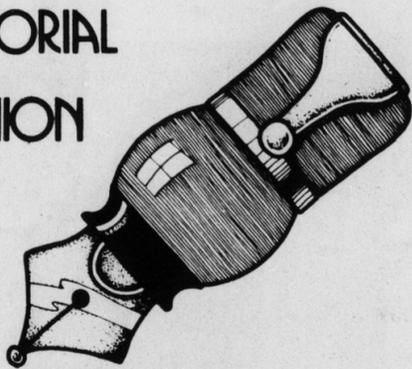


EDITORIAL
OPINION



KM needs another hustler like Billings

Larry Billings has been gone from the scene for a couple of months now and still the job of downtown business development director is not filled. It may sound like we've become Johnny-One Note on the subject of the central business district, but it cannot be stressed too often that the heart of the city's business community is breaking. Billings had several hot prospects on the line to settle in the CBD before he left for greener pastures. What's happened to those prospects since? To our knowledge they have not been followed up on. We realize there are other important deals being handled in the community, but it is high time the importance of the salvation of the downtown business community is recognized and something constructive is done about it. Lip service is never an adequate substitute for positive action. There are empty buildings that need filling and there are vacant lots that need new construction and more diversification throughout. Historically, Kings Mountain has always been a growing community, a bustling community. Is it now to become a large bedroom surrounded by large industry? There is efforts made on behalf the citizens and efforts made on behalf of industry. Is it too much to ask that some efforts now be made on behalf of the local retail business community? We are looking to local government for the answers. Somewhere here or out there surely there is another hustler like Billings.

Meet the candidates at forum Wednesday

Tomorrow night the local school board and city board candidates will gather at the community center for a forum meeting with the voters. Like 'ol fashion stumpin', the candidates will get to make brief speeches. Unlike stumpin', the voters will get their turn to quiz the candidates. Meetings such as this can be vital to a community and should be attended by all concerned citizens. After all, we have a group of men asking us to trust them with (a) the education of our children, and (b) the handling of our fates as KM citizens. The forum is being sponsored by the Cleveland County Voters Registration Association, an organization which has been in existence a little over a year, but one which has the promise of becoming a viable community force as far as creating interest in the election process. Do yourself a favor and attend Wednesday night's meeting with the candidates.

Other voices.....

Well, folks, it looks like the 'ol corn cob will make a come back this year as Sears has started charging \$2 for their catalogs: And the Government is sending out memos to all departments telling them to cut down on the amount of paper they use each day in their work. Oh, yeah, the memo was 12,000 pages long . . .

Bellwood Trading paper

Visit Jaycees' haunted house if you need a good scare

Have you taken the youngsters to see the Jaycees' Haunted House yet? No? Then schedule it. You'll have a ball. The former Roses Store on S. Battleground Ave. has been transformed into a chamber of horrors by the industrious KM Jaycees and they only ask a buck and a quarter to see the sights.

I went through it the other evening and even these old eyeballs that have seen every horror picture that ever came down the pike were a bit wide by the time I escaped from the "Timberwolf's Lair."

The Jaycees have donated their free time evenings to creating the masterpiece, which features a ghost train, Dracula, Frankenstein's lab, giant spiders, flying spoons and a lot of weird sounds.

The Haunted House continues tours tonight through Oct. 31 - Halloween and the tour is well worth the money. For the bargain hunters there are discount coupons available at various places in town.

And speaking of Halloween, the N. C. Insurance Service has gotten into the act issuing safety precautions to be exercised on goblin night.

They warn motorists to be alert for the little "spooks" wandering around neighborhoods "trick or treating," and even suggest Halloween costumes be of material or applications of highly visible materials.

Makeup is even more preferable to bulky masks that may restrict vision. Cardboard swords, broomsticks or magic wands would be safer than the real McCoy, both for the youngster who handles the object and the other youngsters who may come in contact with them.

For those youngsters who plan to go out trick or treating, it is always wise to have parental supervision, or responsible adults tagging along.

Youngsters should also remain in their own neighborhoods where they are familiar with people and all trick or trick loot should be examined carefully before being turned over to the children.

These are just a few precautions and it never hurts to be on the safe side. Not in this day and time with all the dingbats on the loose.

There comes a time in the life of every parent when the ultimate question is asked and must be answered with honesty and simplicity.

Many parents dread this moment, have nail-chewing shakes thinking about it. "What will I say?" "How can I answer that?" "What's the question?" "Where do babies come from?"

It happened to a local couple last week. Their small daughter had decided she had the answer to this question. She informed her mother she knew babies came from their mama's stomachs, "so tell me how the baby got in there in the first place?"

It took awhile, but the natural process of conception was explained fully. The young lady thought it over, carefully digesting all of the information, then the little wheels began to turn in other directions and she excitedly announced to her mama, "The (family friends) have done it five times! And the (more family friends) have done it four! But you and daddy have only done it two times!"

Out of the mouths of babes . . .

TOM McINTYRE



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The cat came back . . . It happened to Darrell and Shirley Austin. They took their ancient cat out into the country to stay with a family that liked cats. Darrell said a confusing, criss-crossing route was taken to disorient the feline. Bright and early Sunday morning there was a scratching at the Austin's backdoor. The cat sat there grinning.

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The boss is writing a book on Horace Albert "Bones" McKinney, one of the most colorful basketball coaches of our time.

Gariand Atkins has spent weeks and weeks interviewing Bones and people who knew him when. He's spent more weeks plowing through tons of press clippings and game write-ups to flesh out the story.

