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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

Some 300 Democrats attended last Saturday's county convention, which in partial contrast to the one of two years ago, was marked by harmony, wit, sweetness and light. In the executive committee session for election of officers the lone contest was for third vice-president. Via secret ballot, Jim Beason was re-elected in a close vote over Robert Hamrick.

m-m

Each opposed candidate for county and higher offices was invited to speak up to two minutes. All did. Several remarked, and I felt the same, that not a single one laid an egg, to borrow from show business lingo.

m-m

Kings Mountain area candidates spoke well.

m-m

House of Representatives Candidate Billy Mauney summated his platform, pledged to hold the line against new taxes, embraced the program of the United Forces for Education, and drew a big laugh when he said, "You want to be sure to vote for me as you can see I'll carry a lot of weight in Raleigh."

m-m

Another House candidate, Bill Harrill of Forest City, was sitting on the same bench I was. Short width between the benches makes moving in and out difficult. When he reached the platform, he said, "I've already stepped on one toe and I hope I don't step on any more." Chairman Clint Newton replied, "That toe you stepped on was my wife's."

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Senator Jack White drew laughs with his story of Theodore Roosevelt addressing a Republican convention. Thundering at the Democrats, Roosevelt inquired rhetorically if there were as many as one Democrat in the audience. A back-paw man arose and declared himself a Democrat. Roosevelt wanted to know why. The Democrat replied he had merely followed in the footsteps of his grand-father and father. Did he mean, Roosevelt asked, if your grand-father and father were horse thieves he would be a horse thief, too? The Democrat allegedly replied, "No, I'd be a Republican!"

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George Hord is one of four candidates for county treasurer. The other three are ladies. He told the convention, "If you want to vote for the prettiest candidate, you might as well forget me."

m-m

One of his opponents, Mrs. Doris Osborne, related her experience in bookkeeping at Cleveland Mills and the fact that she has been a proof-reader at the Shelby Star for the past 14 years. She averred, "I suppose you could say I'm well-read."

m-m

Three of the five Senate candidates were present, Senator White, Mt. Holly's Max Childers, and Gastonia's Marshall Rauch. All were attempting to attend the Gaston convention too and made their speeches first. Childers cited his experience as legislator and solicitor, both jobs done under tutelage of Cleveland's Judge B. T. Falls, Jr. Rauch, the onetime Duke basketball player, pledged for monetary efficiency. Should new taxes prove necessary to satisfy the state's public education requirements, he would support a tax on tobacco.

