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## The Kings Mountain Herald

206 South Piedmont Ave. Kings Mountain, N. C. 28036

A weekly newspaper devoted to the promotion of the general welfare and published for the enlightenment, entertainment and benefit of the citizens of Kings Mountain and its vicinity, published every Thursday by the Herald Publishing House.

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**TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE**

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*  
Romans 8:2.

**The Document**

Come Sunday, 185 years ago, Secretary William Jackson, with goose quill pen, wrote the following:

"Done in convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names."

There follows named in alphabetical order by states the signatures of the signers of the Constitution of the United States, after the first one George Washington, President (of the convention) and deputy from Virginia, North Carolina's deputies were William Blount, Hubert Williamson, and Richard Dobbs Speight.

The Constitution was declared to be in effect on the first Wednesday in March 1789.

In the vernacular, much water has flowed under the dam in those intervening years.

Man, in his ingenuity, has made a shambles of General Washington's subsequent warning after serving as first President of the nation) to avoid foreign entanglements. Those great ocean moats of Washington's day no longer provide protection. The world has become close together and the spectre of intercontinental ballistic missiles make any who think thereon shudder.

Yet the document itself has proven a masterpiece for governmental administration. It has produced order without stultification, providing the means for change in a changing nation and a changing world.

Yet its basic tenets remain the same.

The Preamble should be reviewed continually:

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

A good means of celebrating Constitution week, starting Sunday: read it.

**Over-Efficiency?**

There is little question that the new registration system (for Cleveland and many counties), now mandatory in North Carolina's one hundred counties, has much to recommend it.

Operated on a full-time basis, with a central records center, plus full-time attention, the registration lists should be much more up-to-date.

There is one joker in the deck.

How many citizens will go to Mecca 1) to register, 2) to transfer from one precinct to another?

The elections board has announced there will be no hinterland registrations for the upcoming November general election.

Some predict that, with attrition via death and departure, the registered voter percentage, as compared to potential, will decline gradually.

Some wonder if it is not possible to out-efficiency efficiency.

Under the old system of registration at 28 precincts spread throughout the county, qualified citizens failed to put their names on the book. It is also to be remembered that Cleveland County came under a special wrist-slapping section of the Civil Rights Act because the negro eligibles hadn't registered in sufficient numbers.

Perhaps, hopefully, the fears are unwarranted.

**Eye Bank Gap**

After Hubert Lane, Lions zone chairman, had urged Kings Mountain Lions to make a strong effort to increase the number of eye bequests in the North Carolina Eye Bank, Sam Weir, past president of the Kings Mountain club, asked what proved to be a cogent question:

"How do I know," Mr. Weir asked, "my eyes are going to be used."

Mr. Lane quickly told Mr. Weir he had put his finger on the "gap" in the eye bank program.

Many willed eyes go to the graves with their owners, for the principal reason fact of the will is not known or, most often, forgotten by families under the emotional stress of death of loved ones.

Mr. Lane himself lost a friend of 49 and the friend had been a most interested supporter of the program. Yet the fact of his friend's interest and desire and bequest was not remembered until too late.

C. P. Barry recalled a similar result for a Kings Mountain man. Remembrance of his eye bequest came two days after the funeral.

The eye must be removed from the deceased within four hours of death to be usable.

The solution to this glaring gap should be comparatively simple, with cooperation of North Carolina funeral directors. Maintenance of a card file of eye wills in the areas in which the funeral homes serve would solve 90 percent of the problem of the eye bank gap.

It is estimated that at least 90 percent of the people who die do so in their home communities.

Already licensed embalmers, after a special short-term course of instruction, are legally qualified to perform the eye removal.

**Spirit of the Matter**

Shortly, electric power wholesale customers throughout the state will be paying higher rates, as the producers institute the second increase of recent months.

It follows that retail customers will find their bills higher, too.

Thus it is likely that many took umbrage to the Tuesday morning news story headlined "For Research 3 More Power Firms Seek More Funds", accompanied by pictorial likenesses of Shearon Harris, president of Carolina Power & Light Company and William Grigg, general counsel of Duke Power Company.

