

The Kings Mountain Herald

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Psalm 19:1

Near-Great or Great

In his final illness, Harry S. Truman, 33rd president of the United States, fought for life as he had lived his life—whether as a captain of field artillery in France during World War I, to comeback from business failure during the 1921 depression, as chairman of the Senate committee bearing his name, the committee's duties being the prevention of boondoggling on war goods contracts, and as Mr. President.

His fights had just begun when President Franklin D. Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945.

First there was World War II to bring to conclusion. Germany surrendered less than a month later on Mr. Truman's fifty-fifth birthday. Shortly thereafter came the decision to invoke the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This decision resulted in the end of the war in Japan, saved what he estimated a million American lives and as many or more Japanese lives. His Berlin airlift brought capitulation of the Russian blockaders and his Marshall plan decision blocked the Russians in that sector of the globe. He stopped the Communist expansion in Korea.

He gained his most public disclaim for a fatherly act when he vituperatively "cussed out" David Hume, the Washington music critic, who had disparaged his daughter's efforts to become a concert vocal soloist.

Tuesday night's comments by National Broadcasting System newsman David Brinkley added a final chapter to the Hume business. Harking to the incident, Mr. Brinkley recalled the heaps of criticism by many people "including me". Mr. Brinkley added that his son sang in a chorus recently in concert at the National Gallery of Arts. The performances got a nasty panning, said Mr. Brinkley, "by that same critic". "I know how Mr. Truman felt," said Mr. Brinkley. "The guy (Hume) is no good."

Mr. Truman liked to hold a hand of poker and enjoyed an occasional shot of bourbon and branch water, understandable enjoyable sports to the majority of American males. His chief sin, perhaps, was over-loyalty to his friends, which occasionally got him into hot water. Certainly, over-loyalty to friends is not of the cardinal sin variety.

Meanwhile, he was as respectful to the office he held as he expected others to be. He was a man of the people who could relate to the people, a man who could understand their language, as Mr. Truman could understand theirs. Senator Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina, who opposed Mr. Truman in the 1948 election as a Dixiecrat presidential candidate, labeled him a "good president".

It was Mr. Truman's thesis that a half-century is required to determine degree of a president's success in office.

Yet, only a half-dozen years after Mr. Truman left office at the depth of his national popularity, seventy-five historians rated him ninth among his 32 predecessors and his successor President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Mr. Truman was in the "near-great" category, not far behind the five "greats"—Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Would the historians today elevate Mr. Truman to a place with the five? Likely.

The people do.

Congratulations to Dr. Sam Robinson, newly-elected president of the Kings Mountain Hospital medical staff.

Last day for paying 1972 city and county taxes without penalty is Tuesday. Penalty of two percent applies Wednesday, January 3.

And
HAPPY NEW YEAR 1973!

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

Upcoming: 1973.

But first, how was it just 20 years ago.

President Harry S. Truman, who will be buried today, was packing to leave the White House after seven eventful years, in which he had confounded many by proving to be a most forceful, yet humble, president. Among the doubting Thomases, a college classmate, dormitory roommate and journalism major, White House correspondent and later president of the National Press Club, who wrote to me not long after Mr. Truman assumed office and who referred to Mr. Truman as "that poor little man in the White House". Well, hardly, Frank.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower was preparing to take over the White House diggings and had won easily as 1) a war hero and 2) on his promise to end the Korean "police action", as President Truman had labeled that conflict. President Eisenhower delivered on his promise and, while United States GI's are still getting assignments in Korea and no formal peace has been signed, shooting is limited to occasional border incidents.

The pace of business was good and the nation had enjoyed a happy holiday season—except for the parents, kin, and friends of the GI's on the Korean firing line.

Now the world verges on 1973, which finds North Carolina anticipating a governmental experience unknown to all but the state's eldest citizens. North Carolina will witness the inauguration of its first Republican governor since D. L. Russell handed over the reins of government to Charles B. Aycock in January 1901. Nor is that all, Republicans chortle and Democrats mourn. Republican Jesse Helms will take the oath of office as United States Senator. I do not have the dates. Has it seen as long, or longer, since North Carolinians were represented by a Republican senator in Washington? (At the time Governor Brunswick was elected in 1896 and for some years thereafter, United States Senators were appointed by the General Assembly, not elected by the people.)

Unhappily, as in 1952, the United States is still involved in an undeclared but heavily shooting war. Over 450,000 ground troops have been brought home, but the "peace is at hand" hope of October 26 has been torpedoed. Just this week, the North Vietnamese put on their old record again, "Stop the bombing and we'll talk some more." President Lyndon Johnson bought the record, and found it cracked; President Richard Nixon bought the record and found the disk still cracked. What now?

But New Year's Day is close at hand and football remains the name of New Year's Day fare, along with blackeyed peas and hog jowls.

There's been a slight change of football format. One of the three big bowl games will be played New Year's Eve, that one down in New Orleans, leaving the New Year's Day gridiron business at Miami's Orange Bowl and Pasadena's Rose Bowl.

The Sugar Bowl managers, according to an interesting feature in the National Observer, playing second fiddle to the other two for several years, think they've got the winning format this year with 1) the best matched teams, on basis of the records and 2) the switch to New Year's Eve.

Let's face it, the Sugar Bowl manager, was quoted, New Orleans is a fun town. Too many New Year's Day hangovers for football interest, he thinks. While participating teams' take-home pay (greatly inferior to those in the Rose Bowl) but on par with the Orange, was still playing second fiddle to the Orange. New Orleans, a venerable city of antiques, doesn't appeal to the big, brawny men who perform on the gridiron. The gridders prefer the promise of those beautiful damsels who cavort on Miami Beach. And, the spokesman adds, "I can't say I blame 'em".

