



The Kings Mountain Herald

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Martin Harmon Editor-Publisher
Miss Elizabeth Stewart Circulation Manager and Society Editor
Miss Debbie Thornburg Clerk, Bookkeeper

MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT

Frank Edwards Allen Myers Paul Jackson
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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

I will never forget thy precepts for with them thou hast quickened me. Psalm 119:105.

Political Review

The political campaign for Democratic primary nominations this 1970 off-presidential - gubernatorial year season has been devoid of fireworks.

The candidates have been content to keep the gloves on, run personality campaigns and hope they have seen, and sufficiently impressed a sufficient number of voters.

With the rather long primary ticket, it is quite possible the seeming outward dis-interest of the voter in matters political may be belied when the vote totals are posted Saturday night.

It is equally probably safe to guess that the vote totals will not reach those of 1968.

Cleveland County, for instance, cast 11,634 votes for governor in the 1968 Democratic primary, perhaps even that a small total for a county of 70,000 population.

Chief interest in Cleveland is in three contests:

- 1) For 43rd district Seat No. 1 in the House of Representatives between Incumbent W. K. Mauney, Jr., and Hal S. Plonk, both of Kings Mountain.
- 2) For Clerk of Superior Court between Incumbent Paul Wilson and his former Deputy Mrs. Ruth S. Dedmon.
- 3) For two nominations for the county commission, where six candidates are in the race, including B. E. (Pop) Simmons incumbent and board chairman, Myers T. Hambricht, Phil Rucker, Yates Smith, W. W. Lynch, and Roy Lee Dedmon.

Only token opposition is indicated by Marion S. Jones against Incumbent Sheriff Haywood Allen and by Grady Thomas against J. Ollie Harris for Senate Seat No. 2 for the 29th district seat being vacated by Jack H. White.

In Kings Mountain, the top-interest getter is the House race. The underlying issue is the role of Representative Mauney in the Buffalo Creek reservoir situation. The city asked lake control and Mr. Mauney crossed with Senator White and the wishes of the Kings Mountain city commission in the matter of lake control. The result has been in impasse and continuing question of recreation on Lake Buffalo, when it becomes a lake.

A secondary and important Buffalo Lake issue is Representative Mauney's ownership of half of a large tract with long lake shore frontage, even after the city obtains the 257 acres of the 379 for the Buffalo Creek reservoir. Purchase price for the 379 acres was \$85,000 register of deeds office records show. The Mauney-Buford Cline asking price for the 257 acres is \$250,000, city records show.

In the county commission contest, most observers list (not necessarily in order) Incumbent Simmons, Mr. Hambricht, Mr. Smith and Mr. Rucker as the leading four, with Mr. Dedmon and Mr. Lynch as rather distant trailers.

Mr. Dedmon has not waged an intensive campaign and Mr. Lynch's leaflet campaign has the hackles up and sleeves rolled up of the moderates who dominate the Cleveland populace. Mr. Lynch is a sometimes letter-to-the-editor writer who tars about anybody and anything with the John Birch, you're-a-Communist brush. On his last one to the Herald his dictum was: print in the entirety, or none of it, and the letter found its way quickly into the nearest File 13, service lingo for waste basket.

Good hunting and good voting on Saturday!

The Kings Mountain Kiwanis club presents its 13th annual talent show Thursday night and it will, as usual, play to a virtual standing room only audience. It is a fine event, promoting the talents of youthful performers, and the proceeds move immediately into worthwhile projects.

Non-Partisan Business

The Herald, by the coincidence of chatting with Candidate Fred Simmons, learned of the initially varying interpretations of the 1969 omnibus board of education act, dictating election of school boards and declaring the elections non-partisan, all candidates being polloted by the voters at the May primary and the primary winners the electees.

Re-examination of the Mauney-Falls special act of 1967 and a check with the State board of elections determined attorneys for the county board of education and county attorney that a clause in the 1969 act eliminated Cleveland (and perhaps some others).

Thus Cleveland continues to have a party partisan board of education election.