(Ed. Note: Mr. Harris is a friend of 32 years standing of Martin Harmon, Herald editor. Mr. Grigg is the son of Claude Grigg, 1927-34 superintendent of Kings Mountain schools.)

Since tight money, higher priced coal and pollution control laws, the power companies have been under acknowledged financial pressure and their earnings statements have reflected as much. It is also acknowledged that the companies must provide a superfluity of capacity to 1) assure service at demand peaks and 2) to assure service in growing areas such as those of Carolina, Duke, and Virginia Electric Power Company — the three major "practicing" companies in the Carolinas.

But the customers, wholesale and retail, also recall the wage-price controls ordered by the President last November and the customers wonder if the power companies might not be more in the spirit of the situation if they restrained on the R & D request.

**Clarence Flowers**

All who knew him were saddened at the death of Clarence F. (Heshey) Flowers.

Mr. Flowers was not the ebullient type. He was quiet, easy-going, didn't talk too much.

But he was a solid citizen and a solid workman, a key man in the operations of Neisler Mills and its successors from his return from Europe and duty in World War II.

**MARTIN'S MEDICINE**

By MARTIN HARMON

"I see the Dan Fingers moved today," I told Yates Harbison, chairman of the board of deacons of First Baptist church. "I better get across the street and meet my new neighbors before they aren't my neighbors anymore."

m-m

The family of Rev. Paul Riggs, new pastor of First Baptist church, moved temporarily into the First Baptist missionary house on South Goforth, pending occupying the Finger home which the Riggs have purchased.

m-m

Preacher buy a house? Unheard of?

m-m

No.

m-m

First Baptist has simply gone modern, at least in respect to providing quarters for ministers and their families. It's a new trend and, as outlined by Yates makes pretty good sense.

m-m

"To build a manse in anticipation of a long future," Yates says, "you've just about got to build a four bedroom house. A minister with no children, for instance, doesn't need a four-bedroom house. But if you build one smaller at some future date it would be too small."

m-m

Under the First Baptist arrangement, a quarters allowance is not stated per se but simply built into the pastor's gross stipend. Meantime, First Baptist sold its former manse on North Gaston street.

m-m

Now a pastor can buy what he wants, what he needs and where he wants it. If he's a gofer (like my pastor, Dr. Charles Edwards), he would want to be close to the golf course. If not, he would perhaps prefer another locale.

m-m

From the pastor's standpoint, it provides both freedom of choice and the opportunity to have a built-in savings account.

m-m

Yates chuckles about an objection that "he might live in a mobile home." Somebody rejoined, "You know nobody that lives in a mobile home?"

m-m

A financial practicality for the church, Yates notes, is that there will be no longer the redecoration requirement after each change in pastorate and he jests, "And there won't be any layman argument about what color the kitchen is painted."

m-m

All makes sense.

m-m

Among my longtime thoughts concerning churches is: why will parishioners expend thousands on edifices and accoutrements, yet not bother to cushion those hard wooden pews?

m-m

Rev. Frank Shirley paid call this week and I told him a mutual friend would have visited with him Sunday, but for a bad back and fear that the hard pew wouldn't permit an hour's endurance.

m-m

Not at Temple, Frank rejoined; we've cushioned pews.

m-m

Frank acknowledges there were some pockets of objection to the initial suggestion, but says, "Evedyone's 100 percent cushion believers now!" Amen.

m-m

My wife recently received an interesting letter from Marge Bennett, who, with her family were occupants of the missionary house, before returning to Dacca, East Pakistan. Mrs. Bennett wrote from India, where the Bennetts were vacationing. Mrs. Bennett and her two daughters were piano pupils of my wife and she reported difficulty in finding a piano teacher. Mrs. Bennett herself is doing a bit of piano teaching and continued her work during the India-Pakistani fighting.

m-m

The First Baptist missionary house has provided us some mighty fine neighbors, the Mill Singletary family, the Bennetts, Owensbys—all worthy successors to the I. Ben Goforth family, who built the home and resided there initially.

