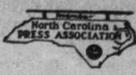




The Kings Mountain Herald

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

He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy spirit. 1 Thessalonians 4:8.

Saturday's Election

In May 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled illegal the "separate but equal" doctrine of the public schools.

It was a body-blow to the South which had been indulging itself, as Southerners are wont to do, in expensive sentimental luxuries for many years. It's a plain fact. Quantity production is cheaper, whether it be textiles, printing, or education.

Actually, it has been only in the past decade that the South became a full devotee of the "separate but equal" doctrine. North Carolina was a bit ahead of the field, as it customarily is in progressiveness, but North Carolina, as other Southern states, figured out the liberal Supreme Court attitude and attempted to head it.

Saturday North Carolinians will vote on a constitutional amendment concerning its public schools, and it is a serious decision. This amendment is very innocuous as it appears on the ballot, but not in text.

North Carolinians are voting a means to go out of the public school business, the state's Big Business No. 1, or, at least No. 2, and a business that has paid fat dividends. The reason is single: to circumvent the Supreme Court decision by living within the law, yet continuing segregated schools. None knows whether the amendment will have the desired result. The most ardent supporters acknowledge the adoption of the amendment "at worse" will buy two to three years time before school integration is effected.

It may work, but there would have to be many deaths of Supreme Court justices to insure it. Odds are that when the newly voted Constitutional amendment has been subjected to the Supreme Court's ruling, the result will be its illegality.

If the aforementioned paragraphs have indicated pro-integration, they are not.

The Herald feels the Pearsall Plan which amendment 1 at Saturday's election puts into effect) should be adopted.

North Carolina, as well as the majority of the South, is not ready for integration, particularly forced integration. Chapters and verses have been in evidence in the newspapers within the past week. There was the Clinton, Tennessee, violence, in a community where Negroes are only a handful of the population. There was the safe, sane (North Carolina brand) incident at Bryson City. There was last year's Old Fort incident, still in the courts and unsettled. Last weekend trouble flared in Texas.

A Kings Mountain merchant was reporting last weekend a conversation with a Negro citizen of Connecticut, formerly of Kings Mountain. "Those Yankees," the ex-patriated Kings Mountain Negro said, "talk integration. They don't treat us anyway near as man-to-

The Bethware Fair

The Bethware Community Fair opens next Wednesday for its ninth consecutive year.

A Number 4 Township event, it has improved each year and 1956 should find this community fair best ever. For the first time, cash awards to prize-winning exhibitors will accompany the blue, red and yellow ribbons.

It's a real family fair, with enough midway and youth-pleasing rides to excite the young, and a good offering of both agricultural and commercial exhibits.

Much work on the part of Bethware community citizens goes into this fair. Those who have visited this fair before will be going again. Those who haven't should.

With the Labor Day kick-off speeches by the two major candidates, the fall general election campaign is underway. Television fans of non-political bent can look forward to an interrupted autumn.

man and friendly as the Southerners do."

B. T. Falls, Jr., the Shelby legislator, made an interesting and logical talk to the Kings Mountain Lions club last week. His principal point was that the violent East (which would prefer and threatens to secede rather than integrate) controls the Senate and will kill public schools by refusing to appropriate money if integration is forced down the throats of North Carolinians. Mr. Falls' contention is pure speculation, but the Herald knows Easterners and believes Mr. Falls' speculation is correct.

Those who will vote against Amendment No. 1 Saturday include:

- 1) Teachers, professionals in an underpaid, yet proud trade, who don't like the idea of voting themselves out of jobs.
- 2) The Catholic church which, in the South, regards itself as a minority, and a bit tramped upon and formally favors desegregation.
- 3) Negroes following the tenets of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an extremist group, which—over the long pull—may have proved to have done its service to its people, but which in the short term, is a sensationalist, all-is-black-all-is-white, propaganda organization.
- 4) Citizens alarmed at the prospect of the state's voting itself out of the public school business.

The Pearsall Plan, embodied in Amendment 1 on Saturday, has caused the Herald much soul-searching and study. The "second-class citizen" alarm and the voting ourselves (possibly) out of the public school business have given heavy cause for antagonism.

But North Carolina is not ready to de-segregate. Even Republican Time Magazine has toned its immoderate approach, after Delaware's experience and others.

It is also an established fact that Supreme Court decrees have never changed mores, social custom, nor mass individual thinking. It is part of American thinking to decide that Chief Justice Warren, for instance, in spite of his regal robes, his prior popularity as a California politician, and his opinion on the matter of school desegregation, is essentially a man of reasonable integrity but woefully uninformed. That was polite. Many say he's just plain stupid and over political.

The Herald prefers the former judgment, but acknowledges the political aura.

The Herald is anti-violence. The Herald is pro-education, pro-better wages, for better sanitation, for better morale, for morality, for the Negro.

Saturday's voting is a time-buyer, as the proponents know and as some of them admit. On Saturday in adopting the Pearsall Plan, North Carolinians will buy time as insurance against emotional outbursts and violence.

