

**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., 28066 under Act of Congress of March 3, 1873.

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**TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE**  
*Let all your things be done with charity. 1 Corinthians 16:14.*

**Depletion Allowances      It's the Law**

The word was out from the White House Wednesday, via South Carolina's Harry Dent, that President Nixon, after all, will support continuing the 27.5 per cent depletion allowance for the oil and natural gas industry.

While it had been indicated earlier that the Administration would support a cut to 20 per cent in order to get a tax reform bill through the Congress, it is now indicated the President has been reminded of a campaign speech in Texas last fall in which he promised to stick with the 27.5 per cent.

The oil-gas boys are the high moguls of the depletion world. Only those enjoy the 27.5 per cent depletion which does have the effect of cutting federal tax bills handsomely.

Actually, the list of beneficiaries of the depletion allowance (a very real cost of mining operations) is long. Ever heard of tripoli? This very soft, friable sand rates a 15 per cent depletion allowance from the feds of Internal Revenue Service.

Mining center that Kings Mountain is, there are several companies which rate depletion allowances in varying degree.

At the bottom of the totem pole is the sand man and brick-and-tile clay "miner" who rate only five per cent.

There appears to be no area mining citizen in the 10 per cent bracket. But at 15 per cent (along with tripoli, thenardite, talc and trona) is spodumene, mined by Foote Mineral Company.

Foote does better in its manganese operation at Knoxville, Tenn., at 23 per cent, the second best category, as do Kings Mountain Mica Company and U.S. Gypsum with their mica mining operations. Another 23 per center is the miner down at Henry's Knob, kyanite being in this category.

Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corporation, of course, home-based in the oil-gas center of Houston, Texas, but supplier to the city, rates the top category.

Perhaps the most populous beneficiary of depletion allowances in this area is the timber farmer. Unlike the aforementioned, which figure depletion on basis of gross income, timber depletion accounting is much more complicated.

Question remains: is the high ground depletion allowance for oil and gas too high?

The oil-gas industry was quick to note that wildcatting costs are high, as witness what's going on now in Alaska, and that there is no assurance of avoiding "dry holes".

The oil-gas industry also noted quickly the net profit change occasioned by a cut in depletion allowance would be reflected in increased cost to the consumer of all products whether joy juice (auto fuel) or home heating fuels or the many others.

But the Nixon switch-back could mean the death knell for so-called tax reform.

**Oh, Those Mets!**

A betting guy with the temerity last April to make a small wager on the New York Mets for a division pennant could have made a small fortune.

He may not have been around to collect for he most likely would have been strait-jacketed and spirited to the nearest bobby-hatch.

But there they are, like a race horse winning going away and that's what they did. Tuesday night, Cardinal Ace Bob Gibson, they were behind 2-0 in the fifth inning. But the late news television sports men related the Mets 3, the Cards 2, in eleven. The result left the Mets one game away from the winner's circle.

While the Herald has had its differences with the county commission in some matters, particularly the intransigence of the commission on Buffalo Creek Lake legislative matters, it must defend the commission (anent Vice-Chairman Charlie Greene's statement in the current edition) concerning periodic revaluation of property for ad valorem tax purposes.

As Mr. Greene states, it is North Carolina law: revaluation must be accomplished by the counties octennially. Next time around for Cleveland is 1972 and the commission is beginning to husband the money for the \$129,000 the job will cost.

Revaluation works two ways: 1) it adds value where value is added; 2) it subtracts value where value is subtracted, e.g., by obsolescence or depreciation.

It can be assumed that the firms specializing in this field, as in others, rate from poor to excellent in performance.

Many years ago a textile firm manager here told of an experience of a friend in another city. The firm had suffered a disastrous fire and the insurance carrier's ideas as to his liability were grossly lower than his friends. An appraisal firm's report, nicely browned on the edges, was found in the charred safe, but quite intact. When the carrier's adjuster saw the report, settlement was made on that basis.

The initial point of revaluation is to use the same yardstick in valuing all properties for tax purposes.

Buying the services of the professional firms is the only way to achieve these aims.

**No Dust, No Mud**

No dust, no mud; at least, not much.

It would have been thus had not it been for a state legislator named Powell, who, in 1951, persisted to the extent the towns and cities of the state were cut in to a share of the state gasoline tax (albeit a small one of one-half-cent per gallon).

The division basis was and is: 50 per cent on population, 50 per cent on city-maintained street mileage.

Within a few days the city clerk and treasurer will receive from the state treasurer a check for \$50,074, Kings Mountain's eighteenth Powell Bill check and its largest. The funds can be used for paying city shares of new street improvements, for re-surfacing streets, all again on city-maintained streets not in the state system.

