

Highways made of wood

Few people are aware today that North Carolina was once crossed by highways made of wood. For a ten-year period before the Civil War — before the widespread growth of railroads — these plank roads provided a measure of dependable transportation in a state notorious for its muddy, impassable roads. Significantly, these toll roads were developed by private capital, and not paid for by the state itself.

The roads were ten feet wide with passing lanes or pull-overs located at frequent intervals, and covered with a thin layer of dirt to hold down the noise of horses' hooves.

On April 17, 1864, the most ambitious plank road of all was completed, reaching from Fayetteville to Salem (now Winston-Salem). It was, at 120 miles the longest plank road in the world, and included among its engineering achievements the first bridges over rivers such as the Catawba.

-000-

On April 17, 1864, Confederate General Robert Hoke began a three-day battle to recapture Plymouth from Northern forces. As a part of the attack, the steam-powered ram "Albemarle" ran the Union blockade, sank two gunboats and bombarded Northern fortifications.

-000-

A number of important Tar Heels are associated with this week in history. Space permits the inclusion of only four of them, however.



ED SMITH

Colonel Richard Caswell, hero of the Revolutionary War Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, became the state's first elected Governor on April 18, 1778. He was elected by the state's first General Assembly (as its brand-new Constitution specified) for a one-year term. As a seventeen-year veteran of the colonial assembly, Caswell had already served four months as interim governor while the permanent government was being established.

Between 1778 and 1787, Caswell served a total of six one-year terms, giving him a share of the honor (with Luther Hodges) of having served the longest in office of any North Carolina governors.

-000-

William R. King was one of two North Carolina-born

men to serve as Vice President of the United States. (The other was Andrew Johnson.) King died on April 18, 1853. Both men left this state before achieving prominence, King serving as a U. S. Senator from Alabama for years.

Ironically, King's opponent for Vice President in the election of 1852 was William A. Graham, the only citizen of this state ever to run for the office of either President or Vice-President on a major party ticket while actually still a resident of North Carolina.

King took the Oath of office at the U. S. Embassy in Havana; Cuba, where he had gone hoping to recover from tuberculosis. He died a month later, without ever reaching Washington.

-000-

W. Kerr Scott, one of the state's most famous governors during this century, was born in Alamance County on April 17, 1896. He died on April 16, 1958, while serving as U. S. Senator.

His term as governor (1949-53) is best remembered for its achievements in paving the state's secondary roads.

-000-

Born April 19, 1813, David S. Reid, whose election as Governor in 1850 first brought the Democrat Party to power in this state, ending its domination by the Whigs.

He ran for governor on a platform, advocating the election of judges, and removal of property ownership as a qualification for voting in some state elections. Reid, a native of Rockingham County, also served in the U. S. Congress.



Poet's Corner



A HIGHWAY PRAYER

Please come and sit beside me God
I would thy counsel feel,
Help me obey thy law of love
While I am at the wheel.

Banish the thought of greater speed
And keep my vision clear;
Help me drive with confidence
Quite undisturbed by fear.

In every way help me respect
Those laws devised by man
For thy embrace the golden rule,
There is no better plan.

Help me to realize I owe
As much as I might claim;
I seek no privilege unless—
I could return the same.

I ask no guarantee of life;
For death there's no defense
But God, sit near and help me drive
With just plain common sense.

FROM SELECTIONS OF
MYRTLE GOFORTH

THE LIGHT REFLECTOR

Put a little sunshine in the voice
It is sweet music to the ear,
Let others see a little sunshine
Feel a little sunshine
For happiness be a volunteer.

Light up the face with gladness
In the field of the world a bouquet,
Be happy that God loves you and me
And put His love on display.

Share true love and let it warm
The frigid air all around,
Especially if the birds have ceased to sing
Or the sun is about to go down.

Whatever the season let the sunshine beam
Be God's messenger in your abode,
Let brightness fall wherever you walk
And the weary gain strength from your code.

VIVIAN S. BILTCLIFFE



TOM MCINTYRE

with a ballerina costume. He wound up his act by tossing his wig at the audience.

