


# Overcome with illusion of wealth

Aaah!!! I'm in debt!  
 And for a brand new car, of all things.  
 I've been walking around telling myself that I did it for the noblest of reasons - to help the KM economy, to keep a local business in business, because it is the American thing to do. (The preceding should be played to the tune of "Battle Hymn of The Republic")  
 The truth of it is, I was overcome with the notion that I have suddenly become wealthy. I mean if you hear that often enough you begin to believe it. The kids next door say "Gosh. Ya'll are rich" whenever we barbecue a steak.  
 All of this weirdness lit upon my head last Thursday morning when I arose, remembered it was my wife's and my 21st wedding anniversary, and was struck with great waves of guilt 'cause I didn't have nary a gift to bestow upon my better half.  
 "What would you like to have?" I asked.  
 "You don't have to get me anything," answered Dortha.

"Expect me to believe that?" I shot right back.  
 "Okay, then get a storm door to go on the back entrance," she said.  
 So, after dropping off the eldest daughter at her job, I drove post haste to the storm door store. After strolling casually through the door department, a forefinger pressed beside my nose and speaking in a well-modulated voice (so the salesman would think that here was a guy I can't fool around with. He knows what he is about), I asked about this storm door and that.  
 The upshot of it was that the only storm doors they had were of the left-handed variety. I don't know about you, but all of my life I've been opening right-handed doors. To suddenly become a southpaw to gain entrance to my own house almost traumatized me.  
 My well-modulated voice suddenly became squeaky as I apologized for taking up the salesman's time, curtained and got the hell outta there.



**TOM McINTYRE**

The next thing to cross my mind was roses. I called the roses store. "How much are roses these days?" I asked.  
 "How much you got in your savings account?" the roses person asked.  
 "I don't have a savings account."  
 "Maybe you'd like a potted plant. A small potted plant."

"Wait a minute! I could probably get a loan at the bank for the roses."  
 "Come by tomorrow, then. I got no roses today."  
 Thwarted again.  
 It was Ricardo Montalban. "... a luxury car you can afford..." he was saying in his rich Spanish-American accent.  
 "What do I know about luxury cars?" I asked him. "I drive a 1968 Mustang."  
 Ricardo sneered at me, muttered something in his native tongue that I wouldn't have to nerve to repeat at a Lottie Moon Circle meeting and faded away.  
 "What could it hurt if I just looked at some cars?" I asked myself. Dropping into Griffin's to fortify myself and bolster my courage I had a triple hot cocoa on the rocks. I roared out of there like a lion, then timidly entered the chrome, steel and tinted windshield jungle known as Nation Chevrolet.  
 J. T. McGinnis came out to walk through the lot with me. As I looked at the cars and

more closely at the sticker prices on the window I was careful to hide my face so J. T. wouldn't see I was going into cardiac arrest. Just to be safe I took the phone number card for the KM Life Saving Crew out of my wallet and held it between my thumb and forefinger.  
 "Interested in a new car, Tom?" J. T. asked.  
 "NO!"  
 From the startled expression on his face I knew I had been too quick and too loud.  
 The upshot of it is, either J. T. McGinnis is one helluva salesman or, as I said before, I was suddenly overcome with illusions of grandeur. The next thing I knew I was signing away on a bunch of papers.  
 "Well, how do you like it?" I beamed at the wife. "It's your anniversary present."  
 "But, all I asked for was a storm door," she said.  
 Anyhow, Dortha loved the car.  
 But, she still wants a storm door, too.

## Brooks recommends hourly wage increase

Today, Commissioner of Labor John C. Brooks commended the action of the N. C. General Assembly increasing the state minimum wage from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per hour effective July 1, 1977. He estimated the increase will directly affect approximately 35,000 North Carolina workers.  
 The bill passed on June 8, 1977 sets the state minimum wage at \$2.50 an hour, the same as the current minimum wage under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (Wage-Hour Law). It further provides that the state minimum wage will increase to \$2.50 an hour on the same day that the federal minimum wage equals or exceeds \$2.50 an hour.  
 Brooks said the United States Congress is currently considering legislation which would increase the federal minimum to \$2.50 later this year. The federal minimum wage applies to industries and business engaged in interstate commerce, but exempts retail enterprises grossing less than \$250,000 a year. Any employer covered by the federal law is not subject to the state law.

Brooks said the approximately 35,000 North Carolina workers who will be affected by the change in the state law July 1 are employed mainly in retail and wholesale trade establishments, service-oriented businesses, food service and other small business establishments which have four or more employees, but which gross less than \$250,000 a year.  
 Many North Carolina workers continue to be exempt from both the state and federal minimum wage laws, such as employees of small farms, state and local government employees, some domestic workers and youths under 18 years of age.  
 Brooks hailed this latest action as a major step forward in providing a better living standard for a substantial number of the state's citizen who need it most.  
 For information concerning the specific coverage of the state Minimum Wage Law, contact the Employment Standards Division of the North Carolina Department of Labor, 919-733-2142.

