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# The Kings Mountain Herald

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## TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. Proverbs 3:13

## Weather Is Boss

There's an old saying: there's no use to argue with the weather.

Residents of this area, if they doubted it before, have had two recent weather events that proves the point. First was the ice blanket and the second the heavy snowfall of Friday which made roads very tricky and which stranded many a motorist throughout the snow area.

Josh Hinnant had a speaking engagement in Raleigh Thursday night and was advised by his wife the following morning he might do well to stay in Raleigh until the thaw. Josh figured the Bronco he was driving would go through any kind of weather. Josh was right in a measure. What he hadn't figured was his windows to ice up, which they did. The trip home required eight hours, about twice the time a Raleigh trip nominally takes. Near Greensboro Josh saw a 15-car pile-up. He was holding a steady pace, with time out to scrape ice off the windows. Many cars who speeded by him he later saw stranded.

Speed, snow and ice don't go together, as many learned painfully.

It is good that the Merchants Association has been able to reschedule the Christmas parade for the coming Friday.

The weather meant hard and arduous work for City Hall and for state highway department employees.

Vernon (Peanut) Smith, the city meter man remarked, "It got us a wee bit behind schedule."

Roy Pearson and Gary Stewart were also able to re-schedule the first Kings Mountain invitational basketball tournament and it was quite successful. The action was fast and, of course, the home-folk were happy to see Gardner-Webb win it.

## Controlling Noise

Popular Government in its recent issue has an exhaustive article on noise, but acknowledges it has found no conclusive answers to the over-all problem.

The comment is made that the natives of the African Sudan have better hearing at 70 than a New Yorker does at 20.

Noise is measured in decibels.

Would one believe it? Kitchen noises are among the worse. There is the clatter of pots, pans and dishes, also silverware, plus the noise of the dishwasher, crackling frying items of food, and even the refrigerator adds its measure.

New York has passed an ordinance limiting jackhammer use to specific hours and other cities and some states have passed anti-noise ordinances, which Popular Government says are difficult of enforcement.

## Dump Agnew?

Speculation that President Nixon will dump Spiro Agnew and find a new running mate in 1972 may be true — and may not be true. The President isn't talking.

The Vice-President may be more valuable as a campaigner than some of the others being mentioned like Nelson Rockefeller or John Connally.

Agnew is an in-fighter, is a highly capable man with words, and his broad attacks to the enemy Democrats bring him criticism.

But there is another side to the coin. Politics being an often-times emotional pseudo-science, the Agnew type of hatchet man can get folks fired up which means bigger turnouts for the loyalists.

It has always been the presidential candidate's prerogative to choose his running mate and Mr. Nixon may switch, but in Agnew he has a man who has firmly supported and advanced Administration policies.

## Morton Entry

Hugh Morton, the Linville impresario of Grandfather Mountain and one of North Carolina's top-notch photographers, has made it official that he is indeed a candidate for governor in the Democratic primary May 6.

It brings the number of announced candidates to four, including also recently resigned Senator Hargrove Bowles, Lieutenant-Governor Pat Taylor, and Dr. Reginald A. Hawkins, the Charlotte dentist who was an unsuccessful candidate four years ago.

The Morton entry most surely will assure a second primary.

Two months ago he stated in Shelby that he was aiming his campaign to finish second and would win in a second primary.

Some observers doubt that he will finish that high largely because he is a late-comer and many voters had already committed to the other candidates.

The decision of Attorney-General Robert Morgan not to run probably enhances Mr. Morton's chances. He lives at Wilmington as well as Linville and should inherit a portion of East North Carolinian Morgan's indicated support.

The polls show Messrs. Taylor and Bowles the current front-runners. All three are men of proven ability in government, Taylor and Bowles in elective office and Morton in a variety of state appointive jobs which he handled capably.

Of course, only one candidate can win, but it is enheartening that men of high caliber are seeking the office.

## Drugs, Liquor Equated

It was greatly publicized at time of passage, but the 1971 General Assembly did what should have been done long ago.

In amending the driver's license laws, the assembly included a provision that makes it unlawful to drive while taking drugs that impair the motorist's ability to drive, just as it is for the motorist who is too full of alcoholic beverages.

