

**Established 1889**  
**The Kings Mountain Herald**  
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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**

*My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding; Proverbs 5:1*

**Rule By Fiat**

The Herald has long decried—and will—rule by fiat.

The nation, of course, is loaded therewith at all levels of government, with the federal government and her myriad agencies far out front in the sweepstakes.

Rule by law and according to law in a foundation stone of the nation since her becoming one, based on the bad experiences of the other method under Britain for the English colonists, along with the same for the many Dutch, German and French who, with the English, were the bulk of the first settlers.

Thus the McKee case caused some perturbation.

The young student was two over on absences in an English class and, in spite of "A" and "B" marks, drew an "F".

The Kings Mountain district board of education invoked the policy rule at the summer session of 1972 and made the policy year-round last autumn. The maximum absences to obtain passing marks are 15 per semester.

The parents of Miss McKee complained and were informed that the rule is "state board policy", as ours.

The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard McKee, say their daughter is subject to a chronic throat ailment and this was the cause of the absences, in some instances requiring her to leave school for sick bed at home after she courageously had begun the school day.

It strikes that the question of passing or failing any course should be limited to one: Has the student assimilated a sufficient amount of the 4.0 content to justify continuance on the road?

The Herald is sympathetic to the position of the Kings Mountain board of education and to the prodding of the state board of this issue, too, by that sometimes educator - managed state board.

There are hypochondriacal students, particularly on test days when same students are unprepared. There are hypochondriacal parents, too, sometimes in their own right, perhaps more often on behalf of their undisciplined youngsters. There are parents, too who, like the fabled blind mule, simply don't give a darn.

After all, though, the law requires youngsters to be exposed to the education process for ten years, age six to 18.

But there should be reason in all matters.

The board of education was wise to order a review in the case of Miss McKee. If the young lady has the content of the course — as indicated by her grades, absences notwithstanding — then, the board of education should waive the rule.

The thinking of the Raleigh brass notwithstanding.

**Dog Notes**

Dog - pet quarantine notes:

Items:

1) To a query on sentiment by a Charlotte Observer reporter, the Herald Editor replied, "About the same division, 50-50, they love 'em or they hate 'em."

2) City Clerk Joe McDaniel and his wife have acquired another dog. They didn't want the nice doggie shot. They called all the neighbors but found no claimants. New member (bitch) gets along with old dog (bitch) just fine. That was the test. New dog has new home until claimed by owner, or just decides to leave.

Dog lover, the Herald, has no truck with non-dog lovers, including certain very personal and continuing friends who do.

The dog's best friend continues to be man.

But the wives quickly get into the business, too.

**Nearing Reality**

The nursing home report on Page 1 of today's Herald is quite good news for Kings Mountain.

It is a very needed facility. There, of course, is a reservation. There were not planned, nor are they to be, minus expansion plans, enough rooms and/or beds.

A Kings Mountain doctor told the Herald before the fact of a nursing home-to-be, himself, could fill twenty bed on that particular day. He suggested he was not the only doctor in town.

This has been a needed facility for a long, long time.

Kings Mountain folk go to Cherryville, to Shelby, to Gastonia and to far more distant points.

The current report was not due to the two-months-opening as much as to the fact of continuing need.

Beneficiary pluses accrue to the few, like the elderly Kings Mountain woman who didn't even like to come home to her own folk for Christmas dinner. This lady wanted to be with her new-found friends of same age and grade. Many want, and can't, adjust to distances as far away as 13 miles. Visiting at home are more frequent, healthful for cared and cared for alike. Most want to see kin and friend.

The opening of an obviously inadequate health adjunct presages the building of new facilities.

**Mrs. Joe H. Thomson**

The Herald doubts that Mrs. Erma Willeford Thomson would object to being labeled a pioneer Kings Mountain citizen.

She wasn't quite.

The Willefords arrived around 1880 from Eastern North Carolina.

But Miss Erma, as she was known to a whole host of Kings Mountain citizens, past and present, was Kings Mountain.

She was of a mercantile family and told the Herald that the family's first Kings Mountain domicile was the famed Mountain View Hotel, now site of the Joy Theatre, before her family built the residence on West Mountain street in which she was reared and which was her residence when she died last week.

Many did not appreciate her keen appreciation of human nature which included a natural wit.

Some years ago a Herald reporter, in an human interest story intended as nothing more witty than one of those happenings which are innate to the human being, and school kids in particular, did an off-beat story on a lice epidemic at East school, where Mrs. Thomson was an effective and able principal as well as queen father to faculty and students.

On accountancy (at first meeting the following Tuesday), the Herald received momentary benefit of Mrs. Thomson's discipline. It was tough. Midpoint, Mrs. Thomson started laughing, then said, "I don't see why I'm complaining. We had 'em when I went to school."

Just one sample.

Back to the original, Mrs. Thomson was a lady dedicated to her teaching profession, to which she gave 51 years. She loved people, perhaps more particularly the little ones.

She couldn't be beat.

Who'd try? Or want to?

