

# Novel is engrossing, chilling

I don't know how many of you saw any of the nine episodes of "Captains And The Kings" on NBC-TV's Best Sellers, but everyone should read Taylor Caldwell's 816 page novel upon which the TV series was based. It is really frightening. The premise is old as the hills: power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. The story follows one Joseph Francis Xavier Armagh who arrives at New York harbor in the mid-1850's with his mother, six year old brother and newly born sister.

Joseph is 13-years old at the time and as tough as a pineknob. Joe's "dada" has preceded the family to America and is supposed to be doing well. However, the real truth is that in that era the Irish were a hated breed in the Land of The Free and many of them fared not-too-well. Daniel Armagh is dead and on shipboard, severely hemorrhaging, his wife dies leaving young Joseph to promise to always look after his brother and sister. From that day forward Joseph denies himself severely to make his fortune and

provide for the care of his family. This ordeal marks the young lad from the beginning and by the time he has made his fortune it is too late for him to change.

The frightening part comes when Joseph makes it to the inner circle. The circle is comprised of the richest and most powerful men in the world. They are the Rockefeller, the Morans, etc. Ms. Caldwell proposes, through the characters, that the world is actually held within the grip of a few men who sit about their conference tables in New York and in London and ultimately decide which directions the world and the course of history will take.

The inner circle decides when the world will be at war, who will be the aggressor and which nation will be crushed.

This fictional story shows the Civil War was not a war against a nation to free enslaved men, but a war of profit for the inner circle, pure and simple.

Assassination, too, is a tool the inner circle employs to make sure their plans come to



TOM MCINTYRE

past. Lincoln and Garfield, early Presidents, according to this novel, got in the way of progress.

Joseph's son, Rory, whom the old man declares will "be the first Irish Catholic President of The United States" is also brought down on the eve of his Democratic nomination to seek The Presidency. The inner circle wants Woodrow Wilson to be elected because they feel he is such a simple

man that he can be guided. The inner circle continually harps on the plan to take the minting of money out of the hands of Congress and placing it in the hands of the bankers. It happens eventually. Ms. Caldwell weaves a pretty complete and fascinating tale in her numerous pages and the portions dealing with her fictional inner circle are based on factual accounts of the banking industry, the industrialists and the other rich and powerful families in history. She even suggests the public read some of these factual works and supplies the reader with titles and authors.

The parts of the novel pertaining to the buying and selling of Congressmen to do the bidding of the inner circle and the low regard in which the circle holds the poor will make you angry.

"All the American people want are slogans and patriotic music," the circle says. "Tell them the truth and they will kill you."

Ms. Caldwell's novel completely shatters the popular theory we have today that if we elect a rich man he won't rob us. According to her characters the only thing in life worth striving for is power. Power, through riches, to mold and shape the course of mankind.

Anyone who tries to oppose this system is called an anarchist and in the hands of the assassination weapons that have cut down historical figures all over the world.

As Joseph Armagh says, "The anarchist's finger might be on the trigger, but it was the inner circle that put the gun in his hand."

"Captains And The Kings" is a thoroughly engrossing novel. Engrossing and chilling. There have been many stories about one group or another plotting to take over the world, but in the climax the hero always prevents this single-handedly. We know from the very beginning that world conquest at the hands of villains such as "Goldfinger" and "Dr. Mabuse" is not to be. But the conspirators in Ms. Caldwell's novel are not of that larger than life ilk. They prefer to remain very much hidden and carrying on business as their grandfathers and fathers before them.

Possibly the TV series on "Captains And The Kings" will be repeated and you should see it. However, the TV series does not even scratch the surface of Taylor Caldwell's novel as far as the workings of the powerful are concerned. By all means read the novel. It causes the mind to boggle, as they say in English detective stories.

## EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Page 4A Thursday, January 13, 1977

### Natural gas supply is reaching crisis stage

Ain't it cold? It surely is and that means we've run to the thermostat more often. Now we are in a crisis situation as far as natural gas is concerned. Today, the Federal Power Commission will be approached by Sen. Robert Morgan, Congressman Jim Broyhill and other interested North Carolina factions to seek additional natural gas supplies for the state. Piedmont Natural Gas announced Wednesday they plan to cut off all of their industrial users next Tuesday if the FPC does not allow the state additional gas. How this will effect Transco at this point is not known, but this is the one we are particularly interested in for Kings Mountain. Back in December the FPC cut allocations for this season by 20 percent, then even later last month announced another curtailment. Fortunately, the FPC stayed its own order on the cut. Kings Mountain has managed to get along pretty smoothly on its limited natural gas allocations even with a 20 percent cut, which is lower than the previous season's allotment. The city can call on the peak shaving plant for up to 25 percent augmentation of the city gas supply. For this we are thankful. However, should the FPC not give consideration to the plea today for additional natural gas for the state and Piedmont Natural Gas does make good its promise next Tuesday, can a further reduction in the Transco supply be far behind? If this does happen, the local commercial and industrial users, and possibly the homeowners, will find themselves in for a rough time. In the meantime the suggestion for gas users to refrain from running thermostats higher than usual to ward off the cold is still very valid. Keep your thermostats low and wear a sweater while at home. It could help tremendously to keep the natural gas flowing a bit longer this winter season.

## LOOKING BACK

FROM THE JAN. 12, 1967 EDITION OF THE KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD  
John L. McGill, partner in Kings Mountain Drug Co., has been appointed chairman of Kings Mountain Housing Authority. He was appointed to a five-year term.  
Dan M. Finger, President of L. A. Hoke Electric Co., will be installed as President of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club Thursday night at 8:45 p. m. at the Woman's Club.

Mrs. Athlene Smith, sales representative of the Charlotte office of Reynolds and Co., will lead the first of three investment courses Tuesday night at the Woman's Club. SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

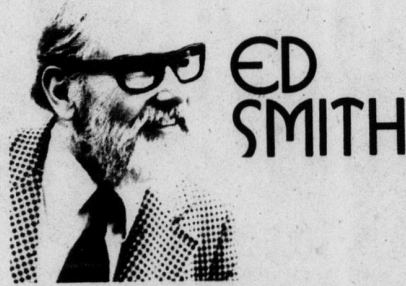
Beverly Diane Stewart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Stewart, will celebrate her 10th birthday Monday. A party for 10 children will be held Saturday afternoon at the Stewart home on Floyd St.

Mrs. J. E. Herridon, presented the program, "The Development of Music and Art, at Wednesday's DAR meeting at the home of Mrs. W. L. Mauney.

Thomas Jeffrey Ballard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Ballard, celebrated his eighth birthday Tuesday at a family party at his home at 701 Woodside Drive.



## Day Fort Fisher fell



On January 15, 1865, Fort Fisher fell to Union forces after the heaviest naval bombardment ever seen on the American continent.

Situated near the mouth of the Cape Fear River, the fort has been called "The Gibraltar of America." Its capture sealed off Wilmington, the last important seaport available to the Confederacy for supply by blockade runners.

A huge Federal fleet had steamed into position off the fort on December 24 but their attack - like earlier ones - had been repulsed by the Southern defenders under Colonel William Lamb. On January 12 an even stronger fleet returned. After an intense three-day bombardment, Union troops landed, stormed the walls and, after some of the fiercest hand-to-hand combat of the war, overwhelmed the garrison.

Fort Fisher's fall, and the subsequent loss of Wilmington, are regarded by historians as sealing the doom of the already badly weakened Confederacy.

The University of North Carolina, the nation's oldest state university, opened its doors on January 15, 1785, with Governor Richard Dobbs Spaight and other dignitaries present.

The new "school of classical studies" was located on a wooded hill near New Hope Chapel, hence its eventual name of Chapel Hill. The school boasted two buildings, one professor and no students! Within a month, however, a total of 74 had enrolled.

The Rev. David Ker was given the title of acting president, "temporary use of the president's house," and an annual salary of \$300. For this he was required to superintend

all studies, perform morning and evening prayer, and "examine each student every Sunday evening on the principles of Botany, Zoology, Mineralogy, Architecture and Commerce," as well as teach all other subjects offered.

Within one year, however, poor, overworked Dr. Ker was discharged for being too "radical."

On January 12, 1896, the first X-ray photographs in medical history were taken on the campus at Davidson College.

Only a week earlier, the German physicist, Dr. Wilhelm Roentgen, had announced his "accidental discovery" of what he called "X"-rays while experimenting with cathode tubes.

Dr. Henry Louis Smith, a Davidson physics and astronomy professor (he was later president of the college), fired a pistol bullet into the hand of a cadaver, then took a 15 minutes exposure to find its exact location.

Later it was discovered that three of his students, as a midnight prank, had slipped into the lab and taken several exposures at an even earlier date!

