



The Kings Mountain Herald

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

In my distress, I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me. Psalm 120:1.

School Bonds

Shelby school district, with its high school plant fact, and with a bulge in the tax valuation which appears to be making these citizens pay more than their share of taxes on the per capita formula whereby school tax monies are divided, is seemingly unsympathetic with re-entering county-wide school building financing.

There are many, many different angles to this problem, relative payments of the several districts, question of whether a county-wide issue could be passed, Shelby's feeling that with a portion of their debt re-paid they'd be getting the short end of the horn on a per capita division.

The county district is in the worse bind. It has its Number 3 school somewhat out on the limb in the plan to build two super high schools such as Shelby now has and Kings Mountain intends to attain. The county district also has the question of whether its citizens would support a two-plus million bond issue.

While it is easy to understand the bookkeeping report that Shelby district would be paying more on the per capita division formula, there may be a larger question involved. Education is a generic function of county government, just as in North Carolina, and there is some suggestion that Shelby, county seat and hub of the Cleveland wheel, is also the economic center of the county, with merchants benefiting from county-wide trade with industry's machines manned by citizens from all parts of Cleveland, not to mention others.

Shelby has taken the position it should be re-imposed for its bond principal payments before accepting a per capita division of school construction bond money, if Shelby is to penalize itself financially on helping the county continue to shoulder the education burden.

It is less easy to see this plea, than to agree that Shelby may be re-buying a three-year interest bill it has already paid, not to mention the expenses of bond attorneys and election expense it shouldered alone.

Supt. Malcolm Brown, of the Shelby district, says frankly he doubts the county-wide program can be "sold" to Shelby citizens.

Conversely, the county is the basic home unit of government in North Carolina's scheme of operation, with cities junior thereto as children of the state. Cities are much more limited in the scope of their governmental functions than are counties. For example, cities are not permitted to expend tax funds for public welfare or for schools.

Long-term, if Shelby can see its way fit, it would be wise for these citizens to do perhaps more than their part to provide better education county-wide.

In turn, it seems logical for the Earl area to marry the Shelby school district as quickly as possible.

Kings Mountain district is nicely balanced from the standpoint of both geography and its tax valuation-pupil ratio. In turn, Kings Mountain school officials support the county-wide financing method in an effort to prevent the county schools from withering on the vine of less efficient and efficacious schooling.

According to the tentatively adopted city budget, previously commented upon, the city is planning to continue its prior policy of tight operations, payment of bonded indebtedness without making new long-term debt, and investment of as much of its revenues in long-term improvements as possible.

How much had traffic increased during the time U. S. 29 by-passed Kings Mountain and had to be closed temporarily for further construction? These figures are likely available from the State Highway department, but just about anybody along the King-Battle-ground route could answer "plenty". The through traffic gave Kings Mountain the appearance of a bustling metropolis, rather than a North Carolina community of 8,008 souls.

T'aint Working

There is a considerable amount of disappointment with the way the honor system parking is working in Kings Mountain, recreation commission and city officials report.

When the system was installed several years ago, it seemed to be working quite well. Folk over-parking, over-joyed at the invitation to pay a small coin for the privilege in lieu of a dollar, honored the invitation. Initially, the Merchants association staked the arrangement in cooperation with the police department.

Later the city commission agreed to devote the proceeds to recreational purposes and the recreation commission took over the management.

Slowly, the system has deteriorated to the point, City Clerk Joe McDaniel estimates, that some 60 percent of over-parking motorists honor the invitation for a dime contribution, while 40 percent don't.

T'aint right in principle, and it isn't doing the hard-pressed recreation commission treasury any service either.

Some thinking among city officials is beginning to develop that some form of force is going to have to be restored and there is some favor of the Monroe and Shelby systems.

In these communities, the over-parking victim receives a ticket which, if paid into a conveniently located deposit box (on the meter stands) within 24 hours costs a quarter. If the "customer" waits longer he must pay a dollar, within seven days. If he fails to pay within seven days, he's hailed into court.

Right-thinking citizens of the community will be sorry to learn of the unwillingness of some to pay their small share of the freight. However, they will also agree that government being generic, the deal should be equal for everyone.

Meantime, upping of the basic fee to a quarter would provide some needed cash for the recreation program.

Business and Trade

The world of business and trade is fascinating for those involved therein, but it is fast-moving, fast-changing and anyone in management must have automatic drive and high horsepower to keep up.

Items:

1) The steel industry is considering plans to establish foreign subsidiaries, as many companies in other fields have done.

