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**The Kings Mountain Herald**  
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**TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE**  
 Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength. Psalm 54:1.

**Well, Now . . .**

A report has been filed by an outfit with an impressive sounding name, Citizens Conference on State Legislatures, after expending \$200,000.

It rated (always a rather tricky business, such as naming superlatives in anything) the 50 state legislatures of these 50 United States.

Pore North Carolina. The Tar Heel General Assembly ranks "way down South in 47th place, indeed, just a shade south of South Carolina (44) and Gaw-gah, suh, (43).

Whoa, now . . .

Let us examine those rooms at the top, with California, Noo Yawk, and Illinois at win, place and show in the legislative sweepstakes.

Governor Ronald Reagan, of California, has his fiscal troubles and, only recently, Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York declared his state in a dire financial situation bordering on crisis. And in the great state of Illinois a late secretary of state's possessions turn up better than \$800,000 in the paper coin of the realm.

Among the tests North Carolina flunked was the fact its General Assembly convenes only biennially. Among the tests passed was the fact the state is blessed with its fine legislative building, used only by the legislature. In the taxpayer's thinking, the judges' plus would be a minus. Each man, woman, and child in North Carolina, on average, at the time it was built, invested \$4.26 in the handsome building Edward Durrell Stone designed. That it is used only six months of twenty-four seems somewhat wasteful—yet these same Tar Heels don't want this thought to produce annual sessions.

Other questionable tests were employed.

Comparing New York (2) and North Carolina (47) by these college boys who add with questionable results, reminds of the compliment Governor Tom Dewey paid Governor J. Melville Broughton in the early forties. Said Governor Dewey enviously, "I wish race relations in New York were as good as they are in North Carolina."

North Carolina is not faced with debt defalcation, operates on a balanced budget and usually compiles an annual and biennial surplus. It is a "low tax" state, has built, is building and maintains more miles of road than any state in the union, provides the bulk of the public education bill, boasts high-ranking state and private colleges and universities, etc., etc.

It would appear the North Carolina General Assembly functions well. Indeed, the results prove it, and that is the true test.

**Abortion Law**

Just retired Senator Jack White must have taken pleasure in the Monday ruling by a three-member panel of federal district judges that the state's abortion law, passed in 1967, is legal, with exception of the four-month residency requirement.

Then-Senator White carried the abortion law ball in the Senate and was much-maligned for his efforts.

In light of efforts to liberalize the current law, the 1967 statute is quite strict, quite simple, and quite logical. Abortion is permitted only in instances where pregnancy is the result of rape or incest, where the life of the mother is endangered, or where there are strong indications that the child will be born with severe abnormalities. Decision must be made by a three-member panel of doctors, none members of the same medical firm.

Liberalization is a very moot question which may cause more legislative stir than brown-bagging did or liquor-by-the-drink will.

Many doctors have objected to the three-member panel provision and Representative Robert Jones of the Cleveland-Rutherford-Polk district has already introduced a bill to provide that the matter of abortion is one between the pregnant woman and her physician.

Senator Ollie Harris, of Kings Mountain, says he is inclined to support retention of the present law.

However, and this makes sense, he is seeking the opinion of women—individually or in groups—on their attitude on this question with its religious and emotional overtones.

**American History**

Why history?

Because history is, as well as was. It is perhaps unfortunate that many citizens, who would find unthinkable breakfast coffee unaccompanied by the contemporary history of the morning newspaper and radio news, remember uncurrent history as a painful hours in school and a jumble of dates.

History implies as much "why" as "who" and "when".

What made them tick?

The Pharaohs of ancient Egypt, the shepherd boy who became King David, Samson and Delilah, Julius Caesar, Constantine, Christopher Columbus, Sir Walter Raleigh, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Queen Victoria, Theodore Roosevelt, Lloyd George, Clemenceau, John J. Pershing, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, Benito Musolini, Adolph Hitler, Hideki Tojo. . . .

And since Harry Truman, Ike Eisenhower, Clement Atlee, Gamal Nasser, John F. Kennedy, etc., etc.

Events are important, too, for they are the result of the minds of man, sometimes right, sometimes wrong, sometimes the victim of circumstances unforeseen and beyond his control.

During February's American history month the Daughters of the American Revolution urge citizens to become better informed about the Constitution of the United States, a document conceived by men who regarded an ocean as a vast protective moat defending a great castle, but a document that has withstood the tests of time into a day when it's a day's journey to the other side of the globe and only a few days to the moon.

