



The Kings Mountain Herald

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 post office at Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086 under Act of Congress of March 3, 1873.

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God. 1 Corinthians 7:24.

Co-incidences

An official of the National Urban League, charging on June 20 that Kings Mountain schools had discharged six Negro teachers, proved to be prescient, if premature.

Six Negro teachers in the system last year were not re-elected for the coming year and had been priorly informed they would not be recommended for re-election. Reasons varied, though "lack of cooperation" with administration, faculty, and patrons was the principal one.

One white teacher has not been re-elected. Holder of a "B" certificate, she failed to take steps to upgrade her certificate to "A", as the board of education has required for many years.

Otherwise, the board of education has re-employed all teachers in the system last year with "A" certificates and higher, as well as holders of "B" certificates where the test of certificate upgrading is being met — except those who were not candidates for re-election.

By coincidence, 189 Negro pupils asked and received assignment to previously all-White schools. Since North Carolina's teacher allotment formula is based on an average of 30 pupils (27 now in grades 1-3), it is easy to understand the conclusion reached by the National Urban League and other Negro groups that Negro teachers were being discharged or, technically, not being re-elected, on basis of numbers of Negro students assigned to formerly all-White schools.

It is unbelievable that President Johnson, or the Congress, in passing the 1964 civil rights act, intended that employees of any establishment, unfit by attitude, training, or performance of assignment, were to be retained merely because of race, creed, color, sex or national origin — the phrase continually recurring in the text of the act.

Yet another coincidence, it is hoped, will not color the thinking of Mordecai Johnson, a Negro lawyer on the staff of the federal Office of Education, though it is easy to understand it might.

Johnson was one of a team of Office of Education officials in Raleigh last week to outline to school administrators errors in school pupil assignment plans, which errors thus far had prevented approval by the Office of Education.

Thursday's morning newspapers related that Johnson had been refused service by a waitress in a Raleigh restaurant — an action not designed to improve this official's regard of a southern state. Johnson was reported to have said he would file a complaint with the Department of Justice. The news account did not say whether Johnson was served in another restaurant.

Of such coincidental events are decisions dictated and misimpressions hatched.

Rev. Marion DuBose

Among the news stories the Herald would rather have not been required to publish last week was the one detailing the upcoming departure of Rev. Marion DuBose, pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist church.

Rev. Mr. DuBose, a six-year veteran of the Kings Mountain Ministerial corps, has been an effective preacher and pastor to his church, as well as to the whole community, with an ecumenical view of his work not always exhibited by some.

Rev. Mr. DuBose came to Kings Mountain to serve as initial pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist church, following the decision of a sizeable minority of First Baptist church members to form another church. The decision and compromise division of First Baptist properties left in their wake much bitterness.

Rev. Mr. DuBose proved most adept at calming roiled waters. Best wishes accrue to him as he assumes next month the pastorate of Newington Baptist church, Gloucester, Va.

Congratulations to Miss Margaret Ratterree, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bright D. Ratterree, new Dean of Women at Western Carolina college.

New Banking Citizen

First Citizens Bank & Trust Company, headquartered in Smithfield, is the state's fourth largest in assets. It operates 97 units in 46 North Carolina cities and towns and soon will become a banking citizen of Kings Mountain.

Approval of the operation here, following approval by the State Banking commission last week, awaits action by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which is regarded as routine, once favorable action by the state commission is taken.

Vice-President George Broadrick, who made the presentation before the banking commission, credited Kings Mountain with a trading area population of 14,000, noted it is North Carolina's largest city with a lone bank (tiny Marshall has two).

The commission's action of approval was quick.

A principal reason, undoubtedly, was the fact First Union National Bank did not oppose the First Citizens' application to operate here. An official commented on a question whether First Union would oppose, "I understand we never have."

There have been times in the past when the banking commission, as well as many other state licensing boards, have been accused of making decisions designed to perpetuate monopoly, rather than for purpose of protecting the public, excuse for being of these regulatory and licensing agencies. Some years ago, Don Elias, then a member of the banking commission said, after the commission had declined by 6 to 2 vote to approve a new bank for Greensboro, "It's easier for the camel to pass through the eye of a needle than to get a new bank in North Carolina."

First Union National apparently adopted the attitude, "Come on in, boys, the water's fine."

There are relative advantages, from the operational standpoint, of being a national or state-chartered bank, as there are relative advantages to bank patrons, the Herald understands.

