



# The Kings Mountain Herald

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### TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. Isaiah 41:17.

### Tain't No Secret Long

Marse Grant, editor of the Biblical Recorder, wrote Bob Bingham, president of North Carolina Young Democrats on February a rather threatening letter (to Democrats) charging that Bingham was "pledging support of Young Democratic Clubs of North Carolina to get behind liquor by the drink."

Grant added a postscript: "You will note that this is a personal letter and not for distribution in the press or elsewhere."

Bingham replied in quiet tenor on February 19 that, since he had been addressed as president of the YDC and had been threatened with the rallying of a million Baptists and he had no choice but to discuss the letter with members of the executive committee and other friends. He also pointed out that Grant misunderstood the Bingham position in two major degrees: 1) the YDC had taken no official action of the liquor by the drink question and 2) he favors giving the people the right to vote on the question.

Liquor by the drink bills were defeated by the 1969 General Assembly and the battle will be joined again in 1971. Perhaps Senator John Burney of New Hanover was right when he declared the liquor by the drink question will arise and re-arise with each session until it is settled. He was quoted as adding, "I'm sick of hearing about it. Let's let the people vote on it and settle it."

As an editor, Mr. Grant must be taken to task—not for his position on demon rum by the drink, which is his and any other's privilege. He erred on the postscript about "this being just between you and me."

The Herald case in point dates to a decade ago. As a five-county gear-up Sanford - for - Governor luncheon was breaking up, one cautious fellow suggested to the Herald editor that the luncheon should not be mentioned very prominently. His point: "You can't get everybody from five counties in the Hotel Charles dining room. Somebody might get insulted because he wasn't invited."

The Herald editor turned to Bert Bennett, Sanford's campaign manager from Winston-Salem and suggested, "I don't know how it is in Winston-Salem, Bert, but in Kings Mountain if two people know it, it ain't no secret for long."

Mr. Bennett laughed and replied, "It's exactly the same way in Winston-Salem."

The other mistake of Mr. Grant, and rather heinous, is the inference of political blackmail.

Enough of that.

This is the liquor by the drink issue: It is favored heavily by the larger counties and tourist areas who seek to attract conventioners and tourists from areas where liquor by the drink has been legal since prohibition was repealed. These interests will fight for county and/or city optional decisions.

The dry forces will fight against any pro-liquor bill of any kind, would undoubtedly compromise for a state-wide liquor-by-the-drink election which the dry forces feel quite confident of winning.

A hearty best bow to Sam R. Suber, recently turned 85 and Kings Mountain since 1909, who will tell you his favorite New York Yankees will duplicate in the American League this year what the New York Mets did in the National last year.

### Eclipse Warning

On Saturday, a total eclipse of the sun will occur.

As an occasional solar event, the prospects are fascinating, but warnings are being posted against endeavoring to see it unless one's back is turned.

A direct view, even with darkened lens, still invites a permanent damage of the retina because the dark lens does not filter out the infra-red rays sent out by the sun.

Amateur astronomers are told to build themselves a box to slip over the head to the following specifications:

- HOW TO MAKE AND USE A "SUNSCOPE" FOR VIEWING AN ECLIPSE OF THE SUN: 1, Fasten a piece of white paper over the inside of one of the small ends of an oblong box, about 1' x 2' x 3'. 2, Cut a one-inch-square hole in the opposite end and cover the hole with aluminum foil. 3, Make a pinhole in the foil. 4, Cut a hole somewhat larger than your head in the bottom of the box, so that you can slip the box over your head. 5, Seal all light leaks with black tape or paper. 6, To use the "sunscope" for viewing, stand with your back to the sun, the box over your head, and look at the image projected through the pinhole onto the white paper. 7, Do not look at the sun directly or through the pinhole — Look at the image projected on the white paper.

### Boys Will Be Boys

It is axiomatic that athletic events between arch-rivals generate boiling point heat, often more between the fans than the performers. And it is also axiomatic that with some, the pot boils over.

Geographical juxtaposition is a frequent factor.

In the good old days, when Wake Forest was at Wake Forest and only 18 miles distant from Wake Forest at Raleigh some students at both schools could be counted upon a wreak mayhem to the other on the night before the football game.

Duke and North Carolina are only 12 miles distant. A computer would be helpful in tallying the number of times through the years of football competition between the two that 1) Rameses, the Carolina mascot, has been stolen by Blue Devil students, and 2) the number of times Old Buck Duke's statue on the East campus has been covered with paint, usually a bright green or yellow.

