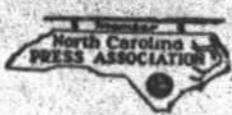




# The Kings Mountain Herald

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

A man's pride shall bring him low; but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit, Proverbs 29:23.

### Political Notes

In two occurrences, the Republican party, fighting hard to retain control of the United States Congress and in danger of losing both branches, had hard sailing during the past week.

Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson, with a major political appeal scheduled for Chicago, found himself in the role of apologist for his own inadvertent remarks comparing habits of bird dogs and kennel-fed dogs.

Then over the weekend Congressman Stringfellow, of Utah, admitted he had traveled under false colors for several years. He had sustained permanent injuries when hit by an exploding land mine, not as a cloak-and-dagger, behind-the-enemy lines operator. This development must have caused embarrassment in many quarters, including the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, which last year named Stringfellow one of the nation's ten young men of the year.

Secretary Wilson did apologize, and profusely, for his politically inept remarks, and Congressman Stringfellow, after a temporary attempt to run out his bluff, went on the radio and confessed all.

That both incidents will have material effect on the campaign at hand can hardly be denied, with the effect in favor of the Democrat "outs". As happens in situations of the kind, both incidents, by the nature of the political situation and the time of their occurrence, were played out of proportion to their normal importance.

Secretary Wilson, who worked his way to the top as president of General Motors, is naturally a man of considerable self-reliance, and though he has yet to learn that running a politically involved job is quite different from running a private business, even one as big as General Motors, he remains still an able and hard-working Secretary of Defense, who has not allowed the Pentagon brass to have a field day in the department.

And the plight of Congressman Stringfellow has elicited the sympathy of many people over the nation. While none will condone the subterfuge, all will recognize the human weaknesses involved in the paraplegic's willingness to be a little more than what he actually was.

To err is human, to forgive divine.

### Absentees No Good

North Carolina would do well to take the absentee voting privilege off its law books.

Recent revelations of skulduggery in Graham county, where absentees were reported being sold as high as \$85 each, is another sample in a continuing dossier of evidence that the bad features of absentee vote and its concurrent temptations outweigh the good aims of allowing the ill and the away-from-home the privilege of the ballot.

One newspaper remarked that paying \$85 for one vote sounded pretty exaggerated, and all will be quick to agree, but the fact of sale does most likely exist and not only in Graham county. There are other abuses, too, where the party in control of the election machinery practices chicanery.

It may be possible for the General Assembly to enact a law sufficiently tight to eliminate the malpractices, but the odds are against it.

If you haven't cleaned out your attic yet, do it, and give the used clothing to the Lions club committee which is getting ready for the 1954 sale of used wearables to be conducted jointly with the Woman's Club.

Hurricane Hazel wreaked terrible damage. Already the weather experts, whose service saved untold lives in the terrible blow, have tagged the next one with the name "Irene". All hope she will be dry in coming and less lusty in her actions.

## 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.

Members of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club will be hosts to the city school teachers this evening at 7 o'clock at the Woman's club.

Stockholders of the Kings Mountain County club met last Friday night at City Hall and elected club directors for the coming year.

Captain P. G. Padgett was recently awarded the Silver Star, third highest of Army battle awards for gallantry in action. Capt. Padgett is a battalion surgeon serving with an Infantry regiment of the 36th "Texas" division fighting in France.

Mrs. Ben Phifer has returned from a visit with her daughter in New York City.

Byron Keeter returned Saturday from a business trip to Baltimore, Maryland.

## MARTIN'S MEDICINE

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

It might be stated that Kings Mountain evened the score with Rutherford County last Friday night, footballistically speaking, as the high school gridmen put a one-touchdown loss on powerful Rutherfordton. Spindale, pre-game favorite.

The victory momentarily knocked the losers out of a sure tie for the conference division championship and materially enhanced the Mountaineer chances of finishing in the top echelon. However, two great big tests remain in what is turning out to be one of Kings Mountain's toughest schedules in years. These are Belmont, two-touchdown victor over the aforementioned Rutherford team, and, ahem, the ever-present and looming Shelby.

