

The Kings Mountain Herald
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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE
My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding; Proverbs 5:1

Answer Indicated As Was Feared

In response to the city commission's resolution urging rapid action on implementing the U. S. 74 by-pass project, Bruce Lentz, secretary of the Department of Transportation has written the Mayor that an indication on the US 74 timetable should be available by July 1.

That, of course, is that much, but the letter of Mr. Lentz' letter gave little if any indication that US 74 is on the high priority list.

Indeed, Mr. Lentz wrote, there are sufficient approved projects on the list from prior highway commissions to consume anticipated funds for the upcoming eight years.

The present commission is now determining "priorities", said Mr. Lentz.

It is presumed that Mr. Lentz and the highway commission will benefit of latest traffic counts, not only those taken on Monday mornings after 10 o'clock, but, hopefully, a few samplings on weekends.

George W. Mauney was reminiscing an incident last summer when a traffic clogged weekend motorist stopped in front of his house and asked, "Is there any quicker way to get through this town." Mr. Mauney routed the motorist to Gold and west to Oriental.

There really isn't any quick way, as some motorists, most locals and some "throughs" have discovered or ferreted out alternates to crowded King Street.

News, of course, but the unhappy kind, is contained in Mr. Lentz' letter, in the report that the 7.3-mile by-pass project is now estimated to cost \$12 million.

The old saying that haste makes waste often applies, but not in this instance. Time was when highway engineering cost estimates for the by-pass was a comparatively modest \$7 million.

A lady asked of the Herald this week what the Herald knew of the by-pass project. The answer: exactly what you know.

The summation is: not much. Two factors are currently delaying federally shared road projects (US 74 is 50 percent federally paid, 50 percent state).

The principal factor is that President Nixon has suspended participation by freezing the federal portion.

The other is the argument in Congress between Congressmen from Metropolitan centers who want to change the formula and rob the highway fund (supplied by federal gasoline taxes) for mass transit and fast transit between urban areas. The Congressmen from the hinterlands, not needful of high speed inter-urban trains and other mass transit media, want to continue to invest in concrete as Kings Mountain (and the motorist passing through) does.

The Herald was somewhat amused on a recent morning at the Charlotte Observer's espousal of the mass transit position. Mecklenburg is growing and is North Carolina's chief metropolitan candidate. But is Charlotte yet a mass transit city?

A US 74 by-pass or throughway has been in the "serious" talking stage since 1949—just 24 years.

Figuring five years to build, and assuming (hardly assured) a top priority rating by the current highway commission, that would make it about three decades in the doing thereof.

Meantime, the traffic pile-ups get worse, worse and (pardon our grammar) worse.

Congratulations to Blair Pethel, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Booth W. Gillespie, who has been appointed to attend the governor's school this summer. The student is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Pethel of Greensboro.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

Nieces and nephews of William Plonk honored him Sunday on his 81st birthday at a dinner at Resurrection Lutheran church dining room.

The birthday celebration burgeoned into a family reunion of the William Lafayette and Regina Ware Plonk progeny. I had been telling folk that, coincidentally, 81 were present for the party. Recheck with Maude Plonk Harper, guiding spirit for the event, reveals there were 82. The extra one seed for another gathering next year? Several have suggested it.

It was the first family gathering ever for the William Lafayette Plonk clan. The elder Mr. Plonk, who died in 1921, was born in 1835.

William Luther Plonk, who's never married, has 22 nieces and nephews, of whom 19 were present. Honored guests included his sisters, Dr. Lillian Plonk, of Asheville, Mrs. Eunice Plonk Harmon and Mrs. Mary Plonk Lovell, of Kings Mountain; his sisters-in-law, Mrs. Carl A. Plonk, of Asheville, Mrs. Rufus L. Plonk and Mrs. Clarence S. Plonk, of Kings Mountain; and two aunts-in-law, Mrs. Michael L. Plonk, age 97, of Gastonia, and Mrs. J. Calvin Plonk, of Hickory.

