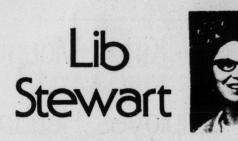
Page 2B-MIRROR-HERALD-Thursday, January 27, 1977

Hey, Ground Hog, Please Don't See Shadow

If you should happen to be out wandering in the country next Wednesday, there is a good chance that you might encounter a group of people standing around looking at a hole in the ground. This is a seasonal sort of madness occurs every that February 2 on Ground Hog Day in the United States and Europe by folks standing around waiting for the ground hog to stick his nose out in search of his shadow.

Any school kid or coal and oil dealer can tell you that if Mr. Ground Hog does see his shadow it's supposed to mean six more weeks of winter weather. This custom has been going on for a long time. Some cynics claim that the entire affair has been carried on for years by newspaper people anxious for something to fill up their pages. But for this interference, Ground Hog Day would have long ago vanished as swiftly as St. Swithin's Day, killed off by Farmer's Almanac.

Others say that these tests accomplish nothing because Mr. Ground Hog always comes up, just to get his name in the papers and picture on television. These spoil-sports claim that with television and bright spotlights, the ground hog won't be able to see another ground hog, much less his own shadow.



shy, he sticks his nose out of his hole, sees all the people and turns around

and scurries back inside.

these

cumstances, they con-

tinued, the ground hog

would be too confused to

According to historians,

remember his shadow.

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Under

And, then, according to the historians, there are some who claim that ground hogs are trained by coal and oil dealers and manufacturers of long underwear. They sneer that the ground hogs have soold out their professional integrity and should be ignored.

Groundhog Day got started in Ireland by St. Briget who lived under an oak It is the weathermen, however, who protest loudest. They have the most to lose. They claim tree. People shortened her name to St. Bride and there is nothing unusual in began to associate her the ground hog's coming out of his hole on Feb. 2. He name and her day in February to fertility and made her the patron saint does it once every day, they say, like any other animal, but being very of growing things. When

crops didn't turn out right, St. Bride got the blame. She was the symbol for an early spring and since the best sign of spring was warm weather, a good day on Feb. 2 was a sign of early spring and end to winter.

> The first settlers brought the groundhog custom to America. The only hibernating animal in England was the hedge hog and the farmers got the idea that the hedge hog would stick his nose out to see if it was cloudy, meaning an early spring. If so, he stayed up; if it was a cold, clear day, the sun would be out and the hog would see his shadow, realize he was in for more winter and go back to bed for another six weeks.

Local citizens will probably be watching for friend ground hog next week, hoping that spring is around the corner. If

chilling temperatures continue for the few remaining days of January, this month may well be the coldest in this area in many years.



1-27. 2-8

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Shareholders Meeting of Kings Mountain Savings & Loan Association will be held in the Conference Room of the Association Offices on W. Mountain St., on Tues. Feb. 8, 1977 at 2 p. m.

RUBY H. BAKER, Secretary

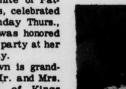
18.

KIMBERLY LOUISE HAMPTON ENGAGED - Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hampton announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Louise, to H. Ray Howell, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Ray Howell, Sr. Both families are of Kings Mountain. The bride-to-be is a senior student at Kings Mountain Senior High School and is employed by Pizza Hut. The prospective bridegroom, a KMSHS graduate, is employed by Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company in Shelby. The wedding will be an event of August 27 in Grace United Methodist Church.

Crystal Dawn White **Celebrates First Birthday**

Crystal Dawn White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. White of Patterson Springs, celebrated her first birthday Thurs., Jan. 20, and was honored at a birthday party at her home Saturday.

Easler, both of Beaufort, S. C.



Crystal Dawn is granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Belt of Kings Mountain and Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. White of Patterson Springs. Her great-grandparents are Mrs. Lillie Gaddy of Asheville, Mr. and Mrs. Garland White of Shelby, Mrs. Dolly Easler and Wallace







LAURA PLONK BALL Laura Ball Graduates

From Meredith

Laura Plonk Ball. daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John O. Plonk, has completed requirements for graduation during the fall semester from Meredith College at Raleigh.

Mrs. Ball, wife of Gary Ball, has received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion.



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