But winning Friday night was a measure of revenge for the Forest City loss, only blemish on the Mountaineer record to date. As it happens in sports, the record books mean little, for Rutherfordton-Spindale had walloped Forest City earlier in the season.

Among last Friday night's interested spectators were Bill Dole and Chuck Clements, the Davidson College coaches, taking advantage of an open date for a busman's holiday and also a looksee at some youngsters who might help the Wildcat victory count in 1956 and subsequent years.

Coach Dole wanted to know how much Mearle Valentine weighed, both on the scales and bookwise. I asked if Davidson still is tough on the boys about their scholastic eligibility requirements and the grimacing grunt of a reply indicated that the crisp courses are somewhat limited at the Presbyterian institution. Coach Dole thought of both teams looked good, watched Ken Cook, the tackle with the talented place-kicking toe, and was surprised to learn George Harris was only a high school junior. He also kept his eyes on Arnold Isaac, a Rutherfordton halfback.

Grandstand quarterbacks Paul McGinnis, Hilton Ruth, and Carl Mauney were in the Dole-Clements vicinity and matched play—calling wits. When George Harris kicked out on the two-yard line late in the fourth quarter, Dole had said he would use a fourth-down pass. The ball was on the 28-yard line and Dole reasoned that the kick would probably hit the end zone, for a mere eight-yard improvement in real estate. But the Harris kick eyes on Arnold Isaac, a Rutherfordton halfback.

Athletic ability has been the means of many a youngster's acquiring a college diploma, the national mania for sports competition of all kinds making it imperative that colleges field good teams. Davidson, of course, is right in making the athletes get their proper share of book-learning, for a 35-year-old athlete is an old man, from the standpoint of future great deeds in the nation's stadia. There will probably be continuous and continuing anti-subsidization movements through the years, but as long as Americans love a winner, there will continue to be scholarship programs, college Touchdown clubs, Educational Foundations, and other organizations devoted to helping sleek backs and rugged tackles work their way through college. And work it is.

Dotted notes: From the hand of Mrs. Baxter Payseur comes the note that Dr. Henry C. Sprinkle, Jr., the former pastor of Central Methodist church and editor of "World Outlook", is on a four-month trip to India and other points in the Far East. Mrs. Sprinkle and Mrs. Charlie Jordan, wife of the Duke university public relations director, are accompanying the minister-editor. It reminds that I last saw Dr. Sprinkle in a navy chow line, Norfolk, Va., 1942, while Dr. Sprinkle was a navy chaplain.

P. C. Cochran, the contractor, says road-building contracts are being bid at unusually low figures. Some, he thinks, are sufficiently low to endanger the financial standing of some of the successful bidders. June Cloninger, a dyed-in-the-wool baseball fan, remarked on leaving the football field last Friday night, "These boys are gonna make a football fan of me yet."

Toby Williams, the veteran mink man at the football games, didn't sound like himself Friday night and I was about to conclude that the weather change wrought by Hurricane Hazel was the reason for Toby's new clarity until I learned the amplifiers had been re-worked. Speaking of Hazel, she was quite a gal. Several local people were concerned about trends and properties in the area. Among Rutherford fans here

## IDEALS TO LIVE BY



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### Viewpoints of Other Editors

#### THE MESS IN GRAHAM COUNTY

Our reaction to the Graham County mess can be stated in a short exclamatory sentence: Repeal the absentee ballot law!

Secretary of State Thad Eure charged that absentee ballots were selling in Graham County as high as \$85 a ballot. The sale of ballots was set in motion by the heat of a sheriff contest, we are told.

The immediate step that ought to be taken is full investigation of the charge and punishment of any persons found guilty of trafficking in ballots. The State's attorney general already has moved. He has ordered the State Bureau of Investigation to dig to the bottom of the Graham County mess. Well and good.

But North Carolina shouldn't stop with an SBI investigation even if it is followed by convictions of guilty persons. The State Legislature, to preserve the integrity of elections, needs to carry the election reform of 1939 a step further. That is, the abolition of absentee voting in primaries ought to be extended to general elections.

