

# Could you name five greatest movies?

Next Monday night's 9:30 colorcast of the American Film Institute 10th Anniversary Special will be very special to movie lovers.

AFI will attempt to select the five greatest American films of all time from a list of 50 titles. These 50 films were selected from more than 1,100 titles selected by AFI members last July.

The 50 films were selected by the 35,000 AFI members across the country. The films are dramas, westerns, love stories, comedies, science fiction and tales of adventure and mysteries. There are silent films, black and white and color films, animated films and musicals in the running.

The oldest film being considered was made in 1915 by D. W. Griffith. It's called "The Birth of a Nation" and used Thomas Dixon's "The Klansman" as part of the story. Dixon was a Shelbian.

The newest film being considered is "Star Wars," one of the highest grossing and fastest films of all time.

Other movies in the group of 50 are "Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid," "The African Queen," "Gone With The Wind," "Ben Hur," "Cabaret" and "Sunset Boulevard."

Although not mentioned as yet, I'm sure "Citizen Kane" is listed among the 50 films.

If it isn't then the entire proceedings is a farce. It may be just that anyway because with so many movie lovers in the world, the AFI program could be the beginning of one of the biggest running arguments we ever saw.

After all, there were only 35,000 people voting on the outcome. To truly be democratic the voting would have to be thrown open to everyone in the world who has ever seen an American-made movie.

It would equally as impossible to choose the worst movie ever made — although that bunch of junk Tom Laughlin put out entitled "Billy Jack" would be a strong contender.

I wonder what the guidelines for selecting the initial 1,100-plus movies were? Box office receipts? Critical reviews? Artistic achievements? What?

You know the more you think about this the more you become aware that AFI has taken on an impossible task. This is even more difficult than defining what is funny.

Tell you what. Just for the fun of it, why don't all of us movie lovers in the historical city and area make up our own lists of what we consider the five greatest American movies ever made? Just jot the titles down and mail them by The Mirror-Herald office. Our mailing address is P. O. Drawer 752, KM, 28086 and our street address is 204 S. Piedmont Ave.

After the AFI selection is made we'll compare our lists and see how close or how far away we are from their list.

The AFI show can be seen on WBTN Mon., Nov. 21 at 9:30 p. m.



### TOM McINTYRE

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"Here's a killer for you . . . Students in the local schools recently received their report cards. One young gent fetched his home to show to his parents. There was a math teacher's note attached to the effect that the student wasted his time in class, was capable of doing better work and showed no interest in the subject.

The grade for the six weeks in math on the youngster's report card was an "A." Go figure that one out.

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David Harrison, a state probation and parole officer working in Cleveland County

told some interesting things concerning his work at last week's Rotary luncheon.

Among the items was the story of a bad check artist from the western section of the county. According to Harrison this fellow is "notorious" for writing bad checks. He has been arrested, tried and convicted several times.

The last time his check artistry had fleeced some people out of \$83. When the judge asked him if he could make restitution to the people he fleeced, the fellow asked the judge, "Will you take a check?"

Another strange case was the man who was serving time when his wife charged him with non-support. The judge allowed the charge and the man was convicted.

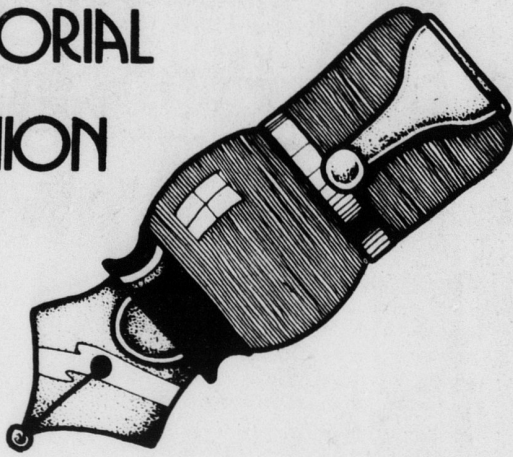
Harrison said, "Luckily, the man was on work release and could pay the money allocated the wife by the judge."

And then there is the story of the prisoner who walked away from a prison farm and was gone for two years. The man was serving a three to five year sentence and had completed one year on the farm before he escaped.