## READER DIALOGUE

### Thanks one and all

To the editor,  
 Our town meeting on June 18 was a great success because so many people put forth so much effort. I would like to publicly thank everyone who had a part in this, our first endeavor at an old timey town meeting.  
 We would be amies if we did not express gratitude to the merchants and industries providing prizes, the various committees that worked long hard hours and the general

public who attended and participated in the activities of the day.  
 The coverage and publicity given by the Kings Mountain Mirror-Herald and radio station WKMT created much interest and enthusiasm, which helped to make this special event the success it was.  
 Thanks again to one and all.  
**W. NORMAN KING**  
 Town Meeting Chairman

## KM has a crime watch

To the Editor,  
 After reading about the citizens of Kings Mountain wanting a community watch program, I had better let someone know we do have one. Better known as COPE (Citizens On Patrol In Emergencies), we use our own time and gas and cars to try to cut down crime in Kings Mountain.  
 If you will check the December issue of the Kings Mountain Mirror-Herald, you will see the crime rate was down I believe 66 percent over the previous year. We have only a few members still active simply because we did not get any of the credit due us. We, with the help of the Police Department, put on a program "How To Make Your Home Secure" about a year ago. Only about 70 citizens came, then we had a program, "How To Say No To A Rapist" and again about 60-70 people came, most of them COPE members and police officers. Another program about "Child Abuse". Again only a

few showed up.  
 It is enough to make the few still trying just give up, but we won't, because Kings Mountain is our town and we want to make it a better, safer place to live.  
 Who do you think put up the signs on all main roads leading into town? COPE did. Who holds coffee breaks and yard sales to help needy people or people who lose everything in a fire? COPE does. Who is still trying to raise money to pay for the CPR film for the City of Kings Mountain to use? COPE is. Any citizen who wants to help in any way, we would appreciate it.  
 Just contact me, at 789-8954, Lucille Matheson at 789-8817 or any COPE member.  
 We should all work together for a safer community.  
**BETTY JONES**  
 President COPE  
 Kings Mountain

## Untapped gas resources

Vast supplies of natural gas remain to be found and produced in this country, even though President Carter and his energy advisors have claimed that natural gas "has had it."

### AMERICA'S UNTAPPED NATURAL GAS SUPPLY

98% OF THE PROSPECTIVE SEDIMENTS ARE UNTOUCHED BY DRILLING



### CONSUMER FUEL BILLS WILL SOAR HIGHER

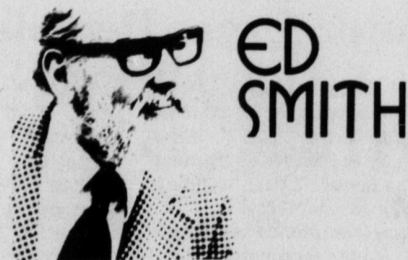
IF AMERICA TURNS IT'S BACK ON HUGE SUPPLIES OF U.S. NATURAL GAS

- ★ Federal policy plans favor imports of foreign liquefied gas and manufactured synthetic gas costing up to \$5.50 per million BTUs of heat.
- ★ New American natural gas can be produced for \$2.25 to \$2.50 per million BTUs, at today's cost of exploration and drilling deeper new wells, thus saving consumers over \$200 billion by 1985.

SOURCES: National Petroleum Council, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, U.S. Geological Survey. Prepared by PITTS ENERGY GROUP, DALLAS, TEXAS.

## Big week for calamities

This was a big week in our state's history - for calamities, death and disaster!  
 The Battle of Echoe was probably the biggest battle ever to occur in Western North Carolina, yet few people today have even heard of it. It took place on June 27, 1760, during the French and Indian war.  
 A mixed force of British and Colonial troops (mostly Indians from New York state) were ambushed and routed by several thousand Cherokee braves in a mountain pass near Franklin, in Macon county.



On July 1, 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg began near that town in Pennsylvania. North Carolina troops played a large role in that pivotal, three-day struggle. Among the casualties that first day was Henry K. Burgwyn, the famous "Boy Colonel" of the 26th North Carolina Regt. Burgwyn died in action at the age of 21.  
 I'll have more on Gettysburg next week.

Kirk's Union cavalry also destroyed a large amount of military supplies and railroad equipment in Morganton.

On June 28, 1864, Union troops under Colonel George W. Kirk captured Camp Vance, a training camp for Confederate draftees near Morganton, in Burke County. The Confederates, mostly untrained and still unarmed, were taken by complete surprise.

On June 26, 1855, Sir Walter Raleigh's second expedition reached North Carolina. One of the three small ships, the "Tiger", was wrecked and sunk near Ocracoke, the second known shipwreck on the Carolina coast.

On June 26, 1942, the tanker "William Rockefeller" was torpedoed off Cape Hatteras. It was the tenth vessel sunk by German submarines during that month. For the first six months of 1942, in fact, "residents of

coastal North Carolina were closer to the war than were most of our troops overseas." During the whole of World War II, a total of 79 Allied vessels and three German submarines would be sunk off the North Carolina coast. A total of 843 Allied seamen and gun crews lost their lives, and over 426,000 tons of shipping went to the bottom.

On June 25, 1967, in Gastonia, former governor R. Gregg Cherry died. In addition to his term as Governor (1945-49) Cherry served as mayor of Gastonia, and in both houses of the state legislature.

His term as Governor saw expansion of state-owned mental hospitals and health facilities, and a sixty percent increase in expenditure for schools.

On June 28, 1883, Frankie Silver got a new lease on life, though a short one. Her hanging was postponed for two weeks by a Burke County court.

Scheduled to die for the murder of her husband Charlie Silver, Frankie had earlier escaped from jail, but was quickly caught by Sheriff John Boone (supposedly a nephew or grand nephew of Daniel Boone). She was hanged in Morganton on July 12, the first woman executed in North Carolina.

Some Tar Heel folklorists believe that a ballad based on her crime and death became the origin of the song "Frankie and Johnny."

**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 722, Kings Mountain, N. C. 28086. Business and editorial offices are located at 204 South Piedmont Ave. Phone 739-7406. Second Class postage paid at Kings Mountain, N. C. Single copy 15 cents. Subscription rates: \$8.00 yearly in-state, \$4.25 six months; \$9.00 yearly out-of-state, \$5 six months; Student rate for nine months \$6.25.

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