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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

In process of going through some papers of the late B. R. Willeford, Mrs. Estelle King, Mr. Willeford's sister, found an interesting family heirloom, and she graciously brought it for me to see.

It was a first for me, and was the Civil War service pardon of her late uncle R. R. Willeford, signed in person by President Andrew Johnson and countersigned by Johnson's secretary of state William H. Seward.

If I had ever known I had forgotten that the pardons were required before Confederate veterans could regain their citizenship.

It is a long two-page document and amazingly well-preserved, its age being slightly less than 101 years, having been issued under date of November 9, 1865. The paper was not even slightly yellowed or frayed.

I told Miss Estelle I wanted to do a story on it and she replied she couldn't let it out of her possession for fear accidental loss would create a family crisis. While the document was being typed, we had a pleasant chat.

Her uncle became a Confederate soldier shortly after the conflict began at the age of 17 and saw much action. Home recuperating from wounds, he received a long letter—now in possession of another member of the family, from a friend who had fought at Gettysburg, the friend describing with much detail the march into Pennsylvania and the action at Gettysburg.

The soldier friend had been in the company ordered to "back up" the Pickett brigade which was almost completely decimated as it charged federal positions on the high ground. After Pickett's men had been literally cut to pieces the order to retreat was given. It was Mr. Willeford's friend's opinion that the South lost the Gettysburg battle because the advance and attack weren't made the night before. Decision to bivouac and delay the attack "til morning had allowed the federal troops sufficient time to dig in.

The pardon is headlined "Andrew Johnson, President of the United States of America, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting," and the text of the pardon follows:

WHEREAS, R. R. Willeford of Nash County, North Carolina, by taking part in the late rebellion against the government of the United States, has made himself liable to heavy pains and penalties;

AND WHEREAS, the circumstances of his case render him a proper object of Executive clemency;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN, that I, ANDREW JOHNSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, divers other good and sufficient reasons to be thereunto moving, do hereby grant to the said R. R. Willeford a full pardon and amnesty for all offenses by him committed, arising from participation, direct or implied, in the said rebellion, conditioned as follows:

1st That the said R. R. Willeford shall take the oath prescribed in the Proclamation of the President, dated May 29th, 1865.

2nd To be void and of no effect if the said R. R. Willeford shall hereafter, at any time, acquire any property whatever in slavery, or make use of slave labor.

3rd That the said R. R. Willeford first pay all costs, which may have accrued in any proceedings instituted or pending against his person or property, before the date of the acceptance of this warrant.

4th That the said R. R. Willeford shall not, by virtue of this warrant claim any property or the proceeds of any property that has been sold by the order, judgment, or decree of a court under the confiscation laws of the United States.

5th That the said R. R. Willeford shall notify the Secretary of State, in writing, that he was received and accepted the foregoing pardon.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, This NINTH day of NOVEMBER, A.D. 1865, and of the Independence of the United States the NINETIETH.

BY THE PRESIDENT  
 ANDREW JOHNSON  
 SECRETARY OF STATE  
 William H. Seward

Mrs. King thought the second condition of pardon rather superfluous. "After all," she commented, "the war was over, the South had lost, and slavery abolished."



"How about trying this brand?"

## SO THIS IS NEW YORK

By NORTH CALLAHAN

It has a lot of competition in other landmarks, but the Empire State Building still stands out as a great Roman candle type of tower, jutting above the lesser buildings below. There is talk of building a structure higher but it has not yet been done. And one of the most difficult jobs in New York is the bulb-changing job atop the building's television tower, 1,472 feet above the pavement. This precarious task is performed about three times a year and, with good weather, the experience is something like scaling Mount Everest. First they go by elevator to the 105th floor, then have to climb the last 75 feet using safety belts, heavy gloves and a small map showing where they might run into high-voltage TV lines. Sometimes they start up to a clear sky and run into heavy mist, rain or snow that are not even experienced in the streets below. At this height, the rains and snow drive upward because of the peculiar midtown skyscraper updrafts.

