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The Kings Mountain Herald

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MARTIN'S MEDICINE

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

By MARTIN HARMON

Last Friday a "number's game" season ended at midnight when majority of Uncle Sam and Tar Heel Town's taxpayers filed annual returns. I posted mine about 9 p.m. Paul Walker reported himself an early-bird this year. His had hit the mails nine hours earlier at noon.

It is a season most are happy to see past—and wouldn't be nearly as bothersome if we procrastinators (and the "we" is heavily inclusive) began our figuring earlier.

A new "number's game" season is now underway, as last Friday was the final day for filing for county and General Assembly district elective offices. At the rate candidates paid their filing fees on the final two days (deadline was noon, not midnight), some folk had attenuated to their tax matters or didn't care.

In the political "number's game", figuring is based on past election totals and can be informed guesses at best, hindsight and prior records being questionable basis for the future. There are many reasons, among them 1) John Doe is likely to be challenged by Jim Smith, rather than Tom Toe; 2) it could rain on the upcoming election day; 3) it could not rain on the upcoming election day; 4) there are more (or less) candidates on this election day.

It is axiomatic that "long" tickets produce more votes than "short" tickets, as even the weakest candidates attract some friends to the polls who, in turn, vote for some other candidates, too. It is also axiomatic that sheriff's contests are major factors in increasing the vote totals.

Confusion is compounded for this spring's primaries due to re-districting of the General Assembly, both House and Senate, and in all but a few districts of the Senate, with rotation agreements non-existent. In the House, North Carolinians will be voting by districts for the first time. No longer does each county elect its own representative, result of the one-man-one vote edict.

In the Rutherford, Polk, Cleveland 43rd district, four candidates seek three Democratic nominations. In the Cleveland-Gaston 29th Senatorial district, five candidates seek two Democratic nominations.

The prior record of the 1964 primaries in the governor contest shows some surprising figures, but chief among them is the closeness of the total vote for governor in Gaston and Cleveland counties. Gaston's 1960 round-figure population was 127,000, Cleveland's 66,000. Yet Cleveland out-voted Gaston in the '64 first primary by 83 votes. Gaston edged up to 15,521 in the second race, while Cleveland dropped to 13,534, but again Gaston's margin of 15-13 (1967) votes did not compare with the virtually 2-1 population ratio.

The Cleveland-Rutherford-Polk 43rd posted these totals in the '64 governor's race: first primary, 25,765; second primary, 25,309. In both primaries the voting totals, by counties approximated the population ratios much more closely.

Since both the House and Senate primary contests, as well as the loaded eight-man county commission race (for two nominations), it is well to review the law which sets forth the determining of majorities, rules for second primaries, and nominees in such sweepstakes affairs, where more than one nomination is at stake. The total vote for all candidates is divided by the number of offices (or nominations) to be filled. That result is divided by two. One more than that digit is a majority.

It is therefore possible, via this formula for 1) more candidates to attain a majority than seats to be filled; 2) for no candidates (in a very close multi-candidate race) to attain a majority; 3) for all candidates to attain a majority.

If more candidates get majorities than seats to be filled, the ones polling highest win. If none or not enough candidates attained majorities, a second primary could be demanded of the highest by "any one or all of the candidates equal in number to the remaining seats to be filled." The quote is from the state election law.

Pulling numbers of votes and candidates out of the hat and projecting them can be both amusing and confusing. Try it.

Mail Call Casualty

Henry McCormick

SO THIS IS NEW YORK

By NORTH CALLAHAN

With all the troubles in South-east Asia and a few here at home, it is a pleasant relief to report something not new but nice—the circus is in town. I even went to see it on opening night at Madison Square Garden and can state that when it comes your way soon, the big show will be well worth seeing. For as its genial spokesman, Mae Lyons, points out, the circus of Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey is more than a show—it is part of America—and something that we love. The postoffice department thinks enough of it to issue a new American Circus Stamp on May 2nd. It was very refreshing to see that the people involved in the circus thought up some new routines, added some pretty girls and came up with a series of colorful and entertaining acts that are a warm delight to young and old. Yes, as long as we can have and enjoy the circus, which is in many ways an extension of the beloved county fairs, this will be a country worth living in and fighting for.