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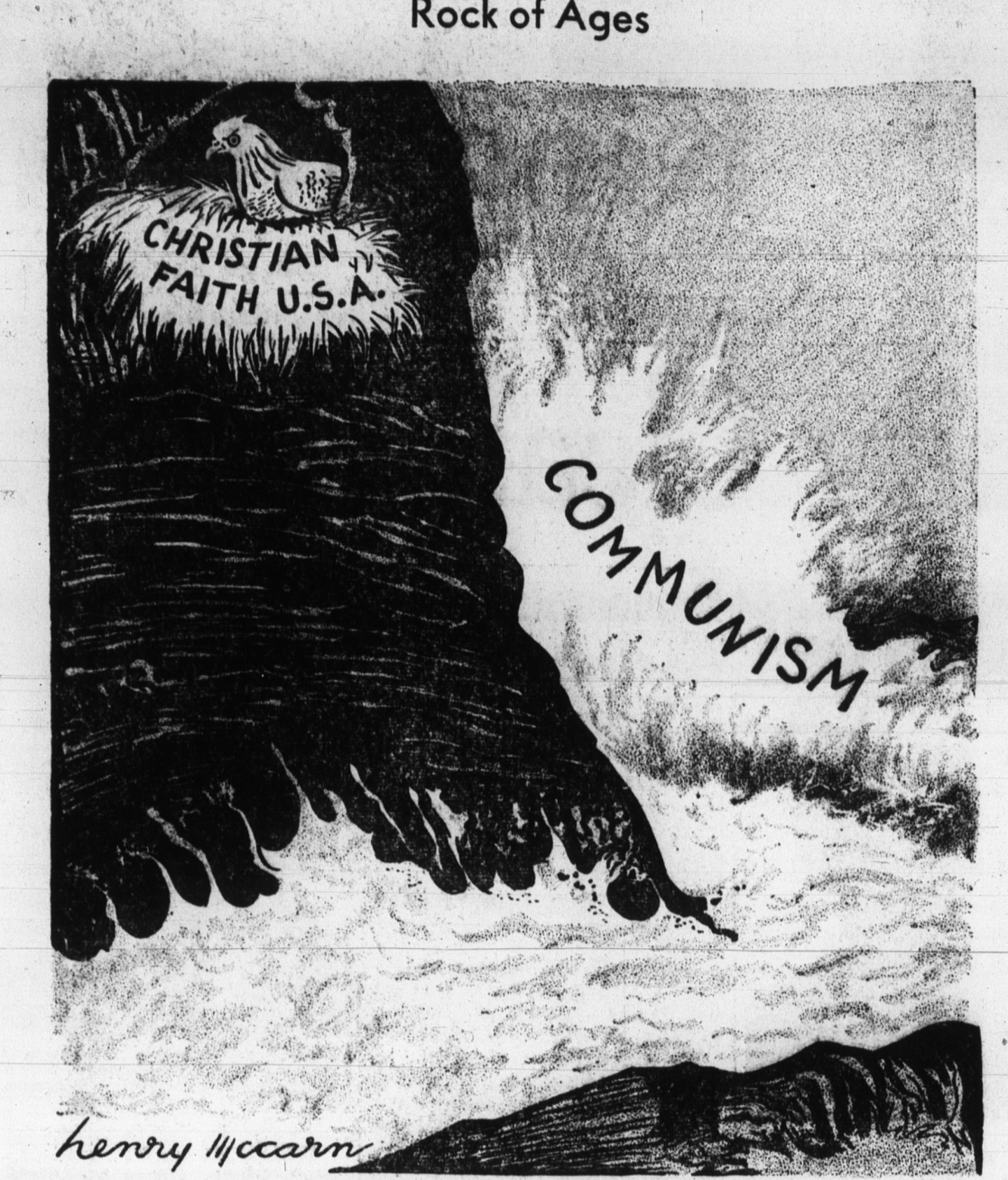
Representative Thurston Arledge, of Tryon, sitting in front of me, laughed. "He won't need to draw that bill. I've had one in my pocket since 1961." It never got off the ground. Between the tobacco growing areas of the coast and mountains, plus the tobacco manufacturers of Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Durham, and Reidsville, it has never provided to muster enough votes to impose a tobacco tax—a fact Governor Terry Sanford learned soon after his election as governor.

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Kings Mountain area county commission candidates Carl Wilson, Dick Ware and Yates Smith spoke well, as aforementioned, all did. Representative Robert Falls said he appreciated getting "ussed at, adding, "Otherwise you don't know what you're doing wrong."

m-m

Candidate cards were distributed in profusion as were Billy Mauney's red-white-and-blue pencils. Jack White was handing out packages of forget-me-not flower seed, with the printed invitation "Re-elect Jack White for state senator, May 28, 1966, Democratic primary, forget-me-not." A lady said she was going to plant hers. Jack joked, "Maybe you better wait until after May 28. I'd feel mighty bad if they didn't come up."



Viewpoints of Other Editors

MINDING THE MOON

No longer would a Juliet refer to the earth's nearest companion in space as "the inconstant moon." Today there is need of action to project the moon from the incognitances of men on earth. Hence President Johnson's bid (and none too early) that the United Nations take upon itself the task of working out a moon pact.

