



The Kings Mountain Herald

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Debt Consolidation

When County Schools Superintendent Vince Colombo advanced a proposal for district school debt consolidation the Herald initially looked askance, principally due to the question: Why?

School folk, after conversation with bond attorneys and the director of the Local Government Commission, have brought forth on answers.

Now is the likely time, it is said, indeed the best time, for equalization of the debts.

Until the 1971 General Assembly adopted its local government re-organization act, effective the recent July 1, there wasn't much reason. But under the new law financing of capital expenditures (property, equipment buildings, building additions) is now on a county-wide basis. The Kings Mountain high school and improvements and additions to other school plants was the last district financing possible under the law in Cleveland County.

Since all future capital financing will be county-wide, the local and state officials reason, equalization of the district debt makes sense.

The county commission with full agreement by the school folk, have followed for many years the policy of appropriating schools funds—both the annually appropriated amounts and returns from county-wide capital bond issues—on a per capita pupil basis.

Because the county district defeated, by the slim margin of eight votes, a district bond issue last year, the equalization imbalance due the county district is \$4,050,032. Kings Mountain, with 23.43 percent of the pupils, owes \$3,050,000. Shelby district, with 27.08 percent of the pupils, owes \$3,584,000. The county district, with 49.49 percent of the pupils, owes only \$2,450,000.

And the county district badly needs the differential to construct two junior high school plants.

Should the voters approve a bond issue in the amount of the imbalance the money would be provided for the two junior high schools and also vote the debt equalization plan, debt equalization, as it will of necessity be in the future for new financing, will be virtual fact.

On basis of present district property valuations, Kings Mountain district gain slightly. With 23.43 percent of the enrollment, Kings Mountain district shows only 21.41 percent of the district property valuation.

School officials say the proposal for debt consolidation has no overtones of a county-wide school consolidation with elimination of the Shelby and Kings Mountain systems and their consolidation into a single county-wide system.

This, of course, the patrons of the two city systems do not want, for the simple reason that the county district citizens have turned down at every opportunity their chances to equalize special district taxes for operations.

In this imbalanced area, Shelby district citizens have authorized a supplement of 40 cents per \$100 property valuation and Kings Mountain a 220 cents per \$100 supplement. The county district supplement is zero.

Sewage disposal is perhaps the most unglamorous—yet perhaps one of the most necessary—municipal services. It is therefore quite good news that planning and property easement acquisition are virtually complete and that the city expects to invite bids on the \$700,000-plus project next month.

Congratulations to Boyce Gault, Jr., recently promoted to a vice presidency of North Carolina National Bank.

Congratulations to Steve Summitt, grandson of Andrew B. Summitt, Sr., of Kings Mountain, who has been appointed to the United States Air Force academy by Representative William M. Colmer, of Mississippi.

Pressure For Money

Action this week by financial institutions, both banks and savings and loan associations, to further escalate rates of interest paid on savings, accents the pressure for more lendable funds.

The reasons area several, principal one higher costs for everything, and in instance of the savings and loan associations, dedicated solely to the building industry, higher cost of residences, provided case-in-point recently in a routine report of issuance of city building permits.

The Herald and its readers were time report of issuance of city building permits.

The builder of a six-room, two-bath home bought a building permit indicating a cost just a fraction shy of \$40,000. The same report found a home owner, making some one-time comparatively minor alterations and additions, estimating his cost at \$20,000.

The other reason is concurrent heavy for mortgage money.

The Kings Mountain area, certainly, is hardly "caught up" on residential housink needs.

Thus, it is now possible, if a person wants to commit his savings for four years, to obtain seven percent return—quite heady, at first look, to many citizens who remember the days not too long when the savings return was three percent.

One savings and loan executive however says he isn't going to recommend the heady stuff.

"We'll take it, of course, if that's what savers want. But a four-year commitment is a long time. I don't know, nor does anyone else. But it is not impossible the pressure for money will escalate further and that the rate paid on savings will escalate even more. The saver with long commitment would be caught," he averaged.

His point is that, as the low bid is not always the best bid, neither is the current high dollar necessarily the highest dollar, long-term.

Congratulations to Carl F. Mauney on his re-election as chairman of Kings Mountain Redevelopment commission. Mr. Mauney has headed the commission since it was constituted over seven years ago. He has done an effective job in a position that is sometimes quite difficult. Two major projects underway are quite mammoth, the central business district redevelopment and Cansler area urban renewal projects. As citizens can see, the years and months of planning are beginning to show results.

Mrs. Allen

Our consideration sympathy to the Irvin M. Allen family at the death of their mother.

The Allen family lived in Kings Mountain in the twenties when Mr. Allen was chief of police here.

She was the quite gracious mother of a large and live family.

The death of Miss Sadie Lutz saddened her many friends in Kings Mountain, as it did throughout the country.

Many folk cocked an eyebrow at the recent foray of Senator Edward Kennedy to Alabama where he shared the rostrum with Governor George Wallace. Speculation arose immediately: Is the 1976 Democratic ticket to be Kennedy-Wallace? Hardly impossible. The name of the successful political game is aligning of seemingly dissident persons and political philosophies.

MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

I have completed this week reading "The Winds of War" Reader's Digest condensation, latest novel by Herman Wouk. As all of Wouk's books I've read, the latest is another mark of an outstanding novelist. He is a true craftsman. Indeed, the condensation was good to the point I found myself regretting I'd succumbed to the condensation. I found myself wishing I'd waited to obtain the full version.

m-m

Wouk's first big hit was "The Caine Mutiny", was not only a best seller, but was dramatized for Broadway and television, with Lloyd Nolan playing the paranoiac Captain Queeg, and motion pictures, with Humphrey Bogart depicting the Captain.

m-m

The author was a classmate of mine at navy midshipman's school. He'd graduated from Columbia University in 1938 and, until the war arrived, and he went the navy route, he had been a joke writer for radio comedian Fred Allen.

m-m

In "The Winds of War", Wouk returns to the navy as a vehicle, as he did with "The Caine Mutiny". Wouk, meantime, had used other media for his other novels, "Marjorie Morningstar" (also a movie), "Youngblood Hawk", and a comedy spoof set in the Caribbean which delineated the trials and tribulations of a New York advertising executive who mistakenly thought he was semi-retiring to a life of ease by buying a resort hotel.

m-m

There's an interesting added note to "The Winds of War" by Rear Admiral Dan Gallery, famed World War II aircraft carrier commander. The Admiral got acquainted with Wouk via "The Caine Mutiny". The Admiral said he started reading the novel aboard his carrier USS Enterprise about 5 o'clock one afternoon and finished it in one sitting about 5 o'clock the next morning. He wrote Wouk a fan letter, saying how much he'd enjoyed the tale to which some navy professionals took exception. Wouk replied with appreciation and the Admiral invited him from a week's excursion aboard Enterprise.

m-m

Wouk is Jewish and kosher and Admiral Gallery writes, so informed him when he came aboard. "I won't be able to eat the same as you do," Wouk told the Admiral. "I'm kosher." So, said the Admiral, the cook cooked kosher.

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The friendship has continued to this day.

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Wouk's active duty during World War II included three years duty aboard destroyers in the Pacific. In "The Caine" he records Willie's ship in the throes of a typhoon, which resulted in the capsizing and loss of two other destroyers.

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Wouk not only knew whereof he wrote, having been in one, but there almost weren't any Wouk novels. During the typhoon he was being blown and washed across the dock, saved himself by the good fortune of grabbing a lone rope, which held.

m-m

Another book I've recently read is a review copy of Bobby Early's "The Jealous Ear". Bobby worked for the Herald one summer and, as far as I know, the first Herald graduate, to have a novel published (The MacMillan Company). Publication date, is August 2. (The late Editor G. G. Page published "Commanders at Kings Mountain" for the 1930 sesqui-centennial.)

m-m

Bobby's tale is of two southern families in a small community which could easily be Kings Mountain. The story builds to an interesting climax. Not unusually, the Papa of one of the families is a major league baseball player, as was Bobby's father, Jake Early, who became the regular Washington Senator catcher in 1939, after apprenticing in the minors for three seasons at Jacksonville, Chattanooga and Charlotte.

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"The Jealous Ear" is well worth reading.

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Bobby wrote the novel while teaching at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

m-m

Interestingly to me, the president of Bowling Green, as recently as a couple of years ago at least, was Dr. Ralph McDonald, the twice unsuccessful North Carolina gubernatorial candidate. Dr. MacDonald was defeated in the Democratic primaries by Governor Clyde R. Hoey in 1936 and by Governor Gregg Cherry in 1944.



Viewpoints of Other Editors

CRIME

On three occasions within a week, New Yorkers who were chance witnesses to street crimes have taken an active part either in apprehending the suspects or in assisting the police in making the arrests.

In one instance, three local citizens actually gave chase and captured two suspected muggers near the scene of the violent attack. In another incident, passers-by surrounded a taxicab in which three suspects attempted to flee from the scene of a purse snatching and formed a human barrier until police could take over. In the third episode, the neighbors of a 9-year-old girl who was alleged to have been the victim of an attempted rape overpowered the suspect and turned him over to the police.

Although the last of these citizen actions may, in fact, have been carried out with an excessive use of force, leaving the suspect unconscious, the cumulative message of the three incidents points to a gratifying re-emergence of public cooperation with police efforts to combat crime. It is an encouraging departure from what in the past has too often appeared to be either an attitude of resignation and indifference or an actual tendency to condone criminal acts.

Ultimately, the war against violent street crime must, of course, be carried on and won by trained and authorized law-enforcement personnel. But the chances for victory over the muggers will be infinitely greater in an atmosphere of public condemnation of the criminals and active support of the law—New York Times.

PING PONG DIPLOMACY AGAIN

Two ears ago a Peking invitation for an American tennis team to visit China provided the breakthrough for American-Chinese rapprochement. "This summer Peking is trying ping pong diplomacy" again by inviting Taiwan to send a table tennis team to the mainland. But the Nationalist Chinese are unlikely to pick up the ball.

