The Kings Mountain Herald

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. St. Mark 14:33.

Revaluation And Taxes

Intermittently, during the past several years, the county board of commissioners has considered proposals to conduct a revaluation of property. The current county administration, too, has been weighing the matter, and, on Monday, heard a representative of a firm specializing in revaluation estimate that the job for Cleveland county would cost $70,000. In addition, a tax-mapping specialist told the board that his service would cost $30,000 to $37,000.

A check of valuation figures on the tax books (public record, anybody can have a look), will reveal that property values are quite low in almost all instances, but this is not the important revelation. The important revelation is that one property is listed at 25 percent of its value, while another may be listed as low as 10 percent of its value. Obviously, the 25-percent payee is being penalized.

Some citizens of the county object to revaluing, giving a wide variety of reasons. This is understandable, particularly where large interests are concerned. In the first place, they feel that revaluation is merely a dodge to get more money in the till of local governmental units, and, in the second, they recognize that property taxes roll on and on, year in and year out, and must be paid, whether the year be a prosperous or a poor one. Some few, of course, think they have a good deal as is, and they want to keep it that way, but these are in the minority.

The county commissioners tentatively have set up $27,000 in this year's budget to handle the revaluation matter, knowing in advance that it would be insufficient. They obviously hope to carry that amount over as a surplus into the following fiscal year, then add a larger sum for the same purpose.

The purpose of this editorial is not solely to discuss revaluation, however, but to suggest to the county commissioners that they use their current authority to see that personal property is listed on the books and listed according to some common percentage yardstick. Each January, the county demands that "All Persons List for Taxes," and are joined by the cities of the county. However, there have been, to this paper's knowledge, no concrete statements made in this vein: "You are expected to list furniture at 50 percent of cost, machnery at 25 percent of cost, inventory at 50 percent of cost, etc., etc."

The result is that almost all persons visit the tax lister with the intent of returning their valuations at the lowest possible figure. In other words, they visit the lister and know they're going to sign their name to a lie. If they don't, they're going to be penalizing their pocketbooks. Listers who try to pin down taxpayers wind up with nothing but unpopularity. Most folk are honest, and if a basis were set, they would follow it. Where a check of the books indicated a citizen or firm was out of line, the board of commissioners should take appropriate action.

The Herald's guess is that setting up a concrete policy on personal property listing would put much more valuation on the books and would also eliminate some of the existing inequities. A great percentage of inequities will continue to exisit, however, until the county administration can obtain the money for a general county-wide revaluation, which is long overdue.

The hopes of Kings Mountain, the nation and the world is that the projected armistice talks between General Ridgeway and the Communist leaders will result in a cessation of hostilities. Thinking people will want a large protective force to remain in Korea, however, for they do not want a repitition of this "incident" which definitely has cost more than 12,000 American lives, not including the missing, the wounded, and the injured.

Contract Difficulty

It appears, as this is written, that the city administration will not give its city administrator, M. K. Fuller, a two-year contract after all, in the light of a special meeting of the commissioners held on the evening of June 28, two days after the board had voted by 3 to 1 to contract Mr. Fuller's services for a two-year period for duties set forth in "General Statutes 160-349 Volume III."

The statute provision set forth by Commissioner B. T. Wright, Sr., in making the contract motion, turned out to be a non-playable joker, rather than a trump card, for the statute is one which sets forth the powers and duties of a city manager. A check-up on Mr. Wright's statute brought a ringing "no" from City Attorney E. A. Harrill, who remembered quickly that the city voted a resounding "no" against the city manager system in 1948. Mr. Harrill doubted the legality of such a contract.

It is not unlikely that Commissioner Wright, who made the motion, Commissioner C. P. Barry, who seconded, and Commissioner Lloyd E. Davis, who supported it, have, at their leisure, regretted their action. Its import was terrific. Had the contract been drawn and signed, and should it have proved legal, these three gentlemen would have disfranchised themselves for the full duration of their terms of office. In effect, Mr. Fuller would have been the dictator of Kings Mountain for the duration of the contract, a role that he himself probably would not prefer. Commissioner Wright told the Herald that Mr. Fuller, in no way, suggested the contract, and the Herald was not surprsed. The Herald has watched Mr. Fuller's work closely since he came here last July and regards him as among the best men the city has had in the administrator capacity. He has served the necessary first year, required to get acquainted with the people and the city's problems, and he should now be in position to do his best work. The Herald doubts that a contract is necessary, even under the provisions of the general employment statute referred to by Mr. Harrill last week. If it is, the Herald would recommend that a one-year contract be chosen. No board of commissioners would be wise to contract the services of any employee for a period longer than half of its term of office.

