

The Kings Mountain Herald

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

A wrathful man stirreth up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. Proverbs 15:18.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By Martin Harmon

Ingredients: bits of news, wisdom, humor, and comment. Directions: Take weekly, if possible, but avoid over-dosage.

Easter is past and spring seems to have come. In fact, it arrived two days before Easter, giving a large boost to apparel sales in the final pre-Easter whole Easter weekend of the gloom, and providing the glorious sunshine it deserves. The air, in the morning, had its customary Easter nip and bite.

Did the bright weather cause any last-minute Easter parade fashion problems? Unquestionably it did, as a conversation between two ladyfolk I overheard indicated.

One said she hoped it would be chilly (so that she would be well-dressed in her new spring coat). The other hoped it would be warm (she hadn't invested in coat, but in gay Easter-season frock). I believe the children were the best-dressed ever, the little girls with their gay bonnets and the little boys with their grown-up looking suits and sports outfits.

It's a good thing the ladyfolk are interested in the fashion business. If they weren't the youngsters wouldn't look so cute, nor the ladyfolk, and many men would continue wearing a suit until it dropped off.

Speaking of the weather reminds of John Smathers' memory on Easter of 1948: John was ushering at a church in Charlotte and during the service, as John relates, snow started falling "out of nowhere." When the preacher had benedicted, the churchgoers had the surprise of their lives. By this time, the snow was peppering heavily, and the finely dressed folk wore looks of dismay and chargin as they emerged from the church. John didn't tell me the date of Easter that year and I haven't researched for it. But I remember a snow in 1936 on March 31. And it was a big snow, too.

But with April here and Easter past King Winter should be gone on his annual summer trip. Now all can settle down to the pastimes of spring, which would include baseball, more time on the golf course, school finales of one kind and another, and, of course, spring fever. I've already been afflicted a time or two and if it comes again I'll have to break out the sulphur-and-lasses.

Spring seems a particularly nice season of the year for a drive through the community's growing residential areas and I usually make it about this time every year. Continually, it is amazing to see the quick upspringing of new residences. Drive out by the golf course, on Edgemont Drive, or tour Crescent Hill, or the former Whitesides property in East Kings Mountain. Some homes are brand new, with plenty of yard work in store for the men of the houses; others, in that condition last year, now sport green lawns and burgeoning flowers and shrubs. Another spot that is going to look good when landscaping work begins to show results is the Gantt-Crawford Belvedere Heights.

Bulldozer operators, masons and carpenters can work wonders in a short period of time.

Spring notes: Among the prettiest sights in the community is the E. W. Griffin residence with its many blooming flowers and trees, which reminds there's nothing to improve a community as much as the high caliber residences and concurrent landscaping . . . hurrah for the power mower . . . with the demise of winter, the budget gets a little freer, as utility bills drop and fuel bills evaporate . . . Oilman Grady Patterson and Coalman Ted Weir were crying on each other's shoulders the other day in this vein: "Sold anything today?" Ted asked of Grady. "Not much," was the reply. "I think 25 gallons of oil and we had to deliver that. You're lucky. You don't deliver bags of coal." Ted agreed he hadn't sold much either, but added, "Oh, yes. We deliver the coal in bags."

Getting a dollar's worth of haircut the other day from G. L. Wright, I was intrigued by his question about what kind of tonic to use. "Will it be Rob-in Hood?" I'd never heard of Rob-in Hood, and G. L. Explained this one is the current favorite of the small fry who are switching allegiance from another brand known as Davy Crockett or some other television program favorite. "If they're under eight years old they gotta have some tonic and it looks like Rob-in Hood is running ahead," G. L. continued.

Poor Davy's star has set. Roomed by television, newspaper serials, and novelties, Davy went to the top fast, too fast for some, including the movie-



Viewpoints of Other Editors

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT PRACTICALLY ABOLISHED

In a quiet way North Carolina has practically abolished capital punishment. The change came about through three legislative amendments over a period of 12 years.

By two amendments mandatory death sentences have been removed for convictions in crimes of burglary, arson, murder and rape. A third amendment allows a defendant to plead guilty of first degree in a capital case. If the State accepts the plea, the sentence is automatically life imprisonment.

These changes in capital punishment laws represent as much a triumph for the gradual approach as they do an advance into a more civilized life. In fact, we wonder how much progress there would have been if the question had been made a great issue.

Capital punishment is an emotion-laden term. If the question had put on an "all-or-nothing" basis and lines were tightly drawn, the situation might have so strongly aroused opposition that the first step forward could never have been taken.

Although new laws have all but left the gas chamber idle—executions have fallen from 23 in 1947 to only one in the last two years—capital punishment has not been abolished. There are, as Judge Don Phillips says, enough teeth in the law to deal with "horrible" crimes.

Even so, we have never believed that capital punishment has acted as a deterrent to crime, either today or in the past. Lecky in his History of European Morals tells of the hanging of pickpockets on the island of Great Britain so they could ply their trade while the crowd watched the gallows. Evidence in other countries and in other eras casts doubt on the theory that the threat of capital punishment serves as a restraint on criminals.

