

Established 1889

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

Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the high way; gather out the stones; life up a standard for the people. Isaiah 62:10.

Spirit of the Law

The State of North Carolina grew up effective with the Aycock Administration of 1901-05 for the very practical reason that the Democratic loss of the governorship in 1896 showed the then "young Turks" of the Democrats that political control of the state could not be maintained unless 1) honesty in government obtained and which implied 2) the people got needed services for their tax payments.

What year laws respecting competitive bidding for governmental contracts were enacted has not been checked. At any rate, somewhere governing competitive bidding were enacted.

The purpose was to prevent theft of governmental treasuries at all levels, such as Mayor John Lindsay recently experienced in the City of New York.

Sometimes competitive bidding does not attain its purpose.

Item 1: Government agencies, while not required to accept low bids, find it very difficult to explain accepting bids higher than the low, when all the bid terms, particularly the performance bond, are found in order.

Kings Mountain's principal case in point in recent years was in 1954 when the low bidder on installation of the n-gas distribution system left about 1,000 on the table to Blythe Brothers, Charlotte, second high bidder.

That Blythe a veteran and respected contractor was not awarded contract proved expensive to all concerned. The successful bidder, quite financially responsible, was financial angel to a team of workmen who proved to have inferior equipment and questionable knowledge of the type needed. The "angel" suffered a loss. Blythe Brothers lost a profit, and the city lost profit by being delayed in launching service.

Item 2:

What looked on surface as a possible malfeasance by several city administrations, certainly a technical violation of the law, because street improvements projects had not been done via competitive bidding, was found in fact to be of, as Reporter Jack Horan of the Charlotte Observer wrote, likely to have saved the city thousands of dollars.

Kings Mountain buys curbing-and-guttering for \$1.80 per lineal foot from Spangler & Sons, whereas, via bid on fiscal year basis, the City of Shelby is paying \$2.35. The State Highway Commission, via bidding, Shelby Star's Bill Dover reports, is paying from \$2.50 to \$3 per foot in this area. That's quite a difference.

Pat Spangler said to the Herald quite seriously, "I wish Kings Mountain would bid it. It looks like that's the only way I'll get my price up."

Mr. Spangler said his arrangement with Kings Mountain permits him to do city work during his own slack periods, and to delay Kings Mountain work when he's jammed with other and more major projects, of which he successfully bids many.

Mr. Phillips

The Herald was not contacted by, nor has yet been successful in contacting Harold J. Phillips, ex-city commissioner, who exercised his citizen's prerogative in examining city records.

The Herald must therefore assume that Mr. Phillips felt the Herald would not help him dig into the records, or would otherwise seek to cover up any mis-doings, or would misinterpret his advance interpretations.

Mr. Phillips memory must have failed him.

He was the source of information, when a member of the commission, for an audit report of city operations for 1953-54, and, more important, a covering letter to the mayor and individual commissioners, which cited in tough language several mal-practices, principal among them fact the city had overspent its budget \$109,418.18.

In the first place, the auditor was in violation of the law by not making his letter a part of the audit report, public record for any and all to see.

This over-spending was a technical error. Much more income had been received, the needs for services were apparent, and the money had been spent for them.

Mayor Glee A. Bridges' mistake was in not meeting the issue head-on, himself making public the auditor's letter, which in the last paragraph, complained the auditor had bid the audit job too cheaply and asked (demanded) additional money.

Guilty, the administration was, only of a technical error. Since, it is routine that administrations at the June meeting, pass budget amending ordinances to put everything in balance.

Administrations since have also employed auditors on a per hour or per diem basis, rather than by flat fee bid, which is the only way most certified public accountants will work, and the only method responsible governmental agencies and business firms will accept.

Minus conversation with Mr. Phillips, the Herald would not pretend to speculate on his motives, other than, if any, than the one Reporter, Bill Dover credited to him: that Mr. Phillips merely wanted Kings Mountain's government operated per state law.

The Herald pleads guilty to a typographical error in its report last issue of the Phillips-Observerman perusal of city records. The Herald reported Mr. Phillips served as city commissioner "1753-55", which would make him a modern Methuselah, not to mention a city commissioner some 121 years before Kings Mountain came into being in 1874.