2) Prosperous West Germany pinches itself in amazement at the progress made since World War II by chasing the aim of broad-spread material goods, rather than the mis-guided patriotic themes which led them to defeat in two world fights.

3) Hong Kong is the outlet of Red China's cheap textiles which are flooding the American market, says Governor Sanford from Hawaii.

These are just a few. Meantime, the minimum wage is rising in this nation which is fine in all but one direction, the increased pressure it will apply on United States business for trade abroad, where wage rates are low, lower and lowest, and where modern production methods are in some instances as good or better than those of the United States.

It would appear Mr. Curran, Mr. Ruether and other labor leaders could well do their members and the nation a benefit by concentrating on increasing wage scales in Japan, India, and other nations to make trading and traffic more possible.

West Germany's experience is intriguing, indicating that better distribution of the world's goods might be the best deterrent to world-wide holocaust in spite of the conflicting political ideologies of capitalism, communism, colonialism, monarchy, and dictatorship.

Congratulations to Miss Helen Logan, newly elected district deputy grand matron, Order of Eastern Star, and to Mrs. Lena W. McGill, appointed after an interim absence to the board of trustees of Erskine college, where she had previously served with distinction.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By Martin Harmon

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

Interest costs money as just about anyone age 21 (some younger) can ascribe.

m-m

Of course, it is a justifiable expense, in payment for the use of cash which one needs and does not have at the moment.

m-m

The banker (who collects the interest) will agree that it is most justifiable when the loan funds are being used to buy production goods for the production of income or for resalable inventory which will also produce income.

m-m

Another instance is when funds are absolutely necessary to avoid the foreclosure hammer. A Gastonia friend was relating a tale some years ago about a fellow he'd known who was on the verge of bankruptcy. Cash was required by due date or his whole holdings were gone. He bought a train for Richmond and returned with several thousand dollars which enabled him to stay judgment day sufficiently to work out of his financial bind.

m-m

An interested friend inquired, "How much interest did you have to pay?" The reply was "twenty percent". The friend ejaculated, "You couldn't afford to pay that much." But the businessman returned, "I couldn't afford NOT to pay it!"

m-m

Government agencies have become this nation's biggest interest payers and a sizeable amount of tax revenue is used to pay interest on the many various types of bonds issued for road-building, school building, various and sundry purposes. The federal government pays interest in the billions and it is a sizeable percentage of the \$80-billion-plus budget.

m-m

Last June 30 North Carolina's 100 counties owed \$260 million in long-term debt and North Carolina's cities and towns owed \$284 million. Interest figures weren't available in the particular source of information, but would figure probably to an average of four percent.

m-m

The City of Kings Mountain in the coming year will dent its bonded indebtedness (general bonds and gas system revenue bonds) by \$40,000, a little better than four percent of the total debt of \$960,000. But the interest tab is \$30,000. It's something like taking four steps forward and three backward.

m-m

Needless to say, many projects are highly necessary and great expenditures must be handled via long-term financing.

m-m

However, it's a round-about way of saying that many folk feel that the so-called frills of government should be handled by public subscription rather than by tax funds.

m-m

Public recreation programs are one phase of government which the state Supreme Court has ruled a proper function of city government, though not a necessary one like water and sewer service.

m-m

The Kiwanis Club launched a project to provide some type of field house at city stadium, but it appears that the cost of the project will delay momentarily its fruition. Meantime, discussions are taking place among city and school officials and other civic clubs concerning the possibility of joint action to 1) improve city stadium in major degree or 2) build another, the matter to be determined on cost, feasibility, and the many other factors involved.

m-m

The history of the stadium is that it started as a late-depression WPA project, didn't get completed before WPA went by the boards as World War II began.

m-m

One Kiwanian's reason for supporting the shower room project: "I used to play football and the players sure need a bathroom at half-time."

Shopping Around

By Rolfe



"Fate sure dealt her a cruel blow! She finally saved enough to finish paying for his albums—and now she's crazy about someone else!"

Viewpoints of Other Editors

COUNTYWIDE FINANCING HITS SNAG

It is difficult to see how the Shelby School Board could logically agree to a consolidation of all school debts with the county and Kings Mountain systems under present circumstances.

Such a move, according to figures presented by the county auditor, would financially penalize taxpayers in the Shelby district in greater measure than in would benefit them.

The reasons are complicated, but obvious to persons acquainted with the present method of dividing school funds among the various systems.

When taxable valuation is considered, the Shelby district has about 35 percent, the new Kings Mountain district, including the Bethware-Grover area, has about 25 percent, and the county system the remaining 40 percent.