Kings Mountain, incidentally, maintains 46.94 miles of streets. Except for those newly cut, it is rather hard to find an unpaved street within the city limits on which to ride.

It would not have been were it not for these Powell Bill funds.

**William F. Houser**

William F. (Billy) Houser had been ill for many years.

He developed multiple sclerosis, a disease which first maims, then kills, and for which there is no known cure. Among local folk who were victims were the late John H. Gamble, the football coach for whom Gamble Stadium is named, and the late O. Max Gardner, Jr. Another was the late great first baseman of the New York Yankees Lou Gehrig.

Billy Houser was great, too.

He carried on his regular activities, at church, in civic work, at home and at work, ceasing only when the crippling effects of the disease dictated full seclusion.

There's no way to explain it. Or do the good, indeed, die young?

**MARTIN'S MEDICINE**

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

By MARTIN HARMON

"I showered down on Kings Mountain pretty good."

m-m  
Indeed he did.

m-m  
The statement was made by John A. Lang, Jr., administrative assistant to the secretary of the air force, who had just completed an address to the Shelby Kiwanis Club.

m-m  
He cited the abiding history of the area as represented by the performance of the Mountain Men at Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780, and pointed out that the County of Cleveland bears the name of one of the leaders in that short but tide-turning battle, while the City of Shelby bears another. They were Cols. Benjamin Cleveland and Isaac Shelby.

m-m  
Clyde Nolan, who had arranged the program, had been teasing his guest as a possible future governor.

m-m  
Though a civilian as far as his Pentagon duties go, Mr. Lang is also a military man. He holds a commission as a major general in the air force reserve, served in the air force in World War II (back when it was the army air force) in virtually every theatre of the war with battle stars in several of his campaign ribbons. He enlisted as Pvt. Lang, was separated as Major Lang.

m-m  
He had prefaced his formal address with some roll-of-your-chair stories.

m-m  
A young couple had an equally young and undisciplined parrot who continually embarrassed his owners by saying in the presence of company, "Let's neck, let's neck, let's neck!" An older man who owned an older parrot lived next door, this parrot the model of decorum who regularly intoned, "Let us pray, let us pray, let us pray." In desperation, the young couple asked the neighbor if he would mind their parrot's sharing the older one's cage in the hope the young one could learn to be polite. The visit was arranged. True to form the young parrot began, "Let's neck, let's neck..." only to be interrupted by the older parrot which cried, "My prayers have been answered!"

m-m  
Mr. Lang spoke in Shelby on the 22nd anniversary of the constitution of the air force as a separate branch of the armed services.

m-m  
He declared, "Societies are changed often by people of ill will," adding, "nor is there any evidence of a Communist government intending good will."

m-m  
"Our aim is in restricting our enemy and protecting ourselves, not in destroying our enemy," he continued.

m-m  
"The lessons of World War I and II show the United States of America cannot withdraw from the rest of the world," he declared.

m-m  
I met John Lang about three decades ago when I was a college lad and he the state director of the National Youth Administration program. It was a Young Democratic Club function. My roommate of the time, Rush Hamrick of Shelby was present, and the fellows who arranged the program were the late Phil Ellis of Spruce Pine and Ernest King of Troy. Lang's friends, Rush and I learned from John that Ernest King, who happens to be a brother-in-law of the actor Andy Griffith, is now with the Department of Health Education and Welfare and that King and Lang see each other frequently.

m-m  
I asked the number of youngsters Ernest and his wife now number. Lang replied, "More than you can count."

m-m  
The last time Rush had seen King the count was five. The last time I'd seen King the count was 79/10.

m-m  
Rufus Edmisten, a staffer for Senator Sam Ervin, presented Lang, meantime referring to his alma mater UNC in glowing terms. Comparing Chapel Hill notes with Rush and me, he revealed he wasn't born 'til 1941.

m-m  
"Ah," I say to Rush, "a latter day saint."

Traffic Signs You Don't See...  
 ...but should always remember

henry mccorm

**Viewpoints of Other Editors**

**A VICTIM OF RHETORICAL OVERKILL**

Chapel Hill's Mayor Howard Lee is a victim of his own rhetorical overkill in the statement typifying North Carolina's Gov. Bob Scott as a "Southern Bigot."

Aside from apologizing to Gov. Scott for the remark, all the Negro mayor can add in his own behalf is that he was quoted out of context. This doesn't change what Lee admits was an uncalled for slur.