Kings Mountain will now have both represented.

Volunteers, Please

The "free choice" school pupil assignment plan elected by the board of education could have posed more headaches for the board than it did.

There are two major imbalances:

- 1) Too many parents want their youngsters to attend West school.
- 2) Too few parents chose Park Grace school.

Except for the added dimension of the de-segregation requirement, the situation is no different from the past. It is an annual custom for school administrators to invite volunteers to attend other schools to correct imbalances in teaching loads.

The basic formula of teaching loads is 27 pupils in Grades 1 to 3, and 30 pupils otherwise. But babies, somehow, are not born annually in equal numbers.

West school still has too many applicants, though retaining two classrooms carved out of the auditorium. Heaviest overload is in West school first grade.

The problem of Park Grace school is quite the opposite. Minus more pupils, Park Grace apparently will be a four-grade school, operationally sub-marginal from many standpoints, per capita cost of operation a principal sub-marginal area.

Since consolidation of schools of the area into the Kings Mountain district the premium has been on space. In the first year of the merger, the administrators showed almost magical wizardry in squeezing eight extra classrooms out of the already crowded Central plant.

Now it appears that extra space will be available for a few terms, though some of it is undesirable space.

The board of education asks volunteers for Park Grace and, if past performance of patrons is a criterion, will get them.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

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

By MARTIN HARMON

There is a saying in this area that a newcomer should beware of making derogatory remarks of any kind about anybody, as the addressee is sure to be the derogated's kinfolk, even if a second cousin twice removed.

m-m

"This true, I'm sure, for I continue to find new kin (if quite distant) continually.

m-m

Dr. Sam Robinson, partner of Dr. George Plunk, may be a case in point. Chatting with his wife recently, I found, when the discussion somehow turned to genealogy, that Tennessee Robinson has McGill kinfolk (did someone say his mother?). That would make him possible kin to members of the William McGill clan (Dr. John C. McGill and John L. McGill) and to the McGills of Gaston, which includes his partner.

m-m

The above (not checked out) is principally a prelude to saying that 1) the world is small and 2) this area's citizens values its family relationships and customarily expresses the values with a horde of annual clan reunions.

m-m

And August is the favorite reunion month, obviously stemming from the days when just about all members were farmers, crops were laid by, and there was a comparative surcease from arduous tillage until harvest season.

m-m

Sometime ago, David Beam, the county commission chairman, gave me a copy of "Sketches of the Life of J. T. Beam and His Fifteen Children", an interesting booklet compiled by A. R. Beam, published in 1897, and, by Act of Congress, entered the following year in the office of the Librarian of Congress.

m-m

Just about everyone, if they are indigenous to Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln or Rutherford counties, would likely find on a little digging they are somehow related to John Teeter Beam (Beam), born the same year as George Washington in 1732, and a migrant to the New World in 1767 — just 198 years ago. John Teeter more or less hitch-hiked to America, making port at Charleston, S. C., paid his passage by indenturing himself to one Christy Eaker, of Lincoln county. According to the sketch folklore, the Beam forebear proved such a good workman that Eaker freed him in six years. J. T. had six children when his first wife Rebecca Ranyals died in 1779. His second, Elizabeth Rudolph, was to bear him nine more. Says the author, Miss Rudolph was a descendant of a 14th century German Emperor.

m-m

John Teeter Beam, who died in 1807, is buried at New Prospect church, which he founded. Now a Baptist church, it was originally Lutheran, emblematic of Beam's German heritage. It is also the locale of the annual Beam reunion, which attracts about the largest crowd of any reunion in the area. Among the famous of the Beam clan of more modern vintage was the author Thomas Dixon, ("Birth of a Nation", etc.)

m-m

John Teeter Beam was a loyal Colonialist but, typical of Kings Mountain, Ramsour's Mill, and virtually all of the Revolutionary War, neighbor was against neighbor, and some of his ex-friends became his bitter enemies.

m-m

If I recall correctly, Commission David Beam told me he is a fifth generation descendant of old John Teeter, which would make him David's great-great grandfather. According to the book, I'm a sixth generation descendant. Whether I'm sufficient mathematician to figure out David and my kinship, I doubt.

m-m

Re-reading the "Life of Beam", I found I can claim kin to a couple of families — the Long family and Graham family out of Lincoln county.

