

The Kings Mountain Herald

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. II Peter 5:8.

Fall-out Real Danger

It was in the last stages of the 1955 presidential campaign that Adlai Stevenson brought the attention of the lay public to the dangers of radioactive fall-out resulting from the testing of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

The world had known the dangers of fall-out from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but the world's laymen had not realized until Mr. Stevenson spoke out that too much testing would endanger everyone. President Eisenhower downplayed the Stevenson pronouncements — until after the campaign was over and won.

Today, at Russian insistence on testing, the United States has resumed testing, too, and last week's newspapers related that Gastonia, eight miles distant, showed highest percentage of radioactivity in the atmosphere of any place in the eastern seaboard states.

It didn't make pleasant or comfortable reading and suggests that, we, like Noah, might do well to seriously consider construction of a modern type of ark in the form of fall-out shelters.

J. Ollie Harris, civil defense chairman here and chairman of the county civil defense council, asks himself the question: "What shall we do and how far shall we go?" If defense shelters should be needed, it would be too late to start building then.

And what about communal shelters, it being a pretty sure bet that only a comparatively small percentage of Kings Mountain area's 10,000 to 11,000 souls will construct private, family-type shelters?

As Chairman Harris points out, fall-out shelters are merely another form of insurance, with the builder getting the check rather than the insurance agent. Many folk decry the paying of insurance premiums, but they know they can't afford to risk a major loss.

If the word of the now-deceased citizens who worked at the old Kings Mountain gold mine is correct, the tunnels in this mine are many and extend from the York road shaft to the vicinity of Kings Mountain Cotton Oil Company. There's a considerable hitch, though, as the mine is water-logged to the point that its pumpage kept the city in water during the 1953 and 1954 droughts.

Chairman Harris speculates on the possibility of developing in some way the Superior Stone and/or Foote Mineral Company tailings areas for communal shelters.

Dr. George W. Plonk is one citizen who favors the communal shelter plan. He phrases it this way, "Gee, to stay in a small room for two weeks or longer would drive a person crazy." He feels the communal plan would aid mental health until the danger from fall-out had passed.

All can and should, take Chairman Harris' advice on the demi-john of fresh water and the canned foodstuffs. Fresh water and food are imperative to life.

Transfer Denial

The 4-0 vote (Dr. P. G. Padgett abstaining) denying the request of Mrs. Mable Jackson Davis for transfer of her two high school children to Central was anticipated.

The reasons advanced by Trustee H. O. (Toby) Williams appear valid, particularly in face of the merger pains occasioned by limited space, the added transportation requirements, and ironing out the opening wrinkles.

Legally, the Pearsall plan, more officially known as the state's pupil assignment law, has been sustained thus far. Meantime, it has provided a measure of de-segregation of some schools in the state at Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh and some other communities.

There is no question in this newspaper's opinion that the Kings Mountain area's Negro population is getting the best educational deal in history, via merger of the Compact and Davidson high schools, with broader curriculum and more numerous teachers.

There is one improvement the board of education hopes to provide before next school year and that is the obtaining of property near the Compact plant for use as an athletic practice field, to permit Compact to field football and baseball teams, as well as basketball.

Party Politics

Leaders of the Democratic party in North Carolina are moving to strengthen the party organization and a committee is already at work on new rules of party government, designed to make the party rank-and-file more active and also to maintain better discipline.

If the new rules are adopted, for instance, it will be a bit more difficult and a bit more embarrassing for Democrats to float in and out of the party between party primaries, general elections and party primaries.

One suggested rule, however, appears impractical. It is the suggestion that two percent of a precinct's Democratic registration represent a quorum for doing business which, ordinarily, is the biennial election of precinct committees.

In this county, it is sometimes hard to get a quorum of the five-member committee, let alone two percent of the Democrats.

The Herald is a believer in party regularity, be it Democratic or Republican.

Recognizing the fact that the Independent vote provides winning margins, it is nevertheless true that once the candidates are elected the party organization of the victors take over and the Independents have little, if any, voice in governmental policies.

In turn, the party regular has a voice in selection of candidates and subsequently in governmental policy, when his party wins.

