

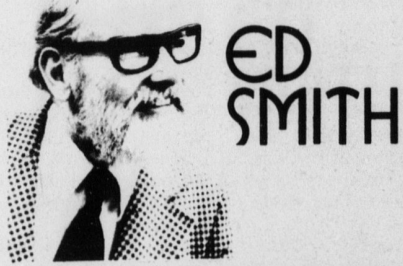
Week the British lost Revolutionary War

This week in 1781 was a busy one during the American Revolution. Some historians also believe it was the week during which the British lost the war.

On January 25, 1781, the British Army under Lord Charles Cornwallis halted at Ramsour's Mill (near Lincolnton) in their pursuit of General Nathaniel Green's American troops. Discouraged by the slowness of his march, Lord Cornwallis decided upon the drastic step of burning most of his wagons and supplies. The Redcoats remained at Ramsour's for two days, while huge bonfires consumed enough food and clothing to have kept the entire area in comfort for months.

It was this decision, rather than a more spectacular loss upon the battlefield, which some experts feel may have cost Cornwallis the war. The loss of these supplies later caused His Lordship to abandon his attempt to conquer the Carolinas and fall back to the seacoast for support by the British Navy, falling back ultimately into a trap at Yorktown.

On January 26, 1781, while the above was taking place, the state's General Assembly convened at Halifax. Due to the hazards and exigencies of war it had taken 26 days to assemble a quorum.



Two days later, on January 28, British ships dropped anchor at Wilmington and troops under the command of Major James Craig seized the town of 200 houses and 1,000 population.

After years of relative peace, North Carolina was finding itself a major theater of war, invaded simultaneously in east and west.

On January 28, 1857, Miles Darden died in Tennessee. Born and raised in North Carolina, Darden was then believed to be the "World's Largest Man." At the time of his death, Darden was seven feet, nine inches

tall and weighed slightly over 1,000 pounds. His coffin was eight feet long, 35 inches deep and 22 inches wide. Over 24 Yards of black velvet were required to line it.

Darden's claim to fame has since been eclipsed (oddly by two men born during this century in Illinois). Robert F. Wadlaw was over a foot taller, but weighed less than half as much at 450 pounds. Robert E. Hughes at 1,065 pounds, outweighed Darden by 60 pounds but was over a foot shorter. So while it's no longer in the record book, as a composite "biggest man" Darden may yet reign supreme!

Joseph Hewes, one of this state's three signers of the Declaration of Independence, was born on January 28, 1730, in New Jersey. Hewes moved to Edenton around 1760, ultimately becoming a wealthy merchant and shipper. As a delegate to the Continental Congress, Hewes served as chairman of the important Committee of the Marine (in essence serving as this nation's first Secretary of the Navy) and died, probably of overwork, in 1779 in Philadelphia.

Dix Hill Hospital for the Insane in Raleigh was authorized by the General Assembly on January 29, 1849, in an emotion packed session. It was named for Dorothea Dix, the mid-19th century crusader whose efforts



resulted in the establishment of improved mental institutions in several states.

Until then the mentally ill had been generally ignored or shamefully mistreated. It required an emotional appeal by one of the greatest orators in the state's history, James C. Dobbin, to secure funds for such reforms, however, from a penny-pinching General Assembly. Dobbin, acting on a promise he had made his dying wife, succeeded in swaying enough votes to win in what is still regarded as one of the legislature's most dramatic moments.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Page 4A Thursday, January 27, 1977

READER DIALOGUE

Parents offer their thanks

Dear Editor,

As a parent of a child at Children's Center in Shelby, I want to express for all of us our sincere appreciation to Yates Mitchem and the Cleveland County Rescue Squad, Bob Wells and the Grover Rescue Squad, Mr. and

Mrs. Jimmy Hopper, Mrs. Leonard Gibson, Ambrose Cline and all the staff of the Department of Transportation for all their efforts in getting our children home in Monday's snow and ice.

MARTHA HICKS TURNER
Grover

See what action is feasible

To the editor,

"The idea of creating a satellite District Court in Kings Mountain to handle cases from here, Grover and the surrounding area east of Buffalo Creek has a great deal of merit."

The above is a quote from a January 20 Mirror-Herald editorial titled "Ideas worth considering." In all due respect to those who have suggested such as this, is this not a pertinent matter that should be brought before the city fathers?