The governor is hardly the black man's beau ideal. He has been open to the charge, on occasion, of playing to a red neck gallery with his comments on law and order. And North Carolina Negroes on occasion must have wondered whether the governor fully understands their situation and sympathizes with the kinds of change they seek.

Yet, no fair-minded estimate of Bob Scott could hang him with the epithet of "bigot." Lee's apology agrees, which takes care of that so far as Scott is concerned. Despite the apology, though, Lee isn't off the hook yet.

There is still the question of Lee's blast at the University of North Carolina trustees which will affect the job offer they were approving at the time he was cutting loose with his statements. In this connection, the context of Lee's statement is significant.

He was, after all, taking part in the conference of elected black officials where all the rhetoric was supercharged. In that setting, it takes a lot of tongue flapping to make oneself heard, as well as to convince the brothers that the speaker is no Uncle Tom.

What's more, published reports of the proceedings suggest there were few if any elected black officials at the meeting looking for silver linings in the dark clouds of American society. The common theme of most quoted remarks was that things were tough and Whitey showed little likelihood of making them easier.

In this setting, sensible men can get carried away with themselves and overstate their case. If that is Lee's situation, there is no reason to heat up the issue like the rhetoric of the meeting in Washington. But the point does need clarification.

There is no reason University administrators should buy the trouble that could go with hiring Lee as an \$11,000-a-year lecturer if they would, in fact, be getting a disgruntled man who feels he has been done out of a \$14,000-a-year assistant professorship. It wouldn't make sense to hire anyone of any race under those circumstances.

To take on a man with Lee's platform, as North Carolina's only elected black mayor in recent history, would be pure folly if the ma sees this job as more of the "hell" he said in Washington he has been catching since he became mayor of Chapel Hill.

The trustees need to get this point settled, and so does Mayor Lee. And if they reach some high ground mutually, there is no reason that the original decision to hire him as a lecturer can't be carried out.

The Charlotte Observer

**A LOSER'S GAME**

In the American experience, inflation has always been associated with booming business and general good times. Those who warned that continued deficit spending and debt accumulation by government, without regard to the taxpaying ability of the peo-

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

Mrs. John F. Boheler  
 Lawson Harold Dover  
 Mrs. Carrie H. Frye  
 Mrs. Ethel Mae Hambricht  
 John Henry Kendrick  
 Mrs. Cora E. Laughter  
 Mrs. Dovie Gertrude Neal  
 Leste Lee Dorcy  
 Sidney Dulin Huffstetler  
 Dan Falls  
 Mrs. Marie Caine Fellwell  
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 James Andrew Moss  
 Carl Thomas Mullinax  
 Mrs. Emmaline G. Scoggins  
 Mrs. Mary Ruth Rush  
 Mrs. James Shields  
 George Arthur Watson  
 Venellia Renee Wright  
 Mrs. David James Garrett  
 ADMITTED THURSDAY  
 Jason Dexter Fulton  
 Kenneth Allen Davis  
 Richard Lemarre Gordon  
 Samuel Erice Spencer  
 ADMITTED FRIDAY  
 James Michael Ivey  
 Walter Darvin Morrison  
 Mrs. Ruby Pauline Hullett  
 ADMITTED SATURDAY  
 Mrs. James L. Hester  
 Kevin Eugene Roberts  
 ADMITTED SUNDAY  
 Jesse Lee Ramsey  
 Mrs. James E. Deveney  
 Mrs. Harold L. Hayes  
 Mrs. Addie Marie Ramsey  
 Jerry Thomas Wells  
 Every R. Davis  
 ADMITTED MONDAY  
 Francis Joseph Burke  
 Earl David Hicks  
 Mrs. Ruslie C. Philbeck  
 MyAnn Paige Lindsay  
 George Pinkney Sellers  
 ADMITTED TUESDAY  
 Mrs. James L. Hallman  
 John Ervin Anderson  
 Mrs. Ethel Glenn White  
 Mrs. Mickie Q. Howard  
 Mrs. Joe Neal Martin  
 Robert Stonewall Williams, Jr.  
 Mrs. Rosa Lee Wright

**Letter To Editor**

Dear Sir:  
 Thank you for your coverage in using our news releases from Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly this past summer.

We had an exceptionally wonderful year and want you to know that we are most appreciative of all that you have done for us in helping the people of the nation know about this nationwide Baptist assembly.

If there is anything special we can do for you during the winter months, please do not hesitate to write. Thanking you again and looking forward to the 1970 Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly season, I am

Yours most cordially,  
 James Evans McReynolds  
 Information Specialist  
 Office of Public Relations

moisture to condense from the air in tanks. No problems are experienced with glass-lined tanks, but metal tanks can "pit" from standing water.

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