The place really broke up when Sheriff Allen arrived. He had dressed at home and his wife drove him to the auditorium. "I really got some stares from other drivers coming down here," the sheriff said. "I'm just glad there wasn't an accident. It would have been my luck for my competition for sheriff to have been on hand then."

Bennett Masters, who never looked lovelier in his blond wig, eye makeup and beauty mark, kept walking around flipping his hair like Farrah Fawcett and saying, "Hurry up. Let's get this over with. I have a heavy date at the Holiday Inn." It was strange to hear Olivia Newton-John's voice coming out of his mouth during the talent show.

Mike Brown was really something to see with his inflated balloons fore and aft. Just before the show Mike opted to remove the aft balloons. "I can't sit down for fear of being blown up." After the pageant someone exploded one of his fore balloons and sent him racing around backstage. "That's smart!"

Everybody had a good time, but I got the impression the fellas are happy they weren't born females. Getting into all of those clothes, doing their hair and putting on makeup was just too much to want to do it regularly.

And the former 1935 winner was something else. Of course she might have been a beauty back in her salad days, but it has been a long time and her salad dressing has congealed. They dug her up from somewhere to crown the 1978 winner.

And since Saturday I have lost all admiration for Minnie Pearl, Lyn Anderson and Glen Campbell. Yes, those greats from the country music field served as judges — and actually picked a winner.

I saw Dee Payseur, a pitiful specimen, do a hula to entertain the crowd and Mikey Brown played the organ. Scottina Ellis played the organ, too, but it came out sounding like a piano.

Hazel Allen sang "Paper Doll" and Dicey Dixon also warbled (and badly) a tune. It was so bad I can't even remember the name of it.

Jackie Brown sang Dolly Parton's new hit, "Two Doors Down..." and Gay Canipe told of her transsexual operation and what it has meant to his, er, her, or it's life.

Stephanie Baker thrilled the audience with a ballet number and Danelion Bagwell hwd the audience screaming for more with a strip-tease.

Paula Fulton hamboed and Bennett Masters, Denise Bolln, Joanie Pettus, Barbara Horne, Delane Clark, and Roberta Harmon all did their numbers for the judges.

When it was all over the winner was announced. It was Stephanie Baker, who wept properly upon receiving the flowers and crown, then took her rightful place on the throne.

Of course, the "beauty" pageant was all in fun and to raise funds for the Kings Mountain Babe Ruth League. And the ugly broads were really men in drag.

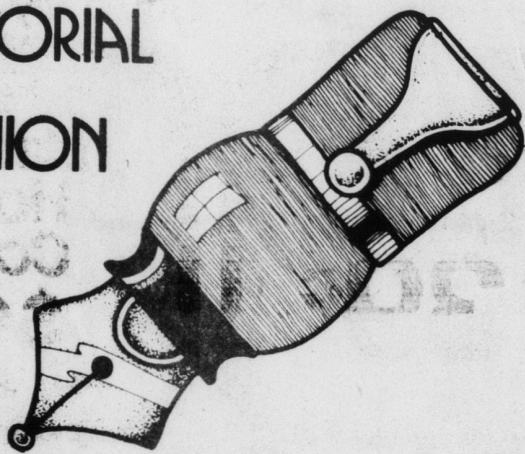
The contestants were really D. C. Payseur, Mike Brown, Gaylon Canipe, Jack Brown, Bennett Masters, Dennis Bolln, Sheriff Haywood Allen, John Pettus, Paul Fulton, Bobby Horne, Dewayne Clark, Steve Baker, Jack Dixon, Robert Harmon, Scott Ellis and Danny Bagwell.

Gerald Valentine was Miss Babe Ruth of 1935.

I was invited to be a contestant, but declined. I was afraid Anita Bryant might show up right in the middle of my big number.

I guess Steve Baker really deserved to win. I never saw anyone go through so much rigorous torture. He did a ballet, complete

EDITORIAL OPINION



Jerry King a good choice for directorship

The Kings Mountain Business Development office is active once again following a layoff of almost one year since the resignation of Larry Billings.