**Viewpoints of Other Editors**

**AN APPROPRIATE DECISION FOR A HUMANE SOCIETY**

Capital punishment in the United States seems unlikely to survive the severe blow it received last week from the Supreme Court. And that ought to be good news in a society that likes to call itself civilized and humane.

The high court, in a 5-4 decision, declared that the death penalty is "cruel and unusual punishment" and is therefore unconstitutional. The decision apparently rules out any executions under any capital punishment laws now on the statute books in this country.

There was difference of opinion among the court's majority concerning the basis for the decision against capital punishment.

Two justices—William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall—held that the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution (which forbids cruel and unusual punishment) prohibits the death penalty regardless of crime or circumstance.

Three justices—Bryon White, Potter Stewart, and William O. Douglas—emphasized the looseness of sentencing procedures. They were disturbed by the discretion granted to judges and juries in dealing with capital offenders and by the erratic use of this discretion.

Justice Douglas said that the Eighth Amendment requires legislatures "to see to it that general laws are not applied sparsely, selectively and spitefully to unpopular groups."

While 600 prisoners were held on death rows in the United States when the Supreme Court handed down its decision, the actual court handed down its decision, the actual infliction of the death penalty has become rare. The last execution in North Carolina occurred in 1961.

Over the years, when offenders were put to death, the doomed men and women were usually poor or black. The execution of wealthy and influential persons was infrequent.

The decision may not be the final word on capital punishment. The reasoning of some of the justices seems to leave the way open for Congress and the states to write new laws that possibly would satisfy the justices concerned about loose administration of capital punishment. But the weight of the Supreme Court's decision could prove to be too heavy for proponents of the death penalty to bear. Public opinion has been moving against the death penalty in the 20th century, and revival of the penalty after last week's historic decision will not be easy.

Even the four justices dissenting from the court's majority opinion—President Nixon's appointees—were hardly personal advocates of the death penalty. Justice Harry Blackmun acknowledged his "abhorrence" of capital punishment, but expressed his opinion that only the legislatures should have power to abolish it. Chief Justice Warren Burger, commenting on the decision of the majority, noted that Congress and state legislatures will now be required to "make a thorough reevaluation of the entire subject of capital punishment," including a serious inquiry into whether it actually serves as a deterrent to crime.

There is no reason for Americans to be alarmed by the court's majority opinion. Numerous studies in this and other countries suggest strongly that the death penalty does not deter crime; it is therefore of no value in maintaining law and order.

Much of the remaining sentiment for capital punishment in America is based on vengeance, and vengeance has no place in a humane system of punishment. For Christians, the eye-for-eye doctrine was ruled out nearly 2,000 years ago by the New Testament.

Society's prime concern in dealing with criminals must be their rehabilitation. Some offenders may not respond to rehabilitation efforts, and the unresponsive may have to remain in confinement for society's protection. But no offender should ever be denied opportunity to make a new start in life and to become a useful member of society. Capital punishment quickly and finally snuffs out such an opportunity. It cannot be reconciled with the highest humanitarian and religious ideals. Every governmental act or decree to purge the death penalty from our judicial system is welcome.—The Smithfield Herald.

**THE MISSILES ARE SUPERFLUOUS**

Even the Republican—including Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, of course—should now be willing to accept McGovern's proposal for a cut in military spending.

The game of chess, we are told, was invented centuries ago in India as a substitute for war. And since Bobby Fisher has clearly established U. S. superiority over the Russians by winning the World Chess championship from Boris Spassky, who needs all those missiles?—Smithfield Herald.

**SAVING THE FARM—AND THE CITY**

Farming means mainly milk and butter, meat and eggs to the 70 per cent of Americans who live in and around cities. But behind the neatly packaged products on the grocers' shelves lies a hugely complex agricultural system. As Monitor correspondent Guy Halverson has brought out graphically in his just-finished series, how that system works affects not only the pocketbook and diet of all Americans, but the quality and style of American life.