This treaty would obligate earthly powers to keep the moon free, open, and healthy for all. It would let no land claim any sovereignty on old Luna's dusty face nor would the stationing or testing of weapons be allowed. Efforts would be made to keep the moon's atmosphere and surface clean. Finally, the treaty would call for the astronauts of one nation to help those of another.

It is urgently to be hoped that the rancors and squabbles of mankind can be spared a celestial body which has for countless ages blessed the earth with its calm and peaceful beauty. What young couple could henceforth walk enraptured beneath a moon upon which military maneuvering were taking place, rocket-launching sites being set up and pitched battles for barren space being fought?

Actually, we believe that it may be easier to reach international agreement on the moon than on the earth. As yet no nation has a toehold there. Thus nobody's prestige or selfishness is yet engaged. Furthermore, the very difficulty of setting the dangerous divisions on earth should make men all the more desirous not to see these same divisions spread abroad through space.

And, if men are indeed successful in reaching a peace-preserving pact on outer space, may not this fact light the way to earnest efforts to do the same on earth? If messages can be bounced off the moon, surely goodwill can also be reflected back from its placid and shining surface.

How inspiring it would be if all men on earth were able to look at the moon and see there proof that mankind could set aside its ambitions and rivalries in the interest of the larger and higher good!

Christian Science Monitor

IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY

According to the AFL-CIO executive council, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell is making a "mockery" of democracy by obstructing the construction-site picketing bill. While the New York legislator's maneuvers are indeed unusual, they can be viewed in more than one way.

The pending bill, you'll recall, would permit a union to picket a construction project, thus shutting everything down, even if the union's quarrel were with only one of several employers at work at the site. At present the legislation reposes in the House Education and Labor Committee headed by Mr. Powell, and it may be there quite a while.

The committee chairman first indicated he was more or less holding the bill as a hostage until the Senate passed a fair employment practices measure and the House approved minimum wage legislation. After the AFL-CIO attacked this procedure, Mr. Powell declared the picketing bill was "dead for this session" and that it probably wouldn't get through his committee next year either. Whether all of this mocks democracy or not, it is a peculiar way to handle important legislation.

Building contractors, however, may not be too disturbed. Like other businessmen, after all, they are protected by present law from being shut down by labor "nothing to do. And equal protection of the laws is surely a fundamental democratic principle.

It emphatically won't appease Mr. Powell's union critics, in other words, but in certain circles the lawmaker just may be regarded as a defender of democracy.

Wall Street Journal

'ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE'

Those Elizabethan Englishmen! Still spreading their influence in the "brave new world" across the sea, four centuries after the birth of their illustrious son, William Shakespeare.

We must hold them responsible for the summer Shakespeare festivals which have become local institutions in a number of American cities. Somehow, the gaiety and creativity of the time of Shakespeare has caught the imagination of Canadians and Americans today. Result: Highly successful seasons of plays by festival groups in such cities as Stratford, Ont., Stratford, Conn., New York City, and, probably the oldest of them all, little Ashland, Ore.

And now comes Odessa, Texas. On the stark plains of that western frontier country, a truly Shakespearean Globe Theater has appeared. Shakespeare would surely recognize it. Only small changes in design have been made to fit it to its new site and uses. The Globe of the Great Southwest, as the theater is called, is becoming a Texas landmark.

It is striking that none of these projects was launched as a commercial venture. (What businessman would expect to make money on a Globe Theater for his hometown?) In each case a zealous individual got the idea and promoted it long and faithfully. In the Texas city an English teacher worked 18 years to realize her dream. In Ashland, Ore., a college drama teacher was the leader. In Stratford, Canada, a young magazine editor conceived the idea and brought it to fruition with the aid of Sir Tyrone Guthrie. The Connecticut enterprise was led by a group of prominent citizens caught up by the enthusiasm of a Shakespeare-loving philanthropist.

All of these festivals draw large crowds, good dramatic critics. But their value is not to be measured only at the box office. One of their greatest values is that they give to New World people the feeling that they too can claim Shakespeare and his England as their heritage.