The Shelby-Kings Mountain rivalries date to long ago both in high school and semi-pro athletics. In the twenties the Shelbians, host for a football game, were accused of putting into play (when the Mountaineers had the ball) a football with bottle stoppers in it.

Thus, the mayhem before the recent basketball game, the Mountaineer beheaded and the Golden Lion tarred, feathered and singed, will be repeated at future times yet uncharted.

Just this recent Christmas a prominent North Carolinian, 30 years graduated from Carolina student ranks, penned a note on his greeting cards: "What about a Carolina man being president of DOOK?"

### A Retirement

"I mean to sit back in a rocking chair and rock," said L. L. Adams, on the eve of his retirement from school administration and teaching.

He deserves it. The long-term principal of Compact school saw the school grow from a three-room wooden building into a high school which he administered well.

As Compact was consolidated into the city system, he switched with it—with ease and cooperation. As Compact was finally integrated and put into use for special education, Principal Adams became Teacher Adams with cooperative ease.

He has lived a working life of worthy public service.

Congratulations to J. C. Bridges, chairman, and Donald Jones, fund chairman, who will direct the 1970 United Fund appeal.

## MARTIN'S MEDICINE

I am indebted to Paul Neisler, Sr., for a copy of South Carolina Magazine, the first I had seen, though, according to the masthead, it was "Founded 1937" to tell the South Carolina story.

It compares quite favorably with State Magazine, the bi-weekly published in Raleigh, and the unofficial teller of the North Carolina story via current day and historical features.

Home base for the South Carolina Magazine is Columbia.

Paul had a particular reason to send me the particular issue as it contained the second of a two-part series by B. O. Prince on "The Harmon Family in South Carolina."

The story, unfortunately, is a rather gruesome one as the lead writer Prince used is an epitaph at Rehobeth Methodist Church cemetery, Greenwood Church, S. C. It reads: HERE LIES THE REMAINS OF JOHN L. HARMON AND CATHERINE HARMON, HIS WIFE, BORN NOVEMBER 3, 1804, AND DECEMBER 3, 1822. THEY WERE BOTH MURDERED BY NEGROES IN THEIR OWN HOUSE, MAY 17, 1876, SIX OF WHOM WERE PUBLICLY SHOT BY AN ENRAGED COMMUNITY.

It happens that my great-grandfather also wore the given name of John. However, my forebear was born in 1811, seven years after John L., and is interred in the New Prospect Baptist church cemetery in northwestern Cleveland County, alongside his wife, a Beam (Baum), either a daughter or granddaughter of one John Teeter Beam who came to this country from Germany in 1767. John Teeter sired 22 children by two wives, one in the old country, one in the new.

He helped organize the New Prospect church which was originally Lutheran.

But back to the South Carolina story... John L. lived at Winter-estate tract located on Hard Labor Creek. The Harmon have been hard workers and my grandfather, Peter Beam Harmon, who predeceased my birth by 33 years, had the same reputation.

John L. Harmon, however, was the son of Rev. William and Rosannah Summers Harmon. There's no similarity here as I know of, meaning that I know of no reverends in my branch of Harmons.

Motive for the murders was robbery and the "brain" apparently was a horse thief and escapee from the Edgefield jail Austin Davis, alias Sam Perry. The doers of the dastardly deeds were Steven Lake and Rev. Lark Holloway, both of whom worked for Harmon. Lake bludgeoned both with a dogwood club. Holloway slit the throats of both from ear to ear.

It was planned to burn the bodies and the house. Kerosene was poured and lit, but the blood of the victims doused the fire.

Undoing of the six was the un-buried dogwood club. It had been carved with a knife which had a nick in the blade. It proved to be Holloway's knife, and he was the first arrested. Sam Perry was found and talked. The six men, three of whom confessed, were found guilty and turned over to the sheriff for confinement. Part of the crowd over-powered the sheriff, bound and blindfolded him and locked him in the Harmon house. The six were marched to a pine grove, given five minutes to pray, then sprayed with more than 100 bullets.

The loot of course did the culprits no good, nor would have. They had found the bulk of the valuables too heavy and thrown them in the well.

One of the principals in the trial was Attorney Cothran from Abbeville. Likely a forebear of Architect Tom Cothran, of Shelby. Tom originated in those diggings.