The Stake Pullers

A realty developer visited his diggings recently and found a painful omission.

The stakes driven by the surveyors in marking projected streets were missing.

An investigation produced the stakes, fairly neatly piled and brush-covered.

The developer commented, "Had the stakes been gone, they represented a loss of perhaps ten cents each. What is lost is the surveying which must be repeated—at about \$200 per stake."

There is a law.

The Herald commenting on the race between U. S. Representatives Basil L. Whitener (D) and James T. Brodyhill (R) for tenth district seat referred to Mr. Brodyhill's campaign of 1962 and the result in Mr. Brodyhill's home county of Caldwell. The loser, Rep. Hugh Alexander, was victor over Mr. Brodyhill in Caldwell by 516 votes. The Herald credited Mr. Brodyhill with winning at home by about 2000. That '62 race was a cliff-hanger. Mr. Brodyhill's margin of victory being 1276 votes of 133,940 cast.

Future Policy

In view of the favorable costs currently enjoyed by the city for street improvements, the Herald hopes the city's legal battery can find ways and means to permit, within the statutes, continuance of informal bidding for these improvements.

The change of statute effective last June 22, raising to \$7500 the former \$3500 limit for contracting without bidding, should be of material help to the city's lawyers.

Presidential Candidate Richard Nixon did not say, as reported by some radio and television newsmen, HE would stop the war. He said the NEXT ADMINISTRATION would stop the Vietnamese. Mr. Nixon's inferences were fairly clear: a Republican administration, headed by President Nixon, and with whatever escalation is necessary for victory. Mr. Nixon is a "hawk" and was when vice-president in 1954.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

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

By MARTIN HARMON

The lady-folk, with their wide variety of shapes, styles, up-sweeps, down-sweeps and side-sweeps, do not have a problem that many men have.

m-m

Anybody ever heard of two ladies inadvertently swapping hats. Another reason is that, when a lady wears a chapeau, she keeps it on until it and she are safely home.

m-m

On a recent Saturday, Robert H. Goforth was at the barber shop, getting his sons and him self tonsorially in order for the Sabbath. Bob donned one of two hats on the rack, but was hailed by Al Crawford with the question, "Did you pick the correct hat?" Bob hadn't. He returned it, looked at the lone other and it wasn't his either. Suddenly Bob realized he hadn't worn a hat.

m-m

Bob's face flushed to fire-truck red and he and boys exited without a word.

m-m

The hat Bob almost wore away was Grady Patterson's.

m-m

The incident reminded Pat Tignor of the mystery of whereabouts of Hunter Patterson's hat some summers ago, when Mr. Hunter, Pat and the late Fred Wright, Sr., were the only three males present at the mid-week prayer service at Central Methodist church. Mr. Hunter had parked his hat on the window ledge in the vestibule. When he exited, there was no hat.

m-m

He inquired of Pat next morning if Pat had taken his hat, but Pat assured he had not. Pat hadn't worn a hat. The mystery appeared solved.

m-m

At Sunday morning Sunday school, Mr. Hunter accused Fred, but close look showed Fred merely wore his own hat.

m-m

Some six months later a yard-man was paring shrubbery and found Mr. Hunter's hat. The summer breeze had propelled the hat out the open window.

m-m

Grady Patterson then produced his hat tale. Some years ago a Kings Mountain man, visiting Pisgah ARP church reached after services and found nothing. His new hat was missing. Next Sunday he returned to Pisgah and arrived early, assuring himself a seat on the back pew, also assuring himself and easy early exit. He didn't spot his own hat, but sampled several, selected a good one of proper fit and color, donned the hat and left.

m-m

John Weaver remembers the season when Ted Weir and Gene Roberts bought identical models and Sunday church-rack swaps were frequent. One Sunday, Gene again swapped with Ted. When he later noticed the band, Gene had a personal note from Ted. It read, "Put it back, Gene, it ain't your damn hat."

m-m

Representative Basil Whitener relates his own hat problems. On a recent Sunday, someone took his hat after services at church. In the afternoon, the man called. He'd noticed Basil's initials in the hat-band and apologized. If Basil were to be home, the swapper would return it and he did.

m-m

The following Friday Basil spoke in Rock Hill at a dinner honoring his Congressional confrere, Representative Tom Gettys. Again Basil found no hat on exit. He wore a substitute. He commented, "I don't believe those 'outh Carolina politicians are as honest as my Gastonia Methodist friends."

m-m

Back to the distaff department. Husbands have been known to "hoot and holler in loud derision" when asked by their wives opinion of a new bonnet.

m-m

My wife's grandmother, age 94, learned better than to ask her husband during their earlier years of marriage. She never asked his opinion, found that, after a few wearings, her husband would ask, "Where did you get that pretty hat?"