Mrs. Ida Joy's decision to retire from her duties as the running "man" at the Kings Mountain Merchants association came as a surprise to the officers and directors and to the members. She has made many friends during the 13 years she has provided the membership with good service in the varied activities in which the retailer organization engages.

**Exception Proves Rule?**

Favorite whipping boys of this newspaper have long been those who argue by comparison.

The arguments are more often spurious because what John Doe does may have not one iota of comparison to what John Smith does, or does not, do. The set of circumstances may be wholly different.

It reminds of the old saying: figures don't lie, but liars figure, a quick-draw shot-the-man-down for the guy twisting statistics to suit his own purposes.

But the city gets by, and correctly, with its recent action in upping water and sewer tap fees, unadjusted for a decade, but the comparison that neighboring cities get higher fees really isn't necessary, with the exception Kings Mountain pays as much for meters and pipe as anyone else does.

A cordial welcome to Kings Mountain to Rev. A. Glenn Boland, new pastor of Resurrection Lutheran church.

**MARTIN'S MEDICINE**

By MARTIN HARMON  
 The cold: and hasn't it been?

m-m  
 I have a saying, "Not any point in arguing with the weatherman, for there's nothing one can do about it." This isn't quite correct for a person, forewarned being forearmed, can batten down his hatches, as the navy says.

m-m  
 Kyle Smith, navy retiree, says the coldest he's ever been was in North Dakota, where he was sent for a week of recruiting duty. The temperature was 40 degrees below zero. Kyle recalls, "The natives acted like it was summertime, but I thought I was going to freeze to death. I stayed two days and left."

m-m  
 George Hord, retired assistant postmaster, recalls two extra cold experiences. One occurred at a Duke-Carolina football game when his brother Roy's boys were playing for Duke. It was not only cold but also wet. The other occasion, somewhat oddly, was in Florida. He, George Allen and E. W. Griffin went to the "dogs", dog races that is. Says George, "I had an overcoat. But the only trouble was it was 15 miles from where I was. We were down on the track and the cold wind was whistling. We should have been in the grandstand, which was heated—only heated grandstand I ever knew about." Mrs. Hord was smarter. She sat in the grandstand.

m-m  
 Of my two coldest experiences, one was in North Scotland, where my ship was anchored in the Firth of Forth. It was a bitterly cold, rainy night, and I had been firmly instructed to take bearings three minutes apart. This required a trip out of the warm wheelhouse to the wing of the bridge, and a wait until the flashing light buoys could be spotted. The heavy sheepskin-lined coat didn't seem to be much protection. Sharing the watch with me was a first class quartermaster. Brownie shared the cold jaunts with me.

m-m  
 The other was also at a Duke-Carolina grid game, in 1950. In the heat of the day the temperature reached a high of eleven. This game I would not have attended, tickets notwithstanding. My mother-in-law was more hardy. At 8 a.m. she was in Kings Mountain, ready to go. Bud Jackson was a Carolina student and rode down with us. The heater on my Hudson, which nominally would get too hot, never got the inside-car air more than lukewarm that cold day. My mother-in-law proved well-prepared and was quite comfy. Her fur coat and T-Model days lap robe was aided and abetted by a lantern.