The action itself underlines again the divided thinking of the board of commissioners. Mr. Wright and Mr. Barry are on one wing, while Commissioners Jawes Layton and Olland Pearson are on the other. In the middle is Commissioner Lloyd E. Davis, who sometimes joins one line of thinking, sometimes the other. Generally speaking, Mr. Layton and Mr. Pearson give stronger support to the Mayor than do Mr. Barry and Mr. Wright.

Obviously, the purpose of the action was to clip the Mayor's wings. The effort failed.

The Herald's humble advice to the board, as well as to some segment of the citizenship, is to get down to work on community problems with a real spirit of cooperation. Regardless of political differences, the board members and mayor are married to each other until May 1953, and the citizens, in turn, are married to this administration for the same period. Would it not be better political strategy for those who disagree with any or several elected officials, either as to personality or policy, to hold their fire until the Spring '53 wars begin?

martin's medicine

By Martin Harmon
(Containing bits of news, wisdom, humor, and comment. To be taken weekly. Avoid over-dosage.)

July Opener

Here it is already July and only a seeming minute ago the world was welcoming the New Year. Time does race along at an ever-faster rate, with only th young folk ever having to wait longingly on new birthdays so they can join the Boy Scouts, be eligible to drive a car, and/or qualify to vote.

j-o

Older folk have always told me that the older one gets the quicker the years pass, and I am beginning to believe them. Not that I'm old, of course, but the gray hairs are showing up. The spirit, at least, is coltish.

j-o

And speaking of the passing of a half-year, how are the resolutions making out? Mine were changed a little bit from the childhood variety of parental-inspired models, such as brushing the hair at least twice a day, ditto-ing on the teeth, and wiping the mud off the feet before entering the house. They now include such noble favorites as working harder, getting to bed by midnight, tuning in more and broadcasting less, etc., etc. I'm not sure that the half-year examination results are too good. But it's always worthwhile to aim at a target, whether one can hit the bullseye or not.

j-o

It was a happy day last week for Mrs. Ruth Thomasson, when she received something resembling a gift from the telephone company. Some weeks ago Ernest Orr, Jr., district manager for Southern Bell, had suggested that perhaps the Herald's telephone service would be improved if both its numbers were consecutive, such as 167 and 168, or 283 and 284. Some weeks later I heard, via one of my grapevines into the bridge-playing league, that Mrs. Thomasson was very disturbed because she was losing her telephone number, which she had enjoyed for the course of about 28 years. "Some old business wants it, and they told me I'd have to give it up," was the general tenor of the remarks. When it was noted that the Thomasson number was 284, I suddenly realized the Herald was the culprit. Later, I had the opportunity to halt the proceedings, but Mrs. Thomasson's number had already been changed to something up in the six hundreds. This had proved quite disconcerting. Longtime friends would pick up the receiver and ask for 284, to which the operator politely and correctly replied, "We have no such number. whom are you calling?" Needless to say, tempers on both sides occasionally charged up a bit. But it was all straightened out last week, when Carl Blanton restored 284 to Mrs. Thomasson. The Herald has monmentarily decided to forego the number changes, on the reasoning that most folk in town are pretty well acquainted with 167, our veteran number, and 283, added several moons ago.

j-o

The medicinal department did get a change though, with a swank new 725 at the domicile, as opposed to 341-J inherited from Bill Craig.

j-o

I have never before been accused of arson, but I came close Saturday night at the ballyard. After disposing of a Lucky Strike (mahty fine terbacer), my baseball fan neighbors and I began noticing a faint aroma of smoke. This could hardly be in the wide open spaces of City Stadium, and none of us believed it. Still the smoke came. The lucky, dropped through the boards of the bleachers, had taken up with some paper loaded with peanut hulls, then with a dry stick of kindlin' wood which had once been a piece of bleacher. It was not necessary to call out Grady King's fire-fighters, but it was necessary to visit the concession stand to get a bottle of water. Pop dispensers Sam Collins and Fred Heithcox thought I was crazy to be asking for water, when they had good pop to sell at 10 cents per. Shooks McDaniel thought I was trying to give him the hotfoot. Legion team supporters might be inclined to think that the lighted Lucky had assist from the team, which was in the process of continuing a nice winning streak that, at the moment, was putting the Juniors into undisputed possession of second place.