While Bones was a roundball standout, he claims his real ambition was to be a bigtime football player. He reasons that professional football players get all the girls and all the big money for TV commercials. At the same time he does realize he wouldn't look as good in panty hose as Joe Namath.

And since this is football season, let me relate one of Bones' football stories to you . . . Wake Forest was playing the Tar Heels one year at Chapel Hill. The Deacons were trailing and there were only a couple of minutes left in the game.

Bones 'llows as how it ain't safe to beat the Tar Heels in Chapel Hill, but despite that the Deacon coach decided to play a longshot. He sent in a lineman, a beefy mental midget, to tell quarterback to kick a field goal. The big lad raced onto the field, but had to make a dive for the sidelines because he couldn't make it before the play was called.

Out on the field the Deacons suddenly caught fire and drove that ball to a first and goal to go situation. Then the beefy lineman charged into the Deacon huddle and told the quarterback, "Coach says kick a field goal!" "A field goal? He must be crazy! We're right on the goal. We're going for a touchdown!" the quarterback answered.

The beefy lineman grabbed the QB by the shoulder pads and lifted him off the ground and growled into his face, "Damnit! Coach says kick a field goal!"

So, with the game coming to a close and the Deacons on the goal with four downs, they kicked a field goal.

The Deacons won and later in the dressing room the reporters asked the beefy lineman why they kicked a field goal and he answered, "Awww . . . If we didn't make it, I knew we had three more chances."

Poet's Corner



WHAT IS A FIREMAN?

He's the guy next door.

He's a man's man with the sharp memory Of a little boy who never got over the Excitement of engines and sirens and Smoke and danger.

He's a guy like you and me with warts And worries and unfulfilled dreams.

Yet he stands taller than most of us. He's a fireman. He puts it all on the line when the bell rings.

A fireman is at once the most fortunate And the least fortunate of men.

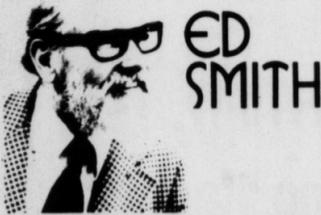
He's a man who savors life because he has Seen too much death. He's a gentle man Because he has seen too much of the Awesome power of violent forces out of control. He's a man responsive to a child's laughter because his arms have held too many small bodies that will never laugh again.

He's a man who appreciates the simple pleasures of life . . . hot coffee held in numbed, unbending fingers . . . the flush of fresh air pumping through smoke and fire convulsed lungs . . . a warm bed for bone and muscle compelled beyond feeling . . . the comradeship of brave men . . . the divine peace of selfless service and a job well done in the name of all men.

He doesn't wear buttons or wave flags or shout obscenities and when he marches, it is to honor a fallen comrade.

He doesn't preach the brotherhood of man. He lives it.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



ED SMITH

Women became politically active at Edenton Tea Party

The Edenton Tea Party was the first recorded political activity by women in the history of the United States. It remains one of the most famous events in North Carolina history.

The Tea Party took place in Edenton on October 25, 1774, as a protest against "unjust" British taxation of the colonies.

The more famous Boston Tea Party had taken place about a year earlier. The Boston protest was much more violent. It involved the dumping of a shipload of tea into the harbor at great financial loss to the East India Company, and caused the British government to close the port of Boston in retaliation.

In Edenton a group of 52 ladies (the figure is often mistakenly reported as 51) met in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth King and drank a substitute beverage brewed from youpon leaves. Then they signed a proclamation swearing to "indulge no longer in the pernicious habit of drinking tea" with the hated British tax.

The group, led by Mrs. Penelope Barker, also affirmed its support of the colonies' decision to resist oppressive British policies by purchasing no British-made products.

The event, being an early protest and won by women, received much publicity, both in America and England. Ironically, the actual taxes they protested were far smaller than we pay our own government today. The resentment was more against "taxation without representation" than against taxation itself.

The Confederate ram "Albemarle" was sunk in Plymouth harbor on October 27, 1864, in a daring, nighttime raid by Union forces.

Nowhere during the Civil War was the naval struggle for control of the South's coastline fought more bitterly than in the Albemarle Sound. The Southern decision had been to attempt breaking the Northern stranglehold by attacking the blockading Union navy with iron-clad rams.

The "Albemarle" required two years for building and did not get into action until late



1864. It led the successful Southern attempt to recapture Plymouth, sinking several Northern ships in the process. It was commanded by Captain James W. Cooke.

Lieutenant William B. Cushing, a Northern officer, received one of the first Congressional Medals of Honor for "performing the daring feat of destroying the 'Albemarle' with a torpedo.

Cushing commanded a small steam launch with a five hundred pound torpedo attached to the end of a fourteen foot spar, a weapon nearly as dangerous to users as to victims. To make it work the attackers had to line up beside their target, lower their mine beneath it and detonate it by pulling a lanyard - all under fire! Somehow the suicidal mission was accomplished, sinking both vessels. Cushing was one of the two Union volunteers who survived.

The loss of the dreaded "Albemarle" cost the Southern forces control of the harbor and allowed the Northern forces to recapture Plymouth.

KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

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TOM McINTYRE Editor

ELIZABETH STEWART Women's Editor

GARY STEWART Sports Editor

DARRELL AUSTIN General Manager

CLYDE HILL Advertising Director

MEMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION

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: \$6.50 yearly in-state, \$4.25 six months; \$9.50 yearly out-of-state, \$5.50 six months. Student rate for nine months \$6.24