

# The Kings Mountain Herald

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### TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. St. Mark 11:24.

## Secrecy Precedes Evil

It is the nature of politics and politicians to keep certain types of information buried, if possible, from the eyes of the public, which means the taxpayer who pays the bill.

Frequently the information is minor, though it can be quite big, and can grow bigger as cover-up is allowed to continue. Anything that makes the incumbent look bad is the kind of information usually kept in the dark, if possible.

Down in Wilmington, New Hanover county, there came to light the other day a very little deletion in a law passed by the 1951 General Assembly and relating to meetings of boards of county commissioners. The sin is one of omission. A sentence reading, "Every meeting shall be open to all persons," stumped its toe before final passage and an historical guarantee of freedom for the people was somehow omitted.

Since it first comes to light of day here in late 1953, nearly three years and one General Assembly later, it must be assumed that few of the legislators, and less county commissioners, were aware of the situation at hand.

But it was a Secrecy Act just as much, if not more so, than the infamous one passed by the General Assembly of 1953, which closed the doors to meetings of legislative committees.

There is no safe defense for any person, be he scheming politician, smooth-tongued lawyer, or professional do-gooder, for the so-called "executive session", when the subject at hand concerns the spending of other folks' money, as is always the instance when government is involved. Legislators, county commissioners, city commissioners, directors of the Red Cross, church deacons, managers of the United Fund, the T-B association, etc., ad infinitum, have no moral right to bar any taxpayer or member from meetings concerning their business. If the legislators have conveyed to themselves and their contemporaries of the counties the legal right to legislative and executive secrecy then they are morally wrong and citizens should demand repeal of the onerous acts.

An almost concurrent headline with the revelation of the Secrecy Act of 1951 was the announcement by the Kremlin that Lavrenti Beria, onetime Russian police boss, had been shot after conviction and confession of charges of being a traitor to the Russian Republic.

It is not necessary to be sympathetic to the evil Beria to see the parallel.

Secrecy breeds evil and encourages dictatorship.

Unless the North Carolina press is more remiss than it has appeared in the past, it will be considerably interested in the attitude of legislative candidates for the 1955 General Assembly, a matter soon to be at hand.

Now two repeals are being requested, rather than one.

Saturday is the last day to register for the forthcoming January 16 city bond issue election to determine whether \$450,000 is borrowed to make improvements in the water and sewer system and whether \$150,000 is spent as the beginning on a city recreational plant. In addition, the citizens answer a question of, we suspect, lifetime importance. Shall the board of commissioners be authorized to levy a tax of five cents per \$100 valuation for operating a recreational program?

## 10 YEARS AGO Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events THIS WEEK taken from the 1943 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Kings Mountain people were marooned in their homes throughout Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day. Freezing rain, which started between midnight and dawn of that day, covered the highways, walks and streets, with a heavy coating of ice, which was so slick that even the best walkers could hardly retain their equilibrium.

**Social And Personal**  
Mr. and Mrs. Al Shuttleworth of Fayetteville and Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Houren of Gastonia were guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Gallant during the holidays.  
Mr. and Mrs. Glee Bridges are visiting their son, Aviation Cadet J. C. Bridges, who is stationed at Coffeetown, Kansas.  
John Henry Caldwell has arrived at Camp Walters, Texas, to be-

gin his basic training as an infantryman.  
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Trott of Bennettsville, S. C., were visitors in Kings Mountain during the holidays.  
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hager and family of China Grove, S. C., and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Alexander of Kannapolis were dinner guests at the home of Mrs. R. S. Plonk on Monday.

## MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By Martin Harmon  
Ingredients: bits of news, wisdom, humor, and comment. Directions: Take weekly, if possible, but avoid overdosage.

If this piece carried a title any longer, I suppose it would be "Happy New Year", or some other similar arrangement of grammar, for the calendar gives the medicinal department a closeup date to the wind-up of an old year and the arrival of a new one.

Old Father Time has honed his scythe to Gillette-type sharpness and is ready to slash away, putting the Year A. D. 1953 into the history books. Meantime, the new little fellow in diaper and top hat, A. D. 1954, gets ready to make his appearance amid happy greetings for good health, good wishes, and prosperity.