In the past, many defendants came off free by producing witnesses that they were under the influence of drugs. It was a defense plea sometimes perhaps spuriously used.

If a driver is under the influence of drugs and his reactions impaired he is equally as dangerous on the highways as the boozier.

Sally Holden, of Raleigh, in a letter to the editor of Time magazine, wrote: "When the 16 Governors at the Southern Governors' Conference received gifts, it was called a bribe. When the police receive gifts, it is called a bribe."

That all depends on who the giver might be.

Certainly the State of Georgia which gifted the governors would expect no special favors from the visiting state. Nor are all gifts to policemen in the bribe category.

In New York's corruption-ridden police department the gifts from people in the rackets were made for favors which protected the givers — clearly bribes.

It really depends on the background of the giver. Does he want and need special favors?

## Congratulations

Congratulations are in order to Edward H. Smith on the Smithwick Cup award he received as first prize for the writing of an historical article at the local and county level.

Mr. Smith's article on the Battle of Kings Mountain, published in the Herald on the 191st anniversary of the battle, was adjudged best of all those entered.

It was a very interesting feature and revealed some interesting facts about the battle credited with turning the tide of war in favor of the struggling colonists.

# MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

The magazine We the People of North Carolina, in its recent annual industrial edition, contained a feature on the history of the Alcoa Aluminum Company's Badin works near Albemarle.

m-m

Since I once lived in Albemarle and knew many fine people with the aluminum firm, the article was especially interesting.

m-m

The beginnings were around the turn of the century. An Easterner named Whitney had mining interests in Rowan and Stanley counties and decided to dam the Yadkin as a source of electric power for his operations. Whitney's plans did not come to fruition, as he ran into financial troubles and was bankrupted in 1907. North Carolina Electric & Power Company bought the Whitney plant and the receiver and subsequently sold it to a French Company, Aluminum des Francsais, in early 1913.

m-m

The 1913 date sticks in mind because the late Ed Biddix, with whom I lived in Albemarle, was a construction man and working on the French Company's project. Numbers of the French were Catholic and the nearest Catholic priest was at Salisbury. The rail line at that time stopped at the Tuckertown community several miles from Badin. On one bitter cold day in the dead of winter Ed was dispatched with horse and buggy to Tuckertown station to meet Father Leo who was coming down to hold Mass.

m-m

Mrs. Biddix tells the story.

m-m

Ed met Father Leo and they began the cold ride back. The priest asked if there were any springs along the way and suggested they stop at the first. Ed stopped and the priest opened the black satchel he was carrying to reveal a large jug of whiskey. Would Mr. Biddix like a little libation. He would.

m-m

Mrs. Biddix says, "I think they must have stopped at every spring along the way for when they reached Badin both Ed and Father Leo were roaring drunk."

m-m

The late Captain Meek Ormand was conductor on the spur line south of Salisbury, became friends with the French, and became their mule-buyer, that being in the days when dams were built with mules and drag pans. St. Louis was a mule center and Captain said he bought 200 head on one occasion.

m-m

Had it not been for World War I, the French might still be at Badin. When war began in September of 1914, France put an embargo on money and the French at Badin were immobilized. Additionally, many of the top engineers and other personnel were French army reservists and were called to active duty.

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In 1916, Alcoa bought the plant and produced the first aluminum ingot to come off the potlines.

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Sample of the power requirements in the aluminum-smelting process is fact that eight kilowatt hours of electricity are required to produce one 50-pound ingot.

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Alcoa gets most of its bauxite, the ore from which aluminum is smelted, from South America, transporting the bauxite to Mobile, Alabama, in company-owned ships, then using railroads to get it to Badin. There are bauxite deposits in Arkansas, if I correctly recall.

m-m

Though the French for the most part went home the French imprint is still very much on the Badin community. The residential construction is quaintly French.

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I ran afoul of the law on one occasion in Badin. The Albemarle Merchants association was running a special train and I, with several others, were on the train. The Badin school was building up the forthcoming sale days, and was, hailed down by a deputy sheriff who told me to cease and desist, that third shift workers needed their sleep.

m-m

Needless to say, I ceased and desisted.