"Only they don't call it escape now," Harrison said. "They call it being absent without leave. After two years of being absent without leave the prisoner was returned to the prison unit, but since he had not been in any trouble during that two years of freedom, the judge gave him credit for the time, so now he was eligible for parole — and he got it."

With things like this going on it makes you wonder what all the social reformers are screaming about when they insist that the tar heel prison system must be made a more humane place to incarcerate criminals.

## EDITORIAL OPINION



### Qualified person needed

Applications are being taken for the position of director of Kings Mountain Development Office — the job initiated by Larry Billings under a Community Development grant.

This job is an important one and, frankly, too much valuable time has been allowed to elapse since Billings resigned before a replacement was sought.

The revitalization of the downtown business district has been paid nothing but lip service for the past several years, that is until Billings was hired to do some shaking and moving. He made a pretty good stab at the project until private industry wooed him away.

Now we hear rumblings of pressure being placed on the city hall powers to place either this person or that person in the job. That is fine, but only — we repeat — only if "this person or that person" is fully qualified to take on the job.

The director of development position in no way should be considered a non-essential job. On the contrary, it is perhaps one of the most important local government positions to be created in sometime and the person selected to steer the program must be fully in accord with the theory behind the job.

You don't hand stones to a person sinking in quicksand. That same truth applies when the selection of the development director is made, because don't think for a minute that the downtown business community in Kings Mountain is not up to its knees in quicksand.

Applications are being taken at the mayor's office at city hall and interviews will be setup within a week.

### Early deadlines announced

Early advertising and news deadline for Thanksgiving week issues of The Mirror-Herald will begin this Friday for the Mon., Nov. 21 issue.

The deadline is by noon this Friday because the Monday edition will have to be printed sometime during the weekend in order to have the paper in the mail early Monday morning.

The usual Thursday morning edition will be in the mail early Wednesday morning to reach our readers before Thanksgiving. The deadline for the Wednesday issue is noon Tues., Nov. 22.

We realize this is an inconvenience for our advertisers and individuals contributing news articles, so your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Early deadlines only occur once or twice a year, during holidays. Since Christmas falls on Sunday this year we won't have to rearrange publication schedules of The Mirror-Herald either the week before or the week after Christmas.

### READER DIALOGUE

How has your week been?

Are you ticked off at about something; high electric bills, high food bills, lack of services either on the local, state or national level?

Don't keep it to yourself. That only leads to further frustration. Share your thoughts with your friends and neighbors.

On the other hand, are you pleased with something? Want to tell people what a great place you live in, how good it is to have helpful neighbors?

Try it. Write in pen, pencil or crayon (as long as legible) or type it (double-spaced) and mail your comments to Mirror-Herald, Reader Dialogue, P. O. Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086.

All letters must be signed before publication can be considered.

### Plaudits for a sports editor

To the editor,

The citizens of Kings Mountain are very lucky to have Gary Stewart working on the local newspaper as sports editor. He is one of the finest sports writers, if not the best, in the area.

Gary did some outstanding writing and

Good, bad or indifferent, The Mirror-Herald's Reader Dialogue portion of the editorial page is the place for you to voice your comments so that others might know how you feel. It's a great way to discover others who share your feelings.

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photography in covering the just past football season and we all look forward to his coverage of the coming sports activities on the Kings Mountain scene.

Keep up the good work Gary.  
BOB HAYES  
Kings Mountain

### Undercurrent campaign

To the editor,

Once upon a time a man ran for mayor of a small town because the people asked him to. When it came time for the election this same man was the only candidate running for the job. When the votes were counted he naturally won. Right? Wrong?

Does this make sense? This non-partisan observer doesn't think so. Yet this is just what happened in the recent Grover election.

I can't believe this is the way the American voting system is supposed to operate. It is my opinion that Mr. Dean Westmoreland was wronged by the majority

of the voters in the Grover voting district. I think the Grover voters should feel ashamed to have such a thing happen.

The whole situation strikes me as odd and improbable. Surely a person having enough support to win with a write-in vote would be aware of the fact and would have placed his name on the ballot. On the other hand, if he was so opposed to becoming mayor that he failed to file for candidacy in spite of evident support, he should not have accepted the position after he had won.