Each year the Powell Bill refund check of gas monies to the city further shows the advantage of this plan to the State's municipalities, which formerly found themselves in the street building business, yet with no revenues to support it, other than ad valorem taxes. Kings Mountain's record 1956 share tops \$32,000. This is not a great amount of cash per se, yet it will build and/or maintain several streets. Based on 90 percent collection of ad valorem taxes, the \$32,000 check for 1956 approximates 40 cents per \$100 on the city tax rate.

Kings Mountain and Cleveland County citizens believe in keeping their tax bills as low as possible, as shown by the heavy pre-payments during August. It's still possible to discount these tax bills during September, though the rate drops to one percent.

Our congratulations to Campbell Phifer, veteran hardwareman, who is in his 51st year serving Kings Mountain as a Kings Mountain retailer.

days and chilly nights, fairs and ferris wheels, the World Series, political bombast and a nationwide general election.

m-m
I hear L. S. Stroupe, the druggist, waxed warm as well as red-faced recently when a group of pranksters wreaked havoc with a prescription sales promotion. I don't repeat this story for the absolute truth in all detail, but I believe my informants are close. Mr. Stroupe was pushing "scripts" by offering a pint of ice cream bonus on any prescription filled. But some of his neighbors, feeling strictly unsick but ice cream hungry, concocted a neat means of claiming the ice cream with no damage to the wallet. As I understand it, Bill Bennett, the insurance salesman, Sam Collins, the city commissioner, Fleete McCurdy, the dry cleaner, and Dan Weiss, who sells ladies ready-to-wear, held a conniving session with Dr. Kenneth McGill. Result was that Ken wrote out prescriptions for each calling for exactly one aspirin tablet.

m-m
Confronted with the 'scripts and also with copies of the ice cream proffer, L. S. reddened and scratched his head. But the best he could come up with was a muttering about the minimum price of ANY prescription one aspirin or otherwise—being a half-dollar. But these customers would have none of that and L. S. lived up to the letter of his offer.

m-m
Had a chat with Fred Finger last week, who was visiting his mother here. Fred, who works in New York, now lives at Ridgewood, N. J., a New York suburb of 15,000 souls. It is really a suburb, Fred says, as there is no industry. It is also known, Fred reports, as the city of trees. It's plain against the law too cut 'em in Ridgewood and Fred says electric utility and telephone lines bear a close resemblance to the emergency brand the army put up in the battlefields. The utility folk have a lot of line trouble, but Ridgewoodians have a lot of verdant beauty and plenty of summer shade. I spent a night in Ridgewood back in 1942 and I recall the beauty of its residential streets. It had some pretty girls, too.

m-m
Last week's Bethware Fair barbecue was another of those wonderful Wednesday picnics but the Herald folk didn't miss out on that one, thanks to Friend Stokes Wright, the efficient Fair secretary and Kings Mountain mailman. Stokes came in the office just about press time with a mammoth box, well-laden with platters of barbecue, rolls, plates of slaw, pickles, and potato chips. It really hit the spot, and since there was enough for the whole staff, I wouldn't be a bit surprised if it didn't make the Herald's roll-off time ten minutes later than it would have been. But the odor of the barbecue was too much for hungry composers, pressmen, and reporters.

m-m
Stokes was reminiscing about his service hitch, spent mostly at Jacksonville, Fla. Stokes says he was an errand boy for the athletes, and among his landlubbing "shipmates" were Jim Tatum, Don Faurot, and other big names in sport. Ted Williams was just around the corner at a marine air station.

m-m
Dotted Notes . . . We've had another fine gift of homegrown tomatoes, these from the garden of Mrs. Eugene Patterson, who is quite a horticulturist, be it vegetables or flowers. I don't credit Gene with this work as I think he's pretty strictly a cowman. . . I've been on the receiving end of so many fine gardens this summer I'm going to have to attempt one next year in self-defense. . . It'll probably turn out like somebody said his did . . . each tomato had cost him a quarter each . . . the city schools are close to having "closed" lunch periods, meaning that all students will be required to eat at the school cafeterias . . . begun experimentally at West school several years ago, it has proved popular with parents and pupils. Mama doesn't have to have lunch on an exact time schedule and junior has one less trek in traffic each school day. . . Dr. John McGill says his new son yelled all night his first night at home . . . not acquainted with the new surroundings . . .



Viewpoints of Other Editors

HOW CAN PEARSALL PROPOSAL SAVE SCHOOLS AND KEEP SEGREGATION?

Johnston County's three legislators, the entire membership of the County Board of Education, and 17 other school officials of the county have signed a statement supporting the Pearsall School Amendment. The statement was prepared by James Earp, chairman of the County Board of Education, and Julius Corbett, vice chairman of the board. It is undoubtedly a statement conceived in honesty by sincere men. Its drafters and its signers are opposed to any mixing of the races in the schools. In that position, they reflect the thinking of the vast majority of the people of Johnston County.