Christian Science Monitor

LURLLEN

In a state where appreciable numbers of Negroes registered and voted for the first time, the primary was inescapably a test of racial strength. The white folks of Alabama—the folks who kept saying that if black folks were allowed to vote they would vote in a solid racial bloc—set them an example by voting as a solid racial bloc themselves. Negro support proved ineffectual in the statewide contest; but it was impressive in a number of local races, particularly in what used to be the most bigoted part of the state, the Black Belt, now the most moderate part. It is not likely that Negroes will ever again be ignored politically.

Outside of Alabama, the results of the gubernatorial primary will bring a good deal of disappointment. . . . To those who feel this way, we can but commend Thomas Jefferson's sage observation: "I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think then not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education."

Washington Post

RAIN, RAIN

Rain, rain, don't go away, stay around another day... or two... or three...

Hard, wet, rain splashing on the pavement, rushing down the gutters, sinking into green grass. Rain, real solid sheets of rain in big, battering drops—it was something we had just about forgotten about, something that seemed to have gone out of style, like the snows our grandfathers lied about.

How much the rain we have been getting will ease the drought we dare not predict. Probably it won't do the trick completely. But we feel better anyway. New England may not be turning into a desert after all. There is hope for lawns and shrubs and flowers and vegetable gardens.

Cactus is out. Tulips are in.

The Boston Herald

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

God brought them out of Egypt: he hath as it were the strength of a unicorn. Numbers 23:22.

Mr. Easley's Presentation Insufficient

The county commission Monday declined request of a large delegation representing the Shelby bar, the Shelby realtor association and savings and loan associations to resume opening courthouse offices on Saturday mornings.

The courthouse went on the new schedule several weeks ago.

The objecting groups say the changes have caused considerable inconvenience, but the commission turned a deaf ear.

It reminds of the consistent, if pleasant but ringing "no's" both the county welfare board and county commission gave to continuing requests by Kings Mountain area citizens to leave a branch welfare office operating in Kings Mountain.

Shortly before the county commission voted to close the courthouse on Saturdays, Commissioner Spurgeon Hewitt and Tax Collector Robert Gidney visited the office of Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss. By coincidence, the Herald editor arrived at the same time.

Comm. Hewitt and Mr. Gidney asked the Mayor's opinion about shut-tight Saturdays.

"We're against it," the Herald editor interjected. "We're in the midst of trying to obtain expanded schedules for service establishments in Kings Mountain, including City Hall offices. The Mayor confirmed. Apparently, on basis of the subsequent result, this was not the desired answer.

Hurrah, for the five-day week!

But the five-day week is not right for service businesses, be they the service station, the dry cleaner, City Hall, the Cleveland Courthouse, or Kings Mountain postoffice.

Actually, the services at City Hall and the Cleveland Courthouse can be maintained via a staggered schedule which would provide the employees a five-day week.

The commission should listen to its citizens, consider wishes of its employees second.

Clean-Up The Messes

Much forethought, effort and advance publicity has gone into the up-coming community-wide clean-up and beautification campaign which begins on Saturday and will continue for a month.

Unightly, unhealthy debris, brambles and derelict housing have been catalogued.

A large cadre of citizens has been enlisted to manage the campaign at all levels.

Little else needs be said.

The chore at hand is to start the clean-up.

But again: cleanliness is next to Godliness.

Cleanliness is also healthful, physically and esthetically.

Autos And Safety

An interesting television interview was seen via Channel 9 Sunday on the subject of mechanical safety improvements in automobiles.

Could the manufacturers make safe autos?

Replied the safety director for Ford Motor Company: "No, that would hardly be possible. But we can make them safer." The word "perfect" does not apply to man, nor to the products he creates, though his products are often more nearly perfect than he.

Demonstrated were some of the safety efforts the manufacturers have made and are making.

A breakthrough was reported on an improved glass for windshields designed to prevent a person's head from going through in an accident.

