



The Kings Mountain Herald

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. St. John 3:17.

Vehicle Inspection

The North Carolina Traffic Safety Council is surveying newspapers of the state to determine:

- 1) What percentage of their readers would favor an annual motor vehicle inspection program by state - supervised private stations, and
- 2) What the newspapers feel are the primary objections to the proposal.

The president of the organization is Robert P. Holding, Jr., of Charlotte and Smithfield.

The Herald has no sure means of guessing the percentage of its readers who favor such a law, but suspects that more favor such a law today than might once it became operative, which is quite natural.

Older residents remember the painful waits of the late forties when such a law was in operation and the inspection was at state - operated stations. They also remember such bizarre incidents as aged vehicles passing with flying colors, while more up-to-date models were ordered to the garage for repairs of one kind or another, with a subsequent re-check required at the state stations.

The second question of the Traffic Safety Council is therefore answered. The problem is the administration of the vehicle checks, it being remembered that North Carolina now has on its motor scroll more than two million cars and trucks.

But North Carolina's continually mounting accident toll, with more than 1500 highway deaths in 1964, and an additional 22,000 injured sufficiently to get ambulance conveyance for hospital and medical attention dictates serious efforts to making driving more safe.

The promoters of this legislation realize that mechanical troubles are responsible for only a small percentage of the accidents, with driver error, either consciously contrived, or contrived through unintentional lapse, remaining the core of the problem.

Yet prevention of even ten accidents, or even one accident, is to be desired. Proper lights, brakes, and steering can spell the difference between collision and safe passage and, of course, the difference between life and death.

With private garages and service stations as the inspection team, it is conceivable the administration of the law would prove palatable to the public, as well as insuring against mechanical failure on the highways.

Such a law is before the General Assembly now. Should it not prove workable it could be amended or repealed within two years of effective date.

C & D Birthday

In his address to the Kiwanis Club last week, W. P. (Bill) Saunders, acting director of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, noted that the department is 40 years of age this year, having been formed in 1925.

The department has eight service divisions, commerce and industry, community planning, commercial fisheries, geodetic survey, forestry, state parks, mineral resources and travel information.

It might be noted that the commerce and industry division has enjoyed its most noted success during the past 11 years, since the beginning of the Hodges Administration, and with Mr. Saunders, the onetime Kings Mountain citizen, as director during five of those years.

A Monday morning headline and news story also detailed the success of travel information division, the functions including active promotion of tourist attractions. Success last year was measured at \$1.1 billion gross and Governor Dan Moore foresees its growth to a two million figure in the near future. The various functions, of course, tend to complement each other. The state parks, for instance, are continuing tourist attractions.

North Carolina is a better, more prosperous state today because of the foresightedness of the General Assembly in setting up this department.

It is reasonable to believe that its good service will expand as it observes future birthdays.

The Extremists

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is hardly a favorite in the South, with the vast majority of citizens mystified as to his selection for the Nobel Peace prize. Apparently, he attempts to be a modern Ghandi, advocating peace, yet fomenting trouble.

Conversely, the vast majority of Southerners condemn the extremists on the other side of the coin, those who have no regard for life and who have perpetrated murder in Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama and also in North Carolina.

Dr. King's latest call to "peaceful" arms is for an economic boycott of the whole of Alabama, as evil per se as the forces King fights. He would damage the whole Alabama, forgetting that many white Alabamians approve the advertised King goals of equal voting rights for the colored population.

What equal voting rights are is a moot question.

North Carolina, for instance, specifies a literacy test. It was applied fully in last year's county-wide re-registration. A number of former voters found themselves disfranchised. Particularly saddening was the statement of a Kings Mountain citizen who remarked, "My mother can't read and write, but she has always voted and is mighty sad she won't be able to vote this year."

Others hold with another Kings Mountain citizen who says, "If a person can't read and write, he really isn't qualified to vote."

Back to Alabama, Dr. King would hurt even liberal Tuskegee, home of the long-famed Tuskegee Institute, and a current model of good race relations in that troubled state. The colored population outnumbers the white population, yet leaders of both groups have established an accommodation.

