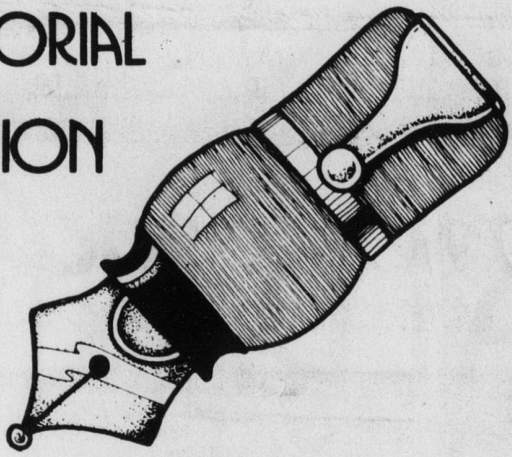


EDITORIAL  
OPINION



## Back board on this one

No matter how angry, upset or disenchanted for whatever reason citizens may have been with the city government officials — you'll have to give them credit for at least one bold stroke against oppression.

That stroke is the idea of mounting an attack against this ridiculous fuel cost adjustment tacked onto every power bill every citizen receives.

Duke Power, Bless them, bust their bunions to provide electrical power to all of us. Let's face it. Where would we be without it? Right back in the candle and oil lamp days. For this service Duke Power earns tremendous sums of money. Duke stockholders reap dividend rewards in large amounts. That's only right. It's the American way.

But! ... getting back to this fuel cost adjustment. We have been asked to explain in simple terms, just what this cost is. The logistics involved cannot be explained simply. It has to do with coal being used to generate the ginkuses that create the power and coal being hard to get because the coal-miners are always on strike because they claim they aren't paid enough because the always rising price of coal to the industry that uses it should bring in enough money to give the striking coal miners a raise.

Now here's a simple term for the coal or fuel cost adjustment. R-i-p-o-f-f! How's that for simplicity? It is a ripoff of the consumer because the N. C. Utilities Department allowed the cost to be passed on to us by the power companies. It was supposed to be a temporary expense.

So, if the KM elected officials can find the right nerve and pinch it for all its worth to get the consumer some relief, more power to them. We should all get behind the city council on this matter because we all have a stake in it.

P. S. The Mirror-Herald doesn't care to hear any 2,500 word discourses from any power companies attempting to justify the fuel cost adjustment. The profit increases spelled out in annual reports make these discourses sound awfully shallow. Rate increases to take care of inflation are acceptable, but not rate increases plus fuel cost adjustments. People who do not happen to have the good fortune of being able to afford a chunk of power company stock also deserve to breathe.

## Airport not jesting matter

As editor of the local newspaper, I have been here for four and a half years and have heard an airport for Kings Mountain mentioned only in jest.

That is until last week when a logical plan of attack and an even more logical plan for attacking were spelled out.

It all goes back to diversification. In small towns and cities all over the country, those places defined as one-horse towns and cities or one-industry communities, there has been trouble. Economic trouble. But in the areas where diversified business and industry is found, there is found also a thriving economy.

Kings Mountain is slowly becoming an area of diversified industry. There is room for even more growth. The more we have to offer to those industries looking for new sites to base operations the better chance we have of landing them here.

The proposed airport, then appears to be right on the button as far as appeal to some large industries simply because more and more corporations own and operate their own aircraft.

Kings Mountain has people for employment. It has water. It has major highways for transporting manufactured goods. So why not an airport?

The idea of KM having its own airport has never been a jesting matter to the citizens interested in and participated in the growing world of aviation. So now maybe the jesters might be persuaded to take the idea a bit more seriously.

TOM MCINTYRE

# Check out this program

Rotary International has a program you might be interested in hearing about. It's called The Rotary Foundation.

What the organization calls it is a trust voluntarily supported by Rotary clubs, Rotarians and others throughout the world. The objective of Rotary Foundation is the further international understanding and friendly relations among peoples of different nations through projects of an educational or charitable nature.

Under the program there is at least one educational award (graduate fellowship), undergraduate scholarship or technical training award offered to every Rotary district each year.

