

# READER DIALOGUE

## Thanks for coverage...

To the editor,  
From the approval for a bond referendum, by the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners on Mon., February 21, through the successful vote Tues., June 7, the coverage given by the Kings Mountain Mirror-Herald was excellent. We appreciate this coverage very much.  
When the new buildings have been constructed and the campus of Cleveland Tech takes on an attractive appearance, please

remember that you had an important part in this development.  
Should there ever be a way that we can be of service to you do not hesitate to call upon us.  
Thank you again for your professionalism and your keen interest in the things that make Cleveland County a great place to live.  
Kindest personal regards,  
TOM POSTON

## So easily forgotten...

To the editor,  
A nursing home administrator became upset when an old patient cried that no one ever visited her. "Why is it," he asked, "that one mother can take care of 12 children, but 12 children can't take care of one mother?"  
Sad and yet true that those who have given such tender loving care to their off-springs, in later life are so easily forgotten.  
We often act as though comfort and luxury are the chief requirements of life after we've gotten away from our parents, when all we really need to make us happy is to restore within our hearts the right attitude toward our parents. It can be a heartbreaking experience to any parent or loved one to be cast aside.

The strength of a nation depends upon the home and family ties, not upon its military strength alone. When honor and respect is lost between one another the battle is already lost.  
This must concern all of us. God was concerned and enough so that he struck down and blinded Paul of Old and told him, in essence, what had done to others, Paul had done to God.  
Good intentions won't earn us the Kingdom of Heaven, but doing God's will is the ticket. And I'm afraid many of us will miss the flight.  
EVERETTE PEARSON  
Kings Mountain

## Thanks for generosity...

To the editor,  
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of those who made the Brian Bickley Benefit Golf Tournament a tremendous success. I visited with Brian shortly after the tournament and he was completely overwhelmed with the generosity of all those involved.  
Brian and I would like to thank in particular Darrell Austin and Tom McIntyre of the Kings Mountain Mirror-Herald for their generous publicity, the Kings Mountain Country Club for their donation of the facilities, Carl DeVane, Wyman Haigler, Jim Humphries, Terry Leonard, and Rick Murphy who headed the various tournament committees.  
While it is impossible to mention by name everyone involved, we would also like to thank all those who donated prizes, those who contributed to the tournament fund (both players and nonplayers), and finally

all those who generously volunteered their time and efforts in running the tournament.  
At the time I am writing this letter Brian is making preparations to go to Scotland for further treatment. He expressed to me a deep regret about leaving his good friends in this area, but he also expressed a burning desire to completely recover from his illness and return as soon as possible.  
Brian is a very dear friend and a man of magnificent courage. I know all of those who read this letter feel the same way and wish Brian a speedy recovery and look forward to his return. All of those who have contributed in any form to the Brian Bickley Fund should feel proud for their generous aid to this courageous man.  
I would like to add that the Brian Bickley Fund continues at the First Union National Bank and contributions are still urgently needed.  
DR. PAUL E. HENDRICKS, JR.  
Kings Mountain

## Thanks, community...

**OPEN LETTER TO CITIZENS,**  
In just a few days our family will be leaving Kings Mountain. We cannot leave without expressing our appreciation to the people here and in the communities surrounding Kings Mountain for the cooperation, support, and friendship shown us during the past years. We could not have been associated with a finer group of people. We leave, knowing that we will never again find people as willing to work together as we have found here. Much progress has been made in the school system, but this would have been impossible without the cooperation of the people we served. Your board of education has been willing to listen to you and follow through for the implementation of an outstanding school program.  
I salute the Kings Mountain Mirror-Herald and the Shelby Daily Star for keeping you informed on school issues and activities and always reporting accurate information. The county commissioners have constantly tried to provide the funds necessary to maintain and enrich our program and update our facilities. They have taken into consideration however, what the people could afford and always tried to keep in mind the best interest of the county in making its appropriations. The consolidation of the debts of the three school systems set a precedent for the state and has proven to be in the best interest of our citizenry.  
The working relationship that our board and staff have enjoyed with Mr. Malcolm Brown, Dr. Vincent Colombo and the boards of education in the Shelby City and Cleveland County Schools has led to much progress for all three school systems in the county. Many programs have been coordinated, bond issues approved, staff services shared, and issues discussed with open minds, that have made Cleveland County an even better place to live.