## Viewpoints of Other Editors

### SEEPING REPUBLICANISM

One of North Carolina's Democratic candidates for Congress was expressing nicely controlled apprehension the other day about what he described as "seeping Republicanism."

Thousands of Tar Heels for years have been voting Democratic on the state level and, in the privacy of the voting booth, switching to the Republican column for president. Election figures all the way back to 1952 give the clue. The Congressional candidate noted the phenomenon ruefully and went on to say:

"The thing that concerns me is that a lot of State Democrats. National Republicans will conclude that it doesn't make much sense to put a Republican in the White House and then saddle him with a Democratic Congress — the situation we have now."

"The possibility that really bothers me is that the Republicans, as I call them, will not only vote for the Republican candidate for president but, as a logical extension, also vote next year for Republicans for the Congress and the U. S. Senate. They will, of course, remain loyal Democrats in marking the ballot for state offices, since the chances are practically nil for a Republican administration in Raleigh."

"As a Democrat running for Congress, I'm really concerned. As a matter of fact, I'm more concerned about the general election next year than I am about the Democratic primary. In North Carolina that's a switch of alarming proportions."

There is a thin chance that the candidate's concern is well placed. But today's strange political situation argues strongly against it.

We do happen to have a Republican president pitted against a Democratic Congress. The disconcerting thing is that the president often acts like a Democrat and the Congress often smacks of Old Guard Republicanism. Who would have dreamed of a Republican president applying wage and price controls, accepting Red China in the United Nations at the expense of Taiwan, and planning personal detentes in Peking and Moscow? A Democratic president embarked on such adventures would have been branded immediately by Republicans, including the Old Nixon, as a traitor. At the same time we have a Democratic Congress erecting trade barriers, assaulting the United Nations, and sandbagging foreign air-exercises that formerly had been Republican party articles of faith.

The strangest part of all is that many of those who are not straitjacketed in a partisan sense feel somehow safer with the situation as it is. They reason that as long as one party holds the White House and the other party controls the Congress, they will wind up in a standoff, leaving the Republic a decent chance of survival. For all we know Mr. Nixon himself might also feel more secure with the Democrats controlling the Congress. (To give yourself a nice case of the horrors, picture a Republican president blessed with Gerald Ford as speaker of the house, Hugh Scott as majority leader in the senate, and Strom Thurmond as spiritual leader of the party caucus.)

A rational citizen who can find cause to vote for a Republican for president still would not necessarily feel in any way compelled to vote for a Republican candidate for Congress. In fact, there is every reason for splitting his ticket for federal offices as usual.

For all the candidate's concern, seeping Republicanism is not yet a clear and present danger. —Mooresville Tribune.

### A NOTE OF PRIORITIES

In addressing a committee meeting of the U. S. Conference of Mayors held recently in Atlanta, New York Mayor John Lindsay argued that Congress ought to increase the five-year appropriation for mass transit to 5 billion dollars from 3.1 billion. The request seems reasonable enough, given the continued expenditures for highways of several times that figure.

Whether the Nixon administration, let alone Congress, would go along with his proposal is doubtful, however, for while Congress has authorized \$900,000,000 for mass transit expenditures this fiscal year, the administration wants to cut that figure by one third to about \$600 million.

No doubt the president has a better use for the money as, for example, the 4 billion dollars he wants to spend this fiscal year on military assistance to foreign governments, a figure almost seven times his proposed mass transit expenditures. —St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### MRS. GANDHI'S BIG MOMENT

Those who doubted that a woman could manage the affairs of India had best keep quiet these days because whether you like what she is doing or not Mrs. Indira Gandhi is running the most ambitious and, so far, successful power-politics operation since Russia and the United States decided to be spectators rather than operators on the big power stage.

What she wants, and seems to have every chance of getting, is an end once for all to that balance of power on the Indian subcontinent which has existed since the end of British rule. That balance of power took the form of a Pakistan which occupied both northern flanks of India. It was a pair of Muslim pincers capable of squeezing Hindi India. Mrs. Gandhi is out to break the link between the two arms of the Muslim pincers.