The problems of rural America are the other side of the "urban crisis" coin. That crisis began with the outflow of 18 million Americans of the farm between 1940 and 1960. Today America has 2.8 million farms instead of 7 million 40 years ago.

Mr. Halverson's series is one more argument for the need of a comprehensive national economic and land-use policy embracing cities, suburbs and rural areas as the unified whole that America is. The tide of rural emigration to the cities in post-World War II America set off the counterflow of white, middle-class Americans to suburbia. Now suburban sprawl threatens to inundate 50 per cent of the remaining prime agricultural land.

This people-flow has resulted in the decline of the central cities, the rootlessness and no-where-ness of the suburbs, and the economic crumbling of small rural towns. Many of the 60 million Americans who still live in such rural communities would remain there if decent jobs, schools, health services, transportation, and other amenities were available.

Mr. Halverson calls for some form of "Marshall Plan" for rural America. It will take something of the sort to restabilize the countryside. But any such effort will have to be designed in the context of a broad economic and land-use policy. Such a plan might include federal funds to upgrade water, sewage, telephone, educational and health facilities in small towns. It might extend government credit to small business, close missing transportation links, offer tax incentives to bring industry in, and plug the small town back into the inter-governmental, federalist structure.

More broadly, a rationalized national economy is needed. In this context, we need to reexamine existing federal farm programs. Farm price supports and subsidies must no longer be used as a political football, but should be given their proper weight in a reoriented system of national priorities. The role of agriculture needs to be studied for its present and future impact on small farms, on the market structure, and on the quantity, quality, and price of food to consumers.

This kind of reexamination is not a partisan issue. It is a national issue that will not disappear with the election of any candidate or the dominance of any political party. Only as it is so treated can the country properly understand that the "urban crisis" and the "farm crisis" are of one piece. They cannot be resolved by patchwork pseudo-solutions which only perpetuate the seeming but unreal division of interests between urban, suburban and rural America.

**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.

Mrs. Bessie C. Adams  
Eilly M. Bagwell  
Mrs. Ted E. Bess  
Mrs. Sarah M. Boheler  
Thomas Bridges  
Mrs. Josephine Davis  
Mrs. Mamie H. Gibbons  
Mrs. Ruth M. Goforth  
Mrs. Ella Mae Harrelson  
Roger Dale Hayes  
Mrs. Marion E. Houston  
Clyde W. Kennis  
William F. Laughter  
Owen L. Lellford  
Manuel A. Moss  
Mrs. Annie Lee McClain  
Mrs. Chalmers McIntosh  
William Ray Neely  
Mrs. Leland R. Oates  
James Andrew Padgett

**THE TAR HEEL SPOTLIGHT**

**Department of Art, and History SAM RAGAN, Secretary**

North Carolina's historical assets—in the form of old homes, churches, business buildings, bridges, cemeteries and other properties—are being surveyed and documented by a long-range project within the Department of Art, Culture and History.

Preliminary research already has been done on about 2,000 individual properties, and a more extensive study has been completed on approximately 500. Two hundred thirty-seven North Carolina properties have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places or are awaiting final approval.

The "National Register" is a federal listing set up by the Department of the Interior as a "roll call of the tangible reminders of the history of the United States." Properties are listed on the basis of their historical or architectural significance, and ownership is not affected.

A limited degree of protection is provided in that any federally funded project that would alter or destroy a listed site must be reviewed by the federal government and its importance considered. In addition, a law passed by the General Assembly in 1971 also requires a review by the North Carolina Advisory Council on Historic Preservation when any state-funded or state-licensed project endangers a property on the National Register.