It's A Date

GIRL SCOUT WEEK

MARCH 1968

						12
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Girl Scout COOKIES

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events taken from the 1957 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Patrons of Bethware and Compact schools will vote April 17 to determine whether the schools will abandon the long in vogue split term schedule.

Penley's Chapel Methodist church on Cherryville road will formally open its new sanctuary and educational building on Sunday.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Concert Pianist Azan Marsh will present the third program in the Community Concerts series in Shelby, March 18th at Shelby high school auditorium.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ledford of Charlotte visited Kings Mountain relatives Sunday.

Miss Marcia Leigh Yarbrough and Miss Elaine Goforth entertained Saturday at the Yarbrough home at a bridal shower honoring Miss Kay Henderson, bride-elect.

Welfare Supt. Wallace Kuralt is not a man to skirt an issue. Nor, if he is upset by the length of those on the girls, will he bat an eyelash as he banishes them (the eyelashes, one assumes, not the girls altogether).

And, after years of trying to deal with the problems of Mecklenburg's poor on a tight budget, it turns out he really is opposed also to tight blouses.

We take all this with a modestly-covered grain of salt, if that's all right.

Kuralt has every reason, if he wants to try, to cut them off at the pass—or maybe before it.

His years of work with the poor—while satisfactory—have not solved the problems of the poor, however.

And, we would respectfully observe that his day at the memo pad will not change the whims of feminine nature or style.

—The Charlotte Observer

SO THIS IS NEW YORK

By NORTH CALLAHAN

A local citizen said that if someone were to plan a national cultural center, he would gather most of the painters, sculptors, composers, playwrights, writers, actors and technicians in one place. He would see that they had the greatest number of galleries, museums, publishers, theaters and concert halls so that they would have an opportunity to show their work. The citizen then went on to say that this has really happened — here in New York City. That "citizen," logically enough, is Major John V. Lindsay.

—3—

Ralph L. Woods in his new and sparkling book, "The Modern Handbook of Humor" (McGraw-Hill) tells a story about a life insurance salesman who entered a reception room of a company, offered his card and asked to see Mr. William Smith. He stood and watched as the receptionist weaved her way through aisles to an office with a glass partition. He saw the receptionist hand the card to the man, noticed the man frown and throw the card in the wastebasket. The receptionist returned to the salesman and said that Mr. Smith was tied up in a meeting and could not see him. "That is too bad," said the salesman. "May I please have my card back?" The receptionist asked him to repeat his request, looked at him oddly and went back to Mr. Smith. Again the salesman offered the card to the man, who frowned and threw the card in the wastebasket for a few seconds and then hand something to the receptionist. When the receptionist returned, she handed the salesman a nickel, explaining that his card had become lost but that Mr. Smith did not want him to be out-of-pocket on the call. The salesman thereupon took from his wallet four more cards and handed them to the receptionist. "Give these to Mr. Smith," he said, "because the cards are only 1 cent each." The salesman watched the receptionist hand the cards to Mr. Smith, who burst out laughing. Then in response to Mr. Smith's genial beckoning sign, he went in to see his man.

—3—

Along with countless others, I mourn the recent passing of my old friend, Ray Erwin. As a reader of this column in Ray's beloved native state of North Carolina stated, "he was a newspaperman's newspaperman." I had just talked to Ray on the phone two days before he left for Tennessee for a press meeting. Two days after he returned, he was found dead in his hotel room. This genial and able Southerner did me many favors, and I am glad now to recall that my suggestions led to his teaching journalism in the evenings at two universities, his membership in Sigma Delta Chi and his meeting of Mrs. O. O. McIntyre of whom he was very fond, having idolized her late husband, the columnist. Ray mentioned me in his last column for "Editor and Publisher" of which he was associate editor, and I shall treasure his article always. I only wish he could see this tribute of mine.