Extremists, of whatever faith and bent, tend to view problems as matters of black and white, when, in actuality, most of them (excepting life, death and taxes) are varying shades of gray, from dark oxford to near-white pearl.

Congratulations to George W. Mauney, who is the newly elected president of Kings Mountain Country Club, and to Harold Glass, appointed a national aide-de-camp of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Cleveland's Senator Jack White cast the only audible "no" on the bill to allow married women to order sterilization operations without the consent of their husbands. Ostensibly, the women ordering such operations would be those abandoned by their husbands, but not necessarily. The Herald agrees with the White "no", having always looked askance at sterilization, with exception of instances where medical doctors recommend sterilization on grounds of safety of the wife's health. A doctor's dictum is scientifically determined. An abandoned wife's is not. Nor is it without the bounds of probability that the abandoned wife may at some future time remarry, then wish too late to have children. Tampering with nature tends to move man into the role of playing God. Dr. J. E. Anthony remarked of his profession some years ago, "We can help nature out, but we can't improve on it."

Mayor Glee Bridges says that preliminary plans for the required sewage treatment plant to serve the western area of the city will be filed with the proper state agencies by Thursday's due date. This is a long overdue project which will cost treasure, but which is important to the health and welfare of all Kings Mountain citizens as well as neighbors along creek beds the city sewage affluent long has contaminated.

Congratulations to Central Methodist church on plans to replace the current inadequate structure with a new \$200,000 edifice.

The Senate committee on public utilities conducted a public hearing Wednesday on the controversial legislation which materially changes present powers of power-selling cities. The cities are fighting hard, all being well-aware that power profits sustain in large measure many deadweight services. Euchering out the cities seems selfish policy on the part of the power companies and rural electric coops.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

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

Thursday is All Fool's Day, also known as April 1, or April Fool.

m-m

The dictionary gives more than a little attention to the subject, to wit: an April Fool is one who is sportively imposed upon; to April fool is to sportively imposed upon one, or to make an April Fool of.

m-m

The New York Times Magazine of the recent Sunday enumerated, via the hand of Edward Murphy, some very interesting quotations on the Fool's Day business from several philosophers, some of them the cornfield variety, some of them of the quite literate literati.

m-m

The late Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., said: "A man who calls everybody a damn fool is like a man who damns the weather—he only shows that he is not adapted to his environment, not that the environment is wrong."

m-m

Commented Essayist Charles Lamb: "Here cometh April again and as far as I can see the world hath more fools in it than ever." Said Josh Billings: "Take all the fools and the good luck out of this world and it would trouble many of us to get a living."

m-m

Last week at Gardner-Webb College, I chatted briefly with Tom Roberts, now of Forest City, but (ahem) just a FEW years ago a high school classmate. Tom is like me and some others of that vintage. His barber is worth five years to him, as long as the barber crops his hair short. Tom, incidentally, has a daughter beginning the college route at Duke.

m-m

But just 30 years ago Thursday, Tom was a much wiser man than I.

m-m

As high school juniors, most of us decided we were too mature for the old pranks such as: "Your shoe's untied, ha, ha, April Fool!", or other kid tricks such as pushing a guy over the prone back of another. We were mature and going to do something about it.

m-m

The result was mass exodus, after lunch hour, of the great bulk of the junior class. We simply walked out. Though cash and autos were at a premium, there were enough of both to accommodate the April Pools throughout the streets of Kings Mountain initially, then to a soda at Sweetland's Restaurant and Soda Shop in Gastonia.

m-m

Memories dim in 30 years, but I remember being somewhat shocked that Hoyle McDaniel, Bruce's elder brother, shouted to us, "That's exactly who you are, April Fools!"

m-m

Obviously, it developed that Hoyle was quite correct, and that Tom Roberts, his late sister Jeanette, Martha Plonk, and a few others were the more mature of the many.

m-m

We quickie strikers paid for our sins, if less than we deserved. There was embarrassment before the whole of the student body and suspension from school.

m-m

Big trouble about the suspension, of course, was that it began Friday afternoon and ended precisely at class time Monday morning. The conduct grade for the month (now it's labeled citizenship) was "D", that little fourth letter in the alphabet spelling failure. In those days a proper average meant exemption from examinations but no bad conduct student was ever exempted. We malcreants, many of us otherwise qualified, stood the exams.