Yet another, which are being used on some vehicles already, is "back-up" master brake cylinder, one cylinder for the front wheels, the "back-up" for the rear wheels. Just about any motorist of some years duration has undergone the helpless feeling of suddenly having no brakes, either due to a line break or defective master cylinder.

Cushioned dash-boards, replacing the steering wheel, better door latches and many other possibilities were discussed.

Henry Ford II noted his company had become safety conscious in 1956, found many of its recommended ideas the public unwilling to accept.

Many folk with now-mandatory safety belts disdain using them.

Human error remains the great generator of accident and death on the highway, but any means of paring the toll is worth trying.

Congratulations to Rev. Howard Jordan, elected president of the Kings Mountain Ministerial association, and to Clinton Jolly, elected commander of Otis D. Green Post 155, American Legion.

Improvement Plan

It has been remarked, and vividly, that a city or county needs a knowledgeable person on its payroll merely to keep abreast of the many federal programs, whereby funds are available both by loan and out-right grant for many needed public facilities.

Thus the city commission has approved a community improvement plan which, if ratified by the federal government's urban development agency, could be of vast benefit, first in dollars, second in making possible these facilities years in advance of their attainment otherwise.

Those who decry such federal programs may be right in principle, but they are plenty wrong in practice.

All know that dollars sent to the Directors of Internal Revenue find their way back home only after a bumpy trip which erodes their number.

Conversely, failure to participate in these programs means that communities which do participate are benefitting from those which don't.

SO THIS IS NEW YORK

By NORTH CALLAHAN

When a man is tremendously successful, one wonders why. So it is with Irving Stone, the novelist-historian, and I think I have found the formula for his success: enthusiastic industry and graciousness to others. Having just spent an evening with him and corresponded before that, I was so impressed with these two qualities of his that they stand out and eclipse others which naturally go with them. Mr. Stone—or Irving, as I already came to call him—flew from the West Coast to receive the award of the American Revolution Round Table for his current best-seller, "Those Who Love". It was selected by this group of historians as the best fiction book on the Revolutionary War period, published in 1965.

Arriving promptly and without any show of temperament or stuffiness, Irving Stone entered historic Fraunces Tavern with the air of a man who knew his surroundings. Here George Washington had said farewell to his officers 183 years ago in this now-oldest building in Manhattan. With Irving were his devoted wife and help-meat, Jean, his esteemed editor at Doubleday, Kenneth D. McCormick, and Mrs. Irving Stone and received his warm appreciation for many years. Soon we were at the head table of the meeting room, surrounded by colonial flags in a mellow atmosphere of that day which the almost 150 people present also seemed to absorb. Frank Warner, the folk singer-lecturer par excellence gave some rousing songs of the Revolution and the stage was set for the main speaker. Irving told in a fascinating and dynamic way of the great amount of research which went into his novel, "Those Who Love". He recalled how he became much interested in the personal lives of John and Abigail Adams which is the theme of the book. The great story, he declared, is based on actual historical facts and he read many documents and books for the authentic background. He regaled his rapt audience with amusing anecdotes, such as how he had to thaw out a cold Boston reception by convincing the people there of his integrity. He writes in long hand for several hours a day.

Irving Stone was born in San Francisco some 62 years ago where he sold papers as a boy on the streets. Later at the University of California, he played the saxophone in a dance band to help with expenses. He has a master's degree from the University of Southern California where for a time he taught economics. Launched into studying for a Ph.D., he switched to writing instead, spent two years in Paris writing plays, one of which was produced here in Greenwich Village and netted him \$34. But in Europe he did come in close contact with the story of the artist, Vincent Van Gogh. The result was the book, "Lust For Life", which eventually was a big success, but not until 18 publishers had turned it down. After other books and 30 years, Irving wrote "The Agony and the Ecstasy", the biography of Michelangelo, for which the Italian government has duly honored him. Like many of his other works, this has been made into a popular motion picture.

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