

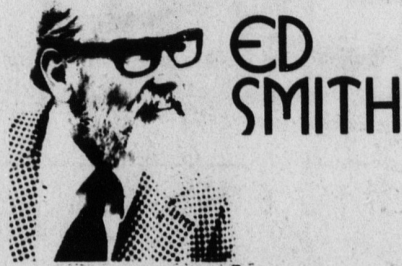
Metropolis wreck set off scandal

On the night of January 31, 1878, the steamship "Metropolis" ran aground off Currituck Beach, N. C., with loss of 102 lives. This tragedy, coupled with the events which followed it, set off a national scandal which is said to have been largely responsible for the establishment of the modern U. S. Coast Guard.

Later investigations established a pattern of incompetent seamanship, an unseaworthy vessel that should never left port, and grossly inadequate rescue and relief facilities, even though the wreck had occurred within sight of the new Currituck lighthouse.

The captain had attempted to beach his sinking vessel, but it caught on a reef several hundred yards from shore. Survivors clung to the wreckage for most of the following day, while a "crashing hell" of surf pounded it to pieces. After several efforts to get a line aboard the vessel failed, the few Rescue Service men available gave up efforts to save them, attempting instead to pick up those who washed ashore.

Conflicting reports emerged about the events which followed. The area, a section of the Outer Banks, was described as "the loneliest and most isolated portion of North Carolina." Even so, a number of people were attracted to the scene. Some acted with bravery, dashing repeatedly into the icy, dangerous waters to rescue survivors. Others stripped and



looted them, dead and injured alike, and left them lying where they were.

The tales of mistreatment which later spread through the nation's press were probably exaggerated, for in that isolated area little could have been done to feed and shelter the survivors at best. The 250-odd survivors suffered badly from cold and exposure, however, and a clamor emerged in Congress for improved rescue services to prevent such future happenings.

On Feb. 1, 1781, General William Lee Davidson was killed at Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River, attempting to prevent the

crossing of Lord Cornwallis's British Army.

Davidson was commander of the militia forces from Mecklenburg and Rowan counties. Davidson College and Davidson County were named in his honor.

According to family tradition, the General was not killed by British troops but by a local Tory enemy who was scouting for the Redcoats. Although the man fled at the end of the war, members of Davidson's family succeeded in tracking him down on the frontier some twenty years later and killed him.

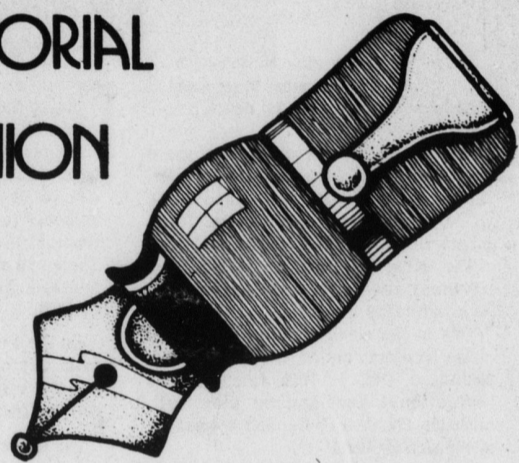
The day after Cowan's Ford, February 2, 1781, a footsore, cold and hungry American Army halted its retreat near Salisbury. While there, a patriotic innkeeper, Mrs. Elizabeth Steele, revived a discouraged Nathaniel Greene's spirits by giving him a hot meal and a bag of gold, her life's savings, to help keep his army in the field.

Deeply touched by her action, General Greene took a picture of King George III from the tavern wall, wrote "O George, hide thy face and mourn" across it, and hung it face to the wall, where it is said to have remained for years.



In 1956, the school, now a full fledged university, moved to a brand new campus in Winston-Salem. The original campus in Wake Forest is now a Baptist seminary.

EDITORIAL OPINION



Kings Mountain in spotlight

Next Sunday night WBTB will telecast a half-hour program on Kings Mountain and its ability to gather in the government sheaves.

Mayor John Henry Moss will be the spokesman for the main part and there will be filmed footage of the numerous projects in the community that have been funded under the grants programs.

The mayor will be interviewed by Doug Mayes and some of the questions answered will give KMers a bit more insight into what it takes to gather the data, fill out the applications and obtain the grant funds being offered.

It should be an informative program and can't help but shine the spotlight on the historical city once again.

The program is a special edition of Mayes' "On The Square" and will be telecast beginning at 6:30 p. m. Sun., Feb. 6. Be sure and catch it.

Maybe system needs checking

Mother Nature gave us a pretty good scare last week by sending high winds whipping through the area. And as bad as it was, it could have been much more devastating.

The winds were strongest through the tops of tall trees. Had that strength been at ground level we could have kissed goodbye to a lot of homes and buildings and possibly human life.

Discounting the trees that fell on homes and vehicles, the worst part of the storm was the loss of electrical power and through that, lights and heating facilities. A lot of people spent a miserable night or two because of this problem.

The city's electrical crews worked continuously without rest or sleep to restore the power again and again because the wind continually knocked the lines down or slapped them together to cause burn-outs.

Not being electrical engineers, it is difficult for us to understand, however, why so much of the city was without power during this event. And maybe we are not too far out of line by suggesting a general look-see at the entire system in order to make sure there isn't something that hasn't been done to give the system greater stability in inclement weather.

At any rate, what happened here last week is about the best argument we've heard lately favoring an underground wiring system, or at least a much improved above ground system over what Kings Mountain presently has.

