left the Saviour out. But O it didn't take me
 long to change the list about.

Though I've had to drop some names of Folks
 I liked a lot, My Jesus must have the most,
 Because His name is at the top.
 God's love gave Christmas to the world,
 and only that love in human hearts can keep
 Christmas in the world.

Macedonia Baptist Church "Messenger"

LOOKING BACK

(From the Thursday, Dec. 18, 1952 Edition of The Kings Mountain Herald)

The Choir of Central Methodist Church will present H. Alexander Matthew's cantata, "The Story of Christmas" Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m.

Members of the Kings Mountain Junior Chamber of Commerce will meet at Plonk Motor Company Tuesday night to prepare baskets of food gathered in the club's annual "Buy A Can, Leave A Can" collection campaign for the city's needy children.

Social and Personal

The Adult Department of the Church of God will present "A Scarlet Ribbon" as its Christmas play Tuesday.

Mrs. Ernest Payne was happily surprised on Sunday with a birthday dinner given for her at her home on Carpenter St.

Myrtle Goforth
 Selections

Poets Corner



SANTA'S GOOD CAUSE

When I believed in Santa Clause
 the day was bright and gay,
 And I could hardly wait to see
 gifts waiting on Christmas day.

When I believed in Santa Clause
 and listened for the sound,
 of reindeer hoofs upon the roof
 Santa never let me down.

It was so hard to wait
 for the shades of night to fall,
 On the night of Christmas Eve
 when Santa was sure to call.

Every single sound I heard
 I was sure that it was he,
 When I believed in Santa Clause
 I was happy as I could be.

Three cheers for Santa's good cause
 Santa the spirit of cheer,
 I welcome him even now
 should he dare appear this year!

Vivian S. Biltcliffe

BABY BROTHER

I hope that you'll excuse me, but
 I'm mad as I can be.
 I wish you'd see the brother that
 My mother got for me.

His head's as bald as grandpa's is;
 He's got no teeth at all,
 they got his face all sunburned, too,
 And all he does is squall.

His pants don't look like pants at all;
 They're almost like a dress.
 But then he can't go out and play,
 So they're all right I guess.

He can't have hot dogs, candy bars.
 Ice cream nor soda pop.
 Who ever think before he came
 That he'd be such a flop?

I think my day got cheated 'cause
 He isn't worth the price.
 They should of sent a string along
 To measure him for size.

Next time I'll ask my mom to get
 A boy to fit my bed.
 And should she fail, I'll send him back
 And get a dog instead.



GARY STEWART

Firemen roll with 'Fitts' of laughter

If Russell Fitts hadn't accepted the call to be a Baptist minister, he could have made a pretty good living on the speaking circuit.

Rev. Fitts is the pastor of Zion Baptist Church near Shelby and for many years was pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church of Kings Mountain.

His flock knew him as a great minister in every sense of the word ... from delivering an inspiring message to visiting the sick and aged, counseling, and being a good neighbor and active member of the community.

And, they also knew him as a man who loved to make people laugh.

The Jerry Clowers, Wendy Bagwells, and Brother Dave Gardner of the world have nothing on Fitts. He can stack right up there with the best of them.

Many of Rev. Fitts stories center around his hobby, coon hunting, and he once cut a record and eight-track tape on that subject. Members of his congregation at Bethlehem served as the audience for that taping.

Rev. Fitts returned to Bethlehem last Saturday night to speak at the Bethlehem Fire Department's annual Christmas banquet which saw Larry McDaniel honored as Bethlehem Fireman of the Year.

Most of the members of his audience were members of his former congregation. He's come up with new stories since his Bethlehem days and, needless to say, had the audience rolling.

His best joke was told on one of his former members and a good friend, and we know he won't object to us repeating it here.

"Back when Playgirl Magazine first started publishing, they sent out letters to all the ministers," said Rev. Fitts, "and said that they wanted everything to be above board. They explained what they would be publishing (pictures of men) and were asking people to send in resumes and pictures.

"So," he added, "I just decided to send one in. Several weeks later I got a reply. It said, 'Rev. Fitts, we thought we would be very honest with you. We received your resume and picture. We flashed your

picture up on a big screen and had 60 ladies vote on whether or not to publish it. We're sorry to say that you got less than a 10 percent vote.'