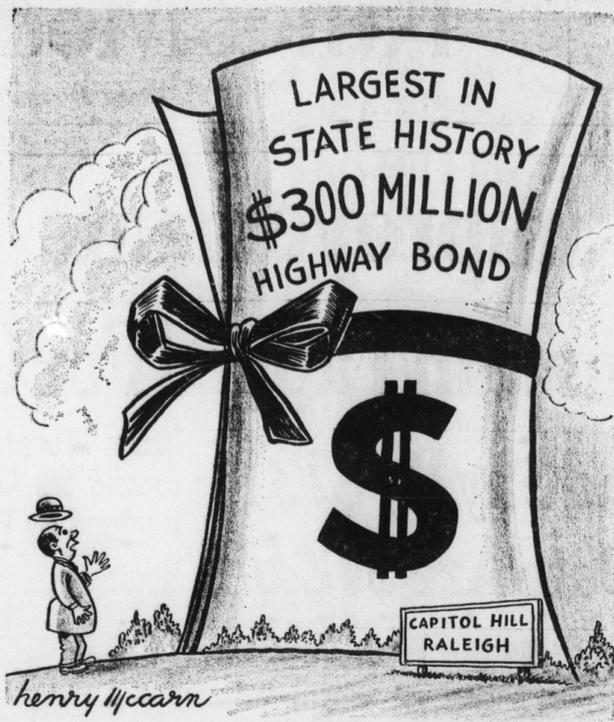
m-m

But there's much more to April than April Fooling. The dictionary, for instance, details (though obsolete) that an April Gentleman is a newly married man. And Shakespeare wrote, "The April's in her eyes; it is love's spring."

m-m

George Gissing, however, capped the April Fool business, all of April, and every other day in the year, when he said: "It is idle to rage against man's fatuity as to hope that he will ever be less a fool."

The People Will Approve



Viewpoints of Other Editors

THE CAUTIOUS MOTORISTS

A number of Congressmen, mostly liberal Democrats, are a little unhappy with the ground rules of a recently authorized study of Congressional organization and procedures.

Specifically, the legislators object to the fact that the joint Senate-House committee will be barred from making "recommendations with respect to the rules, parliamentary procedure, practices, and/or precedents" of either House. In other words, such procedures as unlimited debate and choice of committee chairmen by seniority won't come under the group's gaze.

According to Rep. Udall of Arizona, this amounts to "telling mechanics to look over this automobile of ours with only one reservation—they can't examine the engine." He and other liberal legislators are convinced that Congress needs a more thorough-going overhaul.

Maybe so. But it's worth noting that another study group, operating under the same restriction, laid the groundwork for the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Among other things, that act reduced the number of standing committees and improved their procedures, revamped appropriations processes and provided the legislators with adequate and professional staffs. So it is by no means sure that the coming study will accomplish nothing.

As for Congress' parliamentary rules and procedures, perhaps it is true that they could be improved. But some lawmakers presumably remember that unlimited debate, whatever its faults, can serve liberal as well as conservative causes by assuring a minority a chance at least to air its case. And some of the legislators certainly wonder whether committee chairmen selected by some new means would always be more able than those who rise to their posts through long experience.

In short, most Congressmen aren't convinced that new rules and procedures would be any real improvement over what they have now. And no cautious motorist is likely to let the mechanics pull out his engine unless he has lots of confidence in what goes in its place.

Wall Street Journal

THE 'IN' SET

The latest thing with the country's "in" set in case you happened to be looking the other way, is father and son divorces.

Earl Wilson, saloon columnist for countless newspapers, stumbled on this interesting phenomenon the other night in Toots Shor's. That's where he found Jack Jones, son of Allan Jones. Allan Jones went to the top of the pile after singing "Donkey Serenade" in a Jeanette MacDonald picture 25 years ago.

