



"So Bloxam isn't coming. So there's plenty other public works directors in the sea."

Once in awhile even talented people get break



TOM MCINTYRE

I should never have written that humorous profile on what it's like to be an aspiring novelist last week.

The calls from other aspiring writers have not ceased. But, I suppose someone must start by asking questions.

Most of the questions deal with how one gets one's work to the proper publishing firms. The only answer I have to that is buy yourself a copy of *The Writers Market* at your newsstand or check with the library to see if they have a copy you could peruse.

This is a bad answer, but I doubt very seriously if you will find copies at either the newsstands or in the local libraries.

The area is just not geared for that type of publication. The City Newsstand in Shelby does sell the monthly publications — *The Writer and Writer's Digest* and does handle the annual *Writer's Yearbook* sometime after the first of each year.

These publications provide valuable information about who among the publishing firms are open to novice material and who among the accredited literary agents will accept material from new writers.

I don't wish to be discouraging, but the fact is this business is the toughest I know of to get into in the beginning. But the really interested new writers will not be discouraged. They will grow to learn that it requires a great deal of help from people who know people.

There is a big problem right now as far as getting a publishing firm interested in new fiction. New fiction publication has been cut 50 percent in most cases and in a few cases 75 percent. It is more profitable for the publishing houses to reissue known saleable works.

The biggest need today, they tell me, is for non-fiction work. Books on mainstream personalities and historical works and how-to books.

But again you will need the help of people who know people to even have your material read.

The aspiring writer will have his heart broken a hundred times trying for that one break. But if you have the words tumbling out of you and the fire and talent that go with it, then someday you will make a breakthrough.

All of the known and constantly published writers and authors we read about today have had to struggle to get somewhere. And quite frankly, some of the ones in the money do not deserve to be there. They are hacks who churn out junk. There are others who have penned one-time bestsellers, not as reporters of interesting stories, but as the creators of those stories. I refer to people like Elizabeth Ray and John Dean and Bob Halderman.

Yucks such as these should be sentenced to be published only by Vanity Houses (firms that require the author to pay for having material published.)

Family rated publishing policies of this newspaper prevent me from really spelling out how I personally feel about blights on the market place such as these type ripoff artists.

So hang in there, gang. Even people who have something worthwhile to contribute to the literary scene get a break once in awhile.

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Here's a final item about Kings Mountain's invasion by the gypsies a couple of weeks ago . . .

It seems one of the gypsies placed a terrible curse on the head of that local law enforcement officer, Ptl. Billy Benton.

A curse something on the order of "may you inherit a hundred mansions. And in each mansion may there be a hundred rooms. And may you writhe from room to room with malaria fever . . ."

The gypsies didn't count on a local exorcist to take a hand, however.

Jimmy Dickey donned his monks robe, skull cap and took up his large cross, waved the cross at Ptl. Benton's head a few times, muttered an incantation and removed the curse.

Good move, Jimmy. May you find a shiny new crystal ball in your Christmas stocking.

LOOKING BACK

From the Nov. 17, 1955 Files Of The Kings Mountain Herald

Is the 1955 Mountaineer Team the best in Kings Mountain history?

Most of the fans today will say it is. But some of the old-timers will scratch their heads and say, "I remember back in 1926."

Santa Claus will come to Kings Mountain for his annual pre-Christmas visit on Dec. 8. Frances Franklin, Central High School senior, will represent Kings Mountain in the Thanksgiving Day Carolinas Carrousel next Thursday in Charlotte.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. Roger McDaniel announce the birth of a son, Thursday, Nov. 10, Kings Mountain Hospital.

La Fete Rock Club members met Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Paul McGinnis.

Circle 8 of Central Methodist Church met Monday night at the home of Mrs. George Blalock.

Duplicate Bridge Club members met Monday night with Mrs. Howard B. Jackson hostess at her home.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Page 4A Thursday, November 18, 1976

And so we bid fond farewell to Bloxam

And so we say a fond farewell to Leonard P. Bloxam, the little man who was never there.

Mr. Bloxam, as you may recall, was hired as Kings Mountain's new public works director back on July 26. His selection, along with the dismissal of the former PWD, Black Leonard, and a couple of other city employees, was of such low importance at the time it didn't even rate space on the commissioners agenda the night it happened.

The next few weeks, the question, "When will Mr. Bloxam be here," was asked. And the answer was a firm "Next Monday."

