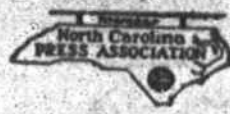




The Kings Mountain Herald

Established 1889



A weekly newspaper devoted to the promotion of the general welfare and published for the enlightenment, entertainment and benefit of the citizens of Kings Mountain and its vicinity, published every Thursday by the Herald Publishing House.

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. St. Mark 13:22.

A Good Season

Kings Mountain Little Theatre closed its 1954 season Saturday night having played to over 4,000 paying customers. Those who had not seen the drama until the final weekend (and the last weekend was the largest at the box office) were well-pleased with the performance this year, and veteran Kings Mountain drama viewers were amazed at the improvements wrought over the 1952 and 1953 presentations of "The Sword of Gideon."

Script changes were quite helpful, with the new narration done by Director Bill Trotman a standout, and the romantic theme between McDermott and the girl Sally improved to the point it was almost unbelievable, in contrast to the prior situation.

Some weaknesses remained, but they were minor and largely due to the great problem of casting a host of speaking parts from amateur volunteer performers.

The question will continue: Which drama is the best, Bob Osborne's "Then Conquer We Must!", presented in 1951, or the subsequent show, Florette Henri's "The Sword of Gideon"? The Henri show, paramounting Woodman McDermott as the hero, is more palatable to some than the Osborne show, which gives the leads to Col. Ferguson and his mistress Virginia. But the Osborne show has plenty of pace, drama, and spicing moments.

Low bows for excellent performance this year are due Susan Moss, a very convincing Sally, Dr. Phillip Padgett, at home as ever in his Billy Rover role, Gene Mauney, master of the intricate Indian hoop dance, Mrs. Moffatt Ware, as Widow Smith, and young Gilbert McKelvie, a very excellent whiskey-measuring brave His-Mouth-Stretches. Meek Carpenter again played effectively the Whittacre villain role and Bill Briggs was the top performer among the colonial officers as Col. William Campbell.

Drace Peeler was a believable Charles McDowell, and his brother, B. S. Peeler, Jr., portrayed well Col. Vickers.

But praise is in order for each member of the cast and the hard-working technical and business staff, all of whom worked many long hours before and after performances to present an unusually good show.

What about next year?

Publisher James Atkins, of the Gastonia Gazette, long-time booster of the Kings Mountain historical shrine, offered the hope that the Little Theatre would be able to expand its offering next year, both in length of season and number of shows weekly.

This suggestion the Little Theatre would like to adopt, but is faced with virtual impossibility of increasing the run in either direction via the volunteer format. Expansion will require some payment of cast and technical staff. Thus far, there hasn't even been any remuneration for travel expenses between amphitheatre and residence, not to mention payment for time.

With the historical inheritance Kings Mountain possesses, and the background of four years of success as a short-run production, it would seem that expansion of the 1955 showing would also be a sure bet for success.

Second on the list of work for 1955 immediately behind obtaining financial support, should be immediate efforts to obtain backed, comfortable seats for the amphitheatre. In time a slat gets hard, no matter the quality of the performance.

An official welcome home is in order to the 53 East Kings Mountain residences, who, in spite of geography, have been using Bessemer City addresses for a half century.

Mr. Abbott

News of last week that L. E. Abbott had accepted the position of president-cashier of a new bank at Gaffney, S. C., was in the category of bad news for Kings Mountain, good news for our neighboring city to the South.

During seven seemingly short years in Kings Mountain, the Darlington S. C., native has been a prominent figure in the commercial, religious, civic, social and cultural life of the community.

He was a man willing to work in non-paying, eleemosynary efforts and he was called frequently to these tasks. Unlike some, Mr. Abbott was not content to accept the title and forget the work department. He never turned in a botchy job.

His new position, which he will assume October 15, is, of course, a promotion, and his many Kings Mountain friends will wish him well in it.

Debt Ceiling Up

The Senate relented and voted to allow the Nation's debt ceiling to go up by six billion dollars, but it's supposed to come down again next June 30, seemingly a mere stay of judgment day unless the economy re-booms and current year's tax receipts exceed the most rosy predictions.

At any rate, the result is an improvement over past regular increments in the debt ceiling and a partial victory at least for economy-minded Senator Byrd, of Virginia. Senator Byrd follows the old-fashioned theory that the shorter the wallet the less the spending and his theory is as applicable to government as to individuals.

Even usually conservative North Carolina needs a little of the Byrd influence. Much conversation is extant on the decline of revenues and the need for new taxes, with little emphasis having been given to tightening the belt on departmental spending, and other routes toward savings.