Miss Nancy Lock of Paducah, Kentucky came to town on her spring vacation from Indiana University, and took a swing at getting into the theater here. Now Nancy is talented and experienced but she found what so many other young people do who come here with stars in their eyes, that it is a big, tough and almost impossible nut to crack. But she did not give up. She may go into a summer stock company and learn whether she should try to be an actress or a wholesome school teacher. Which reminds me that I recently saw a tryout of a Broadway cast held at the salon of that remarkable Mr. John who does everything from design ladies' hats to sponsoring shows it seems. The cast was capably directed by Leonard Sillman and ran through some entertaining numbers. But whether the embryo show, called "New Faces of '66" will ever see the bright lights of big time, only time and backer's money will tell.

At Easter, the pastor looked over his unusually large congregation and waked up his parishioners with the following announcement: "Dearest brethren, I realize that I will not see many of you again until next Easter. So permit me to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

As the teen-age girl stood beside me at the subway door, I took a casual look then blinked my eyes to be sure I was not in a wax museum or on a redskin reservation. She was wearing heavy black stockings, a short, mottled leather skirt, a sweater as dark as midnight and her hair (also black) protruded from behind each ear in Indian-like pig-tails. Under each eye was enough dark makeup to make her look even more ominous, but if this was not enough, a floppy black hat set off her erect head like a Mrs. Robb Hood. It seemed to me that she was dressed in a completely goofy manner of I was living in the dark ages.

A group in Short Hills, New Jersey, called "New Eyes for the Needy" is conducting a worthwhile enterprise by collecting discarded glasses from people all over the country. Run by housewives, the organization is non-profit and has never held a fund drive. Metal frames are melted down and sold for expenses of providing plastic frames and prescription glasses in 48 states.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE
 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you. St. Luke 6:27.

Brown Bag Ball

Some budding Tar Heel songwriter might well have done a ditty recently entitled "Brown Bag Blues".

As of Tuesday, he might have written "Brown Bag Ball".

Change of tenor, of course, results from the decision of Superior Court Judge H. L. Riddle, Jr., of Morganton, who granted the plea of plaintiffs — Charlotte restaurateurs — to grant an injunction in their petition for relief from an opinion of Assistant Attorney-General James Bullock. Mr. Bullock had declared the common practice of carrying liquor into restaurants and night clubs for libation illegal, along with the practice of maintaining private lockers for storing the stuff in private clubs.

Judge Riddle's ruling honors plea of the plaintiffs and grants the requested injunction until the 1967 General Assembly convenes.

While the Riddle ruling does not apply to counties without the Alcoholic Board of Control system (Cleveland and Gaston are two of them), it is anticipated the ruling will have the force of application. Certainly a defendant restaurant, club or individual would have a strong legal leg on which to sustain innocence of "brown bag" charges.

Whether the ruling will have life until next February when the General Assembly convenes is yet another question.

The defendant ABC boards of state and county, and the law enforcement officers therefor, could and may well appeal Judge Riddle's decision to the North Carolina Supreme Court — the final determining body until a General Assembly could meet and act.

The "brown bag, club locker" business was sustained in an opinion by then-Attorney-General George B. Patton in 1958 and it was on this prior decision that Judge Riddle cited in his decision.

Alcoholic beverages have long been extant as the Bible and earlier documents attest.

Alcoholic beverages, as the dregs attest, have also been contributors to some of the world's troubles, from Samsun and earlier.

Yet the Volstead Act, which the late President Herbert Hoover commenting on national prohibition, labeled the "noble experiment" was eminently unsuccessful in de-alcoholizing the United States.

Since repeal North Carolina has followed a dual policy of part-wet, part-dry, another "noble experiment" and apparently as unsuccessful.

"Brown-bagging" may be a split-situation, it apparently meets the tests of what most dry-county North Carolinians want — or, at least, minus the courage to vote on the question of legal liquor, are willing to sustain.

It's a disservice to law enforcement officers who constantly face the alternative of wanting to enforce the law, but also finding eating a necessity of living.

Dry Cleveland County's per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages, if measurable, would compare with wet Mecklenburg's, Buncombe's, Wake's or New Hanover's.

Planning Benefits

Time was when much of the city's providing of municipal services was done in piece-meal and oftentime reverse fashion.

A too small water line would be installed, which, when more customers were added, dried to a trickle if too many turned the faucets at the same time. Septic tanks were often the order of the day. Paving (thin) was not preceded by installing curb-and-gutter and storm drains.

There was good reason. The city treasury was pinched to the point the city had to operate in this fashion to give the most the best it could.

Result was that paving had to be broken to install bigger water and sewer lines, speeding demise of the paving which meantime had been eroding steadily off the edges.

Happily the situation has changed with increased income. Not caught up on services, the city is well on route.

