



The Kings Mountain Herald

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. St. Mark 13:22.

The Cooley Bill

North Carolina's Harold Cooley, chairman of the House of Representatives Agriculture committee, has introduced a bill to eliminate two-price cotton, that bugaboo of cotton textile manufacturers which finds them paying 8½ cents per pound more for cotton than foreign manufacturers who have become competitors.

Not only has the cotton price differential — designed to lower the big surplus of cotton in government warehouses — been the only means by which foreign manufacturers have been benefitted by took Uncle Sam sed

Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges, soon after going to Washington, spoke frankly in an interview. Foreign nations, rebuilding after World War II, took United States funds, via credits and otherwise, and advice to rebuild modernly. Secretary Hodges commented, "They have succeeded amazingly well."

What Congressional action will be, and how quickly, is a matter of speculation. Some echelons of the textile industry aren't too happy that the desired relief is proposed by means of yet another subsidy. Yet the majority of the trade associations are endorsing the bill for the end-point desired.

As has been pointed out locally, the hanging - in - the - balance situation tends to create a situation of hand - to - mouth ordering by yarn customers and others up the line toward endpoint products. Mass production of specific numbers is prevented, causing costs to escalate and shortening work weeks.

It is to be hoped that Congress will move quickly to passage of the Cooley bill.

Can it be less than immoral for tax-paying industries to be required to subsidize competitors in the price of the basic raw material?

The textile manufacturers hope that the subsidy business will be a stop-gap and that the real problem, intertwined with the agricultural program of price supports and marketing controls can, in the meantime, get some rectification to lower the cotton surplus. That's the real heart of the problem.

Dick Shelton

The sudden death of Dick Shelton, editor of the Shelby Daily Star, on Monday morning shocked the Star organization, his many friends, and the citizens of Cleveland County.

In apparent ebullient health and a comparative youth at 37, Mr. Shelton, a comparative newcomer to Cleveland County, was an energetic, effective newsman and editor.

A native of Gaston county, he had returned to this area from a successful news chore in Florida to be the Star's managing editor, being promoted to editor on the departure of Dave Gillespie.

He had the equipment of a reporter and editor requires: imagination, energy, the nose for news, courage and the ability to handle the King's English in fashion intelligible to those it was his duty to inform accurately — his readers.

He had the respect of this newspaper and others of his craft in North Carolina and elsewhere.

Most individuals long ago decided they couldn't figure in billions, which is the standard operating amount for today's federal budget. Even in North Carolina, the budget the General Assembly will adopt sometime this spring will be for one billion, though that will cover two years of operation. Half, or more of the federal budget of 98.8 billions will be for defense, high priced insurance, but, as was proved during the thirties before World War II, in the short run, before Korea, and during the Cuban crisis an imperative expense of doing business in a modern world, the business of assuring a continuance of living.

Putnam Certified

Elzie L. Putnam is the first registered Republican to win election in Number 4 Township within the memory of elder citizens, he having been certified as a justice of the peace by the county board of elections last week.

How long it has been since election of any Republican to an office in Cleveland County is a matter for some historical digging.

Both Republicans and Democrats, along with Mr. Putnam, do not set great store in the exceptional importance of the office, first in light of the decline of importance, and second in view of the prospect that the justice of the peace will become an appointive office, when the General Assembly implements the generic amendment to revise the state's court system.

Time was when the justice of the peace was a quite important figure. When horse-drawn buggies, rather than the gasoline driven ones, was the major mode of transportation, the local magistrate handled a multitude of civil and criminal matters — much of it today in the realm of the recorder's court.

Yet the powers of the magistrate have been little changed. He has jurisdiction in civil suits up to \$200, can issue warrants, summonses, and other legal papers, marry citizens, and try those charged with misdemeanors.

The jaypee system has been much maligned, largely because it is a fee basis system and because, in criminal matters, a defendant must be found guilty before the magistrate receives his quite minimal fee.

