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The Kings Mountain Herald

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MEDICINE MARTIN'S

My longtime friend Oscar Myers had a birthday Wednesday—his 85th, which age he neither acts nor looks.

m-m

The veteran merchant liquidated Myers Department store, which he founded in 1937, in 1968, thinking he was retiring. But like most folk who have put in a lifetime of work, as he had, he got caught up on resting pretty quickly. He's still selling, first working for Fulton's Department Store, which succeeded the Myers now at Plonk Brothers.

m-m

Oscar has a ready explanation as to why he moved over to Plonk's: "They work me more," he says, "and I like to work. I figure every day I work adds a day to my life." He commutes from Charlotte by bus four days each week, has developed a firm friendship with the bus driver, who, if Oscar isn't at the bus station when the bus arrives, waits for him.

m-m

Oscar and his wife Marie announced in late 1967 they were liquidating the business, a process that required until September 1 of 1968. (When he sold his remaining inventory to the Bill Fultons he told Bill, "I don't have too much." Bill looked at the large number of shoe boxes and remonstrated, "You sure do have a lot of shoes." Oscar replied he didn't. "Most of them are empty. You've got to keep up appearances if you expect to sell anything." Bill guesses he threw away about 200 empty shoe boxes.

m-m

I have known Oscar's age many years. We were using the same accountant and often compared notes on income taxes. On the year Oscar turned 65 he hadn't informed the accountant, which meant an extra \$600 deduction. I refigured his tax bill for him.

m-m

Otis Falls recalls that Oscar granted him the first charge account Otis had for a pair of shoes.

m-m

If my memory serves me correctly, Oscar came here in 1932 to open Belk's Department Store, which he managed until opening his own business The Belk's store was moved here from Clover, S. C. It was the depth of the 1929-32 recession and prices were astronomically low, and Oscar managed to sell his goods.

m-m

Draze Peeler was a weekend salesman for Oscar, Bill Fulton was down street at Keeter's, and I was across the railroad at Plonk's grocery. Those were the days of free Red Cross flour and orders for the needy and there were many needy. Somehow, though, our snuff and Brown's Mule tobacco sales didn't suffer. "Change three plugs of Brown's Mule and take the quarter off the sugar," was a standard order. We weren't supposed to do it, but we did. After all, we wanted the customers coming back with those orders, a major portion of sales.

m-m

My weekly trip to Myers' Department Store for the Herald was actually calling on two accountants, Mrs. Myers handled her advertising and Mr. Myers his. Working there was always a pleasure and I don't recall that I ever saw Oscar ill-humored. If he were, he kept it to himself.

m-m

The Myers family, rented for many years the Hunter home, now occupied by Dr. Joe Lee and his family, before they finally bought it and remodeled it completely. As is customary, Oscar found the remodeling bill about a third more than he anticipated.

m-m

Oscar likes to sell everything, but I would guess he takes more pleasure from selling shoes than any other item. He is dedicated to the thesis that people should spend a lot of money on their feet. "If a guy's feet hurt, he hurts all over," he explains.

m-m

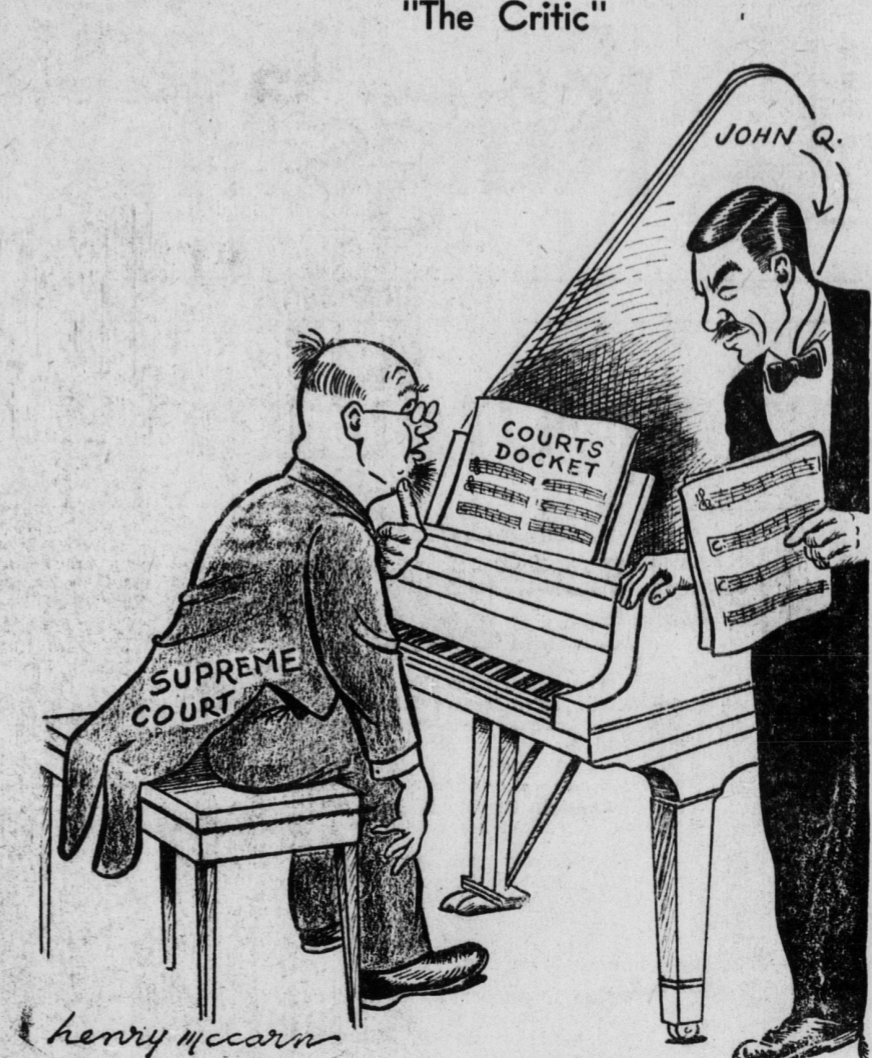
Oscar's selling style is a combination of seriousness and jocular teasing.