But a close analysis of this statement reveals that it is mainly an attack against integration and a plea for segregation, while the issue before the people in the September 8 election does not give us the choice of segregation over integration. The issue of segregation versus integration has been decided by the Supreme Court of the United States. The Court ruled against segregation. The Pearsall Committee, in recommending the plan which we are to vote on, does not propose that we defy the Supreme Court. The Pearsall Committee recognizes that the decision of the Supreme Court is the law of the land. The chairman of the Pearsall Committee has emphasized that North Carolinians intend to abide by the law.

The issue before us is whether we wish to make it convenient for communities to close their schools rather than accept some mixing of the races. A companion issue is whether the Pearsall Plan will invite suits against the school authorities and ultimately result in more and speedier mixing of the races than we might reasonably expect without the Pearsall Plan.

The statement signed by Johnston County legislators and school officials contains this sentence: "The Pearsall Plan is the only plan which has been presented to preserve our public schools as they now operate and exist." This contention reflects the popular impression that the Pearsall Plan will hold the line against segregation and at the same time keep the schools open.

It should be noted that the statement signed by our legislators and school officials does not state or suggest how the Pearsall Plan will preserve segregation and keep the schools open. In fact, no supporter of the Pearsall Plan in the county or state has thus far made it clear how the Pearsall Plan will save the day for both segregation and the schools.

The reality is that the Pearsall Plan offers no guarantee against mixing the races. If it did, there would be no need for the "safety valves." Unless North Carolina defies the law of the land, we may expect some integration whether we have the Pearsall Plan or not. And with the Pearsall Plan, we may expect some school closings that will take from North Carolina children their right to real educational opportunity. How can we put our faith in private schools that do not exist? And if by some miracle we had private schools adequate in number and quality, how could most of our people afford to educate their children in these schools? A state tuition grant of \$135 would hardly begin to pay the expense of a year's schooling for one child.

There is a part of the Pearsall Plan which is quite sound. That is the part which calls for use of the Pupil Assignment Law enacted by the Legislature in 1955. By wise and honest use of the Pupil Assignment Law, school boards in the state will be in position to prevent a flood of integration and to ease the tension between the races. Certainly we want in Johnston County and everywhere in North Carolina the least possible disruption of

C. Moon



VOTE "FOR" ON SEPTEMBER 8TH

On September 8th, Transylvania voters will join with others across the state in voting on a constitutional amendment vitally affecting the public school system.

As interpreted by former Attorney General William B. Rodman, the amendment would do two things:

1. Permit a child to receive an expense grant for attendance at a private, non-sectarian school if the child were assigned against the wishes of his parent or guardian, to a public school attended by a child of another race, and if the child could not be assigned to a different public school in which the races were not mixed.

2. Permit a local community to suspend operation of any one or all of the public schools in that community by a majority vote of those voting on the question of suspension.

Under the proposed amendment, Mr. Rodman adds:

"The present constitutional requirement of a general and uniform system of public schools may be suspended only by vote of the people; and if the operation of a school is suspended, the pupils affected thereby would be entitled to an education expense grant to pay expenses in attending a private, non-sectarian school."

The amendment was recommended by a special commission headed by the able Thomas Pearsall of Rocky Mount after a long and thoughtful study of the U. S. Supreme Court's decision declaring compulsory segregation in the public schools because of race alone unconstitutional.

It was endorsed by Gov. Luther Hodges, and it was approved, along with enacting legislation, by the General Assembly last month. The amendment has since been supported by responsible groups and organizations, and opposed by others.

Briefly stated, five points for the amendment are as follows:

1. The amendment proposes a minimum course of action. It could have been more drastic and more dangerous to the future of public education.
2. It will serve as a "safety valve" for public opinion in the crucial years ahead, by fostering the impression that there are workable alternatives in the event of state or federal court orders compelling desegregation.
3. It will not be used except as a last resort, after the 1955 pupil assignment law, the basic N. C. legislation on the subject, has been tested in the courts and found inadequate.
4. It will give to local communities the power to settle among themselves problems growing out of the Supreme Court decision, thus avoiding having Raleigh tell them what to do.
5. It will preserve the state structure of public education, even though some communities may elect to close their schools.

Since we believe that the constitutional amendments as provided by the '56 special session of the General Assembly will help materially in preserving our public schools, we urge our citizens to vote "for" in the election on September 8th.—*Transylvania Times*.

educational and community life. By inviting court actions to compel admission of Negro pupils to schools attended by white children, the Pearsall Plan would likely create more problems than it would solve. The strong probability is we would wind up with more integration, not less. Either that, or our children would have open to them no schools worthy of the name.

The Herald is opposed to the Pearsall Plan because the Herald wants neither a flood of integration nor the closing of a single school in North Carolina.—*Smithfield Herald*.

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10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events taken from the 1946 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Kings Mountain's city board of education, the Central Parent Teacher Association, and many other citizens throughout the county this week added their support and endorsement to the elec-

tion on Saturday in which the voters will decide whether to issue \$1,500,000 in bonds for construction improvements on the schools. Construction is now underway

on a portion of the building which will house Kings Mountain Narrow Fabrics, Inc. and the firm hopes to be in operation by October 1st.