The demise of the old and the arrival of the new year is historically a time of happiness. Crowds will throng Times Square in New York, the Loop in Chicago, and Canal Street in New Orleans to welcome a bright new page in the book of history, clean as a new ledger sheet, and just as sure to splotch as those of the past. But the sheet is still clean and there is always good reason to hope the splotches will be smaller and fewer.

Though Kings Mountain has no Loop, no Times Square, or other famed convergence of traffic, the attitude will be no different. At numerous private and semi-private parties, in all-night restaurants and elsewhere, the word at midnight will be "Happy New Year".

The end of a year is "a time for reflection as well as anticipation, a resume of the activities of the past 365 days and an inventory of the deeds of the year, both good and bad, those which, when remembered, cause a warm glow of pleasure, and those which, conversely, bring up a slow burn of embarrassment.

And New Year's time is resolving time, over blackeyed peas for Good Luck.

Are resolutions, like laws and rules, made to be broken? At any rate, it will not hurt to make a few.

How many of us older folk need to do a re-take on those pre-arranged just a little while ago by patient, harried mothers, simple resolutions like combing the hair, brushing the teeth, hanging the clothes in the closet, closing the door with click instead of a bang, wiping the mud on the welcome mat instead of the rug, speaking politely to the older, containing the yelps and shouts until out of the house into the open spaces, practicing the music, storing the toys, feeding the dog, etc., ad infinitum?

Plenty of us could repeat on many of those, for, try as mama did, she didn't quite get us to make the grade on all of them.

Then, there are some more serious and important resolutions older people can make and should make at the beginning of a New Year. But the most important would be to carry over the Christmas spirit into the New Year. The Christmas season is a relaxing season for almost everyone; it is a time when good will replaces hate, when almost all turn a bit of attention from the humdrum of the eating, sleeping, working cycle to a little something extra. It's a good time of year and a good feeling and all too quickly relegated, with the dry Christmas tree, to the ash heap, to be replaced by hardness, harshness, tenseness, hurry, bustle, and other similar qualities sometimes grouped together as a definition for D R I V E .

Drive is imperative, drive is essential, it is a pre-requisite to the will-o-the-wisp called Success, but it sometimes goes off on tangents, as we forget ourselves in the excitement of the chase.

Anent the above, I hereby resolve to turn all calendars on the first of the month, as a contribution to efficiency, and to stop shouting at people, as a contribution to softness. I further resolve to continue to run, from the simplest, commonly known as "mumps", as a contribution to my general welfare and disposition, and on advice of victims to miss it, or them, if possible.

To each and all, Happy New Year!

## CROSSWORD By A. C. Gordon

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9 10 11 12  
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37 38 39 40 41 42  
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47 48 49 50 51  
52 53 54 55 56  
57 58 59

- ACROSS**  
1—East (abb.)  
2—Furniture item  
7—Home entertainment medium  
9—Proposition  
10—Newcomer to society (abb.)  
11—Mineral element  
12—Raids  
13—Parent  
14—Aviation Ordinance (abb.)  
15—Blotch  
17—Compass direction  
18—Homes built  
22—Musical note  
24—Printer's measure  
25—Parent  
27—Put forth  
30—Religious song  
32—A charge upon your property  
33—Ornamental container  
34—Food taste enhancer  
37—Call of the police  
39—One of the other (abb.)  
40—Adversary
- DOWN**  
1—Proposition  
2—Domestic cleaner-upper  
3—Something to mend  
4—Place for living  
5—Things made for mortgaging  
6—Great American waterway  
7—Call of the police  
8—Opposed to (abb.)  
9—Chemical symbol for silver  
17—Sea vessel (abb.)  
19—Popular kind of violet  
20—Termination  
21—Foreigner prominent in the news  
22—Real estate contract  
23—Hacking tool  
24—Roman 1010  
25—Prayerful endings  
26—Biblical high priest  
28—Golfing implement  
29—Dance step  
31—Prefix denoting air  
32—Famous American poet  
33—Something always underfoot in the home  
41—Black  
43—Line  
44—To ply the needle  
45—Units  
46—Printer's measure  
47—Kitchen container  
51—Clothing fastener  
52—Chinese measure  
56—Proposition

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

## Viewpoints of Other Editors

### FARMERS HAD GOOD YEAR

Maybe not all of the farmers in Chatham County will agree with County Agent J. B. Snipes' rather optimistic report of progress made in Chatham County agriculture during the past year, particularly in view of the depressed broiler prices prevailing at the present moment.