Number 4 Township, the Putnam complaint against the elections board contended, is entitled by law to eleven magistrates. He contended that, with only two candidates, two were elected. There were conflicting opinions initially on the part of the attorney general's office and the secretary of the North Carolina elections board.

After Mr. Putnam sought relief in the courts, the elections board re-conferred with both agencies and decided that Mr. Putnam's contentions were right.

Interpretation of the law is a difficult job, and it is customary for constituted boards to seek higher authority when in doubt, or when interpretative questions arise. While many decisions by the United States Supreme Court, for instance, are unanimous, decisions by split votes of 6 to 3 and 5 to 4 are often recorded.

The action to certify Mr. Putnam, in light of further conversations with higher authorities, was the correct one, saving time and trouble for complainant and the defendant board, as well as public monies.

Important Step

Last week's action of the board of education in approving (we take it the "tentative" was a minor hedge) the plant layout for the area high school was a major step toward fruition of the dream of the new high school.

There is still much detail to be done, with customary revisions, and further approvals before the day of inviting bids, letting of contracts and actual launching of construction.

But last week's step was a giant stride.

Congratulations to Lawrence Patrick, Jr., Eagle Scout who has been awarded the Silver Palm for continued accomplishment in Scouting.

Congratulations and best wishes to Elmer Ross, newly appointed city recreation director. The program operates on a very limited budget. Yet, in retrospect, public recreation is far up the ladder from its humble beginnings of a few years ago. As other community needs are met, public recreation will get increased attention and aid.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

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

None appreciates trouble, not really, until he experiences that trouble himself, whether it's a routine appendectomy (it's questionable whether any patient ever regarded an appendectomy as routine), an auto accident or a near - accident, or any of the many other kinds of mishaps the newspapers regularly relate.

m-m

Several years ago, via a suddenly icy road, my number appeared to be up. It wasn't. But only after the crisis was over did the realization strike.

m-m

A similar situation obtains from a minor scale fire at the Herald last Friday. It was minor scale due to 1) type of construction of the building, 2) a measure of friendship from Dame Fortune, and, particularly, 3) the very quick and dexterous work of the city fire department.

m-m

Having watched the firemen in action at other fires, I knew them to be able and well-trained. But I know it better today.

m-m

The Herald and all newspapers have a continuing problem of handling waste paper, which includes everything from junk mail to excess press runs and the ever-present wastage due to off-set sheets and other non-deliverable product. Fire, naturally, is always a sub-conscious fear.

m-m

When the present building was constructed, effort was made to handle the situation by building an interior incinerator, but last week's blaze shows the problem wasn't completely handled. The incinerator had an overload, was blazing in full fashion, when effort was made to add more waste paper. The fire hit the contained leavings and was shortly out of hand for the hand-type fire extinguisher.

m-m

The firemen were summoned, quickly did their work, and damage was limited to a 123-pound bundle of newsprint, a scorched door and the inevitable smoke-up.

m-m

Second thoughts of what might have been are frightening. However, it makes one appreciate again the service of the state safety inspector, who, in his periodic visits, checks for use of safety devices (guards on flying press wheels, filled fire extinguishers, etc.)

m-m

Frequently, in newspaper accounts of upcoming construction, are notations concerning fireproof construction. I believe it was Helen Hay, the insurance agent, who told me sometime ago that the insurance carriers regard no building as fireproof. The building itself, they acknowledge, may be built of non-burnable brick, steel and concrete, asbestos insulation, with concrete, or other non-burnable roof. But when it is occupied, the building, in the fire hazard scale, is down-graded to nothing better than fire-resistant. Some of the contents (including paper) are quite burnable. The Herald has other burnables. Ink will burn, as will type-cleaning fluids, wiping rags, oils and other lubricants. Modern - type electrical installations are a far cry from the exposed wiring of a few years ago, minimizing the fire hazard from this source, and making building codes invaluable to the builder, though he might not agree at times.

m-m

Majority of accidents, in the home, at the plant, on the highway, result from simple causes, usually associated with human error.

m-m

Mrs. Packard Elliott, the former Mary Frances Gert, shortly after Christmas, was sampling her daughter's new bicycle. It was an English model, with hand brakes, rather than the conventional foot - type Mrs. Elliott had been used when a girl. The back - pedaling, of course, proved to be no avail, and, by the time she realized the difference, it was too late. She'd suffered facial cuts, severe body bruises, and a heavy shake-up.

m-m

Long a provender of dry, straight - faced wit, Mrs. Elliott relates she was sure she'd lost a number of teeth. She felt much, much better when the physician told her she'd lost no teeth.

m-m

She had a mouthful of gravel.

