



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.

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. St. Matthew 2:10.

Christmas 1968

Christmas 1968, a Christmas of change...

Perhaps the same, as that Christmas nearly two thousand years ago, could be similarly categorized.

Some items: United States astronauts are orbiting the moon.

The United States is soon to have a new national administration with implications of change on both domestic and foreign policies.

North Carolina will have a new administration.

Kings Mountain is changing, too.

A large new area has been annexed to the city.

Major public works projects are a) nearing completion, b) in process, or c) on the threshold of beginning.

All the larger implications further imply changes for individuals, as well, here and elsewhere.

Hopefully, the captured crew of USS Pueblo will be freed by the North Koreans, as were the eleven army men repatriated by Cambodia in time for Christmas.

Painfully, the Scriptures remind of man's inability to live with his neighbor.

The Arab and Israeli cousins continue to hate each other and to express this hate with sporadic shooting.

The Vietnam peace talks remain bogged in the mire of detailed protocol as the shooting continues.

There are many generic prayers to be offered this Christmas season: for success of the new Nixon Administration; for the safe return of the men in space, and again, for peace among nations and among neighbors.

Keeping The Faith

For many years the phrase "if and when" has regularly appeared in minutes of the city board of commissioners, the phrase usually being couched in motions to approve street improvements petitions.

The meaning is clear: the work will be done when the city treasury's funds permit. Work has been proceeding well over the past many years and there are not great numbers of unfulfilled "if and when's" remaining.

A similar, if unstated, policy has been the rule in welcoming citizens of newly annexed areas into the city.

For small groups, annexation has meant immediate provision of fire-fighting, police, and garbage removal services, with the others requiring more time and money to be provided "if and when".

Thus citizens of the city's new southwest area will be pleased to learn that the city sanitation department will soon be making their residences regular runs on this important service.

The city is keeping the faith.

Congratulations to Miss Beverly Willis, Western Carolina University senior, named for "Who's Who among Students in American Colleges and Universities".

The unsafe driving season—or the unsafe season—is at hand. Holiday seasons of all kinds produce more traffic, more carelessness, more hurry and more wrecks. The Christmas-New Year season adds the hazard often of nasty weather and unsafe driving conditions.

Hijacking and Hope

A lot of folk boarding an airplane from Boston south for a southern destination jest about the possibility of making an unscheduled landing in Havana rather than Miami or other point.

If not commonplace, considering the ratio of number of flights to those hijacked, a goodly number of passengers for the past several months have touched down in Havana, the pilot intentionally off course because he has a pistol pointed at him along with the flight instructions or, in the instance of the Eastern Airlines pilot the past week, with the threat of blowing the big ship and her passengers to kingdom come with a load of TNT. The pilot didn't necessarily believe the threat but commented, "The threat itself was sufficient."

Strangely, though, the pattern of hijacking has been as similar as the twin results. The hijackers are taken immediately into Castro custody and the pilots, with passengers, routed to original ports of destination.

Is Castro relaxing his hate for the United States and is there a possibility that in the not too distant future this isle 90 miles off the coast of Florida might once again be a regular port of call for United States planes and ships, for vacation-bound tourists, and merchants buying Cuban sugar in return for U. S.-made goods?

Perhaps it is too much to hope.

A recent Columbia Broadcasting System "special" on television accented anti-United States propaganda at virtually all levels, grade school up, and indicated the Cuban peon is eating and living better than in the days of Dictator Batista.

But the over-all picture for Cuba has not been brilliant. She is heavily dependent on Russia and Communist China for economic breadfruit.

Militarily, the Florida coast remains just 90 short miles away and then there is the United States naval bastion at Guantanamo Bay on her own east coast.

Home Rule Issue

Advance indications on the upcoming report of the legislative commission studying needed constitutional changes are that some recommendations will be forthcoming to grant counties and cities more authority in deciding what the local governments will do concerning their own problems.

The subject is popularly known as "home rule".