### Viewpoints of Other Editors

#### WINTER'S NIGHT DREAM

The mail order catalogue, full of goodies often out of reach, used to be called the dream book. A similar volume, still in print, is the seed catalogue, which arrives, with its false colors, in this dismal season of the year. Yet this book is capable of providing an evening of simple pleasure to the gardener whose hopes always triumph over his experience.

With the aid of the book, a sheet of paper, a ruler and a pencil with an eraser, one may sit down to plan what he'll plant when Spring comes.

The chart has to be drawn to scale, naturally. Doing this will sharpen one's skill in geometry as well as agriculture. The practice will come in handy if one ever gets a job laying out a football field.

This book says 1 pkg. will plant 25 ft. of row. So plan 25 ft. Don't stop to think that nobody in the house will eat carrots.

Plant the hills of squash or cucumber 8 ft. apart, says the book. Place the hills on the chart. There's no room for anything else. Cross off squash. In fact, one big Winter squash will serve a family all it wants anyway. Why raise two dozen of the things?

With attention to details, one can spend two or three hours of an evening doing this planning, which involves only dreams, not sweat or cutworms. Then he can go to bed with a sense of accomplishment. At least, he now knows what he'd like to do, when the violets bloom and the robins nest again.—Boston Globe

#### DRUGS, AGAIN

It must by now be unmistakably apparent that the United States will not be able to conquer the rising danger from drugs without both a moral awakening and a deep public commitment. Day by day the tragic accounts mount. And every 24 hours of delay make it harder to root out this unspeakable threat to society, to the family, and to the individual.

By moral awakening we mean just that, an arousing of public conscience and consciousness to the insidiousness of the problem. For this reason we were shocked and sorry to read the other day that New York City's Mayor John Lindsay, a man for whom we have several times expressed appreciation, had lightly tossed aside a question about marijuana, saying that he would not be surprised if his daughters had tried smoking it, being "sophisticated."

We cannot help wondering if the Mayor might not have thought of that remark a few days later when a group of school officials and parents from Harlem stormed down to City Hall to cry out in anguish against the drug-death of a 14-year-old schoolboy. The protesters, including the president and vice-president of a school board embracing 26 schools, accused the Mayor of lack of interest and demanded more effective action.

On the very day of this protest there occurred another gruesome incident. Four individuals, apparently under the influence of a strong narcotic, murdered a young mother and two small children in their beds. At a number of points the affair was reminiscent of the recent mass murders in California.

#### OTHER FUNCTIONAL ILLITERATES

According to a Federal education official, some 30,000 high school graduates in the United States are known to be "functional illiterates," by reading at less than fifth-grade level.

One reason for this appalling finding is that no state yet demands a reading-proficiency test as a requirement for graduation.

The rest of the states, North Carolina among them, will continue to turn out functional illiterates armed with high school diplomas and very little else in the way of education.

Chapel Hill, which has always prided itself on the quality of its public school system, is an example of what is happening.

We turn to high school graduates who can't figure the change of a dollar, who don't know whether Montana is a city or state, whose reading comprehension is at the elementary school level, who can't spell or write grammatical English, who, in short, are uneducated.

Some of this undoubtedly is due to the "social promotions" that push along an unprepared student from grade to grade and eventually to commencement.

And some of the fault is undoubtedly due to the lack of emphasis on such fundamentals as the three R's.

Whatever the causes, we are cheating the student and making a farce of our public school education when we find him a diploma attesting to an education that he just doesn't have.

There ought to be a law. (Chapel Hill (N. C.) Weekly)

#### PRAYER IN SCHOOL

It has been eight years since the United States Supreme Court ruled, in Engel v. Vitale, that prayers in public schools are unconstitutional. But the issue will persist in some smaller American communities. At least five cases are awaiting court decision.

The most recent case arose in a three-room school in the hamlet of Leyden, Mass. Students there have, since September, been attending voluntary prayer and Bible-reading sessions before their classes start. Officials have sought an injunction against this voluntary program, saying it violates the separation of church and state.

Editorial Research Reports, noting the scattered dissent, says similar cases pend in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and New Jersey. It was in New Jersey that a court held that a local school board could not order the reading of opening prayers which had appeared in the Congressional Record. (No one has yet sought to proceed against the opening prayers of the Congress.)

