

State needs law on death penalty

Sens. Ollie Harris and Marshall Rauch deserve the support of Kings Mountain and Cleveland Countians in their request of Gov. Jim Holshouser to call a special session of the General Assembly to redraw a constitutional capital punishment law.

We feel strongly that the Governor will have to be shown by the people of this state they want action and not non-committal answers in the matter of the death penalty.

And should a new law be drawn it will have to be done in such a manner that those convicted beyond a reasonable doubt of taking another human life will be duly executed. It is ridiculous that this state has had 116 convicted people sentenced to death languishing on death row at Central Prison in Raleigh.

The law says the justice system has a responsibility to see that citizens charged with crimes be given a fair and impartial trial. And those convicted have right to appeals.

But, we also have a responsibility to the families of those citizens who have died at the hands of those convicted. These people and the memories of those who have been brutally murdered have a right to justice also.

We agree that the death penalty is not much of a deterrent to crimes of passion — an incident that happens suddenly without thought, but disagree the state's right to execute convicted murderers is not a deterrent to those who might plan taking the life of another human being.

We humans, in the name of freedom, have stood by and allowed our nation's lawmakers to pull some pretty stupid moves. That made us as misguided as the lawmakers. But, in the final analysis, it is the people who must make it known what they want.

We commend Sens. Harris and Rauch on their stand in the matter of capital punishment legislation and support their efforts.

Congratulations Boy Scout Troop 91



Boy Scout Troop 91 is 50 years old.

One of the very few troops in North Carolina to have reached such a milestone, troop 91 is the only scout organization to have operated successfully and continuously for half a century in Kings Mountain.

During this time the troop has been solely sponsored by St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

Each member of the troop has been honored by the Piedmont Boy Scout Council with a special fiftieth anniversary badge and a Bicentennial neckerchief.

Troop 91 was organized in an era when Scouting was one of the handful of real goals most boys reached for in life. But, even today, with a myriad of activities bidding for young people's time, scouting is still strong.

Troop 91's success attests to this. Congratulations.



READER DIALOGUE

Questions on sewer, wages....

To the editor,

As a citizen, taxpayer and former commissioner of the City of Kings Mountain, I have a couple of questions I would like answered.

First, I want to know what the plans are and how much it is going to cost the city to have sewer lines run from the east side of the city, west to the Pilot Creek treatment plant. I make reference to a comment made by Mayor John H. Moss in announcing the coming of Union Underwear to the city.

Mayor Moss said Union, at peak employment, will use a million gallons of water daily and that the waste will be treated at the Pilot Creek Plant.

Presently, Kingsmont Knit uses the McGill Plant facilities for waste treatment. Union Underwear is taking over the Kingsmont plant. The McGill plant, presently, is only about 250,000 to 300,000 gallons daily from capacity.

There are no sewer lines running from the east to the west at present time, except from Craftsman and that line only handles the Craftsman waste.

Secondly, I am interested in learning exactly the increases in wages to the mayor and the commissioners as of July 5. In a budget story the mayor said the city employees were to receive a five percent cost of living increase and that the mayor and commissioners would also receive an increase.

How much is the increase to the mayor and the board members? Five percent? Or More?

The point I am trying to make is that as a member of the last board of commissioners I have no memory of taking a vote to increase wages for the next (the current) board and mayor and that's the way it is supposed to be done.

LLOYD DAVIS
Kings Mountain

Ode to drunken computer

Last week our computer was suddenly taken drunk while reading the story about Southern Bell and the municipal parking lot.

Libby Good, our typesetter, got angry and threatened to punchout the computer if it didn't start shaping up. She even threatened to have it arrested, but still the metallic Frankenstein continued spitting out garbled copy.

Clyde Hill, our advertising director who once put a garden tractor back together with shake and bake and Elmer's Glue, put in a hurried call to Compugraphic in Atlanta.

"Send somebody," he said. "Somebody arrived Wednesday of last week and stayed until Friday. This guy gets \$30 an hour for repair work and he spent most of his time sitting in a metal chair staring at the innards of the computer.

"Boy, that's something, isn't it?" he asked once in awhile.

"Yeah. Thirty an hour is..." Darrell started to say.

"...No, no. I mean this computer is something."

"Does that mean you can't fix it?" Darrell asked after three days.

"I've never seen a computer I



TOM MCINTYRE

couldn't fix," the fix-it man answered.

Well, to make this narrative a bit shorter, he couldn't fix it.

So, Monday a second fix-it man arrived.

Tears filled his eyes when he gazed at our drunken 4900-61 single lens computer. "I once reworked this very machine," he sniffed.

"Please. Don't weep on the machine," Darrell said. "On top of everything else we don't need rust to contend with."

So, the second Mr. Fix-it set to work.

"I don't know what I did, but it

seems to be working," he announced after a few hours on the job.

"Well, tell us what you did so we won't know what to do next time," Darrell said. By this time our general manager was a little bit flaky.

As of today the 4900-61 single lens computer is cold sober and responding nicely to command. How long it will last... I don't wanna talk about it.

And, if you've gotten this far then you are aware there have been some changes in The Mirror-Herald this week. The number one and most important change is the fact you can now read the print.

