

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

OPEN LETTER TO THE HERALD AND THE CITIZENS OF KINGS MOUNTAIN:

I truly hope that you can print this letter in its entirety for I have heard so many different versions of recreation that I feel it my duty to give the people of our community a few facts and the evils that can be eliminated by a community recreation program with the proper facilities and supervision.

A few of the arguments I have heard from people that are for and against community recreation I shall list below and try to answer them to the best of my ability and knowledge, and I must say this, there are very few people in Kings Mountain today that have visioned the full scope of a city-wide recreation program, for recreation is now accepted as a major force in social well-being. Recreation takes its place with education, health, religion, and work as an essential process molding individual personalities and creating abundant community living. All these elements, in proper balance, constitute the nucleus of total social stability.

The first and most used argument is this: "I would vote for it, but old so-and-so would put it in his own back yard." Friends, this is a senseless assumption. We have on our City Board five men that have proven their integrity in this community. They were placed there by a majority of our voters. They in turn appointed five men that have proven their interest in community recreation. These men hired a trained architect who has made a survey of our town and selected several sites. All of these sites are centrally located and accessible to a majority of our people. Now I ask you: What other sensible way could we possibly hope for? If we don't trust these men's judgment whom do we trust? This coming bond issue is not a political issue, but a necessity. We must distinguish between the two and vote, not for a party or a creed, but vote for Kings Mountain and all the people therein.

The second argument is even more absurd than the first: "Ah! Recreation is only a summertime program, the kids go to school in the winter and have their hands full. All we need is a swimming pool and a ball-ground." This is pure poppycock. In the first place most of us associate youth and recreation. Why? It's simple. There are more kids than grown-ups. Believe me, grown-ups like to play. A good example of what I mean was proven to me last week. We have a men's team here in Kings Mountain and the other night we traveled over to Shelby to play Cliffside. There was so much activity going on at the recreation center that our game along with Hudson Hosliery boys and girls, Howard Business College and Casar had to transfer our games to the Shelby High Gym. I counted 47 men and women in the bowling room, 21 in the game room and 12 men and women basketball teams or a total of over 194 men and women not including the kids playing table tennis and shuffleboard. Does that sound like a summertime program?

I was the first to admit we must have several pools but had you thought of this? That will only furnish recreation for about three months. What about the other 9 months? Oh yes! School work: Did you know that 85 percent of the crime by juveniles last year was committed from September to March? Did you know that 80 percent of all boys in a neighboring City gets all their recreation through recreation clubs such as Optimist, Rotarians, Red Shields, Boys Clubs and City recreation? If the churches of this town were not doing such a won-

derful job with so many of our youth I shudder to think of what could happen. I visited Jackson Training School several weeks ago and found six boys from this area there. Their misdemeanors were petty but the purpose behind them should furnish food for thought: Three were there for trying to raise show fare, two for wanting money to go skating. The other was just bored, with nothing to do. Who would you blame, the parents, the boys, or yourselves? Had you rather light one candle out of 3,000 or curse the darkness? It cost the State over \$4,000 to keep these boys one year.

The third argument for a majority of us is no argument at all. "What's it going to cost in the way of taxes? Fellow citizens, you don't get something for nothing. If you had a hole in the head you wouldn't shop around for a doctor, you would get one regardless of the cost. That is the predicament we are in. We are like a gang of blind dogs in a meathouse: we're banging our heads against a stone wall. Don't listen to idle gossip, get the facts. Here are some facts: Our town is one of the soundest in the state when it comes to borrowing money. We are in better shape financially today than we have been in several scores of years. The churches, from all indications, three of our largest Civic groups and several of the town's largest taxpayers are all in favor of a passage of all issues involved.

Think of this: Most cities would give their eye-teeth to be as fortunate as we. Did you know that this town owns lock, stock and barrel one of the money-makingest utilities there is? Our electric system. Did you know the City came out in the black in excess of \$30,000 on water in 1951? Natural gas is just around the corner. That's another utility that should show a nice profit in a few years. We get enough from Powell aid to keep our streets repaired and yet our individual bills are in line with less fortunate communities because we do not have large corporation taxes to pay. To be blunt, we are sitting on a gold mine and afraid to stick a spade in the ground.

Don't be misled by our utilities. It costs money to maintain and operate these necessities and there will always be taxes, but I would judge by all available information I have been able to gather that on a home valued at \$5,000 your tax would not increase over 5 cents on the hundred dollar value or around \$250.00 per year of the 5 cents for maintenance or maybe less if the project proves self-supporting.