North Carolina is doubtless moving toward the day of no capital punishment. In the process of reaching that goal it has proved that the moderate approach to problems is oftentimes the best. — Greensboro Daily News

"GIVE-AWAY A GIVE-AWAY"

Everyone read this week that President Eisenhower wants more money for foreign governments. In a word he says that we must be ready to outbid Russia to aid these foreign countries whose support they are seeking. We said it under Roosevelt and Truman and we repeat again under Eisenhower that we don't think you can buy friendship by giving money to Governments who seem to change leadership everytime America sends them a check.

The "Foreign Aid" or "Give-Away" program was very unpopular under President Truman. The newspapers, in the majority would come out editorially in hot blasts every time that Mr. Truman asked for more money. Where are those blasts today? It's the same program but with only one change and that is there is a different President asking for it.

Those who are against so much Foreign aid only say now—"President Eisenhower is being ill-advised." We think that same thing and we had the same thoughts about President Truman. Our contention was that President Truman should have swept this ill-advice away and we think the same thing about the present administration.

Would it not be better if we have to buy the friendship of the world if we just ask each country one question and that is . . . "How much will your friendship cost us?" Then when we receive the answer just give them the money and close the transaction. Everyone knows that insurance companies make money by settling with clients, whom they call friends, in a lump sum instead of dealing them out cash by the month.

So let us take a lesson and settle with these countries with a lump-sum check. But for heavens sake let us not pacify them by allowing all their manufactured products to flow freely into the country like the Japanese textiles are doing today.—Belmont Banner

DEATH'S BY-PASS

What's causing the many fatal accidents on the new stretch of U. S. Highway 29 which bypasses Kings Mountain?

This road was opened only last October, yet six persons have been killed on it. Four others died in an accident before the seven-mile stretch was opened.

That's a total of 10 fatalities in about seven months.

But don't be too hasty to blame it on highway construction. The four who died before the bypass was opened did so because of racing on the newly-grated highway.

A motorcyclist was the next victim.

A collision took the life of number six. Then four persons were killed in a head-on crash March 12. This wreck occurred on a rainy night when visibility was poor.

The highway patrol believes that the majority and perhaps all of these people lost their lives because of driver carelessness.

It all gets back to the fact that we can blame the roads and weather conditions all we want too, but the ever-recurring truth is that carelessness or recklessness, or both, which cause most deaths on the highways. — Gaston Citizen

HIGH-PRICED INDIGESTION

The most unfathomable creation of the political factory in our times is the \$100 a plate dinner. Most individuals with any respect at all for their stomachs, consideration for their home lives, or a decent taste in entertainment will shy away from all public banquets of any nature whatsoever, excepting only those for which their business or conscience obligates them. The food is at best mediocre in comparison with the home table, and more often abominable; the social amenities are stilted and artificial, and the speeches—great honk, the speeches!—are either strings of wisecracks by professional pokesmiths or flat dissertations on the state of the world that curdle the ham and pumpkin pie.

A person who would pay \$100 to subject himself to such an evening is either a dedicated soul or a lamb who would follow any sheep that said "Baa!"

If memory serves, the Democrats, riding the boom of \$2 wheat and pie in the sky, inaugurated this political pot with a \$25 dinner, which later advanced to \$50, \$75 and \$100. The Republicans promptly countered with 50-cent chicken box rallies which were effective propaganda. Now that the outs are in, the Republicans are shelling out the \$100, and the Democrats sneering on the sidelines.

It isn't the politics of the thing but the asinity that prompts these remarks. Even if Marie Antoinette were baking the cake, to pay \$100 for a meal and some speeches is a fine example of insulting the human body.—Garden City (Kan.) Daily Telegram

makers: By the time the movie was released Davy was passe. An ad in a paper recently read, "Davy Crockett T-shirts, formerly \$1, now 3 for \$1." Success, she flees.

Hospital Auxiliaries

Serious effort is being made to organize four groups of women's auxiliaries to aid the operation of Cleveland County's two hospitals.

Separate units are being formed, which means that Kings Mountain area citizens will be asked to give volunteer time only at Kings Mountain hospital.

Some may be inclined to ask "Why, auxiliaries?"

The reasons are many, but not the least among them is the increasing high cost of operating a hospital. Hospital administrators the nation over are plagued with rising costs for everything they buy, every person they employ. It means that, unless some volunteer aid is obtained, the costs of hospitalization must also rise.

Needless to say, these costs already seem pretty high to the person faced with a bill and there's a why to that, too. Some people are unable to afford the cost of hospitalization, yet that does not alter the fact of their illness. The result is shown graphically in the 1955 operating statement of Kings Mountain hospital. Of a gross business of something over \$200,000, Kings Mountain hospital had to show \$56,000, or about 25 percent, as uncollectible and chargeable to charity care.