Chief purpose of the 1969 act was to remove a practice from North Carolina whereby Republican majorities in some counties were disenfranchised by the General Assembly, for the General Assembly appointed members of the board of education. Republicans could get themselves elected to boards of education 'til doomsday but could not get appointed by the General Assembly.

This same device was operative for years in the instance of justices of the peace.

The Herald is glad the Mauney-Falls Act is on the books. It eliminated the non-elective malpractice, but retained the party partisan feature as it should.

School folk are sometimes inclined to pontificate as being professionals "above politics", which is hardly like it is.

Effectiveness of North Carolina's schools lobby is undoubtedly the envy of every labor union struggling to get a foothold in Tar Heelia and every other lobbying group, be it the bottler's the cleaners and launders association, retail merchants association, or any other.

Pinch of Layoffs

Even Vice-President Spiro Agnew, it is to be suspected, would not criticize the "instant news" lads of Columbia Broadcasting Television for the presentation of the plight of a family in Wichita, Kansas, facing difficult days ahead after being laid off from work.

Heavy on aircraft manufacturing, Wichita's unemployment rate is half again that of the national average. Boeing was hit by cut-backs in government contracts. Beechcraft and Cessna, majors in the field of private planes for the hobby flyer and the business firm flyers, had to tighten their belts as the prime customers either canceled orders or ordered delivery deferred.

Unemployment insurance of \$409 a month (both husband and wife out of work) was quickly spent for first essentials, \$9 being left—not for movies or candy, but to pay insurance bills, drug bills, and the emergency bills that are unforeseen but always occur.

"We can't do it," the harried husband said.

The economic charts of past years do not reveal straight lines but seemingly inevitable peaks and valleys between periods of booming prosperity at the top and the slough of depression at the bottom. The lesser peaks and valleys detail milder prosperity and recession.

None can argue with the Nixon Administration's position that inflation could not be allowed to continue unbridled, yet it is also historic that the Republican party favors the well-to-do with a trickle down philosophy that President Hoover sampled to the disaster of himself and the nation. President Eisenhower sampled it in milder, creating a mere recession, but it cost him control of the Congress in the 1954 elections.

The Wichita folk, it was suggested, won't be in good humor come November, if the trend isn't reversed and they have returned to work.

That observation, perhaps, Mr. Agnew may regard as over-editorializing.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

The Kiwanis club's annual basketball banquet honoring the Kings Mountain High School boys and girls' teams was a quite enjoyable party, quite naturally aided and abetted by the great record of the boys who lost a lone game in the recent season.

But Coach Blaine Fronberger of the girls' aggregation was not to be outdone in spite of his lasses less than lustre-cream record of three wins, 16 losses. Coach Fronberger allowed he considered it a pretty fair season, in spite of the statistics, explaining, "They tell me you don't get fired around here if you beat Shelby."

The present athletic program of one head coach for the team was hardly the way it was when Coach Emeritus Don Panker came to town back about 1943. Don was topman for football, basketball and baseball. After the end of World War II, the ex-Maryville College athlete did summer pitching stunts with the Kings Mountain Vets semi-pros.

Don passed out the senior awards to the soon-to-be graduates, admitted he sleeps better these nights not having to worry about tomorrow's big game, or last night's near-win defeat. Coach Bob Hussey indicated he'd sleep better if someone would supply the formula to out-shoot Don on the golf course.

UNC Coach Dean Smith, star attraction of the banquet, had some witty bon mots, too. Relating the importance of recruiting to any college athletic program, he told of an Italian friend of the family who advised it was not necessary to convince the young basketball he wanted, but to convince his mother. "Go through de mudder," he paraphrased, "go through de mudder."

"It didn't work," Coach Smith reported. "DeVenzio went to Duke."

Citing the importance of bench strength, Smith related an incident in which he was queried about a star coming to the bench and asking for a substitute after some five minutes of fast-break play early in an important. "He had learned," Coach Smith continued, "a fresh substitute is better than a spent starter. After a few minutes rest the star returned for a top performance."