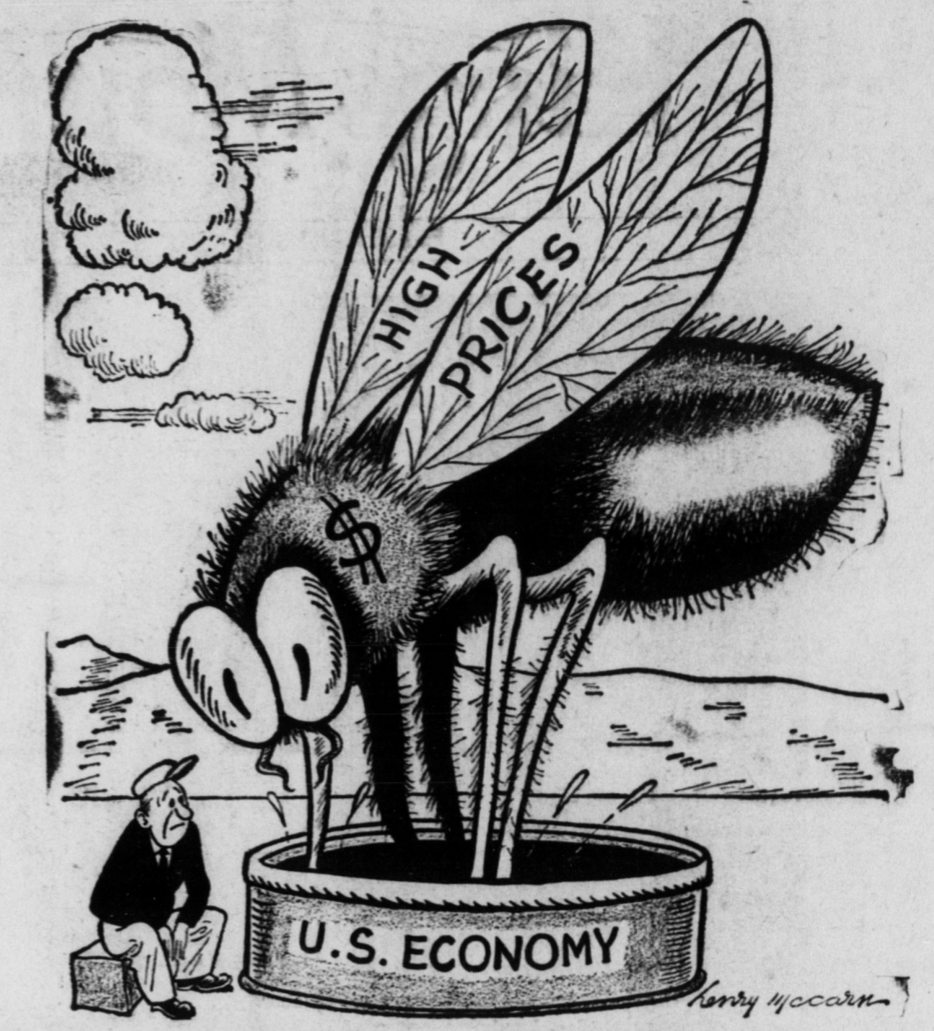
m-m  
 Cold, of course, can kill and did out in Minnesota over the weekend when a snowmobile party was caught in a snowstorm. I was interested in the Wednesday report of the two football Minnesota Vikings on the trip. One said the big problem was to avoid sleep. A false warmth would come over him and he just wanted to sleep.

m-m  
 Funnier stuff:  
 m-m  
 A few weeks ago, Attorney Jack White went out to his car, got in, couldn't get the key in the ignition. He noticed his package in the back seat was missing, thought to himself "Somebody's stolen my package." Says Jack, "I sat there ten minutes, before it hit me I was in somebody else's car." Coincidentally, the other like auto was Attorney Bob Bradley's.

m-m  
 Otis Falls, Jr., age 12, was working for his father and Jim Kerns, who drove a black 1940 Studebaker dropped by the service station frequently. On two or three occasions, Jim's brother Clyde came in shortly thereafter. It took me six months to realize that BOTH Jim and Clyde owned black 1940 Studebakers.

m-m  
 On another occasion, Otis was driving a 1941 Ford with a thin red line on the trim, about window height, from stem to stern. Otis had invited a young friend to the Kings Mountain Military Park. The car, parked in front of Griffin's Drug Store, quickly filled. As they started to return, Otis noticed the trim line was blue. "I thought," Otis recalls, "that I know my car had a red line. This isn't my car." He returned to Griffin's, found his red-line Ford, waited around to tell the other owner he'd "borrowed" his car. "He didn't come and I left. I don't know to this day who owned that car for which the key would fit both."

**Fly In The Ointment**



**Viewpoints of Other Editors**

**MANAGEMENT OF NEWS ATTEMPTED IN COUNTY**

The words hadn't tumbled out of the typewriter good before a blatant example arose in Cleveland County of why state and local officials need to be made criminally liable for government secrecy. The "sunshine in government" theory was never more abused than by County Manager Melvin Holmes' attempts to manage the news that is generated within each county department. A memorandum, dated Tuesday and addressed to "all department heads" by Mr. Holmes, said:

"Effective upon receipt of this memo you are requested to submit all news releases to the county manager's office daily or as you have news to report."

"All matters pertaining to county policy will be released only through the county manager's office."

"While all records in the county are public records (with exceptions) the release of such records will be made only by the approval of the county manager."