And so, again, best wishes for a most happy and prosperous New Year.

Viewpoints of Other Editors

COMMUNITY SPIRIT WORK ARE KEYS TO IMPROVEMENT

The Western North Carolina Community Development program, which began in 1950, was built around the idea that people could do much to improve their communities simply by pitching in and making use of their own resources.

The concept is simple, but the work isn't. On the part of each community it involves imaginative planning, careful organizing, fund raising and hard hours of labor spent on improvements projects.

Most of all, it involves community spirit and a willingness to work together.

Over the years the program has proved successful even beyond expectations, and 1972 was possibly the best year yet.

Winners were announced at the 23rd annual awards luncheon Saturday, and the list of achievements is nothing short of amazing.

Little River in Transylvania county, for example, took first place in the large-community division for the second year in a row. People there built eight new homes, remodeled 16 and repainted many others.

They sponsored a Scout troop, helped organize a 4-H club, assisted in a Conservation day, enrolled several people in adult education classes, conducted cleanup campaigns, built a community club house and in cooperation with Crab Creek community provided Thanksgiving dinners for 250 children at an orphanage.

First-place winners in the other two divisions, Union Mills and Big Y community of Cherokee had similar projects. In addition, Union Mills provided a farm house and fire truck for its volunteer fire department and Big Y bought an ambulance for its rescue squad.

These are accomplishments of only the top three communities. More than 30 others also won awards.

It all adds up to a highly successful year in a worthwhile program. Our congratulations to this year's winners and to the Asheville Agricultural Development Council for sponsoring the program.—Asheville Citizen.

A FIENDISH TWIST OF FASHION

Pick your cliché: History repeats itself; the more things change the more they remain the same.

Whatever, cuffless trousers are nothing new. Remember your war suit? Our recollection goes back to the Big War, during which pants were made without cuffs, supposedly to have cloth.

As boys, we were grateful for long pants of any description; anything to get out of knickers. And during our adolescence we appreciated cuffs, because how else could Mama let out cuffs so our outgrown and hand-me-down britches could live to fight another day.

We saw this item in the paper the other day about trouser cuffs. They were "invented" by an Englishman of breeding, it seems, in a most practical way. He was caught in the rain on his way to a high-faluting New York wedding. To avoid wetting his pants legs, he turned the bottoms up.

He forgot to turn them down, and fashion-conscious Americans noticed the "new British style" at the wedding and immediately copied him. Shortly, pants-makers installed cuffs, and soon the style reached Britain for real.

We do not lament the passing of the cuff. The cuff was less use, certainly, than pleats, which served to disguise the wearer's pot, and watch pockets, which disappeared even before the demise of pocket watches.

And we rejoice in the hope that loss of the cuff on the trousers will be followed by the elimination of neckties.

We haven't seen a report on the origin of these instruments of social torture, but we suspect this fiendish twist of fashion was created by a demonic, out-of-work hangman bent on revenge against every man who escaped the gallows.—Mooresville Tribune.

DRIVE FOR MEDIOCRITY

More and more educators favor the "open university" concept, where academic requirements are reduced so that a broader segment of students can enroll. The president of the University of Chicago, Edward H. Levi, believes the concept of ruling education: "There is a national drive for mediocrity. They want every young adult to go to college, and then they change the college to make it a more comfortable and attractive place to be. I think it is a disgrace to both the outsiders and the college and even the students."—Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.

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.

- Billy Martin Bagwell
- Willie Bagwell
- Manda Barber
- Donald Blanton
- Sarah Boheler
- Pearl Bridges
- Pearl Carroll
- Rochel Conner
- Moses Crank
- Martha Deese
- Jessie England
- Frances Herndon
- Mary Hicks
- Lottie Jackson
- Rhea Lewis
- Haywood Mackey
- Walter Moorhead
- William Morgan
- Ethel McMillan
- George Peck
- Marie Ramsey
- Thelma Sprouse
- Jessie Taylor
- Eunice Warlick
- Roger Wood
- Shelley Woodard
- James Wylie Connor
- Bertha Hullender
- Jack Clifford Hyde
- Jannie Yatro
- Willie Flarman Black
- Burman Coley Bryant
- Sandra Kay Peterson
- John Gaither Sanders
- Diane Spivey

ADMITTED THURSDAY
Theodore Woodrow Hamilton
107 Center St.
Jackie Annette Sartin, Rt. 1, Dallas

Ella Youngblood, 212 Kings Mtn. St., Clover, S. C.

ADMITTED FRIDAY
Andrew Jefferson Sanders, Rt. 1, Clover, S. C.

Johnny Metcalf, 23 Dixie Trailer Park, City

ADMITTED SATURDAY
Charles Moss, Rt. 2, City

ADMITTED SUNDAY
Theodore Buchanan, 12392 W. Gastonia

Geraldine Houser, 1137 Clouse St., Gastonia

James Looper 105 West Ala. Ave., Bessemer City

Michelle Mauney, 405 Tenn. Ave., Bessemer City

Robin McSwain, Rt. 3, Cherryville

Don Scism, Rt. 1, City

Billy Watts, 610 East Lee Ave., Bessemer City

William Dean Fuller, Rt. 2, Dallas

ADMITTED MONDAY
Doris Ann Johnson, 106 W. King St., City

Laura Kiser, Apt. A, Gray, City

Betty Joyce Lamb, 1517 Lamb Dr., Gastonia

Patricia Queen, 300 Fulton St., City

Roberta Smith, 103 N. Cansler St., City

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For further information contact

The Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission

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