



The Kings Mountain Herald

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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

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine. Titus 2:1.

New School Problems

Seeming settlement of the Number 4 Township school consolidation controversy poses some additional problems, particularly the one effecting Number 3 high school.

Here the patrons want a larger, improved high school, too, and the Number 4 Township merger tends to leave Number 3 rather isolated. This apparent fact was a factor in some of the continuing opposition to the Number 4 Township situation.

At a meeting at Number 2 school Monday night, the patrons were told there seemed to be two alternatives: 1) consolidation of the Number 3 area with Shelby, or 2) a county-wide consolidation, which would find Shelby and Kings Mountain districts merging with the county.

Though it hasn't been fully spelled out, the county-wide consolidation seems to be the principal aim of the leadership of the county's Citizens Committee for Better Schools.

Many side issues are involved.

The issue of taxes is one. As Kings Mountain was willing to accept the incoming patrons, on their agreement to pay the 20 cents per \$100 supplemental tax, so the Shelby district would be willing for a county-wide consolidation, but only on agreement of other county citizens to pay the 40 cents per \$100 supplemental tax the Shelby district citizens have levied on themselves.

A more minor issue is a rather human one. Some members of the county board of education, quite humanly, hate to superintend the liquidation of the county school system.

The matter of political or area representation is still another question. Some Number 4 Township citizens felt they were losing a voice in their school management by merging with the Kings Mountain district. Similarly, this feeling will affect the thinking of some citizens on a county-wide merger.

For quickly better schooling, it would appear the Number 3 folk would do well to merge with the Shelby district, where a new high school plant is to be opened next fall.

There is a definite possibility that, at some future time, a county-wide school consolidation will occur. But fact that the Number 4 Township merger will occur some eight or more years after the idea was first broached shows well that such departures in governmental arrangements do not occur overnight. Indeed, it required a considerable change in the county's farming business — from cotton growing to dairying and other pursuits — to make number 4 Township merger palatable.

But the Number 3-Shelby merger makes good sense in all directions. The geography is particularly suitable, the plant is built, and Number 3 needs the benefits of a broader curriculum.

We Can Spell

One of the chief charges sometimes leveled at modern schools and school teachers is that their products can't spell. The old "blue-back" speller is recalled, and protestations against modern teaching methods voiced.

Editors are particularly critical in this department.

It would appear, if the charges are generally true, that Kings Mountain can be excused.

Glynda Lynn becomes the third Kings Mountain elementary student to win the area spelling bee sponsored for the past several years by the Charlotte Observer. It's the second year in succession a Kings Mountain entrant will represent the area at the national contests in Washington, D. C.

The teachers are proud, the schools are proud, and the community, is, too.

Our best wishes to Miss Glynda in Washington.

Congratulations to Don Parker, who has been elected a life member in the National Education association by his fellow teachers.

Glamour of City Hall

If evidence is needed that there's something glamorous about City Hall, this year's candidate list, a record, should supply it.

Part of it lies in the pseudo-science of politics, in which one man seeks to obtain the endorsement of a majority of his fellowmen, on basis of personality, policy, business experience, or otherwise.

It's human nature to appreciate the approbation of one's fellowmen and oftentimes he who denies this truism seeks it the most.

Anyone with experience in public office has some disbenefits, too.

As an elected manager of the people's business, it is incumbent on the officeholder to provide his citizen-stockholder service he requires. And there's never enough money to provide the requirements, much less the many desires. Thus, the office-holder is relegated to a percentage success from the start.

On the darker side, the office-holder is also likely to find little thanks for the ayes he gives the deserving citizen-stockholder. In turn, he is sure to be damned when some unscrupulous citizen gets a "no" on his scheme to rob the public treasury.

These facts of political and officeholding life, however, do not eliminate the basic satisfaction, first of election success and, second, of having a hand in building a community more pleasant in which to live. That's the reason the candidate list almost always numbers several incumbents. This year, in Kings Mountain, all the incumbents at City Hall like their chores sufficiently to seek re-election.

In contrast to some neighboring newspapers, the Herald will not endorse any of the candidates for city office for the good and sufficient reason that the readers feel they know the candidates as well as does the Herald — and may be right.

Several issues have been projected in the campaign which will be partially culminated on Tuesday, ranging from utility rates, both inside and outside the city limits, to future needs. The incumbents, by seeking re-election, are saying in effect that they did a good, workmanlike job, expended the city monies well, and did a progressive job, which they want to see continued.