Shopping Around

By Rolfe



"About that overdraft—here's my credit card to take care of it!"

Viewpoints of Other Editors

'FRILLS' VERSUS FOOD FOR HUNGRY MINDS

Now is the time for all good Carolina fans to moralize about what is popularly lambasted by losing and disillusioned alumni as "big time football." Obviously, the Tar Heels are de-emphasizing in favor of less rigorous pursuits.

But this is not so much a comment on professional college athletics as it is an observation on the disturbing shallowness of American values. This came to mind New Year's Day as we watched high school bands from all over the nation perform during the Orange Bowl parade in Miami. Concord's fine group of student musicians were among the 200 bands taking part in the colorful pageant.

Ralph McGill, syndicated columnist and publisher of the Atlanta Constitution, recently put his finger on an important and alarming index of the times in American life.

A town in Ohio collected \$10,000 to send its high school band to march in the Orange Bowl parade. Yet, McGill noted, this same high school is in danger of losing its accreditation because the library is below minimum state standards, a third of the teachers are not qualified for the subjects they teach and the townpeople show no interest, in fact reluctance, in raising the tax levy to remedy these situations.

Just what is it that Americans value? Is it two hours of fun and color, or is it books to feed the hungry minds of our youth? Of the two levels, high school college, overemphasis on sports and amusement is more widespread and more dangerous in the high schools. Where the attention paid to entertainment is at the cost of educational standards, we are compounding our failure to equip our children to take our places in the world.

Our high schools and institutions of higher learning should make certain the frills of education are not provided at the expense of the education itself. Mooresville Tribune

COUNTERCLOCKWISE OR WISE?

Approximately 13 percent of all fairytale—Grimm, Thurber, or Anon—are about village clocks or village clockmakers. Kings are always offering the hands of their daughters, half the kingdom, or the right to hunt unicorns in the royal forest in perpetuity to the candidate who can fix the ancient Bavarian clock that stopped suddenly and left the kingdom whispering consternation.

Well, the town of Hull, Massachusetts, disclosed last week that this is roughly what has befallen its people. For the last two months the Hull town clock has mysteriously started to run backward at 9 o'clock every Saturday night. Then, just as mysteriously, in the early hours of Sunday morning, it set out in the proper direction — clockwise-wise—and as soon as a janitor gets the chimes reset, all is well until the next weekend.

But of course a town cannot long abide such a confusing state of Saturday nightdom—in or out of fairytale. So the board of selectmen hired an electrician to ferret out the trouble. In time-honored fashion he kept lonely the vigil in the tower while the burglars went to bed. Precisely at nine, before his eyes, backward the time toward whence it came. The only explanation of the puzzled electrician could offer was that the phenomenon began when the building's electric generator started its weekly rejuvenation. But the two devices had no connection.

So the mystery remains. And perhaps it will continue, until the selectmen consult their children's bedtime stories and offer the man who can fix the clock the right to hunt unicorns in the town park forever. Christian Science Monitor

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

A few years ago, we were waiting for a train in the Chicago railroad station during the evening commuter rush hour. For country folks, it was startling and disturbing experience. Not the crowds, but the expressions on the faces of the multitude moving through the station to catch the local trains—and on almost every face a look that can only be described as "glassy-eyed." There was no interest in the passing scene, or the fellow humans in the station. Other people seemed to be no more than obstacles to be avoided, like the pillars or the station seats.

It makes one wonder if this isn't symptomatic of a growing tendency in modern life—the failure to look upon others as our fellow men, people with desires and with problems just as we have, people who would be interesting, if we took the time to know them.

