

## Make Barrett police chief

What do the city commissioners plan to do about hiring a new chief of police? At this point the commissioners confess they do not know. They have not discussed any plans.

Perhaps, they cannot see the forest for the tree. Why go looking for another qualified man to fill the job when we have one of the best right here in our midst. That would be Jackie Dean Barrett, the acting chief of police.

Capt. Barrett has more than 21 years experience in police work right here on the Kings Mountain force. He has served under Hugh Logan, Martin Ware, Paul Sanders, Tom McDevitt, William Roper and Earl Lloyd. This is the third time he has served as interim chief in the past four years.

When McDevitt left Barrett wanted no part of the chief's job. The same when Roper retired. He said it emphatically.

But now Capt. Barrett hasn't been emphatically against thinking the idea over. We would like to suggest to the commissioners that they get together with Capt. Barrett and discuss the pros and cons of the job.

We would also suggest that the commissioners not try to move into the inner workings of the police department any further than they have already. We don't say this is a common practice, but we do say that it has happened in recent history. We know it. They know it and so does everyone else in this community.

So, let's start with a clean slate here. A moving force as vital to the safety and well-being of every person in Kings Mountain as the police should have strong leadership and the rock solid backing of the elected officials. The force should also have as its leader a person who has the trust and loyalty of the officers.

We feel Capt. Barrett is that man.

## Mirror-Herald gives a damn

The Mirror-Herald has always made it a policy to cooperate with local people, i.e. politicians, businessmen, etc. when it comes to "holding a story" until either all the information is available or the "timing is right."

We have lost many news stories to out-of-town papers because we "sat on a story" trying to bend over backwards to cooperate.

We have lost other news stories simply because local people chose to give their information to the out-of-town press.

We find this hard to understand.

If there is a scandal or news story damaging to our town, the out-of-town press will capitalize on it.

We never will.

We will always try to build up Kings Mountain — not tear it down.

We will always try to support our local businesses. Out-of-town newspapers will try to lure you away to their shopping centers.

When it comes right down to it, if you will pardon the expression, we are the only newspaper in the world that "Gives a Damn" about Kings Mountain.

We have a lot of local people who go out of their way to bring us a "news break." We appreciate it.



### Poet's Corner

#### ROSE LOVING BEETLES

Beetles are bugging the world  
Leaving the leaves unseen,  
Heavy blast from the battle of beetles  
Has browned the growth once green.  
How they love the taste of roses  
How those beetles make me sin,  
Fighting the battle of the beetles  
Figure-stating how to win.

Who could ever make beetles believe,  
Life is not a bed of roses,  
Blossoms they have the heart set on  
With petals up to the noses  
Oh how they love Vitamin C  
Never to get their fill,  
Fresh from the garden every morning  
Never from the little pill.

Those beetles are destroying my sleep  
Lids of the eyes will not close,  
If they should, the picture I see  
Is beetles champing a rose.  
One thing I could praise the beetles for:  
They are a sweet, beauty loving sort  
Living life every moment  
As though they know time is short.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

There are others, however, who would rather see local news first in a daily paper.

It is hard for us to compete news-wise with a daily paper. They print every day. We print twice a week. But we hope these people will try to remember next time they have a news story that the Mirror-Herald is your local paper, and we should be the first people you call. Because, who knows, sometimes you may need us.

And we are the first to admit, that we need you.

## William Thomas Grissom

The Mirror-Herald joins with the whole community in mourning the death of William Thomas Grissom, who died unexpectedly, last, Wednesday. Our sympathy is extended to all his family.

Tommy Grissom was doing some of the things he liked most to do when death struck him down on the threshold of young manhood. His mother had dropped him off at a friend's house and they planned to spend a happy afternoon with CB radios which both had recently acquired. Tommy was looking forward to football opening at KM Junior High and he and his father had on Tuesday made arrangements for that long-awaited helmet.

The Choir of First Presbyterian Church sang "Think On Me" for the funeral service, the words having special meaning for the family, "when the sky seems darkest, think on Me."

A CB radio constructed of styrofoam centered the blanket of red roses atop the funeral bier.

Tommy Grissom was a quiet young man who had just celebrated on July 30th his 15th birthday.

The passing of a loved one at any age is painful, but the memories of this young man will be cherished by friends who are now establishing a memorial scholarship to an aspiring athlete at Kings Mountain High.