Most folk, considering the crowded candidate list, anticipate that Tuesday's voting will be in the nature of a warm-up, or primary, with several races likely to await settlement by a May 23 run-off.

As is customary in politics, there has been some campaigning extremism, but, generally speaking, the politicking has been much milder in tone than in some past years and thus far devoid of blatant mud-slinging.

The Herald hopes the candidates will continue this policy. Only six candidates will prove victorious and the defeated will have to continue to live with the victorious, and vice versa.

Ector Harrill

Though his health hadn't been of the best recently, the many friends of Ector A. Harrill, Kings Mountain citizen, schoolman and lawyer, were shocked at his sudden passing.

Mr. Harrill was an affable man who made his imprint here over many years.

His public contributions, in addition to his school work many years ago, included a stint as city attorney and another as judge of recorder's court, in addition to loyal work in First Presbyterian church.

It was Mr. Harrill who drafted legislation in 1947 which supplied the city's political system largely in vogue since. This legislation provided for at large voting for all city commissioners, replacing the strict ward system, and for election of a mayor, who had previously been appointed by the commission, after his election as a commissioner.

The Herald and the community convey sympathy to his family.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By Martin Harmon

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

What started as an outwardly dull city political campaign — in spite of a large and long candidate list — suddenly began brightening (or warning) as the candidates entered the final two weeks before election day.

m-m

As anyone who has ever sought public office of any kind can and will report in short order, political season is a straining one for the candidates. The candidates are at the mercy of the voters, something like a youngster going out to dinner and under the strain of parental warning of mayhem to come if his table manners are errant or if he upsets the iced tea as he sometimes does at home.

m-m

A slip of the lip can prove costly in votes, sometimes even determining the difference between winning and losing. It's the season for talking statements out of context. Oftentimes the same words which have been spoken look and sound quite different when repeated in part or without the tone of voice which the candidate himself used.

m-m

I must tease Boyce Gault a bit. He called the office last week and in hurried voice he spoke to Elizabeth Stewart, who answered the telephone, "Mrs. Herndon, can you print me some cards right quick?" Mrs. P. D. Herndon, onetime Herald society editor, hasn't been associated with us in several years.

m-m

A paper salesman in the office last week asked about Gene Goforth's campaign. It turned out that he and Gene had done World War II duty in the same army infantry company. It also developed that Steve Dellinger, seeking re-election to the Charlotte city council, was a member of the same company.

m-m

Old-timers in Kings Mountain will tell the younger folk that this year's campaign does not match in intensity Kings Mountain's hottest election, the county line election of 1915. At the time, there were two towns, Kings Mountain (Cleveland County) and East Kings Mountain (Gaston County). The voting was to determine that all of Kings Mountain would be in one or the other of the neighboring counties.

m-m

A good deal of county pride was involved and, generally, the folk living in Gaston county preferred Gaston, while the folk living in Cleveland preferred Cleveland. The Cleveland folk proved slightly more numerous when the ballots were counted.

m-m

Much of the community's political history subsequent to 1915 was colored by overtones from that hard-fought election. For several seasons, thereafter, there was usually a Cleveland county-flavored ticket for town offices opposed by a Gaston county-flavored ticket, though naturally there were some cross-overs on the candidate list to pick up support on personalities.

m-m

Some folk think today's elections, nearly a half-century later, still reflect that rough one of 1915. Some folk think today that Kings Mountain might have made a better decision to have chosen Gaston county, particularly since highway changes have made Gastonia geographically closer and for real or alleged red-headed stepchild treatment from the Cleveland capital.

m-m

The 1915 fight, like most civil war, found friends split on the issue. My father recalls he worked for and was kinfolk to some of the leaders for Gaston county where he lived at the time. But his personal friends and social buddies were on the Cleveland side of the argument. He says, "It got so bitter I just quit going up town at night."