Then the next thing anyone knew Mr. Bloxam had been granted an extension

so he could finish a job he was working on prior to being hired by KM. The job he had to finish lacked final inspection by federal agencies. At this point we have to wonder if Mr. Bloxam and the KM Commissioners were not aware that the one final inspection by federal agencies was not expected. If it was expected, then what was the urgency to get rid of Leonard as PWD, hire Bloxam and announce he would be on the job in a couple of weeks?

Now, four months later, we are told Mr. Bloxam declines to be KM's public works director. That means we've had four months of doubling over from certain city employees. It also means that the search must now continue for a qualified public works director.

Frustrating. Isn't it, men?

Give them what they want and they turn out

The men and women behind the 1977 Kings Mountain United Fund are to be congratulated.

And the people of Kings Mountain must share in the congratulations. Starting with a goal of \$39,000, the United Fund has concluded with a total in excess of \$55,000. For the second year straight the community has gone beyond set limits to provide vital services through various agencies in the community.

Tonight, the campaign workers will gather at KM Junior High for an awards dinner and victory celebration.

Maybe they should proudly make note that three years ago there was no campaign to speak of. And even earlier in the campaign last year that a new approach had to be taken in mid-stream and a lower goal set because the original goal looked too far to reach. That was doubly amazing because then the area was deep in the economic depression and unemployment was high.

But the United Fund is a bona fide need in any community. It provides, through many agencies, the services the community needs and wants.

Just goes to show you. Give the people what they want and they'll turn out everytime.

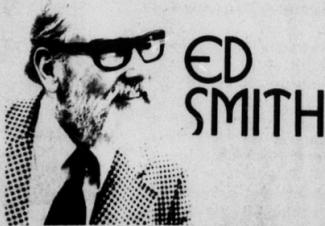
The Great Barnum began his career here with a sermon



P. T. Barnum, "The Great Showman," began his circus career in North Carolina.

At a country crossroad, half a mile from Rocky Mount on November 12, 1836, the first recorded performance of Barnum's traveling show took place. No mention is made of any specific act or attraction, but it is recorded that Barnum himself preached a sermon.

In 1976 The Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus performed at the Charlotte Coliseum to observe its 140th anniversary.



ED SMITH

On November 16, 1766, in Wilmington, a colonial mob broke into the home of William Houston, the King's Stamp Master in North Carolina.

The mob carried Houston to the courthouse and forced him to sign a paper stating he would not attempt to perform his duties in the province. Then they carried him back home where they "treated him liberally with liquor."

This was one of several acts of violent opposition to the Stamp Act in North Carolina.

Jonathan Worth, governor of the state in the turbulent post-Civil War period, was born in Guilford County on November 18, 1802.

Elected in 1865 to replace temporary governor W. W. Holden, Worth was removed from office before the end of his term by the Reconstruction Acts, which declared all Southern States government illegal.

Worth figured in the most famous incident involving any chief executive of this state. At a meeting in Columbia with Federal Military Governor D. E. Sickles in 1867. Governor Orr of South Carolina turned to Worth and said, "The Governor of South Carolina feels constrained to say to the Governor of North Carolina that at these military cabinet councils there is a long time between

drinks."

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John Branch, the first North Carolinian to serve in a President's cabinet, was born on November 14, 1782.

He is also the only tar heel citizen ever to serve as governor of two states — North Carolina (1817-20) and Florida (18-44).

At the time of his election as North Carolina governor, he was the youngest (35) to have served.

Branch had one of the most meteoric and successful political careers in North Carolina history. Though possessing inherited wealth, he was a rarity for his time and locale by being a political liberal. He crusaded for expanded voting rights, less severe penal codes, the abolishment of imprisonment for debts and for the emancipation of slaves and their recolonization in Africa.

Branch served as Secretary of The Navy under President Andrew Jackson and also as a North Carolina Senator.

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Died November 14, 1892, Augustus S. Merrimon, U. S. Senator and Chief of the State Supreme Court.

A native of Transylvania County, Merrimon was a leading Democrat in the Reconstruction Period. In 1872 he was narrowly defeated by a Republican, Tod Caldwell, for Governor.

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The famous Cherokee Indian Chief Junaluska died on November 20, 1858. He was said to have been 100 years old.

Junaluska had allied himself with Andrew Jackson while an active chief, and at the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend had saved General Jackson's life.

In later years it would be the Indian-hating Jackson, as President, who would order the infamous migration of the Cherokees from North Carolina to Oklahoma.

The trek, which almost destroyed the entire tribe, came to be known among the Indians as "The Trail of Tears."

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