In addition each district may submit an application for an award to a teacher of the handicapped and a journalist. Extra educational awards are granted districts with outstanding per Rotarian contributions. And in addition each district is eligible to apply annually for a group study exchange award.

Graduate fellowships are awarded highly qualified young men and women, married or single, 20-28 years of age, and holding a Bachelor's degree or equivalent. The award covers all travel, living and educational expenses for one academic year in a foreign country.

Undergraduate scholarships are available to single men and women, 18-24. This program parallels the graduate fellowship, except the candidate must have completed two years or more of university level work, but not yet holding bachelor's degrees or equivalent.

Technical training awards provide all travel, living and educational expenses for young artisans and technicians to train in a foreign country for up to one year. Awards are made to men and women, married or single, ages 21-25.

Awards to teachers of the handicapped provide all travel, living and educational expenses for those who have been employed as fulltime teachers of the physically, mentally or educationally handicapped for at least two years. Candidates may be married or single, ages 25-50 and having at least a secondary school education.

Journalist awards are open to men and women, ages 21-28, married or single with at least two years experience as a professional journalist having at least a secondary school education. Or, if a student, have at least two years of post secondary study in journalism.

The study periods run from four to six weeks to a



TOM  
MCINTYRE

district outside the country where participants will visit communities, homes, schools, businesses, governmental offices and other institutions. The object, to learn as much about the country visited.

Chairman of the Rotary Foundation program in the Kings Mountain club is Wilson Griffin, who said this week that no fellowships, awards or grants have been made to anyone locally through the club.

"I think people in the community might be interested in discovering this program," Griffin said, "because it holds many benefits for individuals."

Griffin, a local drug store owner, said there are many ways Rotarians can become involved in the program, "but there are other ways others in the community can become involved. People who do not belong to the Rotary Club."

This route is through individual recognition.

For instance an individual in the community can become a Paul Harris Fellow (Harris founded the Rotary Club) by contributing \$1,000 during any 12-month-period. A Paul Harris Sustaining Member is individual contributing a minimum first gift of \$100 toward \$1,000 total.

Griffin said, "The sustaining member may contribute the money in his own name or in honor or memory of someone else. There is no time limit on contributing the full \$1,000."

There is also a memorial contributor plan, the donation of \$100 in memory of a deceased person. And, of course, the contributions are tax deductible.

"Such contributions not only honor the name or memory of special people in the community," Griffin said, "but the programs also give people from the community an opportunity to fulfill their own potential. An opportunity to broaden their education and understanding of people in other countries. And the new knowledge these selected people bring home can't help but benefit the rest of us."

Not only individuals, but groups and companies can also participate in creating fellowships, scholarships, awards and grants through Rotary International.

"Rotary might have started out way back when as a once a week luncheon meeting between people with common interests," Griffin said, "but since that time Rotary has grown to mean something else entirely. Oh, we still meet once a week for lunch and to catch an interesting program, but through the members and the community at large Rotary, through such programs as Rotary Foundation, means opportunities people only dreamed about before."

Griffin said he didn't expect all of this information to cause a mad rush to take part in Rotary Foundation, "but it could give someone in the community an idea for action that might be appealing."

### What's your opinion?

The Mirror-Herald welcomes letters from readers expressing your opinions on any subject you choose, or rebutting any editorial opinion we express.

Address all correspondence for this page to Reader Dialogue, Mirror-Herald, P. O. Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086.

All letters must be signed by writer with address included. Unsigned letters will not be published.

## READER DIALOGUE

### Here is the question

Question: Do you think grown children should feel responsible for their elderly parents?

In a recent survey, 37 percent said yes; 34 percent no; and 30 percent had no opinion.

People always feel a deep sense of responsibility for those they love.

I find the 34 percent no and the 30 percent with no opinion quite shocking.

No these people remain indifferent to the physical and spiritual fate of mother and father?

"Honor thy father and thy mother."