Mrs. Missouri Roseboro  
Mrs. Ida R. Roseboro  
Mrs. Velma Small  
Mrs. J. H. Thomason  
Mrs. Billie T. Whetstine  
Mrs. Alpha Francis Whisman  
Mrs. Marie Withers  
Mrs. Tom Wright  
Mrs. Marie A. Wright  
Mrs. Esby P. Cooke  
Mrs. George B. Hord  
Mrs. Mary Grace Moore  
Namon H. Byers

**ADMITTED THURSDAY**  
Mrs. Charles A. Absher, Rt. 2, Bessemer City  
Mrs. Moxie J. Besdole, 803 Linwood Dr., City  
Mrs. Bobby Ray Glenn, 312 E. Ridge St., City  
Mrs. Barbara Goforth, Rt. 1, Grover

**ADMITTED FRIDAY**  
Willie Bowles, 208 Walker St., City  
Claude C. Couch, 4500 Parkdale Circle, City  
Mrs. Cassie M. Flowers, 2452 Spring Road, S. E., Smyrna, Ga.  
Mrs. J. B. Griffin, 409 Childers St., City  
Cathy Ann Price, 1280 2nd St. Ext., City  
Mrs. Margaret Connie Sistate, 525 Katherine Ave., City  
Mrs. Zeb W. Shields, P.O. Box 332, Bessemer City  
Richard L. Wilson, 106 Morris St., City

**ADMITTED SATURDAY**  
Mrs. Lillie Mae Boone, 108 E. Georgia Ave., Bessemer City  
Brice E. Childers, P.O. Box 21, Grover  
Deborah Jean Hager, 114 W. Washington Ave., Bessemer City  
Harold Thomas Hance, 503 E. Washington Ave., Bessemer City  
Mrs. Annie Mae Kale, Rt. 1, Clover, S. C.  
Mrs. Iva Jane Roberts, 311 N. Wattersen St., City  
Mrs. Lee Roy Stiles, Pinkney Station, Gastonia

**ADMITTED SUNDAY**  
Mrs. Lonnie C. Butler, 206 N. Sims St., City  
Mrs. Mary P. Harmon, 120 E. Georgia Avenue, Bessemer City  
Ronald Dale Newton, 521 S. Lafayette St., Shelby

**ADMITTED MONDAY**  
Mrs. Bass Acuff, Rt. 1, Grover  
Dan H. Boheler, Rt. 2, City  
Roy James Brown, 201 N. Candler St., City  
Thomas Edward Childers, Rt. 4, Box 28, York, S. C.  
Glora Annette Jackson, Rt. 2, Box 84, Bessemer City  
Charles P. Lackey, Rt. 1, Box 117, City  
Mrs. Joe Lattimore, Jr., Rt. 1, Thorn's Trailer Pk., Bessemer City  
Phillip Ray McDaniel, 511 Landing St., City  
Mrs. Ethel S. Mullens, 1230 Sunshine St., Gastonia  
Mrs. David J. Phillips, 1720 Oak Valley Dr., Gastonia  
Mrs. A. Ray Smith, 811 Katherine Ave., City  
Mrs. James E. Stokes, 210 Skyland Dr., Bessemer City  
Mr. George Guy Horn, Katherine Street, City

**Birth Announcements**

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy L. Mote, Route 3, Box 400 C, announce the birth of a son, Thursday, September 7, Kings Mountain hospital. Hamlet.

The ultimate goal of the survey is to document the significance of every historic property in the state.

Bruce MacDougal, who heads the state's historic survey staff of six persons, emphasizes that local people will play a large role in determining the project's success. Without their interest and cooperation in calling attention to significant properties in their areas, the task would be much more difficult.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester N. Buckner, 105 Inman Avenue, Bessemer City, announce the birth of a daughter, Friday, September 8, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Danny M. Fitzgerald, 102 S. Carpenter Street, announce the birth of a daughter, Saturday, September 9, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Williams, Route 3, Box 451, announce the birth of a daughter, Saturday, September 9, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Roy Stiles, Pinkney Station, Gastonia, announce the birth of a daughter, Sunday, September 10, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Butler, 206 N. Sims Street, announce the birth of a daughter, Monday, September 11, Kings Mountain hospital.

**AMNESTY? IT'S NOTHING NEW**

Some opponents of amnesty for draft dodgers forget they count on the same principle to get back in the house after a night out with the boys.—Changing Times.

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