

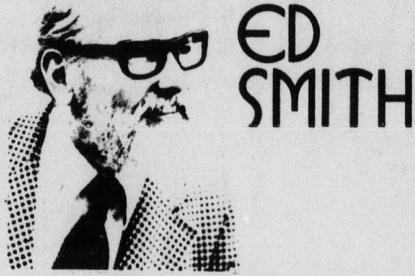
# Gettysburg, turning point in war

The Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863, was the turning point of the Civil War. It was one of the most decisive events in American history, and certainly one of the most widely written about.

The state of North Carolina was deeply involved at Gettysburg. According to one Tar Heel historian, this state's troops "reached the pinnacle of military greatness at Gettysburg." They made up a large part of the Confederate force there, and suffered by far the greatest casualties. Northern forces at Gettysburg totalled 90,000 men, the Southern side had 75,000. A total of 51,000

casualties were suffered there by both sides combined, in killed, wounded and missing or captured by one side or the other. Of the 15,301 Confederate soldiers killed, 4,083 - by far the largest number from any state - were from North Carolina.

Gettysburg was a bloodbath for both sides. At the battle's climax on July 3 - General George Pickett's famous frontal assault across a mile of open field under fire - the casualty ratio reached an incredible sixty percent of the 11,000 Confederate troops involved. (By comparison the casualties suffered in the famous charge of the Light



Brigade at Balaklava were forty percent.) Not one of Pickett's top officers emerged untouched. Of 13 colonels in the attack, seven were killed, six wounded.

The North Carolina troops, under Brigadier General James J. Pettigrew advanced further than any other Confederate unit, reaching the famous clump of trees atop Cemetery Ridge before being forced to fall back. This attack has been called the "high water mark of the Confederacy." It inspired the claim by N. C. historians that this state had been "first at Bethel, furthest at Gettysburg and last at Appomattox."

The war lasted nearly two years after Gettysburg, but the South was never again able to take the offensive.

On July 4, 1783, the earliest known celebration of our nation's Independence Day was held in the little Moravian village of Salem, N. C.

In thanks for the return of peace, and for the national freedom it brought, the people of Salem held a day-long meeting of song and prayer, followed at dusk by a candlelight parade, led by a Moravian brass band.

Music has always been a strong feature of the Salem settlement, and a special "Psalm of Joy" was composed for the occasion. The music for this hymn, has been preserved, and a modern recording made of it.

This week was also a big one in the early exploration of the state.

On July 8, 1482, Giovanni da Verrazano, an Italian navigator in the service of France, wrote the earliest known description of the coast of the United States. The area he described was the Cape Fear portion of North Carolina.

France made no effort to colonize the area, and Verrazano's report, published 58 years later in Europe, moved Sir Walter Raleigh to push for the establishment of an English colony in the New World.

On July 4, 1684, Raleigh's first expedition, under Amadas and Barlowe, set foot on American soil, the first English speaking people to do so.



## Rejecting housing plan was community service

In my opinion the city commissioners did the community a service last Thursday when they rejected a homestead housing proposal even though it was proposed to be something that would bring nationwide recognition to the city.

Presented by Robert Mathison of Asheville, the housing plan would use city-owned land for the construction of factory built homes. The tenants would be eligible for a rent subsidy from HUD and would serve as cooperative members, a sort of board of governors of the units.

I still haven't figured out how anyone can build and sell three bedroom two bath homes for \$14,000. That is the price range Mathison told commissioners last week that he was experimenting with. There just ain't no such animal.

The type of homes Mathison proposed don't seem to be as qualitative as the units contracted for and built by the Kings Mountain Housing Authority, yet in many ways it is the same type of program.

Instead of such fancy footwork, it would be much more open and aboveboard for developers to strike bargains with the housing authority, go ahead and build first-rate dwellings designed for occupancy by citizens qualifying under the housing authority guidelines.

Mr. Mathison sprang his deal on the commissioners last Monday, but then gave them until Thursday to decide. He defeated his own purpose, because even though the commissioners are basically country boys, they ain't a bunch of dummies.

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On page 8B of last Thursday's Mirror-Herald there was a story on Army Staff Sergeant Phillip Kiser assisting participants in the 1977 Missouri Special Olympics.

The three-day event was hosted at Fort Wood and included track and field, swimming, gymnastics and team sports for handicapped persons.