Many folk have been teasing Mayor John Henry Moss about the inclusion of and addition thereof of a privilege license tax for promoters. The best promoter around, they say, is Mayor John Henry Moss: City Clerk McDaniel: his tax for privilege of practice is \$10 per year.

Best bows are all-round are for Don Parker, the newly elected president of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis club.

**MARTIN'S MEDICINE**

By MARTIN HARMON

As I was starting in John Henry Moss' door Wednesday afternoon, so was another young (sic) man. He introduced himself as Tom Oliver, with the Gastonia Gazette. So we visited with the Mayor together.

m-m

It's my inherent habit to ask a new acquaintance where he started out in this vale of tears. Tom replied, "Thibodeaux, Louisiana".

m-m

I know where Thibodeaux is, I replied, southwest of New Orleans, which he confirmed at about 50 miles and 25 from the Gulf of Mexico.

m-m

Never having been there, how would I know?

m-m

The American Legion Magazine carries a regular listing of upcoming listings of reunions of service groups and a couple of years ago Joe McDaniel called my attention to the upcoming reunion for USS Almaack, my first ship. If interested, the guy to contact was an ex-Almaacker named Hebert (same name as that of the Louisiana U. S. Representative Edward Hebert), Thibodeaux, La. I promptly did. How wonderful it would be to reunite with Pappy Davis, who gave me first lessons in conning a ship, John Brugger, the gutty Dutchman from Philadelphia, Jim Sprague, from New York city and Salamanca, N. Y., who tooted clarinet next to me in the Midshipman school band, etc., etc. I promptly wrote M. Hebert and dug out an atlas to locate Thibodeaux. How delightful! Maybe reunion site would be New Orleans!

m-m

Time passed and no word from M. Hebert. One night I called him, only to learn Almaackers would not be gathering, unless it was to be a reunion for two, I was the only guy who'd contacted Hebert.

m-m

Oliver, though a North Carolinian by only four weeks, is already enthralled with the beauty of the area. Thibodeaux's Gulf beach was not the beautiful sandy strand stretching from Mobile, Ala., to Biloxi, Miss., but marsh. Oliver even tried to rent a house here and praised the Chamber of Commerce for its diligent but unsuccessful efforts. He finally found out in the Robindale area off New Hope road. He liked the idea of sealing Crowder's and Kings Mountain, but I told him I was too ripe to be a spelot anymore, but would find him an experienced and suitable guide. For a real thrill, I suggested he scale the cliff on the face. He sounded game. He's married, has a three-year-old son. John and I liked our new-found friend.

m-m

Paul Hambricht, the former agriculture teacher, did a good job installing Lions club officers Tuesday night. He promised not to go by the ritual book, to which he had been subjected while visiting with the Fallston Lions one night. It was a two-hour grind.

m-m

Paul opened with some good stories. In his serious remarks, he declared today's major problem is one of communications. People tend to fall into the human trap of reading only what they like to read and believing only what they like to believe.

m-m

Paul thinks Watergate will be beneficial. He said, "There are a lot of Watergates in all our lives. Watergate may get all of us thinking again." He said citizens should get involved in community affairs including politics. All tend to support candidates for personal benefit rather than community benefit, when the community should be the prime consideration.

m-m

He recalled the "community action" of Grover in 1958 when Carl Finger in a run-off for the Grover's Broad Ellis defeated county commission nomination. The winning margin was completely Grover which almost literally voted the book, giving Broad over 500 and Carl just two.

m-m

This brought a quip from Charlie Blanton, who said Carl, who had three men working for him, couldn't understand why he only got two votes.

m-m

"We checked that out," Paul replied. "Those two guys couldn't read and write."

**Viewpoints of Other Editors**

**SAVING THE LOBSTER'S HABITAT**

The Maine lobster, which supplies 75 per cent of our total national consumption and is the tastiest in the world, is in grave danger.

For many crustacean fanciers, Maine lobsters costs so much that it is already virtually extinct. In seafood markets, the minimum price for a whole lobster, a third of which is inedible, is about \$3 a pound; in a sophisticated restaurant, one might pay \$13.50 or considerably more for a one-and-half-pound specimen.

As the late Silas Spitzer recently noted in "Travel and Leisure," lobsters are now so expensive that "buying enough to satisfy a family is a serious project, like adding a new wing to your house." But the most troubling aspect of the situation is that ultimately there may be no Maine lobster for anyone to buy.

Lobsters were once so common that inshore waters along our northeastern coast were teeming with them. But rising prices and a growing demand for this succulent delicacy lured more men into lobster trapping. Now scarcity forces some trappers to venture out as far as 200 miles.

Faced with a dwindling supply, some trappers keep undersized lobsters, saving only the tails to avoid being caught with illegal catch. This practice not only depletes current numbers, but also threatens future generations since the sexually-immature small fry are taken before they can reproduce.