A disgruntled citizen wrote in complaining about men's clothes. He described one part as "a trap for hair oils and perspiration, surrounded by a tight leather band, known as men's hats... the substitute for the hangman's rope known as the necktie... Leather belts that keep you from breathing, socks that are always falling unless attached to circulation - restraining supporters, and shoes, those heavy remnants of the horse's hoof."

**TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE**

Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth. Romans 7:1.

**Legion Foul-ups**

Some baseball-fan philosopher remarked year's ago, "The only trouble with Legion baseball is the men in it, not the players."

He had proof when he spoke and there have been many cases in point since.

The national Legion commissioner announced Joe E. Brown, the movie actor, would attend the Little World Series. It later developed that Mr. Brown might have liked to attend — but had received no invitation.

In 1940, the national commissioner repeatedly told the press San Diego's two Negro stars would play against Albenarle. Conservative Albenarle civic leaders dictated a firm nay, regretting the fact most sincerely, but fearful if one of the hometown stars happened to be accidentally spiked by one of the Negro youths.

But the brunt of the troubles are handled, or mis-handled, at the local level, the clean-out customarily being complete by the time the state semifinals begin, which is good.

But many of the troubles shouldn't be at beginning.

Kings Mountain entries have been party to many protests and recipient, too. There was the year when Kings Mountain was eliminated for lack of birth certificates. They weren't in Raleigh and the tracers were filed through the postoffice. A year later it was learned the certificates had been mis-addressed.

This year's has been a lulu, with the area commissioner denying, the state commissioner upholding, Kings Mountain's protest that Hickory had two ineligible on the roster. Then the state commander entered the act and counter-manded the state commissioner. It was finally settled by a five-man committee, including the two disagreeing commissioners and three area commanders.

What a way to run a ball game!

The National Legion organization would do well to employ some baseball pros out of the major leagues to draw some rules and then adhere to them for at least more than one year. But it would also help if area commissioners, post athletic officers and coaches did a bit more book work too. And the men would do well to emulate the players in practice of the code recited before each game.

**No Contribution**

Governor Terry Sanford said near time of his leaving office, and has repeated since, that the major disappointment of his four years as the state's chief executive was continuing escalation of the traffic accident and death toll.

That was in spite of his and his administration's efforts to examine and employ any tool and means to improve the situation.

It can be assumed that Governor Dan Moore feels the same frustration. It was nearly a month ago that the state's highway death toll stood at exactly 100 ahead of the same date the previous year. The imbalance continues to increase.

But a non-contribution to highway safety has been the state's financial responsibility act, widely promoted by financially responsible citizens of the state, virtually all the state's communications media, and, obviously, the General Assembly which enacted it.

Those who it now appear should have been heeded, were the insurance companies writing liability coverage and the state's insurance agents, both groups professionals and the majority with quite severe reservations concerning compulsory purchase of insurance.

Insurance Commissioner Ed Lanier, who is doing a good job as middle-man between the underwriters and the public, has indicated yet another increase in liability costs.

He recognizes the fact that the companies will not continue to do business in the state on a money-losing basis.

Meantime, motorists are being put upon in many ways. Insurance companies have a keen dose of cancellitis, as their claims mount, and the "assigned risk" has become an unwelcome and undeserved spot for many motorists.

As drastic as it might appear, ex-Governor Sanford's recommendation that traffic violations for the most part be made an administrative matter where the penalty is license revocation for a week to a year or longer rather than a criminal matter, would do more to pare accidents on North Carolina's highway than any other means. It worked in Connecticut, Sanford reports.

But covering everyone has been beneficial to a very few, as insurance companies take court defense, if necessary, on even very minor claims.

The General Assembly would do well to repeal this well-intentioned failure from North Carolina statutes.

**First Fatality**

Just a little more than a year ago, Christopher Eugene Brooks was graduating with the Kings Mountain high school class of 1965. A teacher recalls that Chris Brooks squeaked through on senior English and elatedly told her his mother would bake her a cake.