Congratulations to the city board of commissioners on decision to seek standardization of tax discount policy with other governmental units of the county. The variance has been confusing to the public and productive of costly excess work in the tax office. One year recently, a board cut the tax rate after many pre-payments had been received, resulting in numerous refund checks ranging from a few cents to a few dollars. Even this year with no rate change after the pre-payment period, the tax office had to issue a temporary receipt, later will mail the official receipts when they are prepared. The change is important in another respect. With pre-payments delayed two months, it will be highly incumbent on future boards of commissioners to live within their budgets. The June pre-payment mechanism was originally designed to tide over municipal and county deficit financing. The present administration recognized this factor when it passed the resolution to seek change.

Among the city's major needs is a great amount of curb-and-gutter and sidewalk work. Sidewalk installations are a contribution to pedestrian safety and a convenience as well, and curb-and-gutter installations would result in great savings in street maintenance. Another matter the city should consider is adoption of an ordinance to require new developments to lay off streets at a minimum width of 50 feet, ten feet wider than the presently required minimum. It is near impossible for two moving cars to pass safely when parked vehicles are on both sides of a street, with the exception of the few wide thoroughfares, King street, Mountain street, and Battleground avenue, and even these get "squeezey."

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

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

The Herald's missing file gap was shortened by one last week, when Assistant Postmaster George Hord brought us the edition of May 9, 1929, uncovered at the postoffice by Yates Gordon in the process of cleaning up some old stuff.

We are really glad to get these old papers, for each one contains valuable Kings Mountain history.

The May 9, 1929, issue is no exception, recording the results of the 1929 municipal election, receipt of bids for building East and Park Grace schools, the demise of the Kings Mountain Times, and the resignation of Rev. W. N. Cook as pastor of Second Baptist church.

The late Wiley McGinnis had been re-elected mayor in what the Herald termed a light vote, and the five successful commissioners among 14 candidates were W. P. Fulton, J. A. Neisler, G. D. Hambricht, E. W. Griffin and J. Raymond Cline, later Sheriff. It was a sweepstakes affair with the high running five the winners. Among the 29 losers were W. K. Mauney, later mayor and many times a commissioner, and J. B. Thomasson, later mayor.

Park Grace and East schools were to cost \$25,000 each, a sample of the difference in construction prices, now and then. The \$34,000 to go to Park Grace from the recent county-wide bond issue will not in any way be sufficient to duplicate the plant built 25 years ago, for example.

The story on the demise of the Kings Mountain Times, which had been operated for several months by Curtis Russ and Ernest Phillips out of the leavings of several different ventures, adds some detail to the city's journalistic history and makes the definitive statement that the Herald had been published continuously since 1889, though up to 1903 under a changing series of names. I had frankly been a little suspicious of the Herald's claim to an 1889 birthday and am glad to get the confirmation.

May 1929, of course, found the Great Depression already well underway in the South, six months before the October stock market crash. As noted in the Herald before, Mr. Russ is now the prosperous and able general manager of the Waynesville Mountaineer, and Mr. Phillips is a successful Washington, D. C., citizen.

The late Editor G. G. Page commented on the financial situation to view the future optimistically and wrote "Let everybody pull for Kings Mountain and for one another and watch everything come around all right." But there were some mighty bitter days ahead before an upturn came. Even the Herald spent a few months in receivership, though not under the Page management.

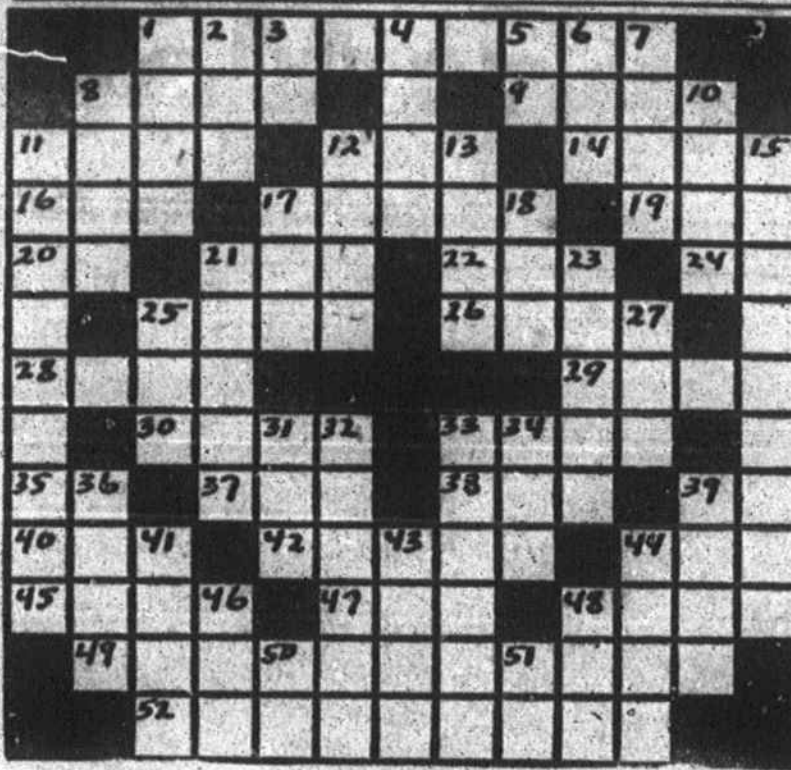
Crime claimed some May 9, 1929, headlines, too. Rafe King was free under \$5,000 bond. Young Jake Vanderburg, accused of murder and arson in Gaston county, had been freed by the jury. Plunk Brothers had suffered a \$300 robbery, and Editor Page and his wife had just returned from Big Stone Gap, Va., where they had been key witnesses in convicting a car thief. The culprit had stolen the Page Essex. Gene Matthews says the thief was nice, leaving an old run-down Chevy near the scene of the theft.

