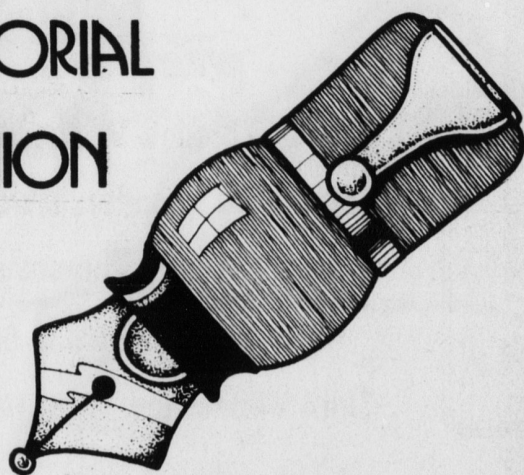


EDITORIAL
OPINION



Community can answer problem

Kings Mountain Emergency Services, Inc., a non-profit and benevolent organization, may become a reality in the near future. Wesley "may," because right now the consideration of a charter is in the hands of the secretary of state in Raleigh. Application has been made and an answer is expected within another week.

KMES, Inc. is the title of what could become the city's second rescue squad, one that refuses to charge a set fee for transporting citizens caught in emergency situations.

According to the organizers of the new unit, they have an ambulance and crash truck promised, plus a site for meetings and headquarters. They also have promises of donations for support.

The formation of a new unit is very good for the citizens of Kings Mountain. It broadens the emergency coverage. However, it could create some problems as far as officialdom is concerned.

Cleveland County Commissioners are charged with providing such

service within the county and Monday the board was presented with contracts between the county and Kings Mountain Rescue Squad. These contracts spell out financial arrangements for rescue and ambulance transport service. This would make it appear that the county has designated KM Rescue Squad as the official emergency service for the KM area. Where does this leave the KM Emergency Services, Inc. unit, should its charter be approved? What about the KM United Fund donations? Which unit is due donations from the UFL?

If the KMES, Inc. charter is approved it will be as we have suggested before; that the answer is the community's responsibility. And the community can answer the question very simply by calling on one or the other of the two emergency units when the need arises.

Citizens are missing golden opportunity

Disappointing is the description of the first in a series of six local government one-on-one meetings last Tuesday night.

Five private citizens from district one attended the gathering in the fellowship hall at Kings Mountain Baptist Church. And there were four elected officials on hand to make a total of nine.

The second meeting is scheduled tonight at 7:30 at Second Baptist Church. This one is set for district four residents. Commissioners Norman King will co-host the meeting with Mayor John Moss.

The Mirror-Herald feels perhaps KMers have not grasped fully the significance of these "one-on-one" meetings. Instead of standing around on street corners talking about what should be done in the city, these meetings offer you the opportunity to meet informally with local government officials, to discuss the needs as you see them in Kings Mountain.

The regular board meetings held the second and fourth Mondays each month leave very little time for in-depth discussions between

citizens and the board. Besides, too many people feel inhibited sitting in council chambers to really speak their piece. This series of meetings have been removed from the confines of city hall to put citizens more at ease. In other words the local governing body is "Playing on your turf."

We urge residents to think about this and to take full advantage of opportunity.

Misadventures of one of Ma Bell's boys

When Ma Bell dictates that employees will be educated, she means it.

Norman King, a longtime Bell employe who is having thoughts of retirement now and then, and a member of the Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners, found out Ma Bell means it recently.

Norman's boss said he wanted to know if Norman was interested in attending classes on "Plan Assigning." Norman allowed as how he was not interested.

"Fine," Norman's boss said. A week later Norman received a memo from the boss; "You are to attend the Plan Assigners class in Salisbury," or words to that effect.

Now Norman has been around long enough to know you don't argue with the boss. He may not always be right, but aye god, he's always the boss. So, Norman kissed his wife goodbye and drove to Salisbury looking for the address of where the class would be held. He rode up one street and down another, but he couldn't find the address. He even stopped people on the street and asked them where "Elm St." is located. No one could tell him.

Finally he pulled in to Howard Johnson's to find out if his boss had reserved him a room. No record of a reservation was to be found. The HJ desk clerk was even gracious enough to call around to other motels for info, but no one had Norman a room. So, Norman signed up for an HJ room on his own, then called his wife to tell her where he



TOM MCINTYRE

wrong city for the class, and after he had checked into and out of HJ and after he had gotten settled in Greensboro, turned if Ma Bell didn't make Norman pay for the three long distance phone calls.

After all that hassle, I'm gonna take pity on Norman and not tell you how he got a dose of poison ivy.

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Sometimes the job of reporters gets to be hairy. You may recall the column I did a few weeks ago on our local firefighters — how they do heroic stuff and all. What I didn't tell you in that column was how Jerry White and I got singed taking pictures of a controlled burn.