Surely they above all others should be given time to study this important matter. If such a satellite was established in Kings

Mountain wouldn't it be the city's responsibility to provide space for the court?

And as far as the question regarding legislative action, what senator or representative do we have who would take such a proposal on himself to introduce in the General Assembly without the support of the people back home?

Perhaps the city fathers and our legislative people should get together and earnestly discuss this proposal and see what kind of action can be taken.

EVERETTE PEARSON
Kings Mountain

Good luck to Don Jones

To the editor,

How does the general public feel about the task that currently belongs to the Kings Mountain District School Board - that of selecting a replacement for our present superintendent of schools? It is indeed a big task. Kings Mountain citizens should be interested.

What has really happened in our schools in the last 10 years? In the December 30, 1976, edition of the Mirror-Herald, which announced our present superintendent's resignation, not much was said about how our children and teachers had fared in our city. Are children and teachers not the heart and backbone of any great educational unit?

Mr. Jones has indeed enhanced and enriched our schools in many ways, but Kings Mountain has been good to Mr. Jones also. Kings Mountain has afforded Mr. Jones time to earn an advanced Superintendent's Certificate from Duke University which he completed in 1975 while serving us and time to work on his dissertation. We have furnished a school supported car for the superintendent to drive and a school credit card with which to purchase gas. Local individuals have pushed him into becoming Kings Mountain's Young Educator of 1968 and into the District Terry Sanford Award winner in 1972 and in 1974. Without local supporters Mr. Jones would not have been the winner of these. The local School Board has appeared to have given Mr. Jones the free hand in all school administrative decisions. The Asheville Times on January

stated this will not be the case in Asheville. Is the future of Kings Mountain Schools as bright as Mr. Jones declared to the board and was quoted in the Mirror-Herald?

How many of us here in Kings Mountain are knowledgeable of the fact that consolidation of schools is being pushed in Raleigh? I've read about this just recently.

Consolidation here will mean that Kings Mountain will become a part of Cleveland County Schools. Then there will be no need for a superintendent in Kings Mountain, no need for a local school board, and no need for other staff workers in our local administrative office. Much financial insecurity will result. Many fine citizens may be forced to leave our city to seek jobs in other schools. Will the jobs be available? I haven't found one elsewhere in the past three years.

Let's encourage our school board toward selecting a superintendent who can steer us away from becoming Cleveland County Schools. We should want to remain independent of this.

Consolidation will be a big crisis to face in our City - one that Mr. Jones will not have to face with us. Is he leaving our school board any positive suggestions as to how to face it?

Good luck to Mr. Jones as he moves toward a more secure future in Asheville than our schools can now give him.

DAPHNE L. STOLL
Kings Mountain

Policy change might affect SSI benefits

A recent change in policy may affect some Cleveland County residents receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for the aged, blind and disabled, according to R. L. Capps, Manager of the Social Security Office. The amount of the SSI benefit varies according to the needs of the individual and is based on income, resources and living arrangements. The change in-

volves how Social Security determines a person's living arrangement.

The new policy provides that when a person is living in another person's household, he (or she) must be paying his full share of household expenses. Household expenses include, among other things, rent or mortgage payments, utilities and food. Individuals living in another person's household and not paying their full share of household expenses could have their monthly SSI benefit reduced by 1-3. This means that some recipients who previously received \$167.80 each month will start getting \$111.87. No reductions will be made in any case until the individual has been contacted by Social Security and the situation fully explored.

It is important for recipients of SSI benefits to keep the following points in mind: First, only those individuals in other peoples' households can be affected by this change. Second, many of these persons will not have their benefits changed in any way because the individual may be found to be fully sharing in household expenses. Third, the policy change will put into effect on a gradual basis over the next 12 or 13 months as individuals receiving SSI benefits are recontacted by the Social Security Administration, or when the recipient's situation changes, as for example, if he or she moves. Fourth, no change in benefit amount will be made until the case is first reviewed with the recipient. And fifth, the reduction from \$167.80 to \$111.87 is the maximum reduction anyone would receive because of this change.

Persons whose SSI benefit is reduced solely because of the new policy on living arrangements will be affected only beginning the first month of the calendar quarter after the quarter in which the benefit reduction determination is made by the Social Security Administration. For example, should a review with an SSI recipient in October, November or December establish that a benefit reduction is required, the reduction would actually occur with his or her January check.