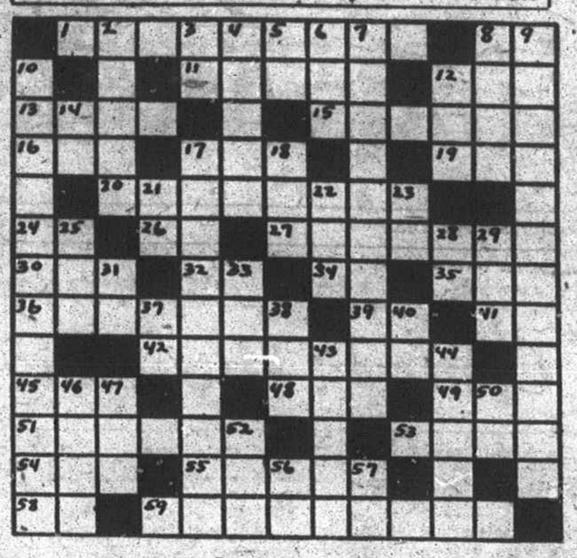
j-o

Dotted pick-ups: from the looks of Kings Mountain homes and business houses, the folk in the paint business, including the dealers and painters, are having a busy season. Many are redecorating their business establishments and homes. Painting never fails to bring the remark "My, how a coat of paint does help!" And they're right . . . Among the business firms looking especially fresh are Harris Funeral Home and Marlowe's Center Service . . . If the farmers can keep ahead of the boll wevil, Kings Mountain area farmers are going to be in much better financial shape come Fall '51, than they were in 1950. The wheat crop has been a bumper one, and peach growers will have to oil up packing equipment, grown rusty through disuse for two frozen-out years.

j-o

Good luck for the remainder of aging '51.

CROSSWORD . . . By A. C. Gordon



General Interest

ACROSS

1—Department store saver of customers' feet
8—Roman 900
11—One who hasteris
12—Winglike part
13—To bind
15—Human fliers
16—To go astray
17—Above (poetical)
19—Personal pronoun
20—The drink of the ancient gods
24—Exclamation
26—Man's nickname
27—Musical composition
30—To give, in Scotland
32—Abbreviation for the Latin phrase meaning "that is"
34—Parental nickname
35—Portion of a circle
36—Denies
39—In the direction of
41—Pronoun
42—Cross-country runners
45—Greek letter
48—Turf
49—Established value of a monetary unit
51—A recluse
53—To transfer
54—Previous
55—Region or scope of activity
58—Prefix denoting "again"
59—To speak clearly

DOWN

2—Prefix denoting "above in position"
3—Measure of area
4—A kind of beer
5—Type of electrical current
6—Beverage
7—Began
8—Contracted name for famous ancient queen
9—Fabricates
10—Office worker
12—Girl's name
14—Chemical symbol for argon
17—Indebtedness
18—Fabulous bird of Arabia
21—Parental nickname
22—To deprive of strength
23—Preposition
25—To hasten
28—American Analogy (abbrev.)
29—Prefix denoting three
31—Printer's measure
33—A poet's "always"
37—Exclamation of inquiry
38—The elder (plural)
40—Either
43—A type of architecture
44—Exhausted
46—In this place
47—Wrath
50—Newspaper announcement
52—Territorial Rights of Unions (abbrev.)
56—Balkan Nations (abbrev.)
57—Syllable applied to musical note

See The Want Ad Section For This Week's Completed Puzzle

Other Editor's Viewpoints . . . . .

GORDON GRAY
Stanley News & Press
Albemarle, N. C.

President Truman has called Gordon Gray able president of the University of North Carolina, to Washington to head a "cold war strategy board", and while North Carolinians generally agree that the University needs the full services of Mr. Gray, they also are conscious of the fact that at no place in our efforts against Communism has this nation failed so miserably as it has in the "cold war".

The purpose of the new organization, according to the President, will be to provide "for the more effective planning, coordination, and conduct, within the frame work of approved national policies, of psychological operations."

In simple language, the group is charged with the responsibility of "putting the truth through the Iron Curtain", thus developing a state of wholesale dissatisfaction with the governments in Communist nations.