Jerry was the "torch," the guy setting the fires in the training house. We were in this small room, which was filled with hay liberally soaked with diesel fuel. Jerry began firing the hay while I focused the trusty camera.

Whoosh! Backlash happened. Jerry and I raced outta there like a couple of Jesse Owens, but not before I got two blistered fingers (the ones holding the camera) and both of us got our hair singed.

But, the firefighters made up for it the other night. They invited me down to the Fire Museum for a steak cookout. It's times like this a reporters lot is very fine.

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Final note: Earl Owensby of Shelby, the moviemaker, got a call the other day from another independent film producer

offering him a role in his movie, "Meteor." The lead roles in the film have been assigned to Sean Connery and

Natalie Wood.

Not bad for a country boy like EO, huh?

READER DIALOGUE

The wheels are in motion

To the editor,

I was somewhat surprised there weren't more candidates filing for the three city commissioner seats this election year. Nevertheless the filing deadline has gone and the wheels have been set in motion.

From what I can determine there is quite a bit of political punch shaping, so it wouldn't surprise me to see run-off elections in at least two of the three district races.

Some citizens are questioning whether the candidates are going to work for the seats they are after. All of them should. Several of the candidates are not too well pleased with the staggered term system, just as many of the citizens are not. Many of us believe the question of staggered terms should have been brought before the public for a vote.

We are living in difficult times and there are many difficult decisions to be made before October, so let's not place all of our eggs in one basket.

The question of responsibility lies greatly on the candidates and you can bet your bottom dollar the candidates

are feeling this already. Election time in our city is a big event, perhaps it should even be bigger because the people we put in office must have the will to see the city survives and continues on progressively.

Whoever is elected, we ask that the citizens of Kings Mountain and their well-being be kept uppermost in mind. Now, may the best men win on October 11.
EVERETTE PEARSON
Kings Mountain

A word on conduct

To the editor,

The Kings Mountain Pastors' Association has asked me to write a letter of concern to you.

A number of the pastors have had people speak to them concerning the conduct of softball teams of the Church Leagues. We would like to ask individual players, teams, coaches and parents to be concerned about sportsmanship and high level conduct.

A season has concluded and many people have had a good time.

During this off season, we would like to ask for your concern for the coming season. It is our hope that all games will reflect a high level attitude during the coming season.

RUSSELL FITTS
Kings Mountain



ED SMITH

The Constitution

Three Tar Heels signed the document

The United States Constitution was signed by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787.

Signing the document for the state of North Carolina were William Blount, Hugh Williamson and Richard Dobbs Spaight. Two other Carolinians had attended the Convention but were not present when the document was signed. They were William R. Davie and Alexander Martin.

Though the Constitution had been adopted, it still had to be ratified by the individual states. A state convention in Hillsborough in 1788 refused to accept it by a vote of 184-88.

One year later, after eleven other states had ratified the new national government, and the first ten amendments — the Bill of Rights — had been added with its guarantees of rights for individual citizens, a second convention was held in Fayetteville. On November 21, 1789, North Carolina voted to accept the Constitution by a vote of 196-77. This state had suffered badly from governmental excesses by many of its British governors during the Colonial period. Its citizens had refused to accept the rule of a strong Federal government

until the protection of individual rights was added.

This state joined the Union after the first election of George Washington, and did not participate in the nation's first Presidential election.

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Revolutionary War Governor Thomas Burke and his Council of State were captured in a surprise raid on Hillsborough by Tory Colonel David Fanning on Sept. 12, 1781. The next day, at Lindley's (near Graham) Col. Butler's North Carolina militia fought a battle with Fanning's troops in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue their governor.

The prisoners were taken to Charleston, S. C., to a British prison, where they were paroled to James Island, in the harbor after giving their word not to attempt escape. Governor Burke, a talented, temperamental, Irish-born poet and physician, heard rumors that some local Tories were plotting to assassinate him. Convinced that his life was indeed in jeopardy, he violated his parole, escaped to North

Carolina and resumed his post as Governor. Such was the rigid 18th



Century concept of honor, however, that Burke was severely criticized for breaking his word, even by the most anti-British Carolinians. Soundly defeated in his bid for re-election, Burke retired to his estate near Hillsborough and died a year later.

Thomas Wolfe, this state's most famous author, died in Baltimore Sept. 15, 1938, following brain surgery. He is buried in Asheville's Riverside Cemetery near the grave of the state's other most-famous writer, William Sidney Porter (O. Henry).

Educated at UNC and Harvard, Wolfe taught English at New York University and first attempted a career as a playwright. Publication of his first novel "Look Homeward, Angel" in 1929 established him as one of the most successful American novelists of all time. His other long, autobiographical novels "Of Time and the River," "The Web and the Rock" and "You Can't Go Home Again" also told the story of Wolfe's own family in Asheville, and about life in the mountains. He died, at 28, at the height of his career.

The Wolfe home in Asheville is now a state historic site, visited by thousands of tourists.

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