The program exists in all 50 states. After reading the article Sgt. Kiser's mother, Mrs. O. C. Kiser of Rt. 4, called to tell us she has a 16 mm sound film on the olympics.

"I'll be happy to loan the film to any local civic club that might be interested in sponsoring an olympics for the handicapped," she said.

Recently I talked with an ex-office holder who said now he can see where he made many mistakes while pursuing what he thought were laws beneficial to the people. I admit I admire a person who can admit mistakes, but I can admire even more a person who can detect the mistake before it becomes public law.

How much longer are we going to sleep while an elected body gains more and more control over our individual lives? Too much power given to a few is more dangerous to us than the threat of any Nuclear weaponry.

Truth is an elusive thing. As individuals we must keep abreast of daily happenings in our city, county, state and nation to find our truth. Historically it has been proven that it is an error to continue to believe that truth and nothing but the truth drips from the tongues of our leaders.

So who do we blame when we one day awaken to find our individual freedoms and rights gone?

No one but ourselves.  
EVERETTE PEARSON  
Kings Mountain

## Morgan criticises new anti-busing amendment

Senator Robert Morgan (D-NC) had sharp criticism for the "anti-busing" amendment Tuesday before casting his vote against the measure.

"Although I would rejoice if a piece of legislation were to come to this floor outlawing busing nationwide," Morgan said, "I will not support a plan which would relieve the burden north of the Mason-Dixon line, and keep the South busing until Kingdom come."

The amendment to block the use of federal funds to require busing beyond the nearest school was offered as a part of the Labor-Health, Education and Welfare appropriations which came before the Senate Tuesday. It would serve to ban busing in the future, but Morgan contended it would have no effect on past busing decisions.

He asserted that 42 school systems in North Carolina are busing pupils under court orders, and said, "The amendment will not touch them."

Citing complaints about turmoil in the schools in the North and the West, Morgan said that 15 or 20 years ago those same outcries were heard in the South, and were ignored by the rest of the country. "If we approve this amendment and take the pressure off of the North," he told the Senate, "we will remove any incentive to alleviate the burden in the South."

"We will return to the hypocritical situation in which a Northerner may stand up and oppose busing on the grounds that it creates turmoil in the lives of children, but a Southerner making exactly the same argument will be dismissed as a bigot."

## READER DIALOGUE

### Who will we blame?

To the editor,

"We must beware of trying to build a society in which no one counts for anything, except the politician or an official, a society where enterprise gains no reward and thrift no privileges." - WINSTON CHURCHILL

A lot can be said about the above quote and yet there are many today who feel as long as there is federal funding to be had that whoever suggests a plan for spending these funds has the best interest of all at heart.

We can still believe this and yet we see everyday that the mouths of politicians are not prayer books. All we have to do is read daily of the legislation introduced considered in the best interest of the people only to see the bills watered down to be as effective as straw to a drowning man.

What Churchill warned against was the danger of loss of individual freedom. Everyday we lose a bit more because we allow our elected officials to vote our freedoms away. At the time they do it not one will admit it.

## Beware of tick bites

Spring has brought the tockless tick out of hibernation ready to leap on humans and animals.

This little parasite, once known only to the Western states, has now migrated throughout North America spreading a serious disease - Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The U. S. Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, warns that the incidence of the disease has been steadily rising since 1968, with a record 906 cases reported in 1976. Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia accounted for 85 percent of the total cases reported in the United States.

The U. S. Public Health Service reported that there is a vaccine for the prevention of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. But... that vaccination is recommended only for those who live in or visit heavily infested areas.