The industrial growth of the county reflects, to some degree, that good educational opportunities exist in Cleveland County and yet on the other hand, reflect support for these educational opportunities. We have never called upon industry for support without being blessed by far more than our request. The Cleveland County Technical Institute has joined hands to provide a better educated and trained adult population, and is always ready to serve our people.  
The coordination of church efforts in our county with area wide crusades and other appropriate activities constantly upgrade family and community life. Organizations like C. A. G. O., CODAP, the Association for the Mentally and Physically Handicapped, the Kings Mountain Little Theater, and civic clubs contribute in their individual ways for a better people.  
The staff of the Kings Mountain School System is dedicated to do everything possible to improve the educational opportunities of the youth they serve. Their cooperation and friendship will not soon be forgotten. Their leadership remains to continue to serve and carry out plans that we, together have developed. With the new leadership of William F. Davis and the guidance of an outstanding board of education, the citizens of the school district can be assured that Kings Mountain Schools will continue to be progressive.  
I had no idea what a wonderful place to which our family would be coming, when we left our Asheville home in 1967. I have grown to love Cleveland County's hills, trees, and fields of flowers, but most of all to appreciate its people. As our family moves back to Asheville, we leave you the challenge to continue to work together and to meet life's challenge and opportunities with open minds.  
DONALD D. JONES, Superintendent  
Kings Mountain District Schools

# Nice rerun, John...

Saturday was a busy day in Kings Mountain.  
Especially at the Depot Center.  
Hundreds of KMs trooped through the center during the Town Meeting and Depot Center dedication ceremonies.  
And after reading The Charlotte Observer last Friday, which gave that day as the big event, I told Hisonor John H. Moss that I thought it was mighty nice of him to re-stage the entire affair again on Saturday for the rest of us.  
"Friday was just a rehearsal," the mayor laughed.  
Rev. Kenneth George was running around here and there getting his ducks in a row for the senior citizens activities and the kiddie party.  
"Be sure and take some pictures I can use in the program scrapbook," he said.  
"I will and congratulations on being named manager of the depot center," said I.  
"That was news to me," he said.  
"That's what happens when you fail to show up at the meetings," I told him.  
Jonas Bridges emceed the festivities and worked out on the organ to entertain the crowds. When he asked me if he was going to be in any pictures, I made, I had a big opportunity to rib him.  
"I don't know, Jonas. You know those replicas of microphone stands with the radio inside WKMT has been giving out around town?"  
"Yeah. Those are nice, huh?" Jonas replied.  
"Yeah. Well, I didn't get one."  
A moment of silence, then "... maybe I'd better order some more of those."  
"Smile, Jonas. I'm about to snap your picture," said I. Let's face it, folks. It's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease.  
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## TOM McINTYRE

A couple of weeks ago we published a story of a 75 mm artillery shell being unearthed near the depot. Gail McDaniel dug it up while helping dig a trench for a retaining wall at the community market shelters.  
In the story Capt. Rick Hart, commander of the 48th Ordnance Detachment at Fort Jackson, commented that he had no idea how the shell came to be buried there in the first place.  
After reading the story a citizen came in to tell me that when he was a kid, early in World War Two, the Army came to Kings Mountain for a big maneuver and at the depot tons of munitions and food supplies were unloaded for the troops.  
The citizen, who forbid me to use his name, said he and his friends helped the soldiers unload the train and that the supplies and munitions were stacked up for the two week maneuver. The troops, he said, were encamped near the KM National Military Park.  
That could explain how the shell came to be buried near the depot.  
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Rev. N. S. Hardin, who retired from full-time pastorate in 1969, was the honoree at a



secretly planned program at David Baptist Church June 5.  
Rev. Hardin was the pastor at David Baptist from 1955 to 1969. Since his retirement he has filled in at four different churches in the KM area.  
When Rev. Hardin arrived for services on June 5 the congregation sprang the news on him that he was to be honored that day. He was given a boutonniere and escorted to his Sunday School class.  
During the worship service Rev. Hardin was presented a plaque and a gift from the church. Guest speaker that morning was Rev. Cline Borders, director of missions for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association. Rev. Borders' text was entitled "Man of God."  
Rev. Hardin also received tokens of love and appreciation from the church Sunday School department and was the guest of honor at a covered dish luncheon following the services.



## The Poet's Corner

### THE KITTEN THAT STOLE MY HEART

I spotted a kitten in the sunlight's glow  
Playfully he was there where red tulips grow,  
In the driveway turning green  
I watched him across  
Bright eyes were shining jade  
His fur was cream floss.  
Somebody's pet, somebody's friend  
Away from the mother with moments to spend.  
So beautiful so charming, my wish was to pat  
Caress his fur gently for his somebody's cat.

He brushed the screen high  
With a wide fluffy tail  
Took a delicate taste from a tiny tin pail,  
Looked so exploring I opened the door  
So affectionate was he, he was easy to adore.  
Upon my lap he sprang, I stroked the soft fur  
He sang me a song and every word was "purr."  
Then away he sprang and away to my bed  
On pink satin roses to pillow the head.