It would be amiss not to mention Andrea Hufstetter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Hufstetter. (I don't know about Starr but Andy was a pretty fair country pitcher a few seasons ago). Daughter Andrea was at the piano for group singing of "America" and accompanied the dulcet-voiced vocalist Cathy Wilson. She went forward first to receive the free throw award, then again to claim the most valuable player award. Coach Fronberger's compliment, "She gave 200 percent." She must have, for she has been tops in the book-learning department, too, having won an A. G. Myers college scholarship award worth \$5000.

Tuesday morning I chanced on my regular advertising call into Rev. Flay Payne, former pastor of Faith Baptist church, now a Gastonia minister after a stint in Marion. He was most interested in the progress of Kings Mountain's hopes for a US 74 through-way, the water project and other works in the mill. He asked about my Father's passing, then said, "I guessed he was the first man I ever worked for." It was the first I knew of it.

Another one: Myers Hambricht was the tutor, Phil Rucker the student, in a somewhat earlier day. Both are candidates for the county commission in the Saturday voting.

I always have to go to the book to review the figuring of a majority in sweepstakes voting, such as in the current county commission race, where six candidates are contesting for two nominations. Here's the formula: 1) add the votes cast for all candidates; 2) divide by the number of seats available; 3) the result, plus one, is a majority. Someone the results come out kinda cute. Six years ago when Billy Mauney, Bob Falls, Bill Harrell and Thruston Arledge were seeking the three nominations, the results showed ALL FOUR had majorities. By the rules, since the top three had majorities, fourth runner Arledge was the loser.



Viewpoints of Other Editors

MANKIND'S VOYAGE

Never in recorded history has a journey of such peril been watched and waited-out by almost the entire human race. Never, indeed, has the great heart of humanity beat in such unity of hope and helpfulness as attended the voyage of the crippled Apollo 13 — with the Soviet Union, Britain, France, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, and many another country offering ships, radio silence — anything and everything to help bring the three astronauts back safely. This was mankind's as well as America's voyage.

Here was an epic beyond science-fiction scenarios. Here was a test of man's fortitude and intelligence in reversing an unexpected dire disaster halfway to the moon. Here was a challenge to that remarkable teamwork of Manned Space Center scientists, electronic computers waystations strung around the globe, and three superbly-trained men — to ponder hundreds of rescue-operation variables, concert action, avoid panic decisions and carry through calm procedures. There will be those who ascribe the rescue wholly to human skills and courage. Others will see at work, affirmed in countless prayers, a power and providence which perceives "the path which no fowl knoweth." So be it. The hairbreadth plans succeeded, and the lonely voyagers are home safe from the solar seas.

At once, of course, comes the thought that the same dedication and devotion, applied to earthbound problems of city-core decay, pollution or racial strife, could bring swift amelioration. As a correspondent of this newspaper wrote from Houston: Here was "a model for intelligent action in time of seemingly unsurmountable difficulties."

The ordeal of Apollo 13 will leave its mark on the American space effort. The NASA team will probe the why of the explosion which put the fragile craft's main source of rocket power devastatingly out of action. Apollo 14, scheduled for October, may well be postponed. Public interest in moon flights is waning. NASA appropriations are down from a peak of \$6 billion to \$3.3 billion, and Congress will be asking anew "Are these many trips necessary?"

There will be need for serious conclusions. Has the margin of safety been too narrow? Now that the moon-landing goal set by President Kennedy has been truly achieved, what new space program will be worth the investment of billions annually, what will maintain the enthusiasm of the scientific community, what will best extend mankind's knowledge? Apollo 13 hoped to find moon rock in the lunar highlands which would determine how the moon — and perhaps the solar system — was formed.

Next on the Nixon space program, beyond lunar exploration, is the development of a rocket shuttle and a space station. There are plans to send an unmanned

probe on a grand tour of the major planets between 1977 and 1979 — an earlier in 1976 for an unmanned probe for "life on Mars."

Today the world knows deep gratitude that the Apollo astronauts have had a safe splash-down. Tomorrow, America's space program must move forward again — doubtless at a more "deliberate" speed, warily watching for another Soviet space "spectacular," but deeply benefiting from the sober rethinking which Apollo 13 has forced upon the space community.

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