By-Pass North

J. Clint Newton, the highway commissioner, says U. S. 74 will by-pass Kings Mountain to the north, as opposed to the onetime idea of Director W. F. Babcock, who felt there would be a lead-off of Interstate 85 to the south.

Mr. Newton declined to guess how long the project would require, but it would be the Herald's guess that it will be 1964 before the by-pass will replace King street as a link of this east-west highway, even with a crash program.

Mr. Newton is working hard at this time-consuming and taxing job, and the Herald likes his approach to the improvement of secondary roads.

There are always intangibles in road-building, not revealed in traffic checks and statistical reports, as Comm. Newton stated.

Mark Of Growth

The Herald has told Rev. Thomas P. Clements, priest-in-charge of Christ the King Catholic church, that the Herald regards the establishment of a Catholic church here a welcome event, a mark of community growth and increasing ecumenicity.

In the economic world, a community's variety in retail and service establishments improve it as an area marketplace.

The same is true in education and religion.

The Herald, of course, practices ecumenicity on each publication date, attempting at all times to report all public matters for the benefit, enlightenment and entertainment of all readers, be they black, white, red or yellow.

The Herald believes there are many roads to Mecca and, with the Constitution, that the matter of religion is one for free choice by the individual.

The Herald never asks a would-be employee his religion, now numbers on its roster individuals of the Baptist, Presbyterian, Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist and Jehovah's Witness faiths. A former employee is continuing his work toward becoming a Catholic priest.

Just as the Herald welcomes the Catholic church, so we add that it will be a mark of progress when and if the Jewish population is sufficiently large for the building of a synagogue in Kings Mountain.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By Martin Harmon

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

The brightness of any particular issue of any newspaper, big or little, varies with the flow of the news itself, which, in effect, is the activity of individuals.

m-m

Thus, in the dead of winter, or the heat of July, it is not unusual that the news is less exciting than in some other seasons.

m-m

Last week's edition of the Herald was one of the brighter ones, again dictated by the flow of news. As a newsman, it was an interesting and varied chore, and I found myself functioning on the city hall and school beats, as a religion editor and as the staff science writer.

m-m

It was the last-mentioned that proved the hardest individual job and involved the boiling down of Jim Browning's interesting scientific article on the newly developed process for extraction of beryl.

m-m

As I told Jim later, his article was pretty deep and rather over-taxed my chemistry training which was limited to one year of high school chemistry and a freshman chemistry course, vintage 1936-37. It was diggin' reading for me and when I finished I thought I understood it and hoped it would be intelligible to lay readers.

m-m

I frequently, in covering the medical beat (illness, wreck victims reports), have to tell my doctor friends to slow down and translate the medical terms in lay language for me and my readers' benefit.

m-m

But this tale isn't designed as an essay about the sport, trials and tribulations of reporter's chores, but to relate a bit about Jim Browning himself.

m-m

I've known Jim virtually since he came here to work at Foote in the Bureau of Mines experimentation, but it was only ten days ago I learned much about him.

m-m

Jim's first mining experience, for instance, was in the Japanese coal mines under something less than ideal or desirable conditions. There was no paymaster, as Jim, then a Marine sergeant, was a prisoner of war. His war had begun early, as he was on duty at Wake Island when the war started. And like the rest of the Wake garrison, his fighting season was short. Captured on December 23, 1941, he was a prisoner of war until after the Japanese surrender.

m-m

Jim is six feet, one and one-half inches tall, today weighs a healthy normal 190 to 195 pounds. It's hard to believe him at 90 — his weigh-in total on release from the iron hand of the Jap.

m-m

Was it pretty rugged? His unit had 40 percent deaths during their imprisonment. Jim credits the commander, Major James P. S. Devereux, a Marylander, that the casualty list wasn't greater. The Major demanded and continued the familiarly iron Marine discipline. It was snap-to all the time and helped immensely. The Major, incidentally, served several post-war terms as a Maryland Congressman.

m-m

Jim's mother's folk were navy. By coincidence, he was booked for passage home on a transport commanded by an uncle.

m-m

Jim is from an Alabama town near Tuscaloosa, home of the University of Alabama, and he studied both at Alabama and the University of Idaho. He's 42, married and a father, lives here at the home of Warren Reynolds.