So content was he I stood aside to admire  
And thought of the time cats dozed by the fire,  
When the napping was over  
He stretched a cat mile  
A red tongue and sharp teeth  
Showed through his smile.  
He doubled himself in silken length  
Each claw stuck apart in feline strength,  
My thoughts were to keep him, I admired him so  
But the Cat's pa was waiting  
Where red tulips grow.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

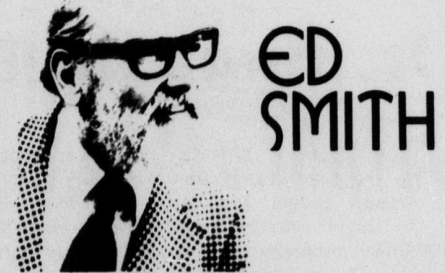
# Blind increases

An increasing number of North Carolinians are becoming legally blind according to the Register for the Blind maintained by the Division of Services for the Blind of the N. C. Department of Human Resources.  
The Register indicates that an average of 120 persons per month lost their vision during the past year compared to an average of only 104 persons per month in recent years.  
Dr. Bill Waters, director of the Division, said that approximately 50 percent of the cases of blindness could be prevented with early diagnosis and treatment.  
In its statewide effort for the prevention of blindness and the restoration of vision, the Division provides a medical eye care program for indigent North Carolinians.  
Dr. Waters feels that the increase in blindness is partially due to restrictive financial criteria required for eligibility in the Division's medical eye care program. Currently, a family of four with an annual net income of more than \$3600 is ineligible for the program. The Division has requested that the General Assembly raise the

financial eligibility criteria to \$5600 net income for a family of four minus deductions for health insurance. Dr. Waters said that the economic criterion for adults has not been raised for the last 15 years.  
Even with the low economic criteria now in effect, the Division ran short of funds last fiscal year and had to curtail its medical eye care program.  
The Department of Human Resources is requesting an additional \$1,444,018 in state funds from this Session of the General Assembly in its supplemental budget request for fiscal year 1977-78 in order to raise the economic criteria and serve more people. If granted, the Division could serve an estimated 52,310 people.  
The major causes of blindness both in this state and the nation are retinal diseases, cataracts and glaucoma. The incidence of blindness by each of these major causes is significantly higher in North Carolina than in the nation as a whole.  
Although these eye diseases and others afflict children, these three major causes occur predominately in persons over 35 years of age.

# Papers celebrate birthdays...

June 24 is the "birthday" of the newspaper and commercial printing business in North Carolina. On this date in 1749 James Davis of New Bern began operation of the first printing press in the state's history.  
Davis was hired by the Colonial Assembly to codify and print North Carolina's statutes for a "... yearly sum of one hundred and sixty pounds, Proclamation Money." He was also required to print the colony's money, including his own salary!  
Davis also started the colony's first newspaper, and printed its first books. Earlier in 1744, he had also become the state's first postmaster, having been granted a contract by the Assembly to establish a postal service to "... forward public dispatches" to all parts of the province.  
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William Richardson Davis is called "The Father of the University of North Carolina," and many a student at Chapel Hill, though unaware of his other accomplishments, remembers the giant "Davis Poplar" tree growing in front of old South Building.  
In addition to his efforts in establishing the nation's oldest state university, Davis served as Governor (1788-89) and as a delegate to the U. S. Constitution; Convention. Ironically, though he was one of the state's most outstanding early statesmen, Davis was neither born nor died here. He was born in Egremont, June 30, 1786, the last English-born governor of North Carolina. He died in South Carolina in 1820.



## ED SMITH

Charles W. Chesnut, the first famous Negro writer in American history, was born in Fayetteville, June 20, 1856. His novels and short stories, published in New York between 1890 and 1905, dealt mostly with the lives and problems of blacks living in the Cape Fear area during the difficult Reconstruction Period.  
Chesnut, according to the state's literary historian Richard Walser, "had the distinction of being the first Negro American writer to receive serious attention as a literary artist."  
Born and educated in North Carolina, he was teaching school in Charlotte by age 16, and Superintendent of the State Normal School for blacks in Fayetteville at 22. He later moved to New York City and Cleveland, Ohio, to follow a career as a newspaperman. He died in Cleveland in 1932.  
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The Battle of Ramsour's Mill took place on June 30, 1780, near Lincolnton. A force of perhaps 800 local Whigs under Colonel Francis Locke surprised a thousand Tories who had gathered there to defend the area for the King.  
In a savage but unskilled battle that lasted nearly two hours, the Tories were defeated and scattered. Each side suffered nearly equal casualties, fifty men killed and about that many seriously wounded. Some 200 Tories were captured.  
The battle, though entirely local in scope, played a part in the important British defeat at Kings Mountain some four months later. It deprived the British of vitally-needed local support, and encouraged more settlers in this area to oppose them.



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