That link exists today in the form of three divisions of troops from West Pakistan which were flown to East Pakistan last spring in an effort to subdue the separatist movement there. Mrs. Gandhi has turned that deployment into one of the great mistakes of the times. She has mousetrapped those three divisions between a local native guerrilla army (which she trained and armed in India) of about 100,000 men, and eight-to-10 divisions of the regular Indian army.

The three Pakistan divisions are now being squeezed in a combined guerrilla plus Indian army operation out of the countryside and into the main cities of East Pakistan. And India has control of the air and sea lanes which feed those cities and everyone in them.

Thus Mrs. Gandhi has the physical power right now to destroy or release those divisions; or almost. Conceivably, like Xenophon's Greeks in classic times, or the Czechs in Russia at the end of World War I, they might fight their way out of the trap. It seems highly unlikely.

Mrs. Gandhi has done her military planning as skillfully as her diplomacy capable of giving Pakistan effective aid was China. (Peking). Mrs. Gandhi has been so successful in neutralizing China in this situation that she has even felt free to bring some of her best troops down from her Chinese frontier to help in the trapping of the Pakistan divisions in Bengal. China was taken out of play by Russia. Russia is on India's side anyway. And the United States is far away and presently engaged in disengagement from far foreign adventures.

So President Mohammed Yahya Khan back in Islamabad is virtually at her mercy. His army in West Pakistan is minus those three divisions he so foolishly sent so far from home. If he attacks from the west in Kashmir Mrs. Gandhi can close her fist on his three lost divisions and then concentrate her whole army against West Pakistan.

In this highly favorable military situation Mrs. Gandhi has now invited President Yahya to withdraw his three trapped divisions. It looks very much like a checkmate. If he refuses, he loses East Pakistan and his three divisions. If he accepts he still loses East Pakistan for she, not he, will be able to shape what happens next in Bengal.

The final test of Mrs. Gandhi's skill in power politics is whether she can, and will, now help Yahya Khan get out of the trap of his own making. If she pushes her advantage too fast, hard and openly — she will force him to a desperate final throw of the military dice. And that would be very dangerous for all concerned. If she now opens the hand of magnanimity and lets the man save face — she will have what she wants — a dominant India on the subcontinent — and a unitary Pakistan which is not forever a mortal enemy of India.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Gandhi has confirmed what several women proved before (Elizabeth I, Maria Theresa, Katherine the Great, and Victoria) that a woman can often outplay a man at power politics. —Christian Science Monitor.

### HISTORY FOR SALE

With the nation's bicentennial less than five years off, it is astonishing that the United States has yet to protect the environs of one of its historic treasures, Mount Vernon. There was a brief uproar (recently) when the Soviet government sought to purchase the estate adjoining Mount Vernon as a recreation center for its Washington embassy employees, a proposal which became moot when the owner withdrew the property from the market.

Yet across the Potomac river there remains a distinct danger that an industrial or commercial development may ruin the view which is now much as it was in George Washington's time. Congress thought it had solved the problem a decade ago when it created Piscataway Park. But not all of the promised scenic eas-

## EXECUTION THE THING

To be literal about it, sticks and stones are no more than words. They never do anything either. They are as inanimate as the most blistering invective; they cannot break bones.

To explode another myth, a pen in the hand of the most fervent editorialist hardly can generate the persuasiveness of a sword wielded by an equally zealous crusader.

The difference is that between thought and action. Sports looks to the motivated athlete who does the job on the field, not the good student of the game who knows all the right moves. In more erudite athletic circles this is called execution. This is the end product that brings fans to their feet.

To put this another way: A friend who has a small foreign car set about to repair the sick little thing himself. He got out the manual and located the section on fixing the clutch. "Clutch replacement" began by instructing "remove defective clutch." Unable to follow step one, he sought help with the execution. All of which brings us to a well-intended observation in The Fellow, the periodic newsletter of Yokefellow United. Writing in "The Chairman's Corner," the Rev. B. Joe Parker had this to say:

What do you do? What do you do when you have something on your mind, and you know that it is something most people in the community would like to see changed. Well, you look at it real close. You turn it over in your mind. You realize that there is more to it than you expected. Suddenly it's obvious what the solution is. Ah, then the real question: how to carry out the solution.