The majority of them, however, are likely to agree with Mr. Snipes that the year 1953 was not a tragic one for agriculture in Chatham County.

To be sure we had drought, low prices for cattle and chickens. Yet the county's diversified farm program is such that complete collapse is hardly possible unless there is total collapse of the nation's farm economy and, surely, this has not yet come about—nor will it if we read the signs aright.

What has happened during the year now drawing to a close serves to emphasize the importance of continued diversification on the farm front—its continued mechanization so that operating costs can be reduced.

With many members of farm families gainfully employed in industry it would appear that Mr. Snipes is not far wrong when he contends, in his report, that Chatham County farmers continued to make progress during 1953.—Chatham County News

### INTELLIGENT FUND RAISING

It couldn't come at a better season—the news that North Carolina's towns are so handsomely filling their community chests. Before this is in print, the score will be much improved, but most of the large towns conducting community funds were over their goals.

More than that. The campaigns—particularly those employing the United Fund technique—were having a wider participation, and industrial employees were contributing more than ever. One industry—Del-Mark, Inc. of Hickory—set a new record with an average contribution per worker of \$16.12. In Durham, the 3,500 employees of Ligon & Myers tripled their contributions over last year's record.

Charlotte topped its enormous \$819,721 goal. Raleigh exceeded its goal by \$20,000, averaging \$20 per capita.

The United Fund idea not only has increased public participation, but its intelligent approach has enlisted more top calibre leadership.

A good example is the Winston-Salem-Forsyth program, which was one of the first communities in this country to try the Community Chest idea, and the first in the state to extend it in the United Fund. Chairman Doug Boyle enlisted a unique "United Fund Cabinet" which had no official powers but packed plenty of punch. Every member was a veteran in Federated Giving, and the cabinet bulged at the seams with talent and influence. This cabinet and the fund organization went to work five months ago, and so thoroughly enlisted the confidence of the community that the record-breaking goal of \$779,721 was over-matched with a total of \$666,679.

Volunteer workers in city and county numbered 4,000, and the campaign was carried to the county through 13 separate school districts.

### BRIEF CASE

We wish to make a brief case for the brief case. That handy accessory of the well-dressed executive, it is reported, has fallen into notable disrepute in Washington. What diplomat or bureaucrat would be seen going home at night with a well-stuffed brief case? Why, he might as well carry Whittaker Chambers' pumpkin. Any passer-by would know instinctively that he must be taking top-secret documents to a rendezvous with Foreign Agent X-318.

On the other hand, how is the over-conscientious public servant going to carry home through windy streets the cluttered bulk of tissue-thin papers he really wants to study into the wee, small hours? And how is the unconscientious public servant going to impress his superiors with his dogged devotion to duty and his trim, authoritative air of responsibility as he hurries from his office to the social relaxation of the late afternoon? What sort of case, in brief, can be made for sending public servants home empty-handed?

Better, we would think, to catch them commuting red-handed.—Christian Science Monitor

### How To Relieve Bronchitis

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## This New Law Effects Every CAR OWNER

On and after January 1, 1954, every automobile owner and operator, when called upon to do so, must be prepared to meet the requirements of the new North Carolina Motor Vehicle Safety - Responsibility Law.



Luther Bennett  
Your Farm Bureau Mutual Representative

The simplest, easiest way to meet the requirements of this law is to have adequate and acceptable Automobile Liability Insurance AT THE TIME OF AN ACCIDENT. This will permit you to KEEP your driving privileges WITHOUT having to deposit cash or other security.

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