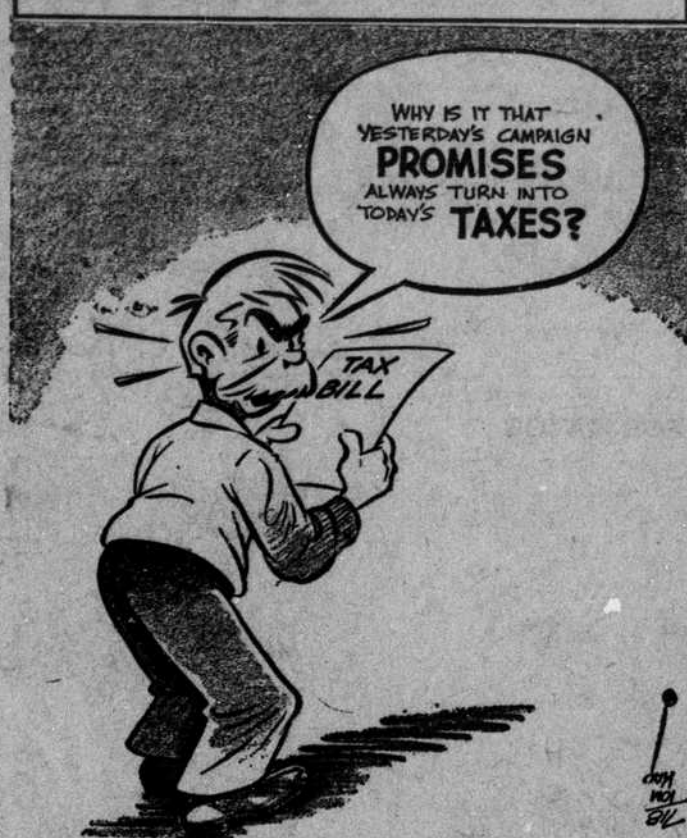
m-m

Representative J. R. Davis obtained passage of a bill at the 1923 legislature to incorporate the town of East Kings Mountain and merge it with Kings Mountain. He remembers, "I thought they were going to lynch me. There wasn't use for me to run again, and I didn't." He still thinks he did the right thing.

m-m

I am aged enough to remember the one-man East Kings Mountain calaboose, which was still used for a few after the two Kings Mountains were merged by legislative act.

THE AMERICAN WAY



Sad, But Oh So True!

Viewpoints of Other Editors

COSMONAUT

For the first time in human history a man has briefly ceased being earthbound.

That man, Yuri Gagarin, peeped momentarily beyond the garments of our planet into the unknown where other men will some day explore, making the terms "world" and "earth" no longer synonymous.

Although this is not, as Sir Bernard Lovell admiringly proclaimed, "the greatest scientific achievement in the history of Man," it is certainly one of the greatest. And the many Soviet physical scientists and technicians who devised the catapult for Major Gagarin's fame deserve the accolade of their fellow men everywhere. Theirs was a masterpiece of cooperative achievement.

No one knows what the history books of the future will say about the events of today. But it is to be hoped that they will credit the mental explorers, the basic theorists upon whose thinking such achievements are based, as fully as they will doubtless credit the engineers who carry them out.

Probably the historians will subordinate today's news to the actual accomplishment of a round-trip by man to the moon—the Everest for which Gagarin's orbiting is but the first base camp.

Back on earth one of the most healthy results of the Soviet success should be its effect on American attitudes. Those Americans who have never been convinced of the capability of Soviet technology — who shrugged when the U. S. S. R. took a commanding lead in the so-called space race, and said "we can catch up" — should by now realize that even the most skilled runner cannot catch up quickly if he gives his competitor a big head start.

In purely competitive terms (and this breakthrough for mankind is regrettably mixed up in bitter political competition), Americans have got to realize that although their own space achievements have been considerable, it was not just knowledge of seaweed and currents that got Columbus to the New World. Both knowledge and unflagging effort are needed.

Of far greater importance, however, is the need for both Americans and Russians to realize that neither of their nations to be — or in fact can be — first in everything. The boy that tries his best in everything is admirable; the boy that cockily has to be best in everything is dangerous to his fellows.

At moments such as these in history men need to remember to keep their strivings in balance. Mankind's urgent business is neither to be all Candide the wandering explorer nor all Candide the stay-home cultivating his garden.

At the moment the danger may lie on the side of neglecting the earth garden through escapism enthusiasm for space. In a searching new book Lewis Mumford asserts that it is these same two forces — starting with the aggressive explorations of paleolithic man and the channeling, nurturing, improving settlements of neolithic man — that have contributed to the progress and self-realization of man's capabilities. But only when the two forces were kept in balance.

While men have not achieved mental and political discipline on earth, while they still fail to harness 99.96 per cent of the sun-power showered on the planet to feed their hungry, while there is, in short, vast unfinished business on earth, that need for balance should be remembered in the midst of enthusiasm for this truly magnificent forward step into space. — *The Christian Science Monitor*.