The commission on constitution revision has worked closely with the joint legislative committee studying the problems of local government, of which two Clevelanders, Senator Jack White and Representative Robert Falls are members.

There are several areas in which the General Assembly could relieve itself of many bothersome, or, at least, time-consuming bills which should not be the province of the General Assembly. For examples here are some, it could be safely contended that the New Hanover delegation could hardly care less what Kings Mountain chooses to pay its mayor and commissioners. For and upcoming case in point, it can be safely contended 99 percent of the General Assembly could hardly care less how Kings Mountain changes its political geography to implement the recent annexation to the southwest.

If the Herald memory is correct, the number of local bills processed in the 1967 session of the legislature far outnumbered the general bills or bills of state-wide import.

General Assembly reluctance to part with power has been a major factor in the unsuccessful efforts for more home rule in the past. Legislative appointments of magistrates and boards of education were factors therein, and these are no longer operative.

Home rule won't be complete but a relaxation of requirements for counties cities to run to Raleigh for everything is expected to be offered the voters for decision.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

I do not nominally spend much time with the television talkbox, but gave it more Saturday than on any recent day.

m-m

The morning eggs and I completed our business just in time to tune in for the waning minutes of countdown before the Apollo Astronauts were catapulted upward and outward for a close Christmas season look at the moon. I did not envy those three men their seats, though I envied their courage.

m-m

When the tube brought through their cut-off of the first stage engine the burst of flame looked as if the whole apparatus was going. The folk watching on color sets report they got an even bigger, chillier thrill.

m-m

Man has always been challenged by the unknown. Whether it was Eric the Red (earlier) or Columbus of 1492, both floundered there was something more that fell off at the end of the world and they were right. The Astronauts of today, in contrast to the legendary Jason and friends, searching for the Golden Fleece, have to compensate for what the world since 1945 has come to know as fall-out.

m-m

A watching Winn-Dixie "Win with the Stars" (I didn't), a show I like because the tunes are usually vintage one, two and three decades ago, I stayed with Jackie Gleason's Christmas show and its choreographic presentation of the fairy tales of childhood. There were Old Mother Hubbard, who had so many children she didn't know what to do, the march of the tin soldiers, the three bears and Goldilocks, and many more. (I was afraid Little Bear was going to lose his diapers, but he didn't.) And Gleason was at his pantomime best.

m-m

Then I switched channels to Lawrence Welk's Christmas amnesty, in which he features families of his musicians, leading off with the largest family. It would appear that the papas should look to their laurels and keep sharp. The youngsters are coming of age in the musical world, too.

m-m

No, I didn't invest in Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Dean Jagger's "White Christmas" again. I must have seen that one three to four times already. The tune, of course, brings back interesting memories but not of a white Christmas. I first heard it at the old King George V hotel, where I was a domiciled, in February 1943, the hotel being located in Casablanca, French Morocco. The French celebrate Christmas the same time we do. But the song "White Christmas" arrived with a young navy lad named Levin who'd still been stateside. The hotel lobby boasted a piano and Levin could play... "White Christmas" period.

m-m

The lads at the postoffice were closing shop at 3 p.m. Saturday afternoon and were declaring 1) the peak passed and 2) volume diminished, which is hard to analyze. 1) I have some out-going stuff yet, in the true last-minute tradition, and 2) my incoming has been heavy with a profusion of greetings from far and near.