m-m

Oscar has a love affair with my mother's fig bush, but his has not been a good year. The figs are scarce and very small. Last year was a banner one and Mrs. Myers favored Mother with a delicious jar of fig preserve.

m-m

Congratulations to Oscar on his 85th anniversary and best wishes to him for many more of them.



TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, attend to know understanding. Proverbs 1:1.

Presidential Elections Gearing Up

Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., of North Carolina, was the chief architect in the Senate defeat, at least for the time being and present session of Congress, the proposed constitutional amendment to elect presidents by direct popular vote. While the popular vote idea looks good on face, closer examination reveals some apparent weaknesses.

The choice of a president would still go to the House of no candidate attained 40 percent of the vote and the bill before the Senate also provided that names of candidates could be required to be put on state ballot, both objections giving rise to the possibility of splinter candidates siphoning off too many votes.

Here in North Carolina, the state requires candidates outside the major parties to present a petition to the state board of elections bearing 10,000 voter signatures, no problem at all for Dixie-crut Strom Thurmond nor Henry Wallace in 1948, nor for American party candidate George Wallace four years ago.

Albert L. Weeks, writing in the recent edition of the American Legion Magazine, says, "It does not seem offhand that there is any need to rush into an amendment that deals with a problem that hasn't caused any trouble in 82 years. . . ."

The last problem was in 1876 in the election between Rutherford B. Hayes, winning because a special commission gave him 22 electoral votes in contested counts.

In 1824, the House chose John Quincy Adams over Andrew Jackson, and in 1800 chose Thomas Jefferson over Aaron Burr.

In the system of checks and balances adopted by the framers of the Constitution, the Senate was set up on a geographical basis, each state being allotted two senators, while the House was set up on a population basis, adjusted every ten years following the decennial census.

One disparity occurs, Mr. Weeks points out, because some Americans don't bother to go to the polls, in contrast to many European nations where 80 and 90 percent voter turnouts are common.

Basically the split between geography and population is a protection to smaller states.

In his fight for states rights, John C. Calhoun argued against excesses of an unhindered majority. The majority, he reasoned, should be charitable to the minority.

Meantime, registration books are open for the November 3 election, with more immediate problems to be settled than how to elect a president.

The system, over the years, has worked well.

Amendments Voting

Amendments voting often times fails to get attention deserved by the voters, human nature lending itself to personalities of candidates rather than legalistic type.

However, North Carolinians consider some important ones on November 3. One in fact is a proposed revised constitution. The other six would have the effect of writing new constitutional provisions which are, in fact, contained in the proposed new or edited constitution.

Most of the six new provisions make sense.

One should lessen the workload of the General Assembly and therefore cut the length of sessions. It would empower the General Assembly to confer to counties and cities a greater measure of home rule in areas where by where the counties and cities now have to clog the legislature with so-called local bills.

Another would empower the governor to reduce the number of state departments, now over 300, to 25 in a major reorganization. This proposal is getting some sniping from some departments who fear theirs will be lost in the reshuffle. One objector is the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Yet another one looks a little suspicious. It would limit the rate of state income tax to a maximum of 10 percent. If there is no limit now (the top rate for individuals is seven percent) then the amendment is a protection.