Groverites need facts

Grover's town fathers are concerned that citizens may not support efforts to construct a sewage collection line and pumping stations to handle waste treatment under the federally-sponsored 201 Facilities Plan.

The majority of the 236 customers inside the town's boundaries have invested in septic tanks to handle waste. There are a few town's people on the Minette Mills collection line.

Last week the town's engineering firm, John Edwards, helped Mayor W. W. McCarter host a public hearing on the 201 plan as it now stands. It was the first community hearing of any community participating in the Gaston County facility planning program and the engineers were enthusiastic because of the grants money and loans already offered Grover to complete the estimated \$909,900 project.

The problem comes in that the town must come up with \$60,000 cash and float a bond issue to pay back a \$170,000 Farmers Home Administration loan.

The engineers feel that at least 200 of the 236 potential customers must agree to tap-on the city's sewage collection line in the beginning or the town will not be able to afford the system.

The town fathers are wise in planning an education program for the citizens to explain the benefits of having such a system. The Mirror-Herald would like to add its two cents worth in urging Groverites to get the facts on the system and do not decide before hand the system is not for you.

saga of Andrew Jackson Dellinger

Andrew Jackson Dellinger has been in the tree business since he was 15 years old, working fulltime for Wilson Tree Company of Shelby.

It's been many years since Andy was 15, but he's still in the tree business, in the business for himself. At his home on Cherryville Rd. he has trucks and logging equipment that earn him livlihood.

Loggers are usually portrayed as a hardy breed and in Andy's case, at least, the portrait is true.

Aspen Tree Co. once hired Andy to serve as foreman on a difficult job in the battleground area. They started him at \$200 a week and he hired his own men. He went through 15 hands before the job was finished.

"Then they up and give me a \$100 a week raise," Andy said. "So I asked the boss why he was paying me \$300 a week. The boss told me he thought I was worth it. I told him I knew I was worth it, but a man just don't give you that kind of money unless he's planning to ask you to do something you don't want to do."

"It wasn't three weeks 'til he called and told me I was to report to Winston-Salem on a job," Andy said. "I asked him where did he want me to leave his truck so he could pick it up."

But even Andy will admit there are days when a tree man might as well stay in bed. Saturday was one of those days.

Darrell Austin, general manager of The Mirror-Herald, hired Andy's cousin, Mike Patterson, to top some trees in his yard over on Sherwood Dr. last Saturday. Mike asked Andy to give him a hand and a few pointers.

"I shoulda knowed better than to go," Andy said. "I don't mind helping, but this kind of work takes some skill. It can be dangerous."

Andy said Saturday afternoon one of Darrell's neighbors came over to talk about the blackgum tree in Big D's yard. The tree is huge and leaned toward the neighbor, Tom Tate's home.

Tate offered to pay for the tree if Darrell would consent to having it cut down. Darrell agreed and Tate paid Andy \$65 to do the job.



TOM MCINTYRE

Darrell said Andy went up and swung around in that tree cutting off limbs like Tarzan.

"Mike's got this young boy working for him. I don't know his name," Andy said. "Anyhow, I told him what to do. I strung the rope up in the tree and tied it off to the truck, then I told this boy to watch for my signal. When I said 'Go' I mean't for him to haul hinney and don't stop."

Andy started cutting the tree, then waved frantically at the young boy in the truck.

"The tree started falling and that dang boy just sit there and watched it," Andy said. "Shore enough the tree hit Mr. Tate's house, just like I told that boy it would if he didn't pull it away with the truck."

Darrell said Tom stood there with his arms folded watching the tree fall and saying, "It's gonna hit my house. It's gonna hit my house... It hit my house."

READER DIALOGUE

An exciting year

To the editor,
At the beginning of this year, the Shelby Art League launched the 1978 membership drive and the fourth year of promoting the visual arts in Cleveland County through exhibits and lectures of excellent quality.

Last year we emerged from a local organization into one of national prominence in the art world. We realize, however, that our best efforts and continued growth are entirely dependent upon memberships in the local community and are hopeful by the end of February of having at least two hundred regular, patron and sponsor memberships which are tax deductible.

We greatly appreciate your support and are looking forward to a very exciting year!!
SHELBY ART LEAGUE, INC.
Harvey B. Hamrick
President.

With deep appreciation

To the editor,
On Fri., Jan. 20 our family was one of many in this area without power because of the icy weather. That evening we both warmed and lighted our living room with a log fire.

Before we knew it had happened there was a fire in the roof of our home. We called the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department and they responded quickly, aided by the Grover Fire Department.

If the firefighters had arrived a few minutes later than they did, we have been told, our home would be nothing but charred ashes now.

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to the members of the Bethlehem VFD and to the Grover unit for their quick action during our time of trouble. When something like this happens you never really know how much you appreciate the efforts of others on your behalf.

BEATRICE HOWELL
1417 Grover Rd.
Kings Mountain, N. C.



Poet's Corner

TO MY GRANDMA

I really love you Grandma,
And thought you'd like to know.
But how can I put into words
The way I love you so.

I promise you I'll not forget
Your little acts of love.
They always seem to be sent
Down from Heaven above.

No one can replace you
Or your loving ways
Like your hot just baked bread
On those cold and rainy days.

You never forgot a birthday
Or any other special date
Your gifts are always full of love
Even if they are late.

When God invented grandmas
It was the best thing He'd ever done
But I thank God for my Grandma
'Cause I got the very best one.

From my selections
MYRTLE GOFORTH

KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

GARLAND ATKINS
Publisher

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: \$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