In other words, Shelby district citizens pay 35 percent of county-wide levies, Kings Mountain district residents 25 percent and county residents about 40 percent. However, the money collected is not returned to the districts in that proportion, but rather on a per capita basis.

In that division, Shelby receives 26.26 percent, Kings Mountain 24.48 percent and the county 49.26 percent.

That's the first reason a county-wide debt would be a burden to the Shelby area.

THE SECOND REASON—and it's related to the first—results from the fact that the Shelby district presently is carrying a district debt of about \$1 1/4 million and has a district levy of 35 cents per \$100 valuation to retire it.

School officials say the levy next year may be reduced to 32 cents and, by 1963, might go down to about 29 cents.

On the other hand, if a county-wide consolidation of debt were approved and the suggested \$4 1/2 million bond issue passed, Shelby residents would face a levy of about 40 cents, some 11 cents higher than they will pay if they keep the district debt.

Also, the countywide debt would probably be for 20 years. This would mean Shelby residents would be paying for 23 years, since their bond issue is already a year old and would be three years old by the time a countywide issue was sold.

County fiscal authorities also point out that the county would not materially benefit from the joining of the debt, since the county system can already borrow sufficient funds at a levy of about 40 cents. Kings Mountain district residents would have to pay perhaps as much as 49 cents per \$100 to get the funds they need separately, or some nine cents more than under a countywide levy.

THERE WOULD be some benefit accruing to Shelby from a countywide consolidation of school debt. First, in case of emergency, the credit standing of the entire county could be placed at the disposal of the city system.

Secondly, since the total debt would be much larger, a bigger portion would be retired each year, allowing county commissioners to authorize new bonds in larger amounts without new elections. (State regulations provide that new bonds can be issued without new authorization in the same amount that bonds are retired in a previous year.)

Offhand, however, it appears that the benefits for Shelby do not nearly balance the penalties inherent in a joining of the debt. It is likely that Shelby residents, apprised of the facts, would vote a resounding "no" to a bond election that might raise their school levy by 11 cents without attendant capital gain.

Thus, the Shelby board understandably leans to retaining the district debt rather than penalizing its patrons and risking the defeat of a bond election held

A TREE GROWS IN THE BRONX

While a tree is growing in the Bronx, the United Nations in whose honor it was recently planted will, like the tree, be inching outward and upward, recoiling in cold-war blasts, flourishing or waning as it is nourished by the affections of mankind or stifled by power politics. Planting of the tree—a small pine—took place in the presence of student representatives and members of the Parents Association of Junior High School 141 in the famous New York borough.

An American delegate to one of the UN's councils addressed the students and parents. Just as the tree could not be expected to bear apples, he said, "so the UN could not be expected to settle problems over which it had no jurisdiction."

This is a useful reminder of the UN's formal limitations. But in these days it must also appear as a sort of measuring stick. Against this gauge the impulses for growth, as natural as sap rising, are seen more clearly.

The most obvious aspect of this growth shows in the number of new members brought into the UN in the wake of national independence for erstwhile colonial peoples.

Western influence which once rested partly on command of blocs of votes. But their presence has resulted—specifically in the Congo crisis—in setbacks for Soviet designs. These embarrassments have caused Premier Khrushchev to try to place a new veto over the administration and execution of UN decisions.

Ever since the UN was founded there have been demands in one quarter or another for Charter revision. In specific tests, however, the Charter proves to be often an unexpectedly flexible instrument—itself a sort of tree among whose branches the fresh air of decency and the wind of necessary change move audibly and visibly.

At such times the public as a whole does learn a little something more about the UN than it knew before. But what is needed in addition to this is the same steady interest in the UN that the planter of a tree takes in its growth. Crisis impels sudden, intense attention to the UN's problems and opportunities. A tree growing in a Bronx schoolyard symbolizes a calm, affectionate and enduring interest which the UN needs even more—*The Christian Science Monitor*.

primarily for the benefit of the county and Kings Mountain systems.

A more equitable debt arrangement will have to be worked out if the financing of all schools in Cleveland County is to be consolidated. — *Shelby Daily Star*.

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.

A large segment of Kings Mountain citizens cease work Friday for a week-long July 4th holiday.

The city board of commissioners, in their Thursday night special session, authorized a contract with M. I. Miller, Greensboro electrical engineer, to map the city's electrical distribution system.

Social and Personal
 The Margrace Woman's club met on Friday night with Mrs. C. W. Falls, president, presiding. Mrs. Don Blanton entertained the Duplicate Bridge club at her home Monday afternoon.

Mrs. J. A. Neisler was hostess this week to the Tuesday Afternoon Bridge club.

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