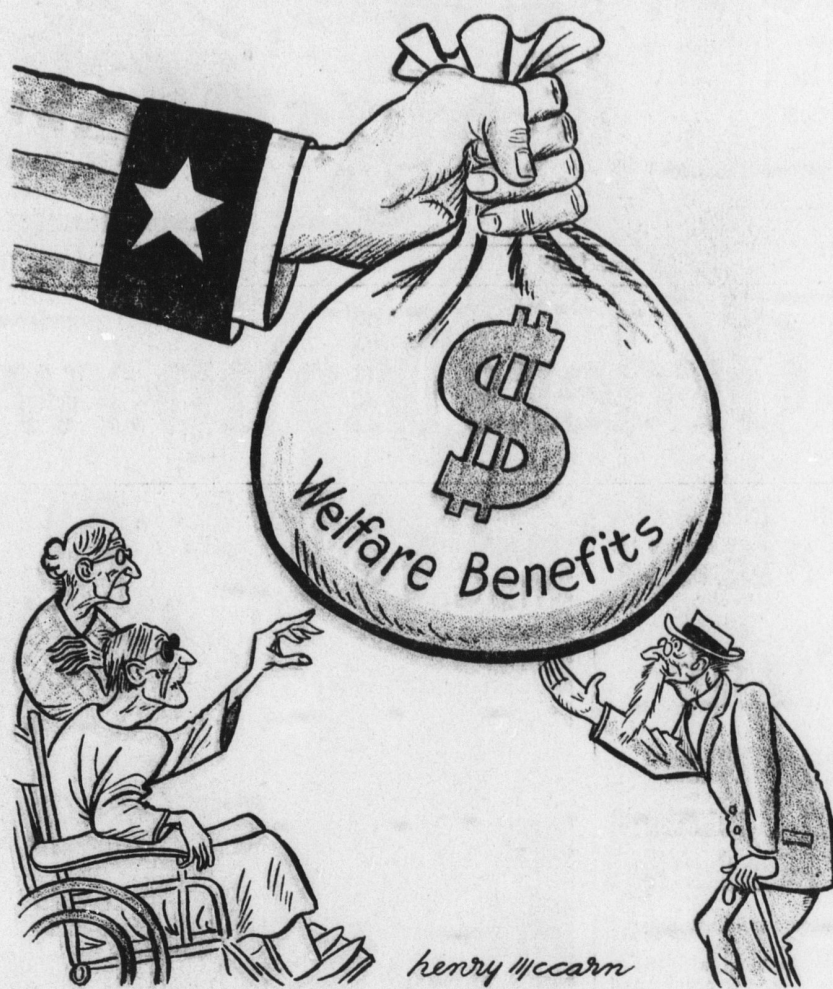
m-m

My great-grandmother was Jane Beam, grand-daughter of John Teeter. She wed John Harmon, born 1811, and both are interred at New Prospect church cemetery.

m-m

Apparently there was more truth than fiction to that "kissin' kin" business.

In the Bag



Viewpoints of Other Editors

BE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHICH GOVERNMENT

There was this fellow who phoned the other afternoon to say that he just wanted to talk, "About what?" we asked. About how he didn't like the way the government is being run, he said.

"Which government?" we asked. "Are you trying to be funny?" he bristled.

We didn't have the figures available then. But we know now that at the last official count by the Census Bureau there were 91,236 governments in the United States. In addition to the federal government and the 50 states, there are 3,043 counties, 17,144 towns and townships, 17,997 municipalities, 34,678 school districts and 18,323 special districts.

So you can see that governments aren't what they used to be.

They're disappearing. Twenty years ago there were more than 150,000 government in the U. S.

School district consolidation explains the decrease. But with 91,236 regimes extant it's a little difficult to know where your money is going. However, one thing's certain. It isn't all going to the federal government.

Oh, sure, we know: Of the nation's labor force of 77 million (as of the first of the year), the federal government had 12 1/2 million employed (if you include the armed services) and another six million workers in private industry were working on government contract work.

But did you know that in another couple of years state and local governments will be hiring four times as many additional persons as the federal government? Did you know that local government bodies and states are now spending five times as much money as does the federal government in its non-defense budget?

Now we know that "government at the regional level" is the fair-haired child of a lot of politicians — particularly of politicians at the regional level. But we also know that too much fragmentation of government responsibility often can be wasteful and expensive.

So when you want to talk about the government it might be well if you specified which government you're gunning for — the federal government or one of the 91,235 others. — The Huntsville, Ala., Times.