"I showed the letter to my wife," Rev. Fitts said, "and she was very sympathetic. She said, 'that must make you feel awful to know that less than 10 percent of the women voted for you.'

"I said, 'not really,'" he went on. "I sent them Jack Lail's picture."

Rev. Fitts also told one on himself. This actually happened.

He explained that since he moved to Shelby, he has become active in working with alcoholics.

A couple Saturday nights ago, he received a call from a man who was needing help. He got out of bed, rushed to the man's home and took him to a Shelby hospital.

It was 1 a.m. when they arrived at the hospital, and was getting on toward 2:30 before the admitting papers, and other necessary forms, were filled out.

The alcoholic was placed on a stretcher and Rev. Fitts was supporting his tired body by leaning against the wall in the emergency room.

"I sure am sorry about this," the man told Fitts. "I know you have to preach in a few hours. Why don't you lie down here awhile and I'll lean up against the wall."

Well, he was tired and, true, he had to be at church early the next morning. So, Fitts hit the stretcher.

Before long, he fell asleep, and the doctor came in.

"There he is," the drunk said, pointing to Fitts on the stretcher.

It took the good reverend another hour to convince the doctor that he was not the alcoholic, and he finally got home in time to catch a couple hours of sleep before going to church.

We'll end with this one on former President Truman.

Truman, who said a lot of words that couldn't be repeated in Sunday School, or even here, was talking one day about the different kinds of manure he put around his flowers.

A lady went to his wife and daughter and said, "Can't you ask President Truman not to use that word?"

"No ma'am," they replied. "It took us 10 years to get him to say manure."

Reader Dialogue

Suicides real tragedy ...

To The Editor:

With the death of Elvis Presley, and now John Lennon, former Beatle, fresh within the minds of those who so idolized the former rock singers.

Seemingly since the sixties our youth as well as many of our adult world have been caught up into an hypnotic spell or trance of the drums and drum beats of stars within the music profession of our times.

We must re-examine as well as re-evaluate the tremendous affect it has had upon the American scene.

Many have failed to grasp in a great sense how much damage some of the rock stars has brought in-

to the life and lives of those who idolize such performers.

Many still haven't forgotten that during the sixties that much of the words of songs were instilled into the minds of our youth as well as many adults of which caused our youth to rebellion, to go on heinges of drug related substances, of which America is now paying a great price.

Much of these related problems has been caused by idolizing such super stars.

Where the real tragedy lies is where the youth of our nation lose their sense of morale, values and senses of reasoning and logic, and are caught up into a hypnotic spell or trance of their idols to take their own lives. Yet we permit and allow this garbage to continue on the air waves to ensnare our youth as well as many adults, for what?

That those such stars may continue to feed this slop into the minds of our youth, while they continue to get filthy rich off of their royalties, while in the meantime our youth suffer even to taking their own lives. This is the real tragedy.

Everette Pearson



Lib Stewart

Successful visit ...

To The Editor:

On Wednesday, December 3rd, a Bloodmobile was held at Kings Mountain High sponsored by S.P.O. with a goal of 200.

Many accolades are due the students for the successful visit which produced 191 pints of much needed blood during this holiday season with 76 first time donors.

Donna Wright, Student Coordinator, with the help of Jolean McHone, Co-Chairman; S.P.O. President Boo Robinson; Mrs. Jackie Lavender, Assistant Principal and S.P.O. Advisor; and Mrs. Lynne Mauney, Kings Mountain Blood Program Chairman, all deserve many thanks for a job well done. The delicious cookies made for this visit by the cafeteria staff were enjoyed by all the donors and volunteers. The Herald's publicity was outstanding.

Statistically we know that 6% of the American public are blood donors and in Cleveland County only 2% provide blood for the other 98%. This must increase if the Red Cross is to be able to provide blood for all who need it. The blood is free with a small fee for processing but the bottom line as if Red Cross has it.

So congratulations to Kings Mountain for a successful bloodmobile and many thanks to all who came and gave the greatest Christmas gift of all - the gift of life.

Very truly yours,
 Martha Hudson Scruggs
 Program Coordinator