That's because all body-type is now set in 10 instead of eight point. We have a new type strip that contains nine and 10 point type. If you had trouble deciphering last week's issue then you know what we were up against. Our eight point strip was beginning to fade.

Our executive board, which is me, Clyde 'n Darrell and a wine collecting bottles from the gutter we grabbed, met in the washroom to decide what to do.

Clyde said one more issue like last week's and the boss would have to print "Warning; the Surgeon General has determined that reading The Mirror-Herald will make you cross-eyed" on each paper.

The results of the conference is what you see here. The type style is called News No. 6 and it is of medium hue.

While we were at it we decided to change the style of the masthead and the editorial page standing heads and column masts.

Looking Back

George B. Thomasson, Kings Mountain native and son of Mrs. Ruth C. Thomasson and the late C. F. Thomasson, Sr., announced yesterday that he is opening offices for the practice of law on Monday.

School bells ring again Monday for Bethware School pupils, who will begin an eight week school term, along with majority of the other rural school children of the county.

Kings Mountain's contribution to North Carolina's burgeoning historical drama industry, "The Sword of Gideon," will open for a 12 performance season one week before on Thursday, July 23.

Miss Matilda Dedmon has returned from a week's vacation with Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Farabow at their cottage at Folly Beach.

Mrs. W. K. Mauney, Jr. entertained members of the Duplicate Bridge Club Monday at her home, Glenbrook.

Miss Marjorie Dickey has returned to Asheville after visiting with her mother, Mrs. Paul J. Beam.



Photo by Gary Stewart

SPECIAL MAILING - Mrs. Yvonne Stokes and her daughter, Molly, took advantage of the special mail box set up at Kings Mountain National Military

Park on the Fourth of July. Special arrangements were made to have all letters dropped in the box postmarked July 4, 1976.

Two sets of famous Siamese Twins associated with N. C.

In an odd twist of fate, North Carolina was associated with two of the most famous sets of Siamese twins in medical history.

The original Siamese twins, Chang and Eng (from whom the name was derived) settled in this state in Surry County.

And on July 11, 1851, another pair, Negro slave girls named Millie-Christine, were born in Columbus County. Joined from the waist down, they were billed by a travelling side show as "Far more Surprising and Wonderful than the Siamese Twins."

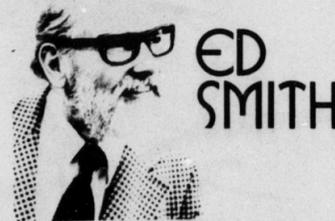
On July 12, 1813, the state had its only real scare in the War of 1812. A British fleet under Admiral Cockburn occupied Portsmouth and Ocracoke, seizing two privateering vessels, and remaining for five days before North Carolina militia gathered and hurried their withdrawal.

James H. Southgate of Durham was one of the two North Carolina citizens whose name has appeared on the ballot for the office of Vice President of the United States. He was born July 12, 1859.

A successful businessman with little political experience, Southgate was the candidate of the Prohibition Party in 1896. His running mate for president was Charles E. Brantley of Nebraska. During this period the party was much stronger than it is today.

Two men born in North Carolina have been elected to the office of vice president, Andrew Johnson and William King, but both did so after moving to other states.

The only other candidate to run while a citizen of this state was



ED SMITH
William A. Graham, a former governor, U. S. Senator and Secretary of the Navy, who, ironically, was defeated by King in 1852.

On July 16, 1857, an obscure mathematics professor and West Point graduate named Thomas Jonathan Jackson — soon to win fame as the immortal "Stonewall" Jackson — married Anna Morrison at the Morrison home near Lowesville in Lincoln County.

The writer has a personal interest in both of the last two items since Governor Graham was born in the house I presently live in in Lincoln County (Vesuvius Furnace), and Anna Morrison was his niece. Many of the social functions connected with the wedding were held at Vesuvius in the room where these words are being written.

Died July 11, 1874, in mid-term, Governor Todd R. Caldwell of

Morganton, generally regarded as the most capable of North Carolina's four 19th century Republican governors.

Died July 12, 1849, at the age of 82, Dolley Payne Madison, widow of our fourth president. Born in North Carolina, she was one of our nation's most famous First Ladies. She presided at the first Inaugural Ball and is credited with having popularized ice cream by serving it at the White House.

Thomas M. Holt, governor 1891-93, was born July 15, 1831. He was one of the state's few lieutenant-governors who rose to the top job on the death of an incumbent. Oddly, like Luther Hodges (another who did so), Holt had been a textile executive. The Holt family started one of the state's earliest successful mills, The Alamance Manufacturing Co.

Holt also served as president of the North Carolina Railroad Co.

On July 17, 1775, Sir Richard Everard became Governor of North Carolina, the only member of the nobility ever to serve in that office.

Died July 17, 1752, in office, Governor Gabriel Johnston, who had followed Sir Richard Everard as governor. A Scottish-born physician, political writer and professor of Oriental languages, Johnston served the longest term of office of any chief executive of this state. He was governor for 18 years, 1734-1752.

He also represents the best bargain the state ever got. In a most un-Scottish fashion, he neglected to collect his salary for his last 13 years in office!

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GARLAND ATKINS
Publisher
GARY STEWART
Sports Editor
ELIZABETH STEWART
Woman's Editor
CLYDE HILL
ADV. DIR.

MEMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION
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