"This is not the first time that such an obvious attempt, however inspired and no matter who directed that the policy be laid down, has been tried in recent months in Cleveland County government. When the same thing arose, in less formal tones, a few months ago, the policy couldn't stand the light of day when it was exposed. It was dropped, but it has now been renewed in such a way that department heads and county employees are denying any information to reporters unless Mr. Holmes personally okays it. It appears that at least two county commissioners—Fritz Morehead and Phil Rucker—had advance knowledge of and agreement to the memorandum's idea. Other commissioners deny they knew anything about the memorandum until The Star contacted them.

The memorandum would mean that Sheriff Haywood Allen would be prohibited from telling the public—the taxpayers who support county government, included—how many people were arrested on what charges in what circumstances each day. It would prohibit Mason Carroll, acting head of the health department, from explaining what that department is doing about the dumping of dead hogs. It would prohibit Joe Davison, from talking about the budget, and it would prohibit Bob Gidney from reminding taxpayers of the tax listing and tax-paying deadlines. These prohibitions would apply even when there is important news that taxpayers should know, and they would be denied if Mr. Holmes were not available immediately on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

Censorship, which is what the memorandum implies, and news management, which is exactly what the memorandum accomplishes, are not legitimate functions of the county manager's office. The Star fully and wholeheartedly supports the county manager system as the administrative funnel of government operations, but censorship is neither a realistic nor desirable function of those operations. Perhaps Mr. Holmes intended something other than what he said, and perhaps he was motivated by a desire to assure there are no more failings of full information. But they surely can be accomplished in less-dogmatic, less-restrictive and less-formal ways.

REPEAL of this memorandum by the time department heads

**SENATOR KENNEDY AND THE FUTURE**

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's topping from the post of Senate Democratic Whip could and should be salutary both for the Senator himself and for the country. From it Senator Kennedy should learn that men in high public office cannot evade from high personal standards of conduct and not be made to pay for this. The country can be encouraged with the United States Senate's obvious sensitivity to this fact. In the end Senator Kennedy has the opportunity to grow into a finer public servant. And America should be impelled to demand that the standards which have now been applied so forcefully to the senior Senator from Massachusetts be applied just as rigorously to all others in Washington.

It is true that a number of factors combined to bring about this startling development. There was the ceaseless political activity of his successor, Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia. There was, almost certainly, some degree of knifing by those who support others for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination. There was also a measure of dissatisfaction with Senator Kennedy's lengthy absences from the Senate's floor.

But it is extremely doubtful if these would have combined to overcome Senator Kennedy's popularity and power, had it not been for the bad taste left in so many mouths by the accident at Chapel Hill and its aftermath. To put it frankly, these events raised in the minds of millions continuing doubts as to Senator Kennedy's basic moral strength. Furthermore, the Senate was merely underlining what the Senator's own state had done last November. At that time the Senator suffered what must be looked upon as a serious moral defeat when he obtained (against a sincere but clearly sacrificial Republican opponent) only 58.8 percent of the votes against the 71.8 percent he had gotten in 1964.

The big question is whether the Senator, in the years immediately ahead, can so restore his image through both personal rectitude and serious hard work (not merely headline-hunting) as to become a credible candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1976.

As for 1972 we see little reason to disagree with the general belief that the Massachusetts Senator has been all but definitively removed from the list of likely candidates. This could have an interesting, and probably helpful effect on the Democratic race for the nomination. It makes that race—as it now stands—clearer cut than before. With the Kennedy shadow probably removed, the race today is primarily between the moderate, middle-of-the-road position and policies of Maine's Sen. Edmund S. Muskie and the more radically liberal ones of South Dakota's Sen. George S. McGovern. Although others are almost certain to enter the race, these two now provide a sharp contrast around each side of which people and politics can coalesce.

Senator Kennedy has had many serious personal blows. Some, such as the recent assassination of his two brothers, came to get to work on Friday morning is of the utmost necessity if county government is not to be covered by a shroud.

**JANUARY THAW**

What we call the January Thaw is totally unpredictable. On average, we get one three years out of every four. Usually it comes around the third week in January, but there are times when it doesn't come till February. There are years when it doesn't come at all, when the snowdrifts and the ice simply persist right through till the breakup in late March or early April. Then we have one of those "memoable" winters that are hard to endure at the time but are fascinating to remember.

When the January thaw does come, it is often right on the heels of a snowstorm or a cold wave. The storm passes out to sea or the cold wave moves on, and here behind it comes a reversal of the customary order. Instead of another burst of frigid air moving down from the Northwest, here comes a breath of warm air up from the South somewhere. Overnight it moves in and seems to settle down. Leaves drip, roadside gutters begin to trickle with flowing water. Snowbanks steam and the thin ice in lowland bogs begins to show puddles on its surface.