Mrs. Cal Plonk, a genealogical historian like her late husband, related that the first Plonk to emigrate to the states was Joseph, who arrived from Germany in 1823, settling in the southern edge of Lincoln county. Forebear Joe lived to be 103.

Dr. George Plonk was a masterful master of ceremonies.

I covered biographical details, interspersed with a few favorite anecdotes, about Uncle William, who became plain William when I was a little shaver and he tired of the "Uncle." It happens that William was born slightly less than 400 years (by three months) before Columbus set sail to discover the New World on August 3, 1492, and exactly 117 years after the patriots to the East signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence in 1775.

William finished high school in Kings Mountain at the tender age of 14 and had navigated Lehigh College (now Lehigh-Rhine), three years later. Graduating in the same class were his late sister Laura, valedictorian, and brother Rufus.

He became secretary to Congressman E. Yates Webb of Shelby, until World War I when he became sergeant-major to a general stationed at Chaumont, France. Following the war, he was personal secretary to the president of United States Rubber Company, then a short stay here during his father's final illness, then a return to New York until the early thirties when he returned home and joined Plonk Brothers, where he's been ever since and still is.

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Dr. John Rhodes, a Raleigh nephew, got his medical schooling at Harvard. On one trip to Boston John had the good fortune to be on a train which Fred Butler, William's good friend, was conductor. "I ate all the way to Boston," John recalls, "free."

John (his mother was Ida Plonk, eldest of the family) was always close to his grandfather's family, one summer lived with Grandpa and jerked soda at Finger Drug Company, another served as his Grandfather's chauffeur, and yet another lived at Uncle Rufe's. He describes that summer on the farm as one of "good eatin' and hard work". He described Uncle Rufe as a "gentle disciplinarian", a man of "character, positive thinking and gentle disposition".

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Viewpoints of Other Editors

ACT Wants School Board Representative

The Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night agreed to further study a request from the Association of Classroom Teachers (ACT) for representation on the board of education.

The ACT made the request at the monthly meeting of the school board, asking that a teacher be named to the board as a non-voting member.

The board only last month named Kings Mountain High School Junior John Knox McGill to the board as a non-voting member.

Supt. Don Jones said he did not recommend the resolution and one board member, Alex Owens, expressed disfavor with the idea.

Owens noted that a teacher should "put in his time in the classroom — what he is getting paid for."

Supt. Jones said he has always felt that he is the teachers' representative on the board. "I don't know if this is directed at me," he said, "but I have tried to represent them in a way they wanted to be represented."

Two high school teachers, Phil Bryson and Mrs. Carolyn McWhirter, noted that Jones might have misinterpreted the intentions of the resolution.

Bryson said the resolution was aimed at getting the teachers' viewpoints and Mrs. McWhirter said the purpose is to better communications.

"I don't feel there is a teacher in the system who meant this to be a direct slap at the superintendent," Mrs. McWhirter said. She added that there is often a "breakdown in communications between what has really happened and what happens on our end."

The board also agreed to further study a second request by the ACT on the use of teacher evaluation forms.

The ACT requested that any forms other than the regular evaluation form now being used be submitted to the teacher personnel policy committee for review and recommendation to the board of education.

According to Jones, the resolution came about as a result of a comment he made to Dean Westmoreland, policy committee chairman, that communications regarding evaluations between principal and teacher should be put on paper in some check-list format which would be easy for the principal to administer.

Westmoreland estimated that 90 percent of the teachers are satisfied with the present form. He said passage of the Fair Employment and Dismissal Act had brought about widespread interest in any additional evaluative materials that might be used.

The teachers further requested to have Oct. 5 as a part of the school calendar for the District II NCAE meeting and to exclude use of the public address systems schools as a means of evaluating teachers.