There is a story of an old grandfather whose hands were not steady and who spilled his food at table. His son and daughter-in-law, therefore, built a little table in the corner and, putting a special

bib on the old man, served him his separate and lonely meals.

One day the son and daughter-in-law discovered their small boy sawing and hammering industriously at a work bench.

When they asked him what he was doing, he replied: "I'm building a table in the corner for you when you are old."

What we decide about others can return in principle to bless or curse us.

"Honor thy father and thy mother."

EVERETTE PEARSON  
Kings Mtn., N. C.

# A footnote in Tar Heel history

On January 8, 1815, former Tar Heel Andrew Jackson won the Battle of New Orleans. A few weeks later news of the victory reached North Carolina and a Surry County footnote was added to the history of the event.

Jackson had owed a hotel bill in Rockford for some years, dating back to his days as a struggling young lawyer on the Carolina frontier. The innkeeper had stubbornly kept the entry on his books, telling anyone who'd listen how the celebrated General Jackson, owed him money. Upon hearing about Jackson's one-sided triumph over the hated Redcoats, however, he wrote across the face of the ledger "Settled in Full by the Battle of New Orleans."

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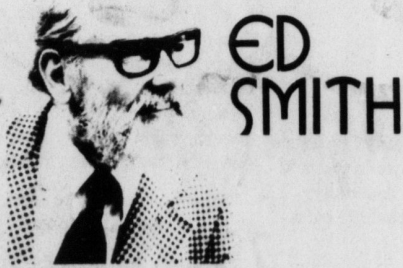
On January 15, 1865, Fort Fisher fell to the Union forces after two days of the heaviest naval bombardment ever seen in the Western hemisphere.

Situated near the south of the Cape Fear River, the fort had been called "The Gibraltar of America." Its capture sealed off Wilmington, the last important seaport available to the Confederacy for supply by blockade runners.

A huge Federal fleet had steamed into position off the fort on Dec. 24, but their attack — like earlier ones — had been repulsed by the Confederate defenders under Col. William Lamb. On January 12 an even stronger fleet returned. After an intense bombardment Union troops landed, stormed the walls and took the fort after some of the fiercest hand-to-hand combat of the war.

Fort Fisher's fall, and the subsequent loss of Wilmington, are regarded by historians as having sealed the doom of an already badly-weakened Confederacy.

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SMITH

On Jan. 12, 1896, the first X-ray photographs in medical history were taken on the campus at Davidson College.

Only a week earlier, the German physicist, Dr. Wilhelm Roentgen, had announced his "accidental discovery" of what he called "X" rays while experimenting with cathode tubes.

Dr. Henry Louis Smith, a Davidson physics and astronomy professor (he was later president of the college), fired a pistol bullet into the hand of a cadaver, then took a 15 minute exposure to find its exact location.

Later it was discovered that three of his students, as a midnight prank, had slipped into the lab and taken several exposures at an even earlier date!

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Benjamin Smith of Brunswick County, governor of the state in 1810-11 was born on Jan. 10, 1756.

A hot-tempered man, Smith fought a number of duels and was twice wounded. During the American Revolution he served as an aide to General George Washington.

A wealthy planter, Smith was owner of the

famed Orton Plantation and was considered one of UNC's greatest early benefactors. He donated some 20,000 acres of land for sale to help establish the university.

Ironically Smith died (also in January, 1826) in debtor's prison!

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Died Jan. 9, 1852, Congressman Lemuel Sawyer, author of "Blackbeard," which was the first play written by a native North Carolinian with a North Carolina setting and characters.

The play, which was published in 1824, was not about the pirate of that name but was instead a four-act comedy about politics of the period.



THE PORTHOLE WITH AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW  
(c) 1978

Sails are christening the New Year with hope  
To sail forward on unknown seas,  
With brightest sails hoisted high  
on the ship of great expectancy.

With the master of the sea at the tiller  
No storm can arise to fear,  
Though dark clouds may gather  
And the ungodly jeer.

All aboard ye faithful  
To travel the waters of an unknown sea,  
To reach the shore with fulfilled dreams  
Harvested from great expectancy.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

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