Recent case in point is the long and detailed sub-division ordinance adopted by the board of commissioners last week which spells out an informal but practical policy the city has been following for several years.

Realtor developers (as they have been) pay for their own engineering in conformance with street right-of-way requirements and other requirements. As the development develops, the city provides utility services, installs curb-and-gutter and paved streets, with the developer or property owner at the time paying portion of assessment costs all citizens pay. This informal policy has produced several slightly residential areas which provide more pleasant residential climates. By providing the services in proper sequence the city has spent more today for bigger savings tomorrow.

Adoption of the sub-division ordinance is a step forward.

Repeater Weir

Sam Weir has been a member of the Kings Mountain Lions club for many years.

Last year, his fellow members elected him "Lion of the Year" and he subsequently was adjudged "Lion of the Year" in his several club district.

Last week, his fellow members again elected him "Lion of the Year", the president reporting him a hands-down winner.

Not many sustain the interest and willingness to work in any organization that Sam Weir does.

If the job needs doing, any Lion president in any year knows on whom he can count.

He is Lion Sam Weir.

The Senate Race

Five candidates seek two seats in North Carolina's new 29th Senatorial district, which includes Gaston and Cleveland counties.

On basis of population, Gaston county has almost twice the people. On basis of voting records, the disparity is less pronounced.

Of the five aspirants, four are from Gaston county, while Senator Jack H. White is the lone aspirant from Cleveland.

Of Gaston's four, three are proven and successful vote-getters.

They are: Senator Lyn Hollowell, Sr., Solicitor Max Childers, and Marshall Rauch. William L. Martin, a last-day filer, is seeking political office for the first time. Senator Hollowell seeks a third term, Solicitor Childers has served three prior terms in the state House of Representatives, and Mr. Rauch was three times elected to the Gastonia board of aldermen.

Kings Mountain and Cleveland County will support Senator White for re-election. His freshman term (which also included two special sessions) was marked by good service. He regards as his outstanding accomplishment his bill to add a nickel-per-bottle fee to liquor sales with the residue earmarked for the building of two alcoholic rehabilitation centers and the refurbishing of the present state facility at Butner. Excess monies will accrue for mental health treatment.

Yet another was his support for the bill which produced more teachers for the educable retarded and more staff for the children's hospital at Butner. There are others.

He deserves Term No. 2.

Congratulations to Benjamin Franklin Cox on his appointment as assistant postmaster. This veteran and able Kings Mountain Postoffice employee is qualified by experience, variety of postal positions held, and desire to provide the best of postal service for this important position.

Congratulations to Barbara Plonk and Jo Bridges, high school juniors, who will represent Kings Mountain at the 1966 annual session of Girls State.

MISTAKES IN THE MARKET

In an effort to produce a draft of a "truth-in-packaging" bill acceptable to a majority of the Senate Commerce Committee, that group's Republicans are working on a compromise which would dilute the authority of Federal regulatory agencies to set packaging standards. The compromise also may have an effect the bill's backers do not expect.

The original version, as drawn by Michigan's Senator Hart, gives the Federal Trade Commission and Food and Drug Administration authority to set "reasonable" standards for weights, quantities, sizes and shapes of retail packages. Those agencies would be able, for instance, to eliminate the use of fractional ounces in packing, a practice which is alleged to befuddle or mislead consumers and which sometimes may indeed have that effect.

Delegation of such wide powers to the regulatory agencies has drawn criticism from those who fear, with some justification, that among the results would be a dreary standardization of packaging and the discouragement of innovation. To meet that criticism the committee's Republicans propose to spell out packaging standards right in the law itself.

Thus the GOP revision would specify that there be no restrictions on the use of fractional ounces for packages under eight ounces. But between eight and 16 ounces, fractional-ounce packaging would be prohibited—except for even half-ounces. And from 16 ounces to four pounds, no fractional weight designations would be allowed.

Now it is one thing for the FTC and FDA to become immersed in this sort of pointless detail and to issue regulations applicable to the \$300-or-so packaged commodities on supermarket shelves. It is quite another to write packaging standards into a law; if a standard proves to be undesirable or unworkable, it is far easier to alter an agency's regulation than to amend an act of Congress.

We happen to think a lot of present-day packaging leaves something to be desired, albeit for understandable competitive reasons. Whatever the mistakes of the market place, however, the compromise plans show how easily any new legislative attempt at regulation can turn into a nitpicker's delight.

Wall Street Journal

HAMBURGERS IN PARIS?

Charles de Gaulle, as everyone knows, has been doing everything in his power to maintain the Frenchness of France.