Nor is this attitude confined to big cities. Even in smaller places — although they do offer greater opportunities to know folks better — we spend much of our time in a car, watching others pass at 70 miles an hour; in front of a TV set, watching artificial characters in make-believe situations that have little to do with real life.

How often is the person who waits on us in the store no more than an automated servitor? Or the customer, just another dollar? How often are other people just anonymous "they"? This attitude is reflected, too often, in "group planning," "group dynamics," in the whole idea of the "masses."

We should never forget that there is no such thing as the "masses." There are a multitude of human beings, each different, each interesting, each worthy of knowing better.

Perhaps a worthy New Year's resolution would be to try, during the coming year, to raise our eyes from the station gate, the highway, the television set, and look at the people around us. Monte Vista A.C. Col. J. J. J. Journal

A NEW LANGUAGE

Time passes. Today's kids and yesterday's kids don't speak the same language. . . . Dr. Charles E. Larsen, Mills College professor of history and government (was) just back from a world Fulbright tour. In his absence his young son inquired about him and was told, "Daddy's going around the world." "Oh," the boy said with quickened interest, "how many times?" — The (Portland) Oregonian

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news about King, Mountain area people and events taken from the 195 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Three candidates, including two incumbents, filed notice of candidacy for city offices during the past week. Olan R. Pearson, incumbent Ward 3 commissioner, filed shortly before 4 o'clock Wednesday, while Mayor Garland Still filed for re-election Tuesday afternoon. Sam Stallings filed for Ward 5 commissioner last Thursday.

Social and Personal

The home of Mrs. Charles Neiser was the scene of the regular January meeting of the House and Garden club.

Mrs. Amos Dean entertained members of the Contract Bridge club Tuesday afternoon at her home on Crescent Hill road.

Mrs. Charles Dilling was hostess on Tuesday afternoon to members of the Tuesday Afternoon Bridge club.

The Miracle Of Change

George T. Moore, Pastor
Resurrection Lutheran Church

SCRIPTURE: John 2:1-11
TEXT: John 2:3

When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

Have you ever wondered why Jesus performed miracles? Some say that our Lord's miracles were the fulfillment of prophecy. Some say they were necessary credentials, proof that this Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God. Some say they were simply the expression of divine compassion, that God, confronted by the acute distress of mankind, could do no less. Some say they were oracles at all. They were oracles, stories wrapped around legendary events, embellished fiction, fabricated in order to teach a lesson. What do you say? Have you ever wondered why Jesus performed miracles?

If you have examined closely all the miracles of our Lord, you might well wonder, for you will have discovered there is no simple answer. Actually there is a degree of truth in most of the reasons set forth, except, of course, for their being fiction.

The prophets did speak of the wonders to come just as they spoke of the Messiah Who was to come. The miracles were signs, signs of the kingdom of God, and as signs they were proof of this Jesus being the Son of God. They were, also, the expressions of the divine compassion as Jesus healed with compassion. All the miracles contained a message, a lesson, a truth. They tell something about God, about the human situation, and about God entering into the human situation.

Yet, when one comes to the Miracle of turning water into wine, a lot of wine about 150 gallons worth, most of the accepted answers fail to erase the questions. Why did Jesus perform this particular miracle?

One will have to admit it was quite a party as wedding celebrations went in those days. The actual ceremony was held at night, and after that was over the bridegroom and the bride walked to their new home for the honeymoon. Escorted by their friends they took the longest route, around and through the village in order to get the most well wishing from the villagers. Finally, upon the arrival at the home, the real festivities got under way, and continued. It was one, big Open House, with plenty to eat and drink for all for a whole week! The bridegroom had to be prepared in those days, planning it all in advance.

For this wedding, however, someone "goofed" on the planning. The wine supply was exhausted. The wine skins were empty. Without a doubt, a social tragedy was in the making. It would have been a tragedy because, for the ancient Jew, hospitality was considered to be a sacred duty. One of the important expressions of hospitality was the ample provision of wine. An old Jewish saying was that "without wine there is no joy," and those people took that quite seriously.