Last Thursday, Pvt. Brooks was buried with full military honors in the city's Memorial Park at Mountain Rest cemetery.

It is a sad fact of war that tragedy overtakes Kings Mountain as almost all other communities of the nation.

There is little more to be said on any such occasion that young Brooks, died honorably in the service of his country.

The community's sympathy attends his family.

The city is taking steps to update its electrical system maps. Strange, some might think, in view of the comparatively recent updating of the city's distribution system. Not strange, at all, remember older citizens, recalling the many years the system was allowed to creak and groan as utility profits were used for other city pursuits. Not strange either, Electrical Superintendent Hunter Allen will add, considering the system's increasing demand for power. The hot weather has had him perspiring in more than physical fashion, as complaints have come in of power failure of refrigeration and air-conditioning. A stitch in time save nine — or maybe ten.

**Airline Strike**

Industry and legions of their employees, too, have been victims of the chief labor union weapon, the strike, which like all wars have usually made both losers.

There is an added dimension to the strike situation in the walkout of one union, while two or three more wish to work.

Two particularly plagued in this direction are the publishing and airlines industries.

In publishing, there are the printers and pressmen, the mailers and the newsmen.

In the passenger airline industry, there are the pilots, the engineers, and the maintenance men. Two of these groups want to get off the ground, but one doesn't, so everyone's grounded, including the innocent passengers who merely want to buy their tickets, board and land at destination.

Congratulations to Wilson Griffin on his election as president of Kings Mountain Rotary club.

**DOLPHINS TO THE RESCUE**

The dolphin has done it again. A school of these creatures, the newspaper Al Akhbar reports, has saved a drowning man in the Gulf of Suez. The dolphins carried the man on their backs, fought off a fierce pack of sharks, and brought him safely to shore.

These gallant Red Sea dolphins were nobly upholding the tradition of their breed when they carried this poor fellow to safety "like Arion on the dolphin's back." Arion, it will be recalled, was the inventor of the dithyramb, and on a voyage from Sicily to Corinth the sailors decided to throw him overboard. The dithyrambist persuaded them to allow him to sing a last song on the noon before taking the plunge. The sound so enchanted a passing dolphin that it bore him all the way on its back to Taenarum, where the pair were immortalized in a bronze statue.

Nor is the story quite as improbable as it seems. Dolphins, we know, are some of the most intelligent of mammals. They are also remarkable for their ability to communicate with each other. In captivity in oceanaria in the Caribbean, tape-recordings have been made of the sounds they emit and it has even been envisaged that through the dolphin we may eventually be able to establish contact in speech with the animal world.

Be that as it may, it is certainly true that the Royal Navy has been conducting some experiments with them. It appears that in addition to their many other excellent qualities, they have a sort of built-in radar to guide them in the avoidance of obstacles. As Lord Amory remarked, when told of this by the then First Sea Lord, Lord Carrington, "If mammals could take over from men in some naval duties and thus cut public expenditure, then all well and good."

Later, the United States Space Agency awarded a contract to Dr. John Lilly for investigation of the dolphin as part of a study of communications between humans and "other species" which may live on distant planets. "There seems no end to the dolphin's potentialities; but in sticking to humanitarianism, even if this time not coupled with musical appreciation, the dolphins of Suez were showing a sturdy conservatism and sense of historic mission.—The Times (London)

**BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY**

America's Surveyor I spacecraft deserves a medal for exceptional and distinguished service, a 21-gun salute, and a ticker tape parade around the moon.

Poised there on luna firma, "a fully perational spacecraft," with its transmitters, receivers, and command system at the ready, it has reason to be proud.