The invitation is in fact the latest of a series of nods by Peking in the direction of the Nationalist regime, and all previous nods have been ignored. Despite their diplomatic isolation since the Washington-Peking reconciliation and their expulsion from the United Nations, the Nationalists have found that the can get along in the world very well as they are.

The Monitor's overseas editor who recently visited Taiwan says that at no level did he find any indication of interest in overtures from Peking. And he quoted this pointed comment: For Taiwan to enter talks with the mainland would be as great a folly as a turtle's choosing to house itself with an elephant.

Taiwan's booming economy will enable it to hold its head high for the foreseeable future. With a population of only 15 million compared with the mainland's 750 million, Taiwan's foreign trade is actually greater than that of the mainland. Understandably enough the Nationalist Chinese consider that they have nothing further to lose by carrying on as they are, but they might lose all if they got sucked up by the mainland.—The Christian Science Monitor.

SECURING THE HATCH

While John Dean was revealing how the White House had sought to turn the federal bureaucracy to its own political ends, the Supreme Court was upholding the Hatch Act, which limits the political activities of civil servants.

The two circumstances could hardly have meshed better if it had been planned that way. The main purpose of the Hatch Act is to guard against just the type of thing Mr. Dean was describing. It enables civil servants to say no, with the full support of the law, when higher-ups seek to employ them for political purposes. They are in fact proscribed from holding party office, soliciting funds and votes and other specified activities.

The American Civil Liberties Union brought the court tests of the act on behalf of six federal employees, the National Association of Letter Carriers and six political committees representing both major parties. It argued that the act was too vague and broad and denied government employees the rights enjoyed by other citizens.

While the High Court ruled that this is not unconstitutional, there is no denying that federal employees are asked to accept certain limitations on their freedoms. However, the act protects them as well. Is it inconceivable, after hearing Mr. Dean, that Internal Revenue Service employees, for example, might otherwise come under strong pressure to conduct unethical audits of the tax returns of someone's political enemies?

The act seeks to protect the public against political zealots who would use the government machinery to punish foes, raise party funds or for other purposes to expand their own power. The protection, as we know, is not perfect, but there should be little doubt by now that it is needed.—Wall Street Journal.

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.

Today's Herald is being published on the recently acquired Goss Cox-O-Type newspaper press.

School bells will ring for Kings Mountain pupils August 30th, according to the 1963-64 school year calendar approved by the board of education in regular monthly session.

Har-Ray Mills, Inc. will begin operation at Grover in late August with an initial work force of from 30-35 employees.

SOCIAL and PERSONAL

Central Methodist church provided the setting Saturday at 5:30 p.m. for an exchange of wedding vows uniting Miss Peggy Ann Black and Harold Henry Jackson in marriage.

Myra Deborah McGinnis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dick McGinnis, celebrated her sixth birthday at a yard party Wednesday, July 10th, at her home on Crescent Circle.

Friday Benefit At Crossroads

Cleveland County Rescue Squads will stage a big benefit Friday night at Crossroads Music Park to raise money for equipment.

The big show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets at \$3.00 (in advance) or \$3.50 at the door may be purchased from any member. The event will feature music by Naomi and Seago Brothers, the Lewis Family and the Carolina Quartet.

All proceeds from the show will benefit area rescue squads, said Tom Brooks, operator of the Crossroads entertainment center.

Four Building Permits Issued

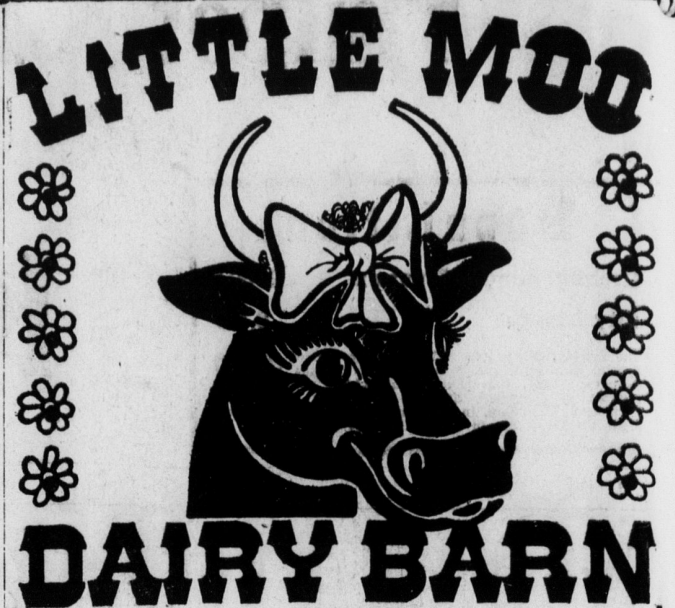
The following building permits have been issued by Woodrow W. Laughter, city building inspector:

To William and Nancy Wiggins, 505 Ellenwood Drive, \$6400 two-room addition to residence.

To Bill and Kay Davis, 511 E. Ridge street, \$1200 repairs, Jack Thresher contractor.

To Myrtle Mack, 703 Church St. \$500 repairs, Shelby Roofing Company contractor.

A perimeter zoning permit was issued to Ellenwood Land and Development Company for construction of a residence on Bob McGill road.



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