Into the embarrassing situation Jesus came, and responded, with a miracle. It didn't heal anyone. It didn't open any eyes or ears. It didn't cleanse any leprosy. It didn't restore life to the dead.

It simply kept the festivities going at a wedding celebration, retaining an atmosphere of joyous hospitality. "When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to Him, 'They have no wine.'" In His on way, with little or no fanfare, He turned 150 gallons of water into the finest wine.

However, if we accept the reality of the will and purpose of God, even here there must be eternal truths; even in a setting that led the Pharisees to call Jesus a winebibber and a glutton; even in a setting that leads to pleistie contemporaries of today to explain away our Lord's involvement in such a party. In this miracle, at an ancient wedding celebration, even with the wine flowing, there are lessons to be learned.

1. Our Lord's appearance at a wedding feast denotes God's blessing on marriage and the

home. Of course we know this to be quite true, as Christians, but do we always remember that He wants to be present, always? If He is present, as the guest of honor, a home, and a marriage is truly blessed. If He is not present, as the guest of honor, it is not a Christian home. God places His blessings on the home when He is there, invited and welcome.

2. John's reference to numbers, in this case the six stone jars, gives a rather subtle suggestion of the marked difference between Christianity any every other religion. Any study of biblical numerology reveals that seven is the perfect number. It may be combinations of three and four, or it may stand alone. Four equals cosmic perfection. Three equals divine perfection. Seven, hence, six is one less than seven therefore, is perfection, par excellence, therefore, imperfect. It's the contrast of the inadequacy of Judaism, contrasted with the adequacy of the Gospel.

3. The great supply of wine shows the boundlessness of God's grace and power. It's never a measly, restricted, limited giving on God's part. It's always the full, overflowing bounty that gives without measure, more than enough for every human need. God gives in great abundance, both grace and power.

4. By His act, in this particular miracle, Jesus puts His approval on the life of joy. It's not a blind optimism, blind to the facts of sorrow, but it's a seeking for joy even in the midst of sorrows. God desires that men by happy and joyous, whenever the opportunity arises. He makes of Christianity the life of joy by His presence, rather than one of sour pessimism.

In this miracle there is the revelation of the glory of God; not merely by the shattering of natural law, as we know it, but by the saving of a humble home from social disgrace. He made a change in that situation, maintaining friendliness where there could have been antagonistic snobbery. Sure, it doesn't seem very important when judged by our standards, but God saw a concrete need, and removed the possibility of social disgrace by divine intervention.

How can we draw all these conclusions that seem to go beyond the limits of the miracle? Simply on the basis of this fact, that in every point of contact with God, as He comes and is welcomed in human hearts, there is always THE MIRACLE OF CHANGE, a change for the better. It happens in the daily concerns of the physical life, and also in the greater depths of the spiritual life.

It's quite true for this miracle at Cana in Galilee, when Jesus first said to His mother, "My hour has not come yet," is set over against a later time, when Jesus spoke again, saying, "Father, the hour has come."

In the first He took water, and turned water into wine; and, even in it's limits was suggestive of another hour. For, in the second, He took bread and wine, saying, "This is my body. This is my blood." And, in that hour, He went out and gave of Himself. He shed His own blood, the divine "shed" of God's forgiving grace, in the miracle of change, — a change in your situation and in mine; a change that blesses your home and your marriage, a change that makes the Gospel complete perfect, and adequate for your every need; a change that brings to you the boundlessness of God's grace and power; a change that makes your joy complete, and gives you a life of joy; a change that saves you from disgrace and dishonor, as God gives you status before the world and before Himself.

Where the first was momentary and limited, designed for 1 specific need, the second is continuous and eternal, designed for all needs, in all generations.

And what's the evidence of this miracle of change in your life? You are! You are the only evidence. You, alone, can let the world know whether or not this miracle has produced a change in you. And, if it's true, let the world know it, for it's the change the one change the world so desperately needs.

A Big Consolation . . .

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