"The Something" is low wages in the Mooresville community. No, I'm not ready to quote statistics. But how do you go about getting them raised to a higher level? Do you make the suggestion to the Town Board? Make a trip to the mayor? Write a letter to the Chamber of Commerce? Call the mills of Mooresville in for a little chit-chat? Talk about the union? What do you do about this skeleton in our community closet?

The solution is simple — raise the pay level. Getting it done is the thing.

Verily, verily. We realize it's niggling, but we would point out that skeletons in closets is a phrase intended to suggest problems everyone is aware of but no one wants to admit, much less talk about.

We would submit the problem you refer to is not a skeleton in our closet, but a millstone around our necks.

But executing the obvious solution is nonetheless difficult. As with so many "obvious" ailments, low pay merely is one symptom, not a full diagnosis. —Mooresville Tribune.

ments have materialized. The most serious holdout is the politically well-connected owner of an amusement park who periodically threatens to build a Disneyland or an industrial park on his riverfront acreage. Senator Case and Representative Frelinghuysen of New Jersey have introduced a bill to remove the financial ceiling for land acquisition at Piscataway and thus enable the Federal government to acquire this land outright. Ten years of broken promises and avaricious haggling over easements are quite enough. It is time for the National Park Service to commit itself on this issue and for the Senate and House Interior Committees to hold hearings and take definitive action.

An industrial development opposite Mount Vernon, power lines at Antietam, an intrusive viewing tower overlooking Gettysburg, the prospect of a supermarket at the entrance to the Roosevelt home at Hyde Park — the threats to the nation's hallowed ground are seemingly endless. Congress could constructively celebrate the nation's bicentennial by devising a law to provide comprehensive and reliable protection for the

## Seed Problems

### Are Fading

The seed problems corn growers faced last winter have faded in the face of a good 1971 crop and an all-out effort by seed companies to produce blight-resistant hybrids.

There will be a plentiful supply of seed of blight-resistant hybrids for planting in 1972. These hybrids are adapted to local growing conditions.

This is part of the optimistic seed corn outlook compiled from a survey of four major suppliers of North Carolina seed — Coker Pedigreed Seed Co., Pioneer Corn Co., McNair Seed Co. and Watson Seed Farms.

Surveyed by Gene Sullivan, extension seed specialist at North Carolina State University, the four suppliers indicated that only 100 per cent hand-detassled adapted hybrids will be sold.

They do not plan to offer for sale any blends of T cytoplasm and N cytoplasm types. T cytoplasm is directly related to blight susceptibility and N cytoplasm to blight resistance.

The seed companies also say they will not offer for sale flint or flint-dent types. These less desirable types, along with second generation and open pollinated seed, were pressed in to use this year due to the shortage of blight resistant, adapted hybrids.

Although farmers should easily find plentiful supplies of the kinds of seed they want, prices will probably be higher than they were prior to the 1970 blight epidemic. Most of this change in price will be due to the cost of having to hand-detassel the N cytoplasm seed fields.

Based on survey information, ing together to simplify the calling and permit the maximum number of men to talk.

Last year, more than 1,000 calls per day throughout the Christmas season were completed from Vietnam for off-duty servicemen calling home.

Many servicemen call from the U. S. O. center in downtown Saigon, but calls also can be made and service centers at bases placed from a number of hospitals elsewhere in the country.

Moore also advised the families and friends of Americans stationed in other southeast Asian countries to make arrangements for the servicemen to originate their holiday telephone calls, since they too are often difficult to locate.

Rates on telephone calls at all hours between the United States and Vietnam are \$9 for a three-minute station-to-station call and \$12 for a three-minute person-to-person call. Servicemen can call collect so that the messages can be paid for at home.

Vietnam is 13 hours ahead of eastern standard time.

### HOG COSTS UP

The cost of producing hogs in North Carolina increased from \$14.24 per hundred pounds in 1961 to \$15.87 in 1971, according to State University extension estimates by North Carolina economists. The largest single increase was for variable costs other than feed. These include items such as repairs, supplies, medication and truck operation expenses.

scenic approaches to all the nation's historic sites. —New York Times.

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