

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.

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086 under Act of Congress of March 3, 1873.

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. St. Luke 2:14.

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

I thought it last year and think it again. The Christmas greeting cards from friends all over are prettier, more unique, more original, and more colorful than ever before.

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And they come from all over the world.

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From my cousin, Virginia Plunk Morris in Ismir, Turkey, comes a card which is a reproduction of a Turkish rug. The Arabic inscription woven into it in the 16th century reads, "Those who pray to God with purity of heart enter heaven." Virginia enclosed an interesting letter relating that her husband and family plan retirement from the army next May and will live in Signal Mountain, Tenn.

m-m

Originality of choice marks the card from Joe Heddens. Is it Joe in Santa outfit, baton in hand, directing the strains of "Merry Christmas"? Ditto for the card from the Howard Jacksons. This one is a colorful night scene in New York, a lady and gentleman in foreground, package laden. For appearance, and stature the figures could easily be Howard and Hazel.

m-m

I Want You--and I'll Get You!



Viewpoints of Other Editors

Christmas 1963

The celebration of Christmas, A. D. 1963, is underway and will culminate with the annual traditional rites, literally around the world, on Wednesday.

While theologians note that there have been some counting errors on fixing the date of the birth of Jesus Christ, both as to year and month, this contention is of no particular moment. The fact remains that the principals of Jesus of Nazareth remain the hope and guiding light of a sinful world.

This year's Christmas celebration, as most in the past, will be held against a backdrop of a difficult year, in which it has seemed that Christ's principals are more remembered than practiced.

A never-ending struggle continues in South Viet Nam, involving both natives and Americans. In contrast to last year, the Russians are indicating for the most part overtures of friendship, rather than the familiar sabre-rattling, Red China having replaced the United States as Russia's whipping boy, momentarily.

At home, the official period of mourning for the late President John F. Kennedy has just ended, Mr. Kennedy having been the nation's fourth chief executive to die from an assassin's bullet, an event that numbed the nation.

Filling the pages of each daily newspaper are tragic events.

Yet the Prince of Peace lives on.

East Germany is momentarily breaching the hated wall, allowing West Germans passes to see their loved ones during the Christmas season. Regardless of motive of the East German government, it has been pointed out, the fact of the happy reunions speaks for itself.

In Kings Mountain and throughout the nation, citizens better endowed with this world's goods are providing Christmas cheer for the unfortunate, the sick, and poor.

All may mourn the failure of human beings to measure up to teachings of Jesus Christ, but may also well reflect on the likely worst state of this community and the world were it not for the renaissance of the spirit generated by the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Foreign Aid Slashed

As the current long session of Congress ends, a joint conference committee has agreed to a \$3 billion foreign aid bill, the smallest appropriation for this function in many years.

It is \$1.5 billion less than President Kennedy had requested, and results from a new disenchantment with the program in the Senate, where the appropriation request was vigorously attacked by several former hearty supporters. The House has never been as friendly to the foreign aid program, reflecting more closely a grass-roots approach, and the comparative closeness thereto of the Representative who must get re-endorsement from the voters biennially.

It can be assumed that, rightly or wrongly, the cutting action will cost no Congressman his job.

Most will agree that some of the billions expended in foreign aid has been beneficial to this nation, but there have been billions expended down the drain of waste.

It is conceivable that the pared appropriation will be spent more beneficially for the very fact that less is available.

Legal Liquor Request

Ralph Gilbert, of Shelby, has asked the county board of commissioners to use its authority under the law to call a referendum on the legal sale of alcoholic beverages.

Mr. Gilbert based his request on two theses: 1) that revenues are being diverted to legal liquor outlets in South Carolina, North Carolina and to illegal dealers at home, rather than to the county and city treasurers; and 2) that the question is not a moral one, but a practical one of control vs. illegality.

These are essentially the contentions which have been advanced in other areas of Piedmont and Western North Carolina, where a strong moral aversion to the use of spirituous beverages has not necessarily been accompanied by comparable consumption habits, bringing the accusation that folk of the Piedmont and West "vote dry and drink wet."

In Charlotte, Greensboro, Catawba County, and Asheville, citizens have endorsed these contentions.

In other cities and counties, the vote of citizens has been "no."

Cleveland County's most recent decision on the matter concerned the sale of the so-called mild beverages, wine and beer, and Cleveland resoundingly eliminated both from legal sale by a margin of 9 to 1. However, the vote in the cities of Shelby and Kings Mountain was less resounding, though here the vote was 3 to 1 against.

Most will agree that the thinking of the county on this matter has changed somewhat since, though not as many would hazard a prediction that Cleveland is ready to vote wet.

The commission took no action on the request, though Commissioner Hugh Dover said he was opposed "categorically."

Though the commission has the authority to call the election, it is hardly conceivable it will, minus a petition of the voters, and ABC store supporters would undoubtedly find the going easier if they eschew the whole of the county and arrange voter elections in the two major cities.

With constant pressure mounting for funds for governmental functions, the revenue angle has appeal, but odds do not favor Cleveland going wet, in spite of the long-acknowledged failure of the National Volstead amendment which President Hoover labored "the noble experiment," and the fact there appears no correlation between alcoholism and legal liquor whether in dry or wet country.