m-m

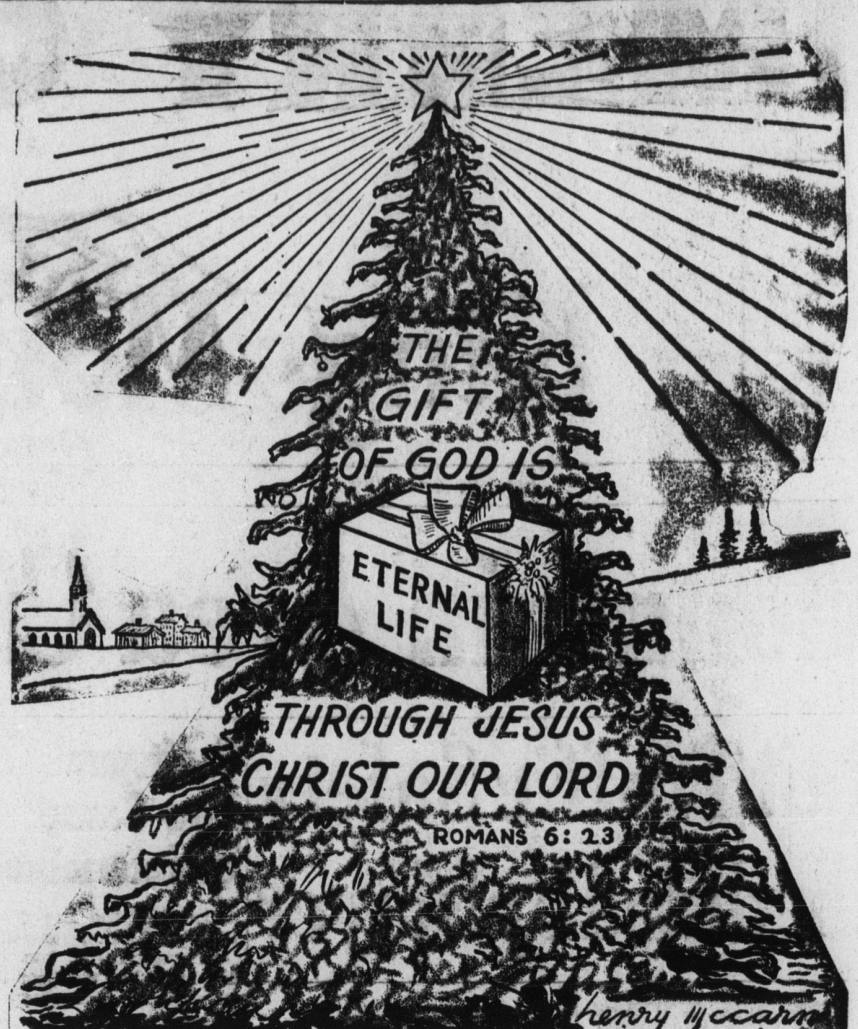
My most distant greeting came from my around-the-corner neighbor, except that Lt. Col. Bob Cox is not around the corner at the moment, but spending the holidays in Saigon. Grandfather Mountain Friend Hugh Morton, who winters in Wilmington, used the same format of a family picture, but the children are growing up. Julie, the eldest, graduated from college and acquired a husband. The Mortons are pictured in front of the quaint Linville church in which Julie was wed.

m-m

Whatta you want for Christmas? There are those \$850 shoes at a Charlotte store (shoes \$50, buckles \$800) with some sales being made (more shoes than buckles). The mink men, sold up on short coats, is pushing the long model. The mink reminds of the guy who, apparently, rather wanted to tell his girl friend matrimony was not his intent. The gift: a mink-covered clothespin.

m-m

A Santa Claus letter across the desk closes, "I've been a good boy so don't bring me switches." And Tim Gladden's three-year-old wants to follow in Grandfather R. L. Plonk's footsteps. What does Gerald want for Christmas. "A farm!"



Viewpoints of Other Editors

CHRISTMAS

On Christmas Day a soldier in Vietnam, dirty with jungle mud and blood, will tear open a letter from home. For a few moments he will forget his bone-aching fatigue, remembering boyhood days with his family and the excitement of getting and giving gifts.

The sour-sweet smell of barracks and the dank green odor of jungle camps will be replaced by the smell of white sheets on the old bed at home on Christmas Eve, the pungence of Christmas trees and the aroma of food from mother's kitchen. The illusion will be gone even before the letter is finished and that soldier will long for peace, more than you or I who have never lived on a battlefield can ever long for peace, and he may weep for a meaning that has gone out of his life.

As long as that soldier feels joy from no more than the reading of a letter on a battlefield, or has hope expressed as a longing for peace, or repents through tears for lost meaning, we know that God is alive.