An afternoon per week at a local hospital, multiplied by numerous volunteers, can do much to keep hospital costs from soaring, in addition to adding considerably to well-being of patients, plus community awareness of the vital services a hospital provides.

All Fouled Up

H. B. Godfrey, the state ASC administrator, borrowed armed service lingo to describe the presently serviced 1956 federal farm bill about to be passed by Congress. Mr. Godfrey, who has been connected with the agricultural red tape since Henry Wallace ordered the pigs slain, termed the bill "all fouled up."

He was correct in his assessment of the reason. It's an election year and everyone wants to get in the act. Thus the conference committee considering the election-year farm bill is straining at every point to be all things unto all men. Effort is being made to please the cotton man of the South and West, the grain grower of the Mid-West, the tobacco man of the South, the peanut grower, etc. It now appears that the bill will retain 90 percent of parity for basic crops and also include the new provisions for "soil bank," where Uncle Sam will pay, and well, for a farmer's agreement not to plant particular allotments. Another provision will encourage the farmer's becoming a timber grower, with an annual payment for acreage used, plus 80 percent payment of the cost of planting seedlings.

It sounds like a pretty good giveaway, all in all, if a farmer has enough acreage and enough allotments of the restricted crops. If cotton pay-offs for not producing are set at \$50 per acre some plantation owners could do very nicely by not planting. All they'd have to worry about would be their income taxes for the next year.

The tree business doesn't sound too bad, though many farmers will be reluctant to tie up their acreage on long-term contracts. After all, the situation could change. There could be another war.

What President Eisenhower will do—veto or sign reluctantly—is not known. As some have pointed out, he could veto and hope Congress, in the press of other business and election-year strain, would return him nothing but the soil bank provisions. But the GOP is in trouble with the farm vote.

Of all the parity supported basic crops, cotton seems the safest to support. It does not deteriorate with age, does not get "hot" or invite bugs like wheat. The essential problem for cotton is storage.

Man has never done very well, though, in ignoring the basic laws of supply and demand, and it is doubtful this nation's hodge-podge farm bill, no matter in what form it is reported, will have much greater success.

Ides Of April

For the second consecutive year (and it is presumed Congress will leave it that way) the nation has to face the Ides of April or April 15, which is national tax report day, also state tax report day.

It used to be the Ides of March, which Julius Caesar was supposed to beware of and didn't, resulting in Caesar's death. Like the taxman after the taxpayer, Brutus and friends would probably have got Caesar anyway.

What has been the result of the month's stay of tax judgement? Does the month's respite really benefit?

Undoubtedly, the accountants are the happiest group involved, for there are more calendar year tax returns than fiscal year returns, which means majority of folk can't go to work on their tax returns until after December 31. The accountants get an extra 30 days to meet their deadlines.

But some don't like the change. Merchants, for instance, figured the late tax return date damped Easter-season business. Indeed, many Kings Mountain citizens owe the price of a suit or coat to the tax man down at Raleigh. And the average taxpayer himself, no whiz at bookkeeping merely used the extra 30 days to loaf and procrastinate.

At any rate the Ides of April are approaching, which means it's only 10 days 'til deadline time.

Congratulatory

The membership of Macedonia Baptist church is to be commended, and highly, not only on the attainment of a fine new church building (cost \$61,000, value \$125,000), but on the progress and growth of the church since its struggling beginning in late 1920.

It is interesting, too, that only one of the original charter members is still listed on the church roll. Many churches owe their progress to continued long-term interest and work by founding fathers. Yet Macedonia Baptist church is only 36 years old.

Macedonia has built a church with plenty of growing room. It is designed to handle twice the present membership.

The Herald joins the community in commending the members of this church and in hoping that it won't be too long until the church will again face a space problem, result of continued growth and progress.

10 YEARS AGO Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events
THIS WEEK taken from the 1946 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Members of the Kings Mountain Junior Chamber of Commerce will hold their charter night banquet at the Woman's club Friday night with some 125 members and guests expected to attend.

Kings Mountain high school musicians captured the lions share of high ratings at the district music contest held at Lincoln last Saturday as they brought back 6 of the 12 number one ratings awarded by the judges.

Social and Personal
Mrs. Hugh Hoke and son, Charles, of Lincoln, visited Mrs. Hoke's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Fulton Wednesday. Mrs. H. B. Jones had as her guest this week her mother, Mrs. Andy McCarter, of the Bethany community.

Mrs. Hulda Goforth, of Winston Salem, is visiting relatives here.

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GOT HIM PICKED OUT
I never hate anyone — but if I ever do, I've got the louse all picked out. — *Catskill Mountain (N. Y.) News*

HISTORICAL ITEM
Department store advertisements by no means are to be read only in search of bargains. They also yield information on manners and modes, and sometimes even on history, ancient history at that. Here are examples, encountered just the other day: Davy Crockett T-shirts, were \$1 now 3 for \$1. Davy Crockett caps, were \$1 to \$1.25, now 39 cents. Davy Crockett gun sets, were \$3.98, now \$1.49. Remember way back when . . .? — *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*