### READER DIALOGUE

#### Keep papers coming

To the editor,

I want to thank you for your paper, you publish sports and all the news that happens around town.

I'm in the U. S. Navy, I'm stationed in Roosevelt Rds, P. R. and being 2,000 miles from home your paper is the best thing I could get. I am really glad I get it. It tells me everything that's happening at dear old K. M.

So keep on publishing those papers. S. K. SA RUSHING  
Box 32 Rosy Rds. P. R.  
F. P. O. New York City N. Y. 09551

## Birth of Virginia Dare

Virginia Dare, the first child of English parents to be born in the New World, was born on Roanoke Island on August 18, 1587.

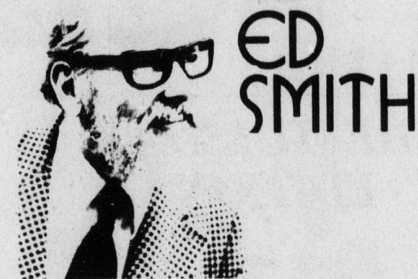
### Conditions are checked

Crop and livestock conditions in drought stricken areas of North Carolina are presently being reviewed by members of U. S. Department of Agriculture's Emergency Boards to determine disaster assistance needs of area farmers. The Farmers Home Administration, USDA's credit agency, will assist in determining counties in the state where serious crop and livestock losses are occurring because of the prolonged dry weather, according to James T. Johnson, FmHA State Director.

Johnson stated that FmHA will make its Emergency loan program available immediately in counties that are designated natural disaster areas by the Secretary of Agriculture, or otherwise declared eligible for the program. Designations are considered when the Secretary of Agriculture receives requests from the Governor of North Carolina. The program will make low interest loans available to help cover eligible farmers' losses and other parts of the program will allow loans for annual production expenses and to make adjustments that are needed to increase the soundness or efficiency of the operation.

Interest rates on loans for actual losses are five percent. Other parts of the Emergency loan program carry a market rate of interest, which is presently set at eight per cent. Loans to cover actual losses are scheduled for repayment consistent with the ability of the farmer to pay and available security, up to seven years. Other parts of the loan are similarly scheduled but can carry terms up to forty years, if needed.

Applicants may be either individual farmers, farming partnerships or corporations, primarily engaged in farming. All applicants must show that they cannot obtain the needed credit from private sources. Among other requirements, applicants must operate in a county declared a major or natural disaster and plan to continue farming. Production losses must be significant and not compensated by insurance or otherwise, and physical losses must likewise be uncompensated losses.



On August 20, three days later, she was baptised in what most people believe to have been the first such service held on American soil.

It wasn't. The Indian Manteo, baptised one week earlier, had been the first — known to English history. Probably Spanish missionaries had performed similar services in Florida at an earlier date.

Manteo, of course, was one of the two Indians taken back to England by Sir Walter Raleigh's first expedition some three years earlier. At the time of his baptism, on orders from Sir Walter, Manteo was also dubbed Lord of Roanoke, an empty title, but still the only officially-recognized title of nobility ever awarded (by the English) in America.

On August 16, 1918, in a famous rescue off Cape Hatteras, the Coast Guard station there saved most of the crew of the British tanker "Mirlo," which had apparently struck a German mine and burst into flame. Chief Bosuns Mate John Allen Midgett took his lifeboat through a wide area of water covered by burning gasoline to rescue most of the ship's crew. For their heroic action "Captain" Midgett and his crew were decorated by both the American and British governments.



## TOM MCINTYRE

seventh grade classroom instructing his students.

I visited Gene McSwain at the Moss Lake office last Saturday and he seemed awful lonely.

Gene is the patrol officer on the lake for the city.

"There's been no swimmers or sunbathers since the lake authority shut down the swimming beach," Gene said. "A couple of fishermen went out this morning, but maybe if the breeze comes up this afternoon we'll have some sailboaters to watch."

As the radio Matt Dillon used to say, "It's a chancy job. It makes a man watchful . . . and a little lonely."

Max Harris of Shelby, one of the 27th Judicial District Court judges, was having himself a soft drink at Tommy Barnette's Park in here Friday afternoon.

I knew Max when I lived and worked in Shelby and we renewed acquaintances. We chatted about newspapers

Governor Warren Winslow served the shortest term of office of any chief executive in the state's history — 27 days.