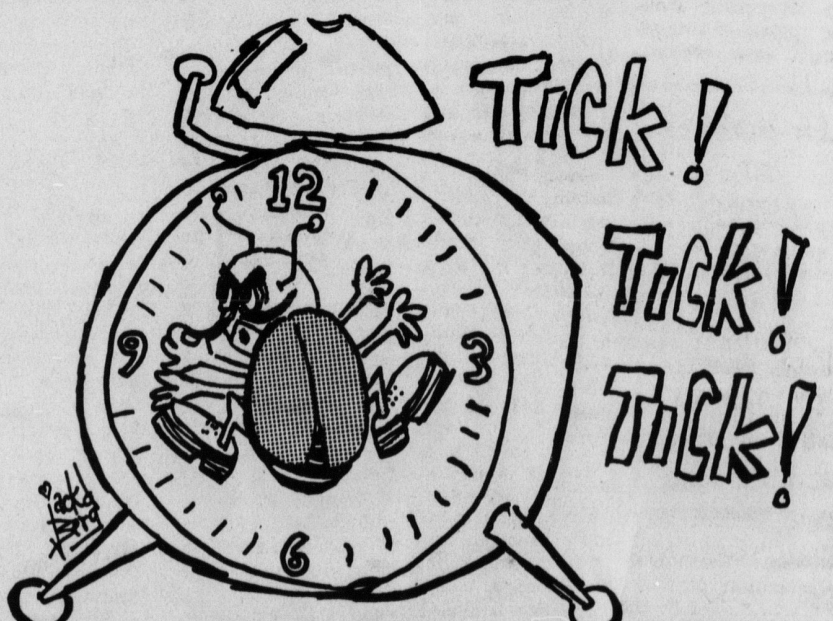
While only a small percentage of ticks carry the disease, the effects are serious. Dr. David Goldfinger, medical consultant for Combined Insurance Company of America's Claims Department, warns that "symptoms such as fever, severe headaches, chills or muscle aches develop three to 10 days after tick attachment. A rash appears, usually on the wrist or ankles, one to three days after the fever has commenced and may spread over the entire body."

This company's safety and research team states that while most ticks are found in rural areas, they are also found in urban districts. Children and pets should be inspected regularly for ticks if they have been

playing in woody or grassy areas. The team suggests that if the tick cannot be brushed or picked off with tweezers, covering it with oil or kerosene might make it back out of the skin. Sometimes blowing out a lighted match and quickly touching it to the rear of the tick

might also make it back out. Do not crush a tick when dislodging it.

"If you have once been bitten by a tick - and later develop fever symptoms, be certain to inform your physician of the fact," says Dr. Goldfinger.



BEWARE... OF THE "TOCKLESS" TICK!



## The Poet's Corner

TOM MCINTYRE

Mrs. Kiser suggests the film could be used to raise funds to sponsor the event.

Any civic club in Kings Mountain interested in sponsoring such an event and to see the film may contact Mrs. Kiser at Rt. 4, Box 227 or by phoning 739-6775.

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Larry Billings, director of business development in Kings Mountain, is hard at work trying to roundup all of the owners of buildings in the downtown area.

Object, to get them to agree to beautify their buildings.

Billings is also on the verge of bringing in a much needed retail business to the downtown area. He won't say what kind of business it is, but only that it is a traffic builder and should help juice up the CBD pedestrian trade traffic.

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Crawford Murphy, the architect from Shelby, was in town this week with Gheen Construction Co. workers to prepare the site for the pedestrian walk on W. Mountain St.

The walk will run beside the building housing the poolroom. Construction on the walk is scheduled to begin on July 12, the day the brick is to arrive for the project. Completion time is 90 days.

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Larry Hamrick, the local insurance and realty agent, said a couple of weeks ago he received some strange phone calls. People wanted to know why he had given a state trooper in Gaston County such a hard time.

It turns out a man named Larry Dean Hamrick from Bessemer City had fought with a trooper and shot at him with the trooper's gun, then fled. When the story hit radio news the BC Hamrick's age and hometown were not mentioned.

### HOME ON THE RANGE

The stove bends me over,  
Oh how I love the range,  
Just when I think I have finished  
Little burners need a change;  
Yet it's the shakers that make me shake  
The burners that make me fry  
But paper towels are hanging handy  
Comforting as a jullaby.

Red tea-kettle whistles all morning  
Although I am dressed in a smock,  
The steaming rice just bubbles over  
As though it were laughing-stock,  
Sharp knife is waiting to slice  
If only I will lend a hand,  
I must wait until the oven goes off  
And the fat drips down in the pan.  
Sugar is plentiful in a crystal bowl  
Fresh milk is the daily pet,  
The raisin is the sun-maid  
But dear lest you forget;  
A range will bend you over  
Little burners will make you fry,  
Distasteful little chores will bug you  
While the years are slipping by.

Sweet potato gives me the eye  
To cheer me should I turn sour,  
With the many buttons there is to push  
Burns a heap of elbow power.  
Bright turner makes the pancakes flip  
The can open loves to click,  
But its the range that bends me over  
And my 'Honey' that makes me tick.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

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