Benjamin Smith of Brunswick County, governor of the state in 1810-11 was born on January 10, 1766.

A hot-tempered man, Smith fought a number of duels and was twice wounded. During the American Revolution he served as an aide to General George Washington.

A wealthy planter, Smith was owner of the famed Orton Plantation and was considered one of UNC's greatest early benefactors. He donated some 20,000 acres of land for sale to help establish the university.

Ironically Smith died (in 1826) in debtors' prison!

Died January 9, 1852, Congressman Lemuel Sawyer, author of "Blackbeard," which was the first play written by a native North Carolinian with a North Carolina setting and characters.

The play, which was published in 1824, was not about the pirate of that name but was instead a four-act comedy about politics of the period.

## READER DIALOGUE

### I am a child of God

To the editor,  
I am a child of God, an American, a mother, a Baptist and I am proud to be all of these. My country was founded on the rights of freedom to worship God. Thanksgiving Day was set aside to thank God for what he has done for us during the year. Christmas Day is supposed to be Christ's birthday and Easter the day he arose from the dead. If all of this is true why is someone trying to take the freedom of prayer from us? I read an article in The Virginia Pilot dated December 24, 1976, which said the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System had stopped lunchtime prayer in the elementary school. Since I am from Kings Mountain and still have family members there, it really bothers me about this creeping tide against prayer. God made me free and that freedom is being taken away if I cannot pray in school, on the street or anywhere I choose. Come on Children of God, let's put God, the Bible and prayer back into the schools before it is too late.

MRS. NINA HENDREN  
Virginia Beach, Va.

### Thanks to the people

Dear Editor,  
I want to thank the people who were concerned and offered their help for motorists Monday morning during the snow. I do not know their names but they were appreciated and we thank them, those of us stranded at the bridge between Bethware and Four Points Grocery Store were taken care of by some good citizens of Oak Grove and Patterson Grove communities. Also, they looked out after the children who got off the bus at the bridge. We all started walking but they carried us to our destination. MRS. HOWARD MCKEE  
Rt. 3



## The Poet's Corner

JUST A ROOM

Just a room with electric outlets,  
A radio and a TV set.  
A what-not stand with this and that,  
A rocking chair where she once sat.  
Four walls, a window and a door,  
A ceiling overhead, a cot upon the floor.  
She didn't ask for anything more.  
A mantle on the wall, an old clock to set,  
A picture or two to let her not forget,  
There must come a sunrise and a sunset.  
The curtains were hanging in beautiful array,  
As she expected a visitor that day.  
A lonely little mother just across the way.  
A lesson like this it taken me to learn,  
A star in my crown I've failed to earn.  
If I could forget as easily as she forgave  
I would've made the visit while she yet lived.  
Yes, a lesson like this for me to learn,  
A star in my crown I've failed to earn.

EVERETTE H. PEARSON

THE SNOW LOVERS MADE OVER HIM

A snowman suddenly appeared on the lawn  
As though he had dropped from the sky,  
Well, in fact you know that he rode  
In on the snowflake fly.  
Softly stood very dignified  
Wearing a hat with a buttoned coat,  
Gloves on his large hands  
A red scarf tied around his throat.

Large feet were planted firm  
With high boots to hold him straight,  
He appeared as alive as anyone would  
Standing near the garden gate.

The sky was gray and bending low  
With snowflakes swirling down,  
Mr. Snowman had a fair chance to live  
Before melting down into a mound.

Pretty snowflakes wrapped him tenderly  
In a soft blanket of white,  
To keep him cool, safe and secure  
Throughout the starless night.

But alas, when the sun came out  
To see the snowman in the snow,  
He took one look and cast a beam,  
"Mr. Snowman You 'gotta' go."  
To the gray dismay of his admirers  
Mr. Snowman confronted a foe,  
He shrank right down in his big boots  
Beside the gate in the melting snow.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

**KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD**

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY  
GARLAND ATKINS  
Publisher

MEMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Mirror-Herald is published by General Publishing Company, P. O. Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N. C. 28086. Business and editorial offices are located at 204 South Piedmont Ave. Phone 728-7490. Second Class postage paid at Kings Mountain, N. C. Single copy 15 cents. Subscription rates: \$2.50 yearly in-state, \$4.25 six months; \$9.50 yearly out-of-state, \$5 six months; Student rate for nine months \$4.25.

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