In other business the board: 1) Heard a request from the school architect on the school improvement program and voted to have all-electric power, rather than gas, at East and West schools and to negotiate with Duke Power Co. on use of electric heat at the proposed new junior high;

2) Approved forwarding a letter to county finance officer, Joe Davison, recommending the county levy the full 20 cents authorized levy as a supplemental tax;

3) Approved the hiring of Robert Hendrick as addition band-vocal music teacher for the high school and junior high;

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. Yates D. Blanton
- Mrs. Eather G. Branch
- Mrs. Samuel E. Gales
- Mrs. Julia D. Condry
- Arthur L. Davis
- William Jake England
- Ranson D. Goforth
- Mrs. Virginia G. Grigg
- Lawrence Guy
- Mrs. Gettrude L. Hoffman
- Mrs. Jessie L. Ford
- Max Daniel Ingle
- Mrs. Eugene D. Jackson
- Ervin Alfred Jenkins
- Mrs. Verdie Mae Kale
- Paul B. Kirby
- Hazel E. Lankford
- Laura Jane Laws
- Mrs. Ruth M. Lemester
- John Lewis Jr.
- Mrs. Irene G. Melton
- Walter M. Moorhead
- Manuel A. Moss
- Mrs. Colean D. McDaniel
- Mrs. Betty P. Parker
- Mrs. Rufus Phifer
- Orman Lee Pittman
- Forest C. Sipe
- Mrs. F. Lee Yarbrow
- Kevin R. Bingham
- Billy F. Bridges
- Mrs. Floyd E. Jackson
- Mrs. Glennie Blackston
- Edward O. Gore
- Mrs. Jasper R. Putnam
- Bobby C. Beatty
- Charles C. Dixon
- Mrs. Garlin Hoyle
- Mrs. Bertha K. Hullender
- Mrs. Will W. Whetstone

Announcements Birth

Mr. and Mrs. Hemman L. Bush, Route 1, Gastonia, announce the birth of a son, Tuesday, May 15, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Wayne LeRoy, 605 McDonnell St., Clover, S. C., announce the birth of a son, Friday, May 18, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Jason M. Smith, Rt. 2, Box 705, Bessemer City, announce the birth of a son, Monday, May 21, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Meeks, 407 Walnut Street, announce the birth of a son, Wednesday, May 23, Kings Mountain hospital.

AVC Corp. Buys Grover Mill

Minette Mills of Grover, established in 1919 by the late Charles F. Harry Sr., was sold Tuesday to AVC Corporation of Charlotte and Philadelphia for \$2.5 million.

It was announced Wednesday in a joint statement by Dr. Frank H. Reichel Jr., president of AVC, Charlotte, and June L. Parks Jr., of Gaffney, president of Minette Mills, Inc., that a plan has been formulated whereby in excess of 80 percent of the common stock of Minette would be acquired by AVC. Under the plan the result would be the acquisition of 100 percent of the common stock by AVC. It was reported that Minette stockholders will receive \$250 for each of the 10,000 shares now outstanding.

Terms call for initial payment of 15 percent with the balance in notes payable over the next eight years. Additional payments based on attainment of certain earnings levels during the next two years might also be made.

The mill currently employs 550 persons and runs three shifts. It makes upholstery fabrics and bedspreads and grosses approximately \$16 million annually.

Charles F. Harry Jr., chairman of the board of Minette Mills, Har-Ray Mills Inc., and Grover Industries, said Wednesday that most of the Harrys were against the sale. "But we were outnumbered and since most of the stock was owned by others, there was not much point in trying to hold on," he said.

Har-Ray Mills, a spinning plant operation, and Grover Industries, a warping, dyeing and slashing operation, was not involved in the sale and will remain with the original owners. The Harry family owns controlling stock in both operations.

Minnette was built in 1919 by Charles F. Harry Sr., who was a lumber dealer. It was first in the table cloth manufacturing business. Bedspread manufacturing was added in 1928 with upholstery fabrics added shortly thereafter, according to C. F. Harry Jr.

Minnette became a corporation in 1946 and the Harry sons and daughters were given opportunities to obtain stocks.



GOVERNOR JAMES E. HOLSHOUSER, JR. (R.) is shown receiving a certificate of appointment as Honorary Chairman of the North Carolina U. S. Savings Bonds Committee. The appointment was made by Secretary of the Treasury George P. Shultz. Presenting the appointment certificate is Elwood W. Worley (L), President, The Wachovia Corporation and Volunteer North Carolina State Chairman for Savings Bonds.

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