"Repeal the absentee ballot law!" we exclaimed at the beginning of this piece. Well, we're willing to settle for something like the system that applies to primaries. Under the 1939 law, no absentee voting is permitted in a primary except by men and women in the armed services. Perhaps a bed-ridden sick person should have the right to vote absentee provided the "bed-riddenness" is certified by a physician. But in general what the State needs is repeal of the absentee voting.

And let there be no exception to the state-wide rule. Graham County holds elections under a special act which permits anyone who may be unable to vote at the polls on election day to cast an absentee ballot.

The Charlotte News made an interesting little study of the effect of the special act for Graham County. The News noted that through October 7 the Graham elections board had delivered 342 ballots to civilians and 84 to members of the armed services. Graham County is a small mountain county (the 1950 population was less than 7,000). The total vote in Graham County in 1952 was 2,970. The News constricted Graham with populous Mecklenburg, which cast 77,388 votes in the 1952 general election. Through October 7, the Mecklenburg Board of Elections had issued only 40 absentee ballots including those issued to persons in the armed forces. The relatively high number of absentee ballots issued in Graham County isn't conclusive evidence of election abuse, but it's suggestive.

Doubtless there would be less chance of abuse in Graham County if that county were not permitted to hold elections under a special act which isn't as tightly drawn as the state-wide law. But the experience of North Carolina has shown that the surest way to safeguard the state's elections—general as well as primary—would be to abolish absentee voting, except by service men and women and perhaps by the bed-ridden. — *Smithfield Herald*.

#### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

What is a totalitarian state? A totalitarian state is one where everything is compulsory that is not forbidden. — *Paris Fourquoi-Pas*

#### TODAY'S SCHOOL TEACHER

What teachers need to make a success of their efforts is skill and enthusiasm in selling their product: Education. That's what new recruits to the teaching corps of New Orleans public schools were told in an orientation conference.

Today's successful pedagogue is many persons:

A super-salesman who can convince that school work is worthwhile, absorbing fun.  
A cowboy who can lasso pupils' wandering thoughts and get them back inside the classroom corral.  
A soldier who can repulse aggressions of space men and comic books.  
An athlete fast enough to be several hops, skips and jumps ahead of agile juvenile minds.  
All of these plus a modern job, a diplomat, a scientist and, of course, a scholar.  
And a banker, too, for entrusted to them is the community's prized possession, its youth. — *New Orleans States*.

#### MUD FLATS IN GREENSBORO

The Greensboro Daily News on Friday published a big, impressive and disturbing picture of the mud flats left by low water in Brandt Lake, a chief source of its water supply.

Last year Raleigh reservoirs were in a similar, alarming condition.

Undoubtedly these recurring problems of cities short of water are local conditions. They emphasize, however, that North Carolina as a developing State has no greater business than the careful development of all its water resources.

Shortages in city after city and year after year emphasize the need for effective State leadership in the development of adequate water supply throughout the State. No one other resource today is so important in the continuing development of the State. — *Raleigh News and Observer*.

#### IT'S A CRIME

Most married men, we suppose, shared our interest in a news item which appeared a few days ago and told how a judge had ruled that it is a crime for a wife to sneak ("steal") money out of her husband's pockets.

We're just curious. What little money there is around our house seems to be under the wife's control. The same appears to be true in most of the households we frequent. This must have been a strong man who haled his wife into court.

The unspoken (and unquestioned) agreement about money in our home was dramatized one Sunday morning recently when we noticed some currency scattered around on a dresser top. "Sugar," we inquired politely, "is this your money—or ours?"

Other arrangements seem to lead to litigation. — *Sanford Herald*.

#### PROOF OF THE DROUGHT

A couple of Oxford men were having lunch in a Georgia cafe last Friday after visiting the tobacco market in the town.

One inquired of a patrolman, seated at the counter next to him, how low in Georgia the drought-stricken area went.

"All the way to Florida," the officer replied, "It has really been dry down here." To clinch his claim, he said a friend had the day before caught a four-pound bass which had never learned to swim. "Not enough water," he said. — *Oxford Public Ledger*.

Swine researchers have come up with the theory that the reason pigs bite off each other's tails when crowded together is that they are bored. Perhaps this is why some road hogs crowd folks from behind on the highway. — *Memphis Press-Scimitar*.

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