One proposed amendment would make it possible for three-fifths of the members of the General Assembly to convene special sessions of the Assembly, a prerogative now solely of the governor. While it is conceivable some future governor would vacillate on calling a special session when it is needed, the state's happy experience in the past is that its governors are sensitive to the needs of the people and have called special sessions when required.

One, abolishing the literacy requirements for voting, has in effect been taken care of by the federal government. It's merely a matter of cleaning the books.

Another appears quite fair: it would split escheats (estates with no heirs) among all state supported universities and colleges, rather than put all of it in the coffers of the University at Chapel Hill.

For Cleveland Tech

A Grover lady called recently to lend an oar to the bond issue to provide buildings for Cleveland Technical Institute.

The Herald agrees, as it did for the previous bond issue proposal which was defeated.

The late Lawrence Lohr remarked on one occasion that the top-grade-earning students, or many of them, wind up teaching, and the production folk are those with good solid "C's".

The attribute of Cleveland Tech is that it teaches skills, from sewing to cake-decorating, and, if demand is indicated, can arrange to teach about anything.

Fees are quite reasonable and in reach of almost all.

The tax bite figures to be nominal, too. At the scheduled rate of county debt amortization, there may be no increase in the overall rate at all.

This bond issue a good investment for Cleveland County and her people and deserves the people's support on November 3. The amount of the issue is \$850,000.

Viewpoints of Other Editors

WHY YOU ARE NUMBER ONE

Coming soon is National Farm-City Week, Nov. 20-26. The purpose of this week is to give farmers and city folks a chance to tell each other about their own business.

We think that you have a solid story to tell. Here are positive points that you can make with trumpet and fanfare:

KENT STATE'S EXAMPLE

We say, "More power to the students of Ohio's Kent State University." They have just adopted a motto, "Power to the Peaceful," which we find immensely heartening and hopeful. How great a step forward for all mankind it would be if power did come increasingly to rest in the hands of those dedicated to true and lasting peace.

That the student body of Kent State, where four young persons were tragically slain last May, can rally to so uplifting (and forgiving) a motto speaks wonderfully well for American youth and for the recuperative powers of American society. In choosing this ideal, the students of Kent State made plain their determination to move towards a healing of rancors rather than towards more bitterness.

The maxim of "Power to the Peaceful" is squarely in line with the recommendations of the President's Committee on Campus Unrest, which wisely called upon all segments of American society to draw back from violence. Such violence has become increasingly nonproductive and counterproductive. Kent State's student body has apparently recognized this and commits itself to following more fruitful methods of protest. We urge all Americans, of whatever class, faction or race, to pursue Kent State's constructive example.

CHAMPLAIN MONSTER

Lake Champlain is a large spread of blue water separating Vermont from New York just south of the Canadian border. The lake offers swimming, sailing, fishing, and many related pleasures. One related pleasure gaining popularity is monster hunting.

There are reports that a sea monster, not unlike the creature said to dwell in Scotland's Loch Ness, has been observed in Lake Champlain. Like its Scottish kin, the Champlain monster minds its own business and only frequently gives humans a glimpse of its serpentine profile.

A lot of Americans will probably dismiss the tales of a home-grown sea monster as tourist-bureau balderdash. But count us not among them. We hope there is such a creature in Lake Champlain, partly for the romance of the thing and partly because it's nice to know that some kind of life may still be possible in America's emulsified waters.

National Observer

WESTERN ELECTRIC PROJECTS

Western Electric continues to work closely with Bell Telephone Laboratories in a sustained effort to reduce costs in various Government projects.

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Farm Journal

Letter To Editor

Dear Editor:

Recently, it was brought to my attention that there is a great deal of misinformation being circulated in your area by Mr. Basil Whitener of Gastonia, North Carolina, about the treatment given the Mills bill on textile import quotas by the Republican members of the House Rules Committee. As a Republican and a member of the House Rules Committee, I would like to set the record straight.

The Mills bill was voted out of the Rules Committee by a vote of 8 to 7. Voting to make the bill eligible for debate before the full membership of the House of Representatives were five Republicans and three Democrats. Seven Democrats voted against letting the bill reach the House for debate.

I have been further advised that it has been said that while it may be true that five Republicans finally voted on behalf of the bill, in earlier Committee votes the Republicans voted against the bill. This is patently false.

The Republican members of the Rules Committee consistently supported the wishes of Chairman Wilbur Mills of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Chairman Mills is the principal author of the trade bill and a leading spokesman on behalf of the American textile industry.

It is my wish that the people in your area have the facts concerning the trade bill. Surely, the fine work being done by Congressman James T. Brody on behalf of the textile worker should not be subject to the whim of campaign rhetoric. These rumors and false allegations must be disregarded and the truth made available to all concerned.