But we write to warn the general that at lower policy levels insidious forces appear to be at work which would subvert his entire campaign. Two recent items alerted us to the danger.

The first suggests that from somewhere in the recesses of the administration has come a directive to the French border police to keep a sharp eye out for invading beatniks who, come summer, descend in swarms on Paris' Latin Quarter.

At first glance this clever ruling might seem to favor the general's policy of keeping British, German, and other allies out of French affairs. But upon closer examination, its effect could prove disastrous to the economy of France. For the American tourists who flock to Paris in the summertime have come to depend upon these foreign beatniks to provide the "genuine" Parisian atmosphere.

The second item is even more devastating — a rapier thrust to the vitals of the French clan. And paradoxical as it may seem, its source once again — the government! For more than a month now French civil servants have been unceremoniously reduced to half-hour, sandwiched-in, American-style snack lunches! If this experiment should survive, it will put an end to the tradition — entrenched three-hour midday interval for leisurely dining.

Thus the very heart would be cut out of the French way of life. But why have not the men and women of Paris rushed to throw up the barricades? Because they have been subtly won over by concessions — the slashing of Saturday work and provision for an hour earlier departure at the end of the day.

Unless General de Gaulle quickly assesses the danger and be taxed, just like gasoline. May be UFOs can even go to work pulling in freight or earth people, earning revenue subject to Federal taxes.

Perhaps this talk of flying saucers sounds unrealistic. But that alone is certainly no reason not to assign them a role in present fiscal policy. — Wall Street Journal

FLOWERS THAT DON'T BLOOM

We hope it is only a trial balloon, this report coming out of Washington that Capital gardeners may use plastic flowers in shady spots where nature has failed to meet planting goals. Public reaction should puncture it.

On the whole the Washington flower-planting program is magnificent. Tulips, daffodils, and other spring blossoms, including cherry, crowd one another in parks and public green spaces, thanks to an ambitious plan for beautifying the nation's capital. So why worry if nature slips a bit on the north side of big buildings?

Whope! The public is awake to the effect the planting of polyvinyl flowers might have on an overseas visitor.

What confidence can he feel in a government which would resort to such a ruse?

We do not oppose all artificial flowers. They have their place under certain circumstances. But that place is not in gardens.

We tremble to think what might happen if Washington were to set an example of planting synthetic flowers in flower beds. We can see lesser cities rolling out artificial lawns in parks, setting out plastic petunias and vinyl verbenas in park flower beds, massing fake ferns in groves. And motels luring visitors with no-fade geranium borders.

This need not happen. Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, the beautiful First Lady, has exerted a strong influence for the promotion of gardens. We trust her to make certain that the flowers that bloom in Washington are not plastic but the kind that bud, blossom, and drop their petals in accord with nature's rhythms.

The Christian Science Monitor

takes appropriate countermeasures, his entire Gallicization campaign could end in Waterloo. Fifty million Frenchmen sitting around lunch counters devouring hamburgers and sipping soft drinks would surely be the last straw! — Christian Science Monitor

LITTLE GOLD MINES IN THE SKY

Up to now Rep. Gerald Ford's demand for an investigation of unidentified flying objects has been greeted with little but apathy. What is needed to pique Congressional interest, it seems to us, is a new approach to UFOs.

Though most Congressmen seem to agree with the Administration's idea that the economy can somehow fly a stable course even with Federal revenue forever lagging well behind spending, there has been talk lately that it might be a good idea to narrow the income-outgo gap a bit. So why not look into the flying objects as possible little gold mines in the sky?

Assuming UFO occupants are friendly and amenable to reason — and so far there are no grounds for believing otherwise — they could be charged landing fees, just as our apparently more cumbersome airplanes are. If a UFO refuels on earth, on marsh gas or whatever, the fuel could

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news about King Mountain area people and events taken from the 1956 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Kings Mountain retail establishments will collaborate this weekend in a three-day trade promotion to be known as Kings Mountain Bonus Days.

J. W. Webster, city building inspector, has been named to head Basil L. Whitener's 11th district Congressional campaign in No. 4 Township. Jack White of Kings Mountain is district manager for Mr. Whitener.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL
 Kings Mountain Women's club will present three one-act plays Thursday and Saturday evenings at 8:15 in the club auditorium.

Kings Mountain women organized a hospital auxiliary Tuesday night and agreed to furnish 25 volunteers for duty at Kings Mountain hospital May 13, date of formal opening of the new wing. Mrs. P. G. Padgett was named chairman of the organization.

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