LORDLY BREVITY

"Come to the point my boy, come to the point by all means, but don't camp on it!" So Lord Mancroft reminded the House of Lords the other day, Winston Churchill once admonished a junior minister in his administration. The Lords were debating at Westminster a motion by Lord Egremont "that speeches in this House should be shorter." It would do many public speakers and writers — good to read that the noble lords had to say. Each peer who rose was determined to show that he was not long-winded. Indeed, 23 spoke, and the whole debate took only 99 minutes.

Lord Casey, an Australian — with a touch of that bluntness that henceforward it would be enough to shout "Egremont!" when a peer rambled on for too long. Lord Egremont's own view of long-winded lords was that "any fool can make a long speech." Lord Carrington was no less sharp. It was often a sign of laziness, he argued, to make a long speech. (And the same point is valid, of course, about long-winded writing.)

Earl Attlee, the former Prime Minister — speaking with the experience of an octogenarian — said he believed in the old saying "Shorter in wind and in memory long." Mixing matter and art in about the right proportions, Lord Rea was reported as saying that modesty was the soul of brevity and brevity was the soul of compassion. Whereupon he announced that it was with modesty, if not with compassion, that he would resume his seat.

But somehow or other we had most fellow-feeling for Lord Raglan, who was making a maiden speech in the chamber. He apologized for arriving in a flustered state and covered with oil as he had had trouble with his car. Some speeches, he said, had by their very length defeated the purpose of the speakers, which was to get themselves listened to. Then he paused — presumably fumbling in his pockets with his oily hands. He had suddenly found he had lost his notes — and so he sat down.

We are taking to heart the advice of the noble lords to themselves. What they said about the effectiveness of overwordiness applies to all ways of expression. But we shall do our best not to get too oily or flustered.

The Christian Science Monitor

NEWS AND IMAGES

Some Northern newspapers were unintentionally distorting the image of the American South. We doubt that many are trying to do so.

It is easy to believe the report that Alabama newsmen found naïveté about the South among some of the 48 out-of-state newsmen who accepted the invitation Governor Wallace had sent to 1,700 editors. But the way to enlighten the outsiders was not to bring up the well-known shortcomings of the North. This was too much like what the Governor had already done on national television.

"We would rather have an answer than have parallels drawn," a Pennsylvania editor is reported to have said. It was during one of the embarrassing moments at what turned out to be the Governor's final news conference with the group. Mr. Wallace canceled a further one that was to have been held the next day.

Clearly, despite some visitors' praise of the tour, there are pitfalls in official efforts at image-improvement. Nothing will improve an image so much as an

Agriculture In Action

NOT OUR STEW
Cigarette tax folks in several Middle Atlantic States are now asking North Carolina to bail them out of a stew of their own making.

Frankly, we don't see that North Carolina has any obligation to help. Not in the way that is being suggested, at any rate. It seems that so-called "bootleggers" are buying up batches of Tar Heel cigarettes, taking them up north, and unloading them at prices which can't be met by local cigarette peddlers in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

In those States, cigarettes have been taxed to absurd levels by legislatures and municipalities looking for an easy source of revenue. North Carolina, on the other hand, stands now as the last bastion of tax-exempt cigarettes.

Now the inevitable has happened. Forced upward by zooming taxes, the price of cigarettes in the Middle Atlantic States has gone so far above the North Carolina price that some folks have been unable to resist the opportunity to make a quick dollar. They can buy cigarettes here at retail, sell them at a nice profit up north, and still beat the northern price which is so bloated by excessive taxes.

Every time a "bootleg" pack of North Carolina cigarettes is sold in one of those northern areas, the state and local governments are deprived of the revenue which would have derived from a legitimate sale of cigarettes.

So how do we help? The Chief of the Cigarette Tax Division of the Delaware State Tax Department suggests that North Carolina should now tax cigarettes to narrow the price gap.

That suggestion, we submit, represents the very essence of gall. And it is difficult to disguise a sneer as we suggest that there's another way to get the prices more nearly in line. Taxes can be brought down too, you know.

full context, however much many of them may seek to do so.

Public-relations people can be of enormous help in obtaining information. But, by and large, in seeking the whole story on today's South, papers would rather have the cooperation of primary sources of fact than the ministrations of PR conveyors of image. — Christian Science Monitor.

Those attending the inauguration of President James Garfield paid five dollars for tickets and for another dollar were served a meal.

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