And here is a fact: If any manufacturing plant had voted in a solid block in any of our recent bond elections they would have cast more votes either for or against any issue than was cast by the entire town heretofore. I believe that those are the three basic arguments and I fervently hope that there is no sore-head in this town that has any political axes to grind and use this bond issue as a springboard for what we do on January 16th. Some of us may not see the ultimate good a passage will bring but of this I am certain — this group that votes will be remembered. Some folks say we don't spend anything on recreation. What about the movies, plays, swimming trips, parties, golf, bridge games, baseball and football, joy riding, dancing, sailing, books, bowling, billiards, tennis and numerous other activities. All this is recreation and I know that if any of you know that your fellowman has the facilities to enjoy the same things altho his income may be below yours you will get a warm feeling that you haven't felt before.

James Layton
In mid-October United States farmers were getting an average of \$1.34 per bushel for corn — 26 cents below the national average support level.

Nuttall To Head BurMill Plant At Smithfield

SMITHFIELD — Benjamin F. Nuttall, Jr. will become superintendent of the Smithfield Plant of Burlington Mills with the transfer of John Brasch to Greensboro, announced J. C. Cowan, Jr., president of Burlington Mills.

Brasch is being promoted to the post of division manager of cotton spinning, of which division the Smithfield plant is a unit, and will make his headquarters at Greensboro at the textile concern's executive offices. Brasch has been superintendent of the

local plant since February 8, 1945. Nuttall is a native of Cordova, Ala., and is a graduate of Alabama Tech at Auburn, Ala., where he received the B. S. in textile engineering. He comes to Smithfield from the Modena plant of Burlington Mills, located at Gastonia.

Before joining Burlington Mills he was employed by Nashau Manufacturing Company at Cordova, Lincoln Mills of Alabama at Huntersville, Ala., and Textron Southern at Anderson, S. C., and then was sent by Textron to Puerto Rico as superintendent of Textron Puerto Rico.

Nuttall joined Burlington Mills in January of 1950 and has been associated with plants at Kings Mountain and Gastonia, where he has held various supervisory posts.

The change will be effective January 1.

DO DARE STORY

The New York Times Outdoor Editor, Ray Camp, and Lee Wulff noted outdoors cameramen, this month completed a movie on the unique fox hunting from jeeps enjoyed on North Carolina's Outer Banks. Camp and Wulff headquartered at Nags Head. Between movie sequences, they went hunting and bagged five wild geese and ducks.

Nuttall has a wife and a 10-year-old daughter. They are Methodist. He is a veteran of World War II, having held the rank of major.

United States pasture conditions on October 1 averaged 56 per cent of normal, as low as any recorded for that date in nearly four decades except in 1934 and 1936, when conditions averaged 54 per cent.

RECREATION ROUND-UP

The recreation's department's Midgets and Intermediates played two inter-squad games Saturday morning with the white team winning for the midgets and the Blue team winning for the Intermediates.

Practice will get underway for the two groups during the holidays. The teams meet at Concord at Concord early in January.

The commission, in cooperation with the city commissioners and Mayor Glee Bridges has mailed out over a hundred Christmas letters to various municipalities with the following message: "Christmas '53

"We believe that because of the recreation movement more men have a song in their hearts and sing it out, sense more drama of the world, see beauty more clearly all about them. Let the poetry of the world, like to be among trees, find joy in watching plants grow, have pride in their bodies, want to be more skillful in their hands and all their powers, are happy to use their minds just for the fun of it, enjoy people more, find satisfaction in serving their neighborhoods and their cities.

"A little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6.

The Kings Mountain "Bobcats" led by Buddy Medlin, Dave Neill and Gene Goforth out-scored the Gastonia Red Shields club 83 to 67 here last Wednesday night. Kings Mountain used all their players and the Red Shields

played three complete teams. Gerald Adams, former K. M. native paced the visitors scoring with 23 points.

In Thursday night's action, the locals were nosed out at Cliffside by nine points. Medlin, Walt Harmon and Sanders paced the local attack with 9 points each. Kings Mountain was late for the game and started playing without any pre-game warm-ups.

Collegians home for the holidays were scheduled to play the Bobcats Monday night at Central gym. College boys participating: Charles Mauney, Johnny Kiser, Jim Kimmell, Harold Pearson, and Bill Ruth.

North Carolina farmers paid 20 cents per pound more for bacon on September 15, 1953, than on September 15, 1952.

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