(From Kerygma Features — a service of the Division of Overseas Ministries, National Council of the Churches of Christ, U. S.)

IN THE BLACK

When the House beauty salon went out of business last December, a small committee of congresswomen got together and took it over. To finance the salon, operated for the benefit of congresswomen, congressmen's wives, and female members of House office staffs, the ladies asked for a loan of \$15,000 from the House contingency fund. The loan was approved.

The ladies hired a new manager to run the salon, and new rules were established. The committee wanted the salon to operate in the black, so the word went out: Patrons of the salon would have to pay prices competitive to those charged in other salons; nothing would be free.

Under their guidance, the salon has prospered. This week, Congresswoman Martha Griffiths returned \$7,500 of the borrowed money to the House. She said that she hoped that the remaining \$7,500 would be repaid early in 1969, and that the salon thereafter, for the first time in 33 years, would pay the House an annual sum in lieu of rent.

The ladies' success in putting the beauty salon on a profitable basis prompted some suggestions from their male colleagues. Congressman George Andrews of Alabama remarked that it might be a good idea to turn over the operation of the House restaurant to the ladies to see if they could succeed in making the restaurant a profitable venture. Not a bad idea, that, and when the ladies finished with the restaurant, they might be persuaded to tackle the federal budget. With their knack for successful financial management, they might be able to put Uncle Sam in the black, too.

Richmond (Va.) News Leader

THE 'SAVER'

He goes 50 or 60 in a 30 m.p.h. zone zooming angrily around car after car while forcing oncoming drivers to apply their brakes to avoid a collision, in a frenzy to "save" an eighth or tenth of a second. Then he slams on his brakes and all of the cars he passed have to come to a screeching halt behind him as he turns into a driveway a half block from where his speed spree started.

Indianapolis Star

Ten Years Ago

Items of interest which occurred approximately ten years ago

Mrs. Henry Neisler won first place in the door decorating contest and Mrs. W. K. Mauney, Jr. topped second place honors in the contest sponsored by the House and Garden Club. St. Matthew's Lutheran church will hold the traditional Christmas Eve Musicale at 11 p.m. Wednesday night.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Miss Shirley June Falls has completed plans for her marriage to Darrell Lloyd Austin, which will take place Sunday, December 28th, at 4 p.m. in Central Methodist church.

BROKEN A-STRING

Pianist Vladimir Horowitz was deep in Rachmaninoff's B Flat Sonata during a concert in New York City when the piano went "boing." Mr. Horowitz pressed onward, and then the piano made a jangling sound. The pianist paused while a technician raced onstage and snipped a broken A-string from the bass area of the instrument. Undaunted Mr. Horowitz backed up a few measures and plunged back into the work. When he finished the applause was thunderous and he played four encores.

Lesser artists would have been undone by a broken A-string, and Mr. Horowitz is not noted as the least temperamental of pianists. We suspect his performance gained him some new fans. One doesn't have to know anything about music to admire a man who keeps his cool in trying circumstances.

Boston Herald Traveler

PREACHING ISN'T PRACTICED

The congress required that the president cut spending by \$6 billion. At the same time it boosted the congressional budget to almost \$300 billion. It called on the president to cut payrolls. Meanwhile congressional payrolls have reached 12,000.

Last year the senate voted a reform bill. It wasn't drastic, but did provide for some basic and necessary changes. For instance, it tightened controls on lobbyists and took postmasters and some other employees out of the patronage area. It hit at the committee system to a degree. It would curb some of the arbitrary powers of chairmen. Minority party committee members would be given staff to help them study bills and form policy.

Speaker McCormack ignored the precedent under which the 1964 measure on congressional reorganization was sent straight to the floor. He sent the senate bill, instead, to the rules committee. After a few hours of hearings in April of 1967, the committee chairman bottled up the bill and kept it there. Insistence upon action has brought so much bargaining that the bill is reduced to almost nothing. Rep. Madden (D-Ind.), house sponsor of the senate approved measure, says the compromise bill is "worse than nothing."