On May 9, 1929, Mr. Page was waxing very eloquent, in his personal column on a subject currently in the news, it was cigarette smoking. He wished, he wrote, it was a hinging crime to put pictures of women on billboards which showed the women puffing on a cigarette. Mr. Page further noted that the Herald had stacked in the corner big, money-filled advertising plates from the cigarette manufacturers, but that they would never be published in any newspaper of his. And, he added, he needed the money because he'd recently turned away a friendly suit salesman because he couldn't afford the new suit.

If any of our readers find more Herald's issued prior to 1913 or between 1925-34, we'd appreciate getting them.

Ben Goforth, Sr., the former Hudson (now Dodge Plymouth) salesman, revealed that a mono-meter, standard equipment on the 1926 Hudson (referred to in a recent old-column) was actually a temperature gauge. Unlike the present ones, which shine out

CROSSWORD By A. C. Gordon



- ACROSS**
- 1—Help for the "do it yourself" handyman (two wds.)
 - 2—Decorative tree
 - 3—Gardener's necessity
 - 11—Bicycle wheel-lack-caster
 - 12—Pineapple fuel
 - 14—Kind of grass
 - 15—Personal check guest
 - 17—Popular gun for rings
 - 19—Weather
 - 20—reference to
 - 21—Total
 - 22—Girl's name
 - 24—Chemical symbol for alcohol
 - 25—Musical instrument
 - 26—Skin eruption
 - 28—Laudatory implement
 - 29—Where the heart is
 - 30—Paradise
 - 31—Garden product
 - 33—Period of time (abbr.)
 - 37—Observe
- DOWN**
- 1—Liquid measure
 - 2—Unit
 - 3—Famous
 - 4—Area in the home
 - 5—Either
 - 6—Wacey propeller
 - 7—A claim against the home
 - 8—You can see through this in any home
 - 9—Classical element used in advertising
 - 10—Closes over, around the home
 - 11—Shoes lighter-upper
 - 12—Perched wheel
 - 13—Yard thoroughfare
 - 14—Motorist
 - 15—Smooths those floors
 - 16—Pinnacle refuse
 - 17—Gardener's tool
 - 18—Descriptive of a freshly-cooked meal
 - 19—Lamprey
 - 20—Edge of a hill
 - 21—Sea snail
 - 22—Hits smartly
 - 23—Fry's fishbone (pl.)
 - 24—Fry's fishbone (pl.)
 - 25—Main meal course
 - 26—Literary composition
 - 27—Green stuff
 - 28—Boyish language
 - 29—Freaking Elder (abbr.)
 - 30—Act

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

Viewpoints of Other Editors

CONFIDENCE PAYS DIVIDENDS

When you hear a local merchant say that business may be a little off this year, but he expects to do more than ever before, you sit up and take notice. He may or may not, but anyway, you admire his confidence. Nothing succeeds more than success.

When the townwide trade event in Brevard was on last week end, those little buttons the sales people were wearing which said, "Business Is Better," seemed to give a "shot in the arm."

Yes, hearing a merchant say that he expects to do more business is an example of a confident and aggressive attitude that is becoming prevalent throughout the retail trade.

If a retailer feels that he can do a little better job of attracting the public than the store down the street and if he goes about it in the right way, his sales will prove it.

The public interest in such an attitude is clear. The only way any retailer can do more business in these highly competitive times is to offer lower prices, or better qualities, or more attractive services, or some other inducement — and to advertise these attractions, and deliver them as promised. That means that we, the consumers, get the best possible return for what we spend at retail.