After all, it traveled 240,000 miles, executed a three-point soft landing in the Ocean of Storms, lost no time in beginning its assigned mission, took 10,338 pictures and endured almost two earth weeks in the searing heat of its first lunar day, and then, as if that were not enough, incredibly survived the two-week lunar night with its temperatures of around 260 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

Following its ordeal in the bitter lunar cold, Surveyor responded to a command from an antenna in Tidbinbilla Valley, Australia. This remarkable performance record on its initial and incredibly difficult and complex mission means that man has taken another giant stride in his determined conquest of space.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, operated for NASA by the California Institute of Technology, and the Hughes Aircraft Company, deserve recognition for their part in Surveyor I's astounding success. To add to the laboratory's luster, its Mariner 4, which photographed Mars about a year ago, is still functioning after clocking more than 750 million miles in space.

Christian Science Monitor

the same. Soon we were all in unanimous agreement that that must surely be the hottest day ever experienced in New England. Was it 100, a 105 or even more? Almost any reading seemed possible. We even sniffed to make sure that the car was not a fire.

It was only when our daughter asked if we were sure that we had the ventilation full on that the terrible truth smote us. Instead of summer ventilation, we had turned on the heating system. Perhaps, had we been in the mood, some deep philosophic fact might have been drawn from this. Alas, our thoughts were anywhere but philosophic.

Christian Science Monitor

**FARMERS AND INFLATION**

Republican congressmen and farm organizations have been lambasting the Administration over attempted cutbacks in the agricultural budget and over some statements by top officials. That many Democrats also are critical was shown when the House more than restored the cuts.

Of course, there is sometimes more than meets the eye in Washington. Told by a president to trim a budget, a cabinet officer may reduce popular items in the expectation that the outcry will induce Congress to restore the full amount.

That may not have been Agriculture Secretary Freeman's technique, but anyway the House full programs for school milk and lunches, research and college instruction aid, soil conservation payments, rural electrification loans, etc. For good measure, the critics continue to denounce tighter controls on hide exports, looser control on cheese imports, reduced military buying of pork.

What antagonizes farm spokesmen even more is the alleged effort to make farmers the fall guys for inflation. The President suggested housewives buy cheaper foods; Freeman predicted a drop in food prices by autumn; Economic Adviser Gardner Ackley said the Government was selling CCC corn to hold down the price.

Farm income is up. In Minnesota the index of prices received was the best for any April since 1954. But it was still only 92 percent of the 1947-49 average. And in terms of parity, American farm prices last month were only 80 percent of that magic goal.

What is happening is that demand—domestic and export—is catching up with some lines of farm production. Such conditions tend to improve the farmer's lot. But not very fast.

The Minneapolis Star

**"SUMMER'S FANTASTIC HEAT"**

Sitting in a comfortably air-conditioned office, we have just read that the hottest spot in the 48 (original) states was Buckeye, Arizona, where the temperature had just reached 111 degrees. After having sat for a few moments happily contemplating the nearly 2,000 miles which lay between us and Buckeye, we began to muse on the strange ways of heat and humans.

The impression which has remained most vivid to us occurred on an August day a few years ago. We were driving across Massachusetts beneath "a hot and copper sky." Our first act, of course, was to reach down and turn on the ventilation. At first the movement of the car and breeze from the ventilation made us feel that the trip might not be so bad after all.

But, as though we were in fact approaching Buckeye, the car grew hotter and hotter and hotter. Fast or slow the result was

**10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events taken from the 195 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Gorge B. Thomasson, Kings Mountain lawyer, was appointed last Friday by the county board of commissioners to a three-year term on the county hospital board of trustees.

Bethware and Compact schools in the county system opened for the summer split term Monday with both reporting slightly higher enrollments.

**SOCIAL AND PERSONAL**

Kings Mountain Chapter 123, Order of the Eastern Star, will meet in Masonic Hall Friday at 8 o'clock. Guest speaker will be Arnold W. Kincaid, past grand patron of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina.

Captain and Mrs. R. M. Snow and children, Ann, Linda, Dick, and Jerri have arrived from Topeka, Kansas, to spend the week with Mrs. Snow's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mauney.

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