LOOKING BACK

FROM THE JAN. 29, 1953 FILES OF THE KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD

Three candidates, including two incumbents, filed notice of candidacy for city offices during the past week.

Olland R. Pearson, incumbent Ward Three Commissioner, filed shortly before 4 p. m. Wednesday, while Mayor Garland E. Still filed for re-election Tuesday afternoon. Sam Stallings filed for Ward Five Commissioner last Thursday.

The Kings Mountain Herald was awarded third place for news reporting among weekly newspapers in North Carolina for 1952, according to results of the 1952 Newspaper Contests of the North Carolina Press Association announced last Friday.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mrs. Charles Dilling was hostess Tuesday afternoon to members of the Tuesday Afternoon Bridge Club and two additional guests, Mrs. George Houser and Mrs. Jacob Cooper.

The home of Mrs. Charles Neisler was the scene of the regular January meeting of the House and Garden Club.

Members of the Twin Table Bridge Club met Tuesday night with Mrs. O. W. Myers at her home on Piedmont Avenue. Visitors were Mrs. W. B. Shutt and Mrs. L. P. Stowe.

Wonderful, but strange country

America is a wonderful country. It is also a very strange country.

Wonderful because of the freedoms afforded its citizens and strange because of the attitudes of those citizens.

Where else can you find books and movies featuring animals endowed with every human emotion in the spectrum?

And if you think Disney's little furry characters do not have an effect on the small fry, then you have another think coming. Little children are convinced that dogs and cats smile, laugh and do double takes, just like people.

And where else can you find such glorification of outlaws and murderers?

This public outpouring over Gary Mark Gilmore has just about done it for me. Here was a man who admitted he had cold-bloodedly shot down two young men after robbing them. Two young men with wives and children. Their only "crime" against Gilmore had been that they were working at the places Gilmore robbed at gunpoint. And after taking the money he blasted both of them to Kingdom Come.

Then he made the world-wide headlines by insisting that he be executed by firing squad. Many attempts were made by attorneys and "bleeding hearts" groups to save Gilmore from this fate.

In the end Gilmore sat down in front of a firing squad and was executed. A relative of Gilmore's commented that Gilmore died the way he wanted to, with dignity.

Civil Liberties workers in Utah tearfully denounced the state for being barbaric.

A sharp promoter laid out a reported \$100,000 to Gilmore for exclusive rights to his story. The promoter was one of the witnesses



TOM MCINTYRE

to Gilmore's execution and is the one widely quoted on Gilmore's last words - "Let's do it."

It wouldn't surprise me if the promoter had not written those final words for Gilmore. "Let's Do It." Makes for one helluva comment to end the promoter's book with, huh?

When the promoter has his Gilmore story done, wonder if he plans to offer the survivors of the two men Gilmore murdered \$100,000 each? "Come on, folks. Let's do it. After all, you can't bring those guys back and you might as well make a buck out of this."

It's enough to make you want to chew nails and spit bullets. Personally, I hope the promoter loses his shirt on this project. I hope this, but I'm realistic enough to know better.

Not only is Gilmore going to get the works, but also Richard Speck, the guy convicted and serving time for murdering eight nurses, will become the subject of a made for TV movie.

THE HEART WARMING HEARTH

There's nothing like an open fire
To set the night aglow,
When Winter prowls the plains
So busy hurling snow.
How in inviting the sofa in waiting
In front of a hearth-side bright,
With flames leaping so high
The smoke curls out of sight.

The brightness from the flames
Stir the depth of the very soul,
Regardless the depth of winter
Or how fierce the biting cold
The aroma of woodfire burning
With extra logs stacked high
Brings memories of Winters past
When cinders from the hearth did fly.

There's nothing like an open fire
To melt the cares of the day away.
Joy can be found in the ashes
To be carried out next day.
So lay on another log
Sparkling bright the cinders will fly
To loosen the hold of winter
The hearth is standing by.

The cheery heart warming hearth
Can light the spark of love,
When a cold yellow moon is shivering
With no halo up above.
The room is wrapped in sentiment
Bright flames keep leaping high
It might as well be spring,
With summer drawing nigh.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

**KINGS MOUNTAIN
MIRROR-HERALD**

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TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

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