If Mr. Gray can lead the way in getting this done, he will have rendered the nation and the world a service of immeasurable value.

JOBS FOR SALE
Christian Science Monitor
Boston, Mass.

It would be wonderful if the two great political parties could do without national committees.

The Democrats', for obvious reasons of opportunity, specializes in plain and fancy patronage as its contribution to political shoddiness. The GOP's, because the party has been out of office for a generation, has had to confine itself largely to uttering demagogic blasts, by reflex action as it were, which cause many good Republicans to blush now and may embarrass most of them in retrospect.

The Democratic committee's latest liability is the job-selling scandal in Mississippi. In retribution against the Dixiecrats, the Democratic National Committee took federal patronage away from the congressmen and turned it over to a "rump" state committee. A bipartisan congressional inquiry now confirms charges that several officials of that committee had been selling federal jobs to the highest bidder.

The best thing that can be said about the affair is that here is no "whitewash". The inquiry was headed by respected Senator Clyde R. Hoey, himself a Democrat. And Democrats and Republicans joined in an unanimous report.

The worst consequence, of course, is the further discrediting of a great party and the further eroding of political morality generally."

Navy Taking Men Regarless Of Draft

It was anounced today by Petty Officer First Class Jack Hodgens of the Navy Recruiting Substation at Shelby, N. C. the during the period 15 June to 15 July men may enlist in the Navy even though they may have received orders to rport for pre-induction mental and physical examinations.

He further stated that during this 30-day period a man may be enlisted in the Navy anytime before he is actually ordered to report for induction.

Young men 17 to 31 years of age interested in serving in the United States Navy are invited to visit the Navy Recruiting Substation located in the Court House, Shelby, N. C. for full information.

Safe Practices To Be Encouraged In National Farm Safety Week

National Farm Safety Week, July 22-28, as proclaimed by President Truman, is designed to encourage all farm residents to adopt safe practices on the farm, in the home, at work, in traffic, and at play, according to H. M. Ellis, extension agricultural engineer at State College.

The long-range objective of the week, says Ellis, is to make farm life safer happier, and more prosperous.

Based on past averages, the National Safety Council estimates that accidents will kill an average of 48 American farm residents every day during the next year unless extra precautions are taken.

Ellis says most accidents last year involved some violation of a commonsense safety rule. If the accident toll is to be held down this year, he adds, all members of the family must become familiar with and observe the rules of safety in their daily activities.

Farm Safety Week is co-sponsored by the National Safety Council and the U. S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the American Farm Bureau Federation, Farmer's Union, National Grange, Farm Equipment Institute, and many other organizations.

the Brotherhood and their families will also visit Luther Ridge on the 15th.

The two groups will leave St. Matthew's in a motorcade at 1:30 Sunday afternoon. They will combine for a picnic supper at the assembly grounds at 6 o'clock. The super will be followed by a brief devotional period conducted by the pastor, Rev. William P. Gerberding.

These cows bring to U. S. Farmers four billion dollars annually.

Sunday School Body Planning Motorcade

The Youth Department of the St. Matthew's Lutheran Sunday school plans to visit Luther Ridge Sunday, July 15th. Luther Ridge is the summer assembly grounds for the southern synods of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Luther Ridge, located at Arden south of Asheville, was officially dedicated July 4th. The men of

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news taken from the 1941 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Cyrus Falls was presented a gold medal Sunday morning at Central Methodist church in recognition of an unbroken attendance record for the past 28 years.

The Piper cub airplane of L. P. Stowe is now stationed at Hawk Haven. Mr. Stowe is flying almost daily to build up his time in the air so that he will be eligible for private license.

Social and Personal

Mrs. D. C. Mauney and Mrs. George Houser were hostesses to the Plonk-Cooper bridal party and a few additional friends at a cake cutting at the Mauney home Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Aubrey Mauney and Miss Martha Lou Mauney entertained at a lovely luncheon at the Woman's Club on Thursday at one o'clock honoring Mrs. George Plonk.

Mrs. Howard Jackson visited her mother in Charlotte yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Short of Burlington are spending this week with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Short.

Mrs. Frank Hamrick of Rock Hill is visiting hr sister, Mrs. Floyd Thornburg.

Mrs. W. E. Blakley returned last from a visit with her mother at Wren, Ga.