But the greatest threat comes not from the New England trappers, but from the big, foreign trawlers which operate just outside our 12-mile limit. These sophisticated trawlers, note Spitzer, "with their enormous finely meshed nets that miss nothing bigger than a sardine, have already exhausted fishing grounds in other parts of the world. Our nearby ocean waters may be the next to go."

It might be well for us to consider a moratorium on lobster trapping to give the species time to multiply. In order to save the other inhabitants of our off-shore fishing grounds, Washington might have to join other nations in the growing practice of claiming exclusive fishing rights over a 200-mile zone off the coasts and be prepared to defend it.—Charlotte Observer.

**A PLAGUE OF BUGGINGS**

A recent emigrant from Russia tells of the trouble he had explaining to Americans what life is like in a police state; as a Zionist leader, he was accustomed to having his apartment bugged.

But his American friends in Cambridge, Mass., invariably answered with something like, "We have the same thing here; look at Watergate."

The refugee concluded that Americans are naive, which may be partly true. Innocent might be a better word, since Watergate suggests that Americans are more easily shocked by such things. But the condemnation here of practices that are common in many other parts of the world is based on more than either naivete or innocence. It stems also from a shared concept of what is permissible official conduct plus considerable confidence that our institutions can and should deal with officials who step over the line.

Such confidence hardly exists in totalitarian countries and it is weaker than we sometimes suspect in some countries that we normally think of as democratic. These have been revelations of official wiretapping in France, Italy and Switzerland recently, for example, but with nothing approaching the repercussions of Watergate.

According to Le Figaro, a Paris newspaper, an appendage of the premier's office known as the Interministerial Grouping for Control, is wired into Paris telephone exchanges. Police, Intelligence and Finance officials can order bugs, although the official who orders a tap normally runs a clearance check to make sure some other official didn't get there first, says the newspaper.

Italy has been beset with a bugging plague of both private and official origin, so it is believed. Bugs have been found at the Bank of Italy, newspapers, party headquarters, embassies, even the legation of the Knights of Malta. One highway official claimed recently that he was subjected to blackmail based on secret recordings of his conversations.

A leader of the Swiss Jura separatists recently claimed that many prominent sympathizers with its cause had been bugged. The Jura is a French-speaking section of the Canton of Bern which some inhabitants would like to organize as a separate Canton under the federal constitution.

We don't know how Europeans will fare on bugging. But the public reaction in the P. S. will help, we suspect, to discourage future illicit snooping by government officials here. If that is naive or innocence, we hope Americans hang onto both for a long time.—Wall Street Journal.

**INFORMATION ACT REFORM**

Just how the best of intentions, even of Congress, may go awry has been amply demonstrated by the Freedom of Information Act. This act was supposed to be the key to unlocking the nonsecret files of government bureaus and agencies to the public when information from those files was sought.

The act provided that all government papers, opinions, records, policy statements and staff manuals were to be made available to the public upon request. If a document was refused, the requestor could take the agency or department to court, and the burden of proof for withholding the document would be on the government.

At the time the act was passed in 1966, it was hailed as a milestone for the people's right to know. Unfortunately for that right, the act has not worked that way. In fact, it has hardly worked at all. Bureau and agency officials have found loopholes in the law which have enabled them to withhold information they did not wish to reveal. Among the means employed for circumventing the act were deliberate interminable delays in responding to requests for information, placing of sensitive but nonclassified documents in the same file with classified documents, requiring those who requested documents to specifically identify the information sought by title or file number.

Now Congress is considering ways to close the loopholes in the act. Identical bills have been introduced in the Senate and House to accomplish that objective, and hearings got under way recently on the bills. Hopefully, Congress this session will amend the law to make it a Freedom of Information Act in fact as well as in name and thus strengthen the people's right to know what is going on in their government.—Dallas Tex.) Times Herald.

**Announcements Birth**

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Lee Greene, Rt. 1, Chestnut Ridge Rd., announce the birth of a son, Thursday, June 21, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Thombs, Box 425, announce the birth of a son, Friday, June 22, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. McClain, Box 44, Bessemer City, announce the birth of a daughter, Sunday, June 24, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sides, Rt. 1, Grover, announce the birth of a daughter, Monday, June 25, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill J. Calhoun, Route 6, Mapleswood Drive, Gastonia, announce the birth of a daughter, Monday, June 25, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Mason, Route 1, Box 149, announce the birth of a daughter, Tuesday, June 26, Kings Mountain hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Goode,

Route 2, Dallas, announce the birth of a son, Tuesday, June 26, Kings Mountain hospital.

**10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events taken from the 1963 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

Special services will be held at Resurrection Lutheran church Sunday morning at 10 dedicating the church's steeple addition. Joan McClure and Virginia Goforth, high school seniors, have returned from attending annual Tar Heel Girls State held on the campus of Woman's College at Greensboro.

**SOCIAL AND PERSONAL**  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Marcus Owens have announced the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Jeanette, to Charles Dean Preston, son of Dr. and Mrs. John Montgomery Preston, IV, of Columbia, S. C. An August 11th 5 p.m. wedding is planned in Boyce Memorial ARP church.

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**PLONKS**