TODD GATTS  
Kings Mountain

### Poet's Corner



THE OLD HOUSE KNEW  
(c) 1977

The face of the house was plank  
The bare windows glared in pane  
The frame shook with the shutters  
Worn shingles dripped with rain,  
Hasty steps had been taken  
To bring the rafters tumbling down  
Progress was playing havoc  
With a bull-dozer over town.

The underpinning was holding fast  
The very best that it could  
The old house so reluctant to go  
Which once in elegance stood,  
Tall chimney was reeling to topple  
Without a curling smoke  
The hearth was laid out in bricks  
And bore the markings of a stroke.

The old house had seen days of glory  
And sheltered sweet memories still  
Underneath the towering oaks  
The Veranda in banistered frill,  
The face of the house was plank  
The bare windows glared in pane  
Progress was moving in  
To fall her in the reign.

VIVIAN S. BILTCLEFFE

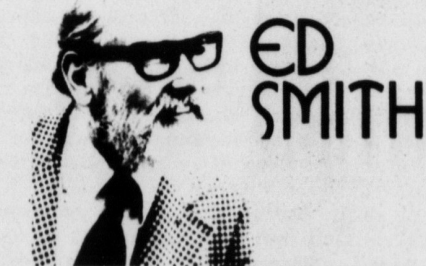
## There was talk of quitting Union

In mid-November of 1860, North Carolina and the other Southern states were boiling with talk of quitting the Union.

Abraham Lincoln's election as President had brought the long North-South dispute over slavery to a climax. His victory, said one Southern newspaper, "is an outrage to Southern sentiment and feeling." Said another, "It has brought to power a foreign and hostile government. The Republican Party is foreign to Southern soil and hostile to our way of life."

Strangely, it was the press and clergy who led the assault, not the politicians. This was particularly true in North Carolina, where many public figures opposed secession and pro-secession sentiment was far less universal than elsewhere in the South.

The state's first pro-secession meeting was held in Shelby, on Nov. 12. An excited crowd overflowed the Cleveland County courthouse, damned the Union, ate, drank, burned bonfires in the streets and fired an old cannon (said to be a relic of the Revolution) until it burst. A week later a similar meeting was held in Wilmington, and others took place across the state. On Nov. 19 the General Assembly convened in Raleigh, with the burning question of What-To-Do uppermost in everyone's mind.



### ED SMITH

A state-wide referendum on secession would later fail, however, and North Carolina remained in the Union while all about her other states were seceding. The state would not quit the Union until open hostilities began at Fort Sumter in April of 1861. The actual date of secession would be May 20, chosen because it was the date of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

P. T. Barnum, "The Great Showman," began his career in North Carolina.

At a country crossroads a half-mile from Rocky Mount, on Nov. 12, 1836, the first recorded performance of Barnum's travelling show took place. No mention is

made of any specific act or attraction, but it was more medicine show than circus. It is recorded that Barnum himself preached a sermon and passed a collection plate, and it was probably from experiences such as these that he coined his famous expression that "There's a sucker born every minute."



### P.T. BARNUM

Jonathan Worth, Governor of the state during the turbulent post-Civil War period, was born on Nov. 18, 1802. After studying law under the famous Hillsborough Judge Archibald D. Murphey, Worth married the judge's niece, established his practice in Asheborough and represented Randolph County in the legislature.

Worth served as state treasurer during the Civil War, displaying "financial capacity of the first order" during that demanding period. When Governor Vance was arrested by Federal authorities at the war's end and replaced by the controversial, anti-war Raleigh newspaper editor W. W. Holden as Provisional Governor, Worth was kept on to help restore order to the war-ravaged state.

In 1865, with civilian authority restored, Worth was elected Governor to replace Holden. One historian notes that "He performed ably the difficult task of reconciling hostile state factions, reassuring a suspicious Johnson Administration, and satisfying hostile northern opinion." Before the end of his term President Andrew Johnson's conciliatory post-war policies were overturned by Congress, and Governor Worth was removed from office by the Reconstruction Acts which declared all Southern state governments illegal.

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