Jack, 27 and a singer too, is getting a divorce. So is Allan. Their concurrent divorces have brought father and son closer than ever, said Jack, and there is greater understanding. "We can counsel each other," he said. "In fact, last week Dad and I went to the Playboy Club in Hollywood together."

Father and son divorces follow by several years mother and daughter pregnancies, and brother and sister homicides. In fact, they are decades behind mother and children mayhem, as popularized by Ma Barker and sons, and at least a couple of years behind his and her play-stills.

Still, father and son divorces prove that today's generation is not completely without class and a certain verve. Isn't that encouraging?

The Chapel Hill Weekly

TEACHERS CORPS

An imaginative adaptation of the Peace Corps plan has been proposed, simultaneously but apparently independently, by Sen. Gaylord Nelson and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. They aim to recruit and train young men and women who want to become teachers in poverty - impacted schools.

In rough outline, the plans would provide for sending teacher trainees to universities cooperating in the program to learn teaching techniques and do other graduate work. They would be assigned, as soon as they had sufficient preparation, to a poverty-impacted school to teach there as part of a team under the supervision of an experienced teacher. They would receive a beginning teacher's salary, have their tuition at the university paid by the United States and, at the end of two years, be awarded a Master of Arts Degree in teaching.

We have no doubt that a great many young people graduating from colleges all over the country would jump at a chance to participate in this program. And we have no doubt, either, that their idealism, enthusiasm and training could make an invaluable contribution to the joint attack on poverty and ignorance.

There are problems in this approach, however—fitting the recruits into existing school staffs and reconciling the methods they have learned with those practiced in the school being most conspicuous among them. But no doubt these problems can be overcome by the kind of tact and deference to local authority demonstrated by the Peace Corps.

The Washington Post

Clubs Wednesday. A large crowd visited the Woman's club for the 1955 show.

Mrs. Franklin Pethel of the Child Welfare division of the Gaston County Department of Public Welfare had the program at a meeting of the Sans Souci Book club March 29.

Speaking Out

By GEORGE T. MOORE, President Kings Mountain Ministerial Assn.

I will never understand the attraction of watching a lot of "souped-up" vehicles racing each other around a track. It all seems such a waste of manpower and equipment. Such is my reaction to last week's Sebring race.

Oh, I know all the arguments for such activities. It's an exciting, thrilling sport which tests the training and skill of daring drivers. It makes possible improvements and advancements in automotive design. It enables manufacturers to exhibit and test their products. Race tracks bring a lot of business and income into the particular areas involved.

As to the thrill, the emphasis always seem to be on the crack-ups which occur. It is considered to be a dull race if there are no accidents. However, there isn't

much thrill in seeing a fine piece of machinery destroyed. There is less thrill in seeing a life lost, crushed or burned to death.

The argument for the testing and improving automotive design isn't very strong either. The same thing can be said about wars, since some of our greatest technical advances come as the result of war-designed inventions. Yet, I hardly think that anyone would say that war is good, even for the sake of advanced technology.

Anyway, every auto manufacturer has his own way and place for conducting tests, better ways offer greater possibilities than a race. The race track is simply the place to show off what has already been done.

The same applies to the many allied items involved, such as the vast array of petroleum products. Much more is done in the laboratory and in controlled field tests than on a race track. The track, again, becomes the place for publicity and advertisement.

I know there is a very thin line of distinction when it comes to comparing and judging sports, especially when a strong factor is the profit involved. Most sports are big business. They attract the best professionals because they pay well.

Then, too, the attractive sport for the spectator are those which provide the greater excitement and thrill. You don't find many people paying \$3 a ticket to watch a chess tournament. You will find a lot paying that, and more, to watch an auto race.

Yet, when you come down to it, the basic question is not one of economics, but one of concern for the human values. Even though a lot of people seem to get their thrills from death-defying dangers, this doesn't make it right.

Yes, there is danger on a football field or on a ski slope, but that's a far cry from the firing of a lethal weapon around a curving track, surrounded by other such weapons just as dangerous.

It is time we took a serious look at our ideas of fun and enjoyment. I question their validity at the speedway! I question it because it gets carried over to our public highways, where speed is constantly changing thrills into tragedies. What's a life worth?

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