The late Sen. Everett Dirksen tried in vain to get a constitutional amendment enacted which would have legalized voluntary student participation in public school prayers. One of his efforts was an attempt to convene the never-used device of a constitutional convention. He managed to persuade 33 states out of the required 34 (two-thirds of all the states) to petition Congress for the convention. But Utah and Wisconsin have backed away and the proposal is regarded as defunct.

#### THE BOWS AND ARROWS WAR

Ever since the tanker Torrey Canyon split in two off the English coast in 1967, oil slicks have been staining shorelines with tragic regularity.

Recently some 1,000 seabirds—their feathers cemented with black ooze — were smothered in an oily tide off Martha's Vineyard, or had to be killed by the humane society.

The time has surely come when clearcut lines of responsibility must be laid down and enforced by Washington. The federal government has a two-pronged responsibility: to delegate authority in (1) policing oil-tankers, and (2) detecting and dispersing oil slicks once they are spotted.

Many ideas have been put forward to combat tankers' surreptitious flushing of raw pollution into coastal waters: ideas ranging from the enforced charting of each tanker's movements, to a mandatory "hull within hull" or a false bottom to be built into all tankers using United States ports. But these have barely reached the government's pending tray.

Research scientists must turn their attention to the at-present almost insoluble problem of effectively dispersing crude oil once it is in the water. A Coast Guard official described their battle as fighting "a modern war with bows and arrows."

Let's get out of the Robin Hood era, and apportion some moon-age technology to moon-age problems. (Christian Science Monitor)

#### BUSY MONTH

Grover Rescue Squad reported a busy month of activities during February. Volunteers answered a total of 22 calls for a total of 344 hours and 1,244 miles traveled. Wyatt Adcock reported.

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## 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.

- Mary Tipton Baker
- Geneva Shanks Carroll
- Matie Ramsey Comer
- Edward Evans
- Ethel H. Hambricht
- Arthur Hamrick
- Sallie Blanton Ford
- Coleen Dixon McDaniell
- Mamie Smith Panther
- Dora Mae Powell
- Cora Lona Rhyne
- Mamie Sue Sipes
- John Commodore Stroup
- Tonya Hill Phillips
- George Elmer Ballew
- Barbara L. Blanton
- Ida Hardin Crocker
- Sidney Dulin Huffstetler
- Lessie Freeman McNeely
- Betty Jo Brown Perkins
- Judge Lawson Phillips
- Tonya Hill Phillips
- Wilma Butler Poteat
- Thelma Jane Sprouse
- Robert Alexander Woods
- J. D. Whisnant
- Minnie Gordon Wright
- Annie Bass Jolly

### Admitted Thursday

- James Andrew Moss
- Alma Crawford Partlow
- Elizabeth Pauline Knotts
- Lillie Wilson Fronberger
- Frank Means

### Admitted Friday

- Russell Effin Ellis
- Gene Milton Sellers
- Thurmon F. Moss
- Jobie Lee Black
- Linda Carol Green
- Jossie Bobbitt Barnett

### Admitted Saturday

- Grady Dixon
- John Dean Shockley

### Admitted Sunday

- Hillard Junior Davis
- Judy Ann Sisk Joy
- Floyd Odel Allmond
- George Wesley Moss, Jr.
- Mildred Elizabeth Jackson
- Waddell Rollins

### Admitted Monday

- Evelyn Ellis Sellers
- Haskell F. Baumgardner
- Hattie Mae Cash
- Laura Jane Laws
- Samuel Kelly Patterson
- Basil E. Sheppard
- Antioch Parker Smith
- Mildred Louise White
- Walter Herbert Whitley
- Aloha L. Falls
- Mary McCluney Jefferson
- Helen Bridges McKee

### Admitted Tuesday

- Oscar Morgan Boles
- Alice King Clay
- Elizabeth Beatty Thomas
- Louise Hughes Martin
- Nania Mae Childers
- Edgar Epps Babb
- Maldine Katherine McGinnis
- Glenda Costner Bess
- Emma Hunt Stowe

### Admitted Wednesday

- Bonnie Parton Griffin
- Mamie Gordon Gill
- Judy P. Phillips

### GOSPEL SING

The Hampton quartet and the John Grigg Trio will sing at Midview Baptist church Saturday night at 7 p.m., Rev. John Frazier, pastor, has announced. The interested public is invited.

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