Registration books are open again Saturday for the January 14 election on the constitutional amendment to change representation in the General Assembly.

NUCLEA GLOVES ACROSS THE SEA

It looks as though Britain's independent deterrent is to get a brisk airing in the election campaign between the Conservative "ins" and the Labor Opposition. The debate will probably show that whichever party controls the British Government after the voting, the American - British partnership will remain unthreatened by the outcome.

The British nuclear debate will however disclose some interesting differences in the relations of the two major parties to the aims of Washington.

Today the American hope of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons into many independent hands, and the problems of building joint controls for an allied nuclear deterrent, actually seem more likely to receive maximum aid from the Labor Party than from the Conservatives. This possibility is underscored by Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home's insistence on the value of an independent deterrent for Britain. He sees it as a specially strong support for British prestige, assuring Britain's presence in world councils "by right."

The Labor Party takes the position that Britain does not really have an independent deterrent now. The Labor Party therefore would be readier to leave a Western deterrent to American control, at any rate for the time being. This position would accord with that of Norway and some other of the smaller allies, though definitely not with that of France.

A Labor spokesman has said that the party would be more interested in winning Britain's share of control over nuclear power through helping to form an alliance agency for this purpose. This means Labor would not be so interested in the American-British Polaris program. On the other hand Labor would presumably work toward the sort of joint controls that might make Britain's collaboration with the Common Market more feasible than it appeared to de Gaulle last January.

WAR SERVICE AND RELIGION

Over a long period of years Congress has granted Federal charters to a considerable number of national organizations such as the Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, the American Legion, the D. A. R. and others. These charters confer certain rights and privileges, specifically enumerated in each case. No recent additions have been made to the list, but two will be, if bills just approved by the Senate are concurred in by the House. The two new entries are the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America and the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

Measures granting these two charters were approved after a minimum of debate (apparently less than a quarter of an hour) after discussion in which fewer than half a dozen members took part. The chief advocates of the bills were two Senators from New York. The chief opponent was Mr. Hickenlooper of Iowa. "This is a gentleman with whom we do not often find ourselves in agreement; but we must say that I think he raised a valid point when he said:

I have nothing but the great respect for the religion of anybody, but when we put religious qualifications into religious

Christmas Presents

Neighboring Gastonia is getting two important Christmas presents.

One is the advance opening of the 10.8-mile link of Interstate 85, the four-lane super highway by-passing Gastonia to the north.

The other is the agreement of Southern Railway Company to move its passenger and freight terminals north to a less congested area.

This major link of Interstate 85 is opening six months ahead of schedule, reflecting both the enviable construction weather of the past year and the push given the work by the construction crews and highway department.

It is estimated that 40 percent of the traffic, representing "through" motorists, will be removed from Franklin Avenue, which numbers 22 traffic signals. This will be a boon to local area citizens too, who have business in Charlotte or points north.

Though there is a legal barrier to hurdle in the Southern Railway development, its proponents think the barrier navigable. It will be an added traffic boon. Gastonia, like Kings Mountain, is bisected by the railroad, has a paucity of underpass. Even quick-passing passenger trains cause traffic jam-ups, and shifting freights create both jam-ups and accident hazards. The agreement between the Southern and the City of Gastonia culminates a decade of effort.

The city commission has again declined a proffer from a governmental power agency for some of its power consumption. The city doesn't like some of the inferences in the terms, and, as Mayor Glee Bridges commented, has had a most pleasant association with Duke Power Company and its predecessor companies since 1905. It is not generally good business practice to change suppliers when service is impeccable of costs fair.

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events taken from the 1953 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Semi-Annual dividends of Home Building and Loan Association paid during the past week-end totaled \$20,254.34.

Industrial Kings Mountain was slowing its gears Monday toward a virtual complete shutdown for he rapidly approaching Christmas holiday.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Town and Country Garden club members held their December meeting at the home of Mrs. D. W. Blanton.

FLOWERS FROM KENYA

President Johnson inherits from his predecessor a greater measure of good will toward the United States on the part of the uncommitted people of Africa and Asia than has been poured out since the end of World War II.

One of the most touching tributes this week came from Kenya, whence students sent a wreath of 1,720 blossoms, representing the number of young Africans now back in their homeland after schooling in the United States.

Somehow John Kennedy captured the imagination above all of the younger generation in many countries of Africa and Asia. Perhaps it was his own youthfulness. Perhaps it was his grace and style on great occasions—qualities which helped to make intelligible to the Old World the sometimes baffling concepts of the New. But above all it was his accession to the presidency at a time when United States foreign policy was turning away from the inflexibility of the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

Mr. Kennedy himself was in the van of this changing emphasis in American foreign policy. A speech from then Senator Kennedy indicating sympathy with the Algerian nationalists in revolt against French rule marked him out to Africans and Asians as a man who had some feeling for their cause.

He had never sternly warned the countries of Africa and Asia that nonalignment was immoral, and that whoever was not for the United States would have to be considered against it. (Such was interpreted American policy of the 1950's in Africa and Asia.)

This, then, is what the new President is bequeathed. Let us hope that on both sides under his administration understandings will continue to grow, so that Africa and Asia will recognize incontrovertibly that the foundations on which the United States rests are the principles and ideas to men everywhere.

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