Sincerely yours,
James H. Quillen
Member of Congress

FARMERS' TAKE

Farmers' "take" has increased much less than in other parts of the food business. Since 1950, the prices that farmers get for food commodities have gone up only 17% — yet the prices farmers pay for everything climbed 46%. During the same time, food marketing costs — from farm to consumer — went up 51% to handle the same "market basket" of food. While we spend 14¢ per dollar of income for food, only 4.3¢ of this goes to the farmer.

Farmers are doing more than any other economic group to combat inflation. We get inflation and higher prices when money or wages increase faster than the output of goods. Farmers' output

"The Critic"

Wm. Banks Barber
Mrs. Emma L. Bowen
Mrs. Burlin Broom
Mrs. J. R. Davis
Mrs. Mamie M. Forsythe
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Foster
John A. Hancock
John H. Haskins
Mrs. Lottie M. Hodges
Augustus T. Holder, Sr.
Mrs. Ottis O. Jackson
Fonda M. Kendrick
Mrs. Homer Kilgore
Mrs. Alice H. Letch
Mrs. Wm. W. Mosley
Mrs. Jesse R. Moss
James Jasper Oates, Jr.
Mrs. Glenn E. Patterson
Mrs. Joe Phillip Putnam
James Roseboro
Mrs. Alvenia Schuler
Mrs. Norma B. Wilkie
Herbert R. Tindall
Mrs. Waltraud D. Irvin
Mrs. Robert S. Curry
Mrs. J. P. Harris
Mrs. Mabel M. Toney
Mrs. Marvin Wright

HOSPITAL LOG

ADMITTED THURSDAY

Mrs. Maggie H. Beason Box 217, Balling Springs
Harless L. Becknes, 1060 Westover Dr., City
Mrs. Fred Dulin, 401 E. King St., City
Mrs. Ada M. Murray, Rt. 1, Bessemer City
Mrs. Barry E. Robinson, Margrace, City
Everette P. Williams, Rt. 1, Box 320, City
Mrs. Erdist A. Byers, Rt. 1, Box 247, Grover
Mrs. Nancy S. Dettler, 812 Bradley St., Gastonia

ADMITTED FRIDAY

Harry A. Potrat, Rt. 1, Box 395A, Bessemer City
Roy Smith, 115 Cloninger St., City

ADMITTED SATURDAY

Clarence Bratton, 303 Mobley St., Clover, S. C.
James M. Bridges, 201 Fulton Dr., City
Wm. Kenneth Crook, 206 W. Mountain St., City
Mrs. David Huffstetter, 809 Rameur St., City
Mrs. Ray B. Price, Route 1, Bessemer City
James Lockhart, Rt. 1, Box 460, Bessemer City
Patricia E. Roseboro, P.O. Box 82, City
Jasper R. Putnam, Rt. 3, City

ADMITTED SUNDAY

Mrs. Broughton C. Homsley, Rt. 2, Cherryville
Bobby Gene Shuford, 515 Ohio St., Bessemer City
Mrs. Ralph G. Carpenter, W. Hartford Ave., Bessemer City
Mrs. Bobby Gene Towery, 825 W. Trade St., Dallas
Mrs. Larenda S. Self, Rt. 2, the Nola Ramsey, Rt. 2, Bessemer City

ADMITTED MONDAY

Mrs. Julia D. Condry, 418 S. Cansler St., City
Eldridge G. Mitchell, Rt. 3, City
Edward M. Montgomery, Box 126, Sharon, S. C.
Mrs. John Wm. Murray, 506 Penn. Ave., Bessemer City
Mrs. Mattie W. Stowe, 825 N. Piedmont Ave., City
Mrs. Clarence M. West, 712 Athenia Place, Bessemer City
Janice A. Woods, 1104 S. Miller St., Gastonia
Mrs. Linda B. Gamble, P.O. Box 561, Bessemer City
Mrs. J. H. Fields, Jr., 10 McConnell St., Clover, S. C.
Mrs. Ervin W. Reep, 2015 Rudisill Ave., Cherryville
Frank V. Webster, Rt. 2, Box 355, City
John W. Thombs, 316 W. Ridge St., City
Mrs. Alice M. Thomas, 404 S. 10th St., Bessemer City
Marshall D. Rich, 106 Cloninger St., City

ADMITTED TUESDAY

Mrs. Phillip R. Kiser, 512 W. Sixth Street, Gastonia
Mrs. David W. Hutchins, P.O. Box 409, City
Mrs. Nolan T. Aldrich, 42 Gilmer St., Gastonia
Dennis Lee Hope, Jr., 118 W. St., City
Mrs. Ola P. Parker, Rt. 2, Box 121, City