As President of the State Senate Winslow succeeded to the Governor's office on December 6, 1854, when Governor David S. Reid resigned near the end of his term to accept an appointment to the U. S. Senate. At that time the state's constitution called for the election of U. S. Senators by the State Senate. The constitution also stipulated that the presiding officer of the State Senate was next-in-line for the Governor's office when vacancies occurred. The office of Lieutenant Governor was not created until the constitution was rewritten in 1868.

Winslow served as Governor only until January 1, 1855, four weeks later, when Governor Thomas Bragg was inaugurated. Elected to Congress in 1856, Winslow served until the state left the Union in 1861, and died a year later.

In August of 1843, the kin of Mrs. Sarah Freeman of Orange County went to court to set aside her will, and began a landmark court case in North Carolina over the freeing of slaves.

In her will, Mrs. Freeman had freed her 40 slaves and left part of her estate to pay the expenses of sending them back to Africa. From the time of her death in 1839 until 1851, when her wishes were finally granted by the state Supreme Court, the case was followed with deep interest throughout the South. The American Colonization Society, as beneficiary of her action, to free her slaves, finally succeeded in returning them to Liberia, after a tangled series of law suits which kept a score of lawyers busy for twelve years, including three trips before the state's Supreme Court.

In all, between 1816 and 1860, the Society, arranged for the transportation back to Africa of some 7,000 former slaves. North Carolina supplied 1,158.



## Ruth gets his revenge

It finally happened.

Ruth had his revenge.

In case you've forgotten, Ruth is the "mule" owned by George Lubianeski that ran away taking the plow with him a couple of years ago.

That's George's story at any rate.

Ohhh, the abuse George has heaped upon Ruth's head over the years.

Well, Mary Stewart, who earns her daily bread working at Griffin's Drug, says that Ruth got his revenge a couple of weeks ago. Ruth put George in Gaston Memorial Hospital with a broken leg.

I called George's room to find out what happened.

"Ruth did it," George said. "He kept sneaking back at night and eating all the apples off the lower branches of my apple tree. I finally had to get a ladder to reach the apples. That's when Ruth kicked the ladder out from under me."

Of course, Ruth is a running joke between George and all his friends. George was a New York City boy who came south about 30 years ago and took to the soil like a native. His favorite expression is "It's getting late. I've got to go home and plow." The story of Ruth the mule came from that.

Actually, George did take a bad spill from a ladder while gathering apples and he did break a leg, almost at the hip. The doctors at Gaston Memorial plunked George on the operating table and put his bones back together with pins and screws. He was released from the hospital last weekend.

George teaches at Central School and when I asked him how he planned to get around with a broken leg, he said, "I'll wheel myself. The break was in the left leg, so I can still drive a car. I'll just have to put a foldup wheel chair in the back and haul it around with me."

That ought to be something to see, George wheeling himself around his

and court and when we got onto lawyers, Max told me about the strange happenings right here in Kings Mountain once upon a time involving an attorney from Lincolnton.

According to Max, it seems this fellow's wife got into the habit of driving away a lot of evenings without telling him where she was going. Well, as suspicious fellows will, the Lincolnton lawyer decided his mate was seeing someone else.

One evening he decided to follow his mate.

The problem was, the mate recognized him and led him a merry chase until she got to Kings Mountain where she hailed a police officer. "There's someone following me. I want him arrested."

No sooner said than done. The officer stopped the lawyer's car and took him out. Here it gets funny, Max said. The Lincolnton lawyer was in drag. You know, wearing a woman's dress and wig so his wife wouldn't know it was him.

The lawyer tried in vain to explain, then asked the officer to call a friend of his, another lawyer, in Lincolnton. The friend, according to Max, said he didn't know him and the local police locked the Lincolnton lawyer away for an hour until the lawyer's friend called back to say he was just joking. He knew the man and would they please release him.

According to Max, the Lincolnton lawyer's wife was not running around on him, she was just trying to get away from him. She had had it with the old boy.

The crowning touch was when her husband bought himself a printing press, had it installed in their living room and began printing himself a book.

"I think the fellow's mind was gone," Max said.

The understatement of the year.

## KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

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The Mirror-Herald is published by General Publishing Company, P. O. Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086. Business and editorial offices are located at 204 South Piedmont Ave. Phone 739-7496. Second Class postage paid at Kings Mountain, N. C. Single copy 15 cents. Subscription rates: \$8.50 yearly in-state, \$4.25 six months; \$9.50 yearly out-of-state, \$5 six months; Student rate for nine months \$6.24.