The change is too sudden for belief, or for real comfort. We welcome it, find 45- and 50-degree weather summer-warm, after the 20's we have been enduring. But it doesn't seem right. It is "unseasonable." It makes slushy going, muddy going. For a few days, it does. Then the next west-to-east storm center arrives and that's the end of the thaw. That door which had opened a crack toward spring slams shut again, the temperature dives, and it is still January.

—New York Times

him from the outside and we have only the most compassionate feeling for him. Others he has brought upon himself. He is young and his chief career can still be shaped. It lies within his own power whether that career, after this serious setback, goes on to his fulfillment.

—Christian Science Monitor

**KINGS MOUNTAIN Hospital Log**

**VISITING HOURS**  
 Daily 10:30 to 11:30 A.M.  
 3 to 4 P.M. and 7 to 8 P.M.

- Angela Ailams
- Mrs. Rob Adams
- Broadus Barber
- Burman Bryant
- Wm. Clack
- Mrs. Joyce Cole
- J. D. Davis
- Edward Dellinger
- Edward D. Dixon
- Mrs. Carrie Frye
- James E. Gamble
- E. W. Griffin
- Mrs. Albert Hagans
- Mrs. Ethal Hambricht
- Mrs. Frances Harlowe
- Ms. Annie Heavener
- Mrs. Lexie Hoffstickler
- Mrs. Della Jackson
- Felix Johnson
- Mrs. Virginia Lutz
- Mrs. Alice Leech
- Alda Leonhardt
- Mrs. Ronald Maples
- Maggie Phifer
- Mrs. Bessie P. Ramseur
- Mrs. Alvenia Schuler
- Candance Smith
- Raymond Smith
- Mrs. Betty Tarpley
- Mrs. Minnie Webb
- Otto Webber
- Mrs. Child Woods
- Lee Roy Davis
- Mrs. Wm. Johnson
- Fred King
- Willis Leach

**ADMITTED THURSDAY**  
 Mrs. Robt. Jones  
 Rt. 1, Gastonia  
 Mrs. Cora Morrison  
 215 S. Piedmont, City  
 Christopher Woods  
 1003 W. 7th Ave., Gastonia

**ADMITTED FRIDAY**  
 Horace C. Allman  
 907 N. Piedmont Ave., City  
 Mrs. Lela Houser  
 208 N. Piedmont, City  
 Thomas A. Pollock  
 310 E. King St., City  
 Mrs. Sparkie Hamsey  
 206 E. Maryland Ave Bess C.  
 Mrs. Jessie Rippy  
 608 W. King St., City  
 Mrs. Nellie Dunn  
 510 E. Kings St., City  
 Julius Burton  
 900 Church St., City

**ADMITTED SATURDAY**  
 Barbara Day  
 609 W. Mtn. St., City  
 Robt. E. Fleming  
 City

**ADMITTED SUNDAY**  
 Robt Adams  
 Rt. 1, City  
 Mrs. Millard Caldwell  
 500 Margrace, City  
 Claywood Corry  
 Rt. 1, Box 111, City  
 Mrs. Paul Gann  
 307 N. Gaston St., City  
 Mrs. Jerry Morris  
 Rt. 2, City  
 Samuel McClain  
 1060 Westover, City  
 Wayne Wells  
 Rt. 2, Box 277, City  
 Walter Whitley  
 111 W. Texas Ave., Bess City  
 Mrs. Larry Whitesides  
 Rt. 4, Gastonia

**ADMITTED MONDAY**  
 Bobby Eiters  
 210 Bridges St., City  
 Melvin Weaver  
 209 Blanton St., City  
 Wray Bumgarner  
 Rt. 1, City  
 Howard Dillingham  
 Star Route, Blacksburg, S. C.  
 Mrs. Grady C. Leopard  
 P. O. Box 493, Bessemer City  
 Douglas McClain  
 416 N. Waterson St., City  
 Mrs. Ray Price  
 Rt. 1, Bessemer City  
 Mrs. Dean A. Stamper  
 717 Lanling St., City

**ADMITTED TUESDAY**  
 Mrs. Willis Leach  
 402 N. Grover St., Gastonia  
 Mrs. Billie Patterson  
 1719 Smith St., Gastonia  
 May Plonk  
 402 W. Gold St., City  
 Mrs. Ronald Walker  
 1108 Donohoe Rd., Gastonia

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