TELEVISION'S FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Television, the hypnotic young giant of communications, is harping constantly about restraints on its freedom of expression. The big networks complain that the sponsor, the necessary evil, dictates television programming.

It's true, of course, that advertising is more closely associated with what appears on the TV screen than with newspapers. The public understands that a newspaper is built around news and comment on the news, while television is primarily an entertainment medium. Often, the same television personality that does the entertaining sells the sponsor's product.

But television does its share of editorializing, as a witness the recent farce concerning Sullivan and Paar, stars on opposing networks. The debate that wasn't billed as an airing of personal gripes concerning wage paid to performers. How much the networks pay their help is the business of the networks, and to the viewing public the dispute still was nothing more than entertainment. Paar spent the better part of an hour one night berating the other fellow, interrupting his spiel every few minutes to advertise something.

Now television has taken a new approach to saying what it wants to say for pay — it is selling its editorials abroad.

This practice backfired recently with a "documentary" film called "Harvest of Shame." The film, an effort by a television network to say something unkind about American life, was sold to the British Broadcasting Corporation, probably because it couldn't get a sponsor here.

The new head of the United States Information Agency, Edward R. Murrow, who did the commentary for "Harvest of Shame," asked the BBC not to show the film. The British answered that the film had been too widely advertised to be canceled, and "Harvest of Shame" was televised.

The television network was completely within its rights to sell the film. The production cost money, and the network officials could say turning down the opportunity to make a profit from it would be unfair to the stockholders.

But the point is that television does have freedom to editorialize — even to the point of selling its more harsh samples of American self-criticism overseas. — *The Mooresville Tribune*.

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events taken from the 1951 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Kings Mountain registered voters go to the polls Tuesday to determine who of 22 candidates, thought to be a record number for city elections, will fill six city and two school board offices.

Harvey L. Bumgardner, a senior at N. C. State college, has been awarded a \$1,125 scholarship by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Annual Junior Chamber of Commerce ladies night banquet was held at the Country club Tuesday night.

Social and Personal Mrs. Arthur Hay was hostess to members of the Thursday Afternoon Book club last week.

B. S. Peeler, Jr., entertained the directors of the Kiwanis club with a dinner at his home Tuesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bridges and baby of Salisbury were Sunday visitors in Kings Mountain.

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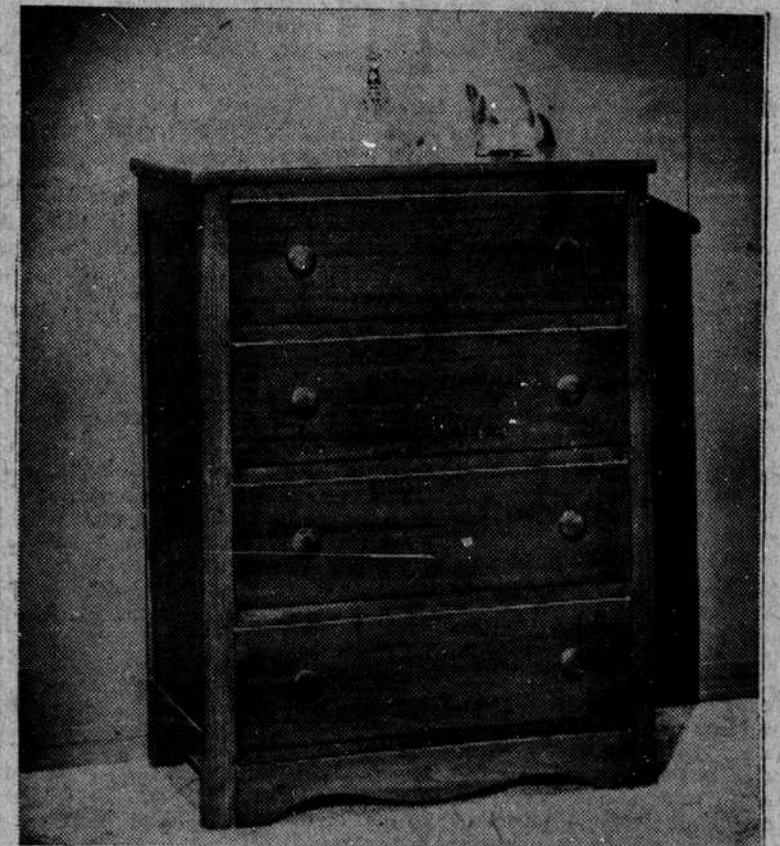
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