Milwaukee Journal

KINGS MOUNTAIN Hospital Log VISITING HOURS 3 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. Daily 10:30 To 11:30 a.m.

PATIENTS IN KINGS MOUNTAIN HOSPITAL AS OF NOON WEDNESDAY:

- Mr. James Leach, Jr. Mrs. Doris Harris Mr. Walker Arrowood Mr. Wesley R. Baily Mrs. David Campbell Mr. Hubert G. Demmons Mr. Kemp Ledford Mrs. Ora D. Mauney Mrs. Joseph E. Mellor Mrs. Mattie M. Melton Mrs. Ethel Mullens Mrs. Minnie Phifer Mrs. Gussie Rayfield Sharon Byers Mr. Haskel L. Clark Mr. Doyle E. Falls Mr. Richard E. Fite Mrs. Jack E. Gaddy Mr. John S. Gladden Mr. Lloyd Hall Mr. Martin L. Harmon, Sr. Mr. J. D. Hord Mr. William Houser Mrs. Sidney D. Hulstetler Sheila Johnson Mrs. Mack Jordan Mrs. Jessie M. Rippy Mrs. Paul Sanders Mrs. Ida Smith Mr. Jimmy Wells Clara Wright Mrs. Rachel Ratcher Mrs. Lola Mae Morris

ADMITTED THURSDAY

- Mr. Eddie M. Adcock, City Larry C. Webster, City Mrs. Clint H. Day, Bessemer City

ADMITTED FRIDAY

- Mrs. Stephen E. Brown, Bessemer City Mrs. Willie E. Hambricht, City Mrs. Ollie M. Roberts, City Mr. Lorr L. Barkley, City Mr. Bracey Moore, City Mrs. Carrie M. Price, Bessemer City

ADMITTED SATURDAY

- Thomas A. Breakfield, City Mr. Samuel P. Stewart, Gastonia Mrs. Sarah Littlejohn, City Mrs. Norman E. Sipe, City Mrs. Glenard Owens, Gastonia

ADMITTED SUNDAY

- Mrs. Joe D. Bratton, Kings Creek, S. C. Mrs. Claude E. Anderson, City

SPACEBALL

If a baseball game were reported in the jargon of a space mission, the batter would actuate his interception device in an effort to impact a horsehide module over the left field fence.

Of course, if the integrity of his swing were less than A-O-K, his strike configuration might be such that he would have to egress the batter's box. Destroy the umpire! Winston-Salem (N. C.) Sentinel

HONORING CHRISTMAS

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year."

So wrote Charles Dickens, for whom Christmas was a favorite topic — so much so that most people, asked to name someone who wrote about Christmas, would immediately answer, "Dickens."

Not only Dickens, but almost every writer, from the little-known to the famous, has been inspired at some time in his career to "honor Christmas" in prose or poetry. For instance — At Christmas I no more desire a rose Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth. But like of each thing that in season grows. William Shakespeare

At Christmas play and make good cheer, For Christmas comes but once a year. Thomas Tusser

For somehow, not only at Christmas, but all the long year through, The joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you. John Greenleaf Whittier

England was merry England when Old Christmas brought his sports again. Sir Walter Scott

I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old familiar carols play,

For the children, this is the very best Christmas that ever was. The adults agree — but still, they look back a little wistfully at the Christmases of yesterday with nostalgic thoughts of a good old-fashioned Christmas, or of a special Christmas memory.

Memories enhance the seasonal joys, and with good reason, for Christmas is a memorable time. Since the first Holy Night, some of the most important events of both religious and secular history have taken place at the Christmas season.

A look at the past reveals momentous occasions, joyous or poignant, as well as many of the little things that give bygone times living meaning — and all taking place on or about Christmas Day.

And soft and sweet the words repeat, "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

So shall we learn to understand The simple faith of shepherds then, And clasping kindly hand in hand, Sing, Peace on earth, good will to men!" James Russell Lowell

"Happy Christmas to all, and all a good-night." Clement Clarke Moore

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