m-m

Like my freshman chemistry coming handy (though I never thought I'd ever use it the time I was struggling to pass), everything one studies usually proves valuable sometime in life. One of my college roommates was majoring in geology and I mentally cast aspersions on anyone silly enough to want to mess with old rocks. Then I found myself sitting astride one of the world's important ore belts right here in Kings Mountain!

m-m

News note: Mrs. Booth Gillespie, Mrs. George Houser and Mrs. Hunter Neisser arose at 5:30 several mornings last week in order to get to Charlotte in time to get a seat at the Cutter trial.

Shopping Around

By Rolfe



"Remember when people used to get housemaid's knees?—I think I'm getting supermarket foot!"

Viewpoints of Other Editors

THE PITIFUL EPITOME OF AN ATTITUDE

An editorial cartoon last week distilled the pitiful epitome of the American attitude.

Herbert Block, whose stinging political satire is syndicated nationally out of Washington, turned to international affairs to make a point that should be well taken. His cartoon presents three typical American men listening to the radio broadcast of a baseball game as they lounge in a backyard. The trio relaxes with smokes and refreshments as their wives chat over the back gate.

One guy, who has turned to the sports pages, says to the others: "You think they'll beat the Babe's record before Krushchev knocks the world over the fence?"

A homerun is an exciting reality. Baseball's ultimate weapon is immediate, the game provides a change in tension, if not relaxation for its spectators. Concentration on the homerun race takes one's mind off one's problems.

Berlin, where the world teeters on the brink of disaster, is far removed from Yankee Stadium. The communists have created a sensitive situation, sure, but if you think about it too much it takes all the fun out of living. War is a possibility, but there is always the feeling that the latest in the series of disputes will work itself out.

While we follow the threat to the longstanding homerun record, the East Berlin puppets are a taunting game of their own. Bored last week with their barbed-wire curtain, the People's Police dreamed up ways to further tease the West. The communists announced that soldiers on the west side of the barricade could not move nearer than 15 feet to the fence. Immediately, the West rolled a tank inside the arbitrary no-man's land. The bluff was called and nothing happened.

It is a very deadly game being played in the divided city. And as Herb Block so aptly put it, the ultimate weapon in the Berlin world series is not a baseball out of the park, but the universe in ashes.

While Americans ponder the financial reward in store for the man who hits more than homeruns, there is another discussion going on about "clean" bombs and the impracticability of super-super bombs.

The day after the homerun record falls, the papers will be full of all manner of accounts of the event. Should the bombs fall, it is unlikely there will be any papers the day after — *The Mooresville Tribune*.

OUR DEFLATED EGO

A couple of weeks ago, we pumped up our ego with a praise piece about the importance of newspapers and the nobility of newspaper people. At one point, the article claimed that "the newspaper has the power to save society."

In a sobering afterthought, we recalled a California schoolgirl's definition of newspapers. It seems the teacher asked all the students in the class to submit their opinions of newspapers. The response of this one kid was so good, and perhaps so accurate, that the teacher sent it to the editor of the local paper.

This is what the little girl wrote:

"Newspapers. We need them so we can know who reks and drowns and who shoots somebody. And who wants a house and who dies or gets a baby. It tells of your dog is lost. They are good on shelves and to make bond fires.

"They also go under a baby's plate and to keep dogs off things. You can wrap potato peelings in them. You can put one when you defrost. They tell about shows

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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's annual Woman's club Floral Fair, presented by the Kings Mountain Senior and Junior Women's clubs, will be held at the clubhouse on Friday, November 2.

Officials of the Kings Mountain Little Theatre were praying for bright sunshine Thursday, following a successful opening night last Friday of "Then Conquer We Must." Bob Osborne's historical drama commemorating "The Battle of Kings Mountain."

Social and Personal

Bridge was played at two tables Tuesday afternoon when Mrs. Tolly Shuford was hostess to members of the Contract club at her home.

Mrs. Boyer Murray was hostess to members of the Entre-Nous club Tuesday afternoon.

—THE HERALD— \$3.50 PER YEAR —