It became active last Tuesday when Jerry L. King assumed his duties as director of that office.

The job description reads: "The business development office is geared to assist general business, small and minority businesses in developing operations in Kings Mountain."

What that means is the director has the job of helping the local business community grow and diversify, to help pump new life into the business community and into the local economy.

A Kings Mountain native, Jerry King is a suitable choice to take over where Billings left off. King knows the problems here and, as a native son, has the built-in hometown pride to bolster him in his search for new business blood.

Congratulations, Jerry, now let's see you get crackin'.

Patrol after speeders, drunk drivers

A new effort by the State Highway Patrol to cut down on speeding and drunk drivers on North Carolina highways was announced today by State Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety J. Phil Carlton.

In the announcement, made in Raleigh, Carlton pointed out that more people have been killed on state highways since January of this year as compared to the same period in 1977.

"Since approximately forty percent of all traffic fatalities are related to speeding and twenty-five percent are related to drivers known to be under the influence of alcohol, it is obvious that we must step up our traffic law enforcement in these areas," Carlton said.

Carlton described a seven-point program to reduce speed and drunk driving. The program includes the following enforcement activities which will affect every North Carolinian:

UNMARKED PATROL CARS

Troopers will be patrolling in unmarked Pontiacs, Chevrolets, Fords, Dodges and Buicks. The old days of motorists just looking for that too familiar plain-colored Plymouth with solid black tires are over.

INCREASED WORKING HOURS FOR PATROLMEN

An \$818,000 grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Program has been granted to the Highway Patrol as an incentive to work on their days off. This will put an additional 375 patrolmen each week patrolling the state's highways looking specifically for speeders and drinking drivers.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS

Because patrol communications stations operate on different frequencies throughout the state, the Patrol has purchased five hundred new 12-channel radios. This will enable patrol officers to better communicate with the men under their supervision.

ACTION AGAINST ALL VIOLATORS

Members of the Highway Patrol have been instructed to stop every vehicle on the highway which is exceeding the speed limit by any amount and to take appropriate action based on the offense. Drivers giving the slightest appearance of driving under the influence of alcohol will be stopped every time.

STRICT ACTION AGAINST DRIVERS OF STATE-OWNED CARS

Secretary Carlton is recommending to the State Personnel Commission that any state employee found guilty of violating a motor vehicle law on a state vehicle be given an oral warning for the first offense, a written warning for the second and that he be dismissed for any subsequent violations. He is also recommending that any state employee committing a serious motor vehicle offense while operating a state vehicle, such as speeding in excess of 75mph, careless and reckless driving or driving under the influence, be dismissed for a first conviction.

MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

North Carolina is presently working with 14 other states through which Interstate 95 passes in planning a cooperative enforcement effort which will be called Operation C. A. R. E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort). This program, endorsed by President Carter, will emphasize voluntary compliance with the national speed limit, high visibility of Patrol during holiday weekends, stricter enforcement of traffic laws in all states, more efficient movement of traffic, and more harmonious interstate cooperation in traffic enforcement efforts between states.

INCREASED EMPHASIS ON VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

Voluntary compliance on the part of citizens is the most effective way to save lives as well as the least expensive and least inconvenient for motorists. Traffic information services and frequent reminders of the Patrol's commitment to strict law enforcement will be increased.

Carlton called on motorists, North Carolinians and visitors, to comply with the speed limit and to cease driving after consuming alcohol.

"Let there be no mistake about it," Carlton said. "This is a serious program, not a cosmetic attempt to satisfy bureaucratic requirements. When 65 percent of the 1,500 highway deaths occur as a result of speeding and driving under the influence, we can no longer afford to think that violation of a motor vehicle law is any less serious than violation of any other criminal law."

Carlton added, "It is a crime to speed. It is a crime to drive under the influence, and this must be part of our total crime control program. No other crimes cost so many lives."

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.