Going farther, retailers have faith in this country. They aren't scared by recession talk. They, like other businesses and industries, are spending huge sums on improvement and modernization. That augurs well for the nation's future. — *Transylvania Times*

WHAT'S A PENNY?

The alleged story out of Waco, Neb., is about an alleged filling station operator who dropped a penny here and there around his place to see the results. Older folks bent over and picked them up. Youngsters didn't bother — sometimes they even kicked the coins in disgust.

It's easier to believe the reaction than the story. But assuming both are true the explanation is simple. Youngsters — and we assume that includes those from seven to 15 — have been reared in a different atmosphere. A penny saved is a penny earned is no longer written in blackboards. It isn't talked at home. The talk: "Might as well spend it, or the government will get it."

And what's a penny? Very little — except those same youngsters will have to pay for the profligacy of the period when they were young.

Some day they will go to work and look back in the lusty past and realize why the old folks bent over. — *Dallas News*

SARGE'S FAULT

A Harnett GI returned from the "hitch" with a story about a sergeant in his outfit. The sergeant was inclined to be a bit sarcastic at times, and once when he was drilling a bunch of recruits he noticed a rookie out of step. Edging up to the newcomer he blazed out:

"Have you noticed that every body is out of step except you?"

"OLE DEBBIL" MIDDLEMAN

It's just a little hard to remember when Congress was not investigating the middleman. And the premise for the investigations has always been the same; that the middleman was bilking the producer of food at one end and the consumer of food at the other.

In a dispatch from Washington to this newspaper's issue of yesterday Mr. Tanzer informs us that tradition is about to be honored again. A Senate committee says that in the last three years prices paid to farmers have dropped by twenty percent while prices charged consumers have dropped little if any. So the "ole debbil" — the middleman — is about to get another going over.

Well, perhaps some middlemen have been making profits. That alone will put them under suspicion. But they have also been paying higher labor costs and higher costs for their plant and machinery to say nothing of higher taxes, all of which must add to the prices they charge.

Perhaps more important is the fact that the consumer is constantly adding to the services that he requires from the middleman.

There was a time when the farmer brought some old hens, to the local butcher and the butcher sold them to the customer. The customer took a fowl home, cleaned it, pulled the pin feathers, washed it, and altogether spent a good deal of time preparing it for the oven or frying pan. Those who could afford one turned such jobs over to the cook.

Now the customer goes to the store and buys a chicken which is already cut up and quick frozen in a package. Or perhaps the customer buys the pieces of fowl already cooked so that they need only to be heated. The customer in this case might have been a lady who had spent her day working in an office and had no time to prepare a fowl after the fashion of her mother or grandmother. Or she may have been a lady with leisure who did not propose to spend that leisure scrubbing a chicken.

Time was when a farmer hauled a few bushels of apples to the grocer. The grocer put them on display — with the good ones on top. Those under the top were frequently not such good apples and a grocer who tried to sell them to a customer today would probably lose the customer. Instead the customer demands apples of uniformly good appearance, each neatly wrapped in tissue paper.

And so it goes. The crackers no longer come in a barrel but in an airtight and dirt-proof packages. The molasses comes in cans and not from a piggot about which the flies cluster.

The increasing services that the consumer demands from the middleman and processor must be paid for by the consumer. But the consumer is willing they give him food of better quality and higher nutritive value.

We suspect that the consumer will continue in that frame of mind despite the findings of the Senate investigators. — *Wall Street Journal*

There were 17 million chicks placed with broiler growers in the central-western North Carolina commercial broiler areas during the week ended July 31, compared with 12 million a week earlier.

Put your best looks forward!

You'll always appear to your best advantage when your clothes are skillfully dry-cleaned by our thorough (but gentle) methods. Colors retain that like-new sparkle and depth... all of the original richness of the texture is preserved. The result looks so much like brand-new clothes that only your budget can tell the difference! Salute Fall with a completely renewed and refreshed wardrobe. Look like a million.

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10 YEARS AGO Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events THIS WEEK taken from the 1944 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

In a statement issued yesterday by Postmaster W. E. Blakely, Christmas packages to soldiers and sailors overseas will be mailed earlier this year than in past years as the dates are the same for the Army and Navy — September 15 to October 15.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL
Miss Alleene Hambricht, of Charlotte, is spending her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Hambricht, of Pfc. Odus F. Weaver, who is stationed at Homestead, Fla., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. O. Weaver.

T/Sgt. Cecil Crook and Mrs. Crook arrived Tuesday from Ft. Myers, Fla., for a visit with relatives and friends in Kings Mountain and Shelby.
Byron Keeter returned last week from a business trip to New York and Baltimore.