—3—

Ray also liked American history and belonged to both the Civil War and the American Revolution Round Tables. Just the other day he called my attention to a story about Thomas Jefferson visiting George Washington and throwing off on the idea of the United States having two houses of Congress. Washington replied that Jefferson was better informed than himself on such topics from experience in France, but added that he would stick by the examples of England and America. "You yourself have proved the excellence of two House of Congress this very moment," remarked Washington. Jefferson was surprised and asked how that was. "You have," replied Washington, "turned your hot tea from the cup into the saucer to get it cool. It is the same thing we desire of the two Houses."

The face of this city is changing and among the more mature of us, some of the most treasured features are being lost. Yes, such is progress, we are told; still we part reluctantly with such mellowed institutions as the old Madison Square Garden which recently was closed, its activities transferred to the new 150-million-dollar complex which now towers majestically above Pennsylvania Station. The mayor took time out from his tiff with Garbage and Rockefeller to eulogize the old Garden. "The greatest arena of them all," he pronounced. "For two generations performing in the Garden meant reaching the top." It was a sports palace, a forum for political contests, the home of the circus, a church for evangelists and the grand setting for stage performances of the highest rank. So off with the old, up with the new!

—3—

This Garden which stands at the corner of 8th Avenue and 50th Street, is the third to carry the name. The first two were actually on Madison Square at 26th Street, but when the next was built, the name just stuck. From the opening of the last one on November 24, 1925, it drew crowds totalling 250 million people to some 145 different kinds of events. Probably the biggest cumulative crowds were those attending the revival services of Billy Graham for sixteen successive weeks a few years ago. Urban cynics sneered but they came to know that something big and good was going on then in the Garden. Then there was the time in 1950 when an underdog City College basketball team unprecedentedly won both the National College Athletic Association and the National Invitation Tournament titles. As readers of this column recall, not long ago I interviewed Gene Turney and Jack Dempsey, and it was the fists of the latter which helped to build the fame of the Garden's boxing arena. I can recall too, when my old friend, William Fields, Broadway's best press agent, fronted for the circus and always saw that we had some of the best seats in the huge house.

—3—

One of the most remembered

nights in the Garden for New Yorkers over 40 was that of November 5, 1932 when Franklin D. Roosevelt climaxed here his first campaign for President. Twenty-five thousand persons inside and out of the Garden were thrilled when FDR and Al Smith walked out on the stage and put their arms around each other's shoulders. This meant that the two Democratic leaders had become reconciled, that New York's big delegation to the convention would be solidly behind Roosevelt—and that he would probably be elected President and the New Deal ushered in. For long minutes, the crowd went wild with cheering, stamping and waving. Another big night recalled was ten years ago when Mike Todd celebrated in the Garden the first birthday of his hit movie, "Around the World in 80 Days". The party was so lavish that the gifts handed out ranged from motorcycles to an airplane. There were animal acts, mummies and folk dancers, a tremendous birthday cake which had required twenty days to bake, and Elizabeth Taylor, then Mrs. Mike Todd. The "intimate little party" drew thousands of gaping people and millions on television and cost Todd \$410,000.

Letter To Editor

NO WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICES?

Unbelievable, shocking, distressing. The enemy struck a direct blow there and we crucified our Lord anew! Only as Christians pray together and have faith in God's Power through Christ, love all people as He did and live for others and not for self as He expects out of gratitude, only then will there be peace of mind in our hearts and peace in the world to the extent that the world responds but not by refusing to either pray together the Almighty for such a world. God open our eyes to what we Americans are in danger of losing the freedom to choose. Give us the spirit and the wisdom to choose aright.

A Disturbed Christian
Mrs. Vera M. Cooper

FIX-IT TIP

Serious damage to furniture, such as gouging, dents and large blemishes and stains, usually require professional repair work. But light scratches often may be remedied by the homemaker, using a coloring crayon closely matching the color of the wood finish. Simply rub into the scratch, wipe away excess wax and polish the entire surface.

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