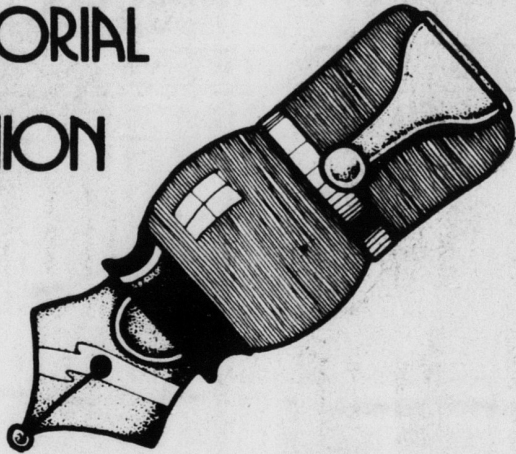


One of three famous sayings:

'Hello. I'm from HUD and i'm here to help you'

EDITORIAL OPINION



Rescue boards should meet, resolve differences

We like County Commissioner L. E. (Josh) Hinnant's suggestion that the boards of directors of Kings Mountain Rescue Squad and Kings Mountain Emergency Services get together to iron out differences.

If this is not done there is going to be a cloud placed over the local emergency services. An even darker cloud than currently exists.

We feel this cloud exists through a great deal of misunderstanding on the part of the public. We heard it said people want things back the way they used to be in a public meeting last week. This is not possible. Operating a rescue unit and ambulance transport service is no longer as simple as a group of people getting together to help their neighbors in times of crisis. It stopped being that simple when legislation was passed governing the operation of such units.

The fact that the board of directors of Kings Mountain Rescue Squad approved a plan to charge transport fees last July 1 and the county accepted this plan, does not make the directors, nor members of KMRS nor the county commissioners villains within the community. Some people seem to feel this is the case. These people are wrong.

On the other side of the coin, some people feel the individuals who have chartered and plan to operate Kings Mountain Emergency Services as an all-volunteer, no-charge unit are villains. Again, this is not true.

The State of North Carolina did not say to Cleveland County "Will You operate ambulance service?" The State said "You Will operate ambulance service." So the county has the responsibility to provide fulltime ambulance service. Three of the five county units, although receiving financial aid from the county for expenses, continue to operate without charges and without paid personnel. Two of the units have paid personnel and charge transport fees. The county also provides financial aid to these units.

However, the county would like nothing better than to have all volunteer units operating in the county. There are three ways to provide ambulance service; by raising county resident's taxes to pay for it; by allowing the existing rescue units to charge a transport fee; or by an all-volunteer program.

Shelby and Kings Mountain Rescue units did not have the volunteer manpower to operate the service day and night, so they elected to charge fees for transporting patients to help defray the expenses of salaries and operating expenses rather than see the county taxes increased. Grover, Boiling Springs and Upper Cleveland's units elected to operate as in the past, with volunteers leaving their jobs to answer emergency calls.

It is no secret that the paid personnel, transport fee system in Kings Mountain is not working all that well. Through a nine month period that ended Mar. 31 the county has advanced Kings Mountain Rescue Squad about \$62,000 for salaries and expenses. In return about \$30,000 has been collected from transport billing. Through Mar. 31 the collection was about \$25,311. Of that amount \$7,889.76 came from Medicare, \$4,047.38 from Medicaid and the remainder from other insurance and from individuals. That still leaves the county about \$38,000 in the hole.

With deficit financing such as this it is little wonder the county wants to see something worked out in Kings Mountain. That is a good reason, but a unit of community reason is much stronger and that's why we like Commissioner Hinnant's idea.

Between the two units here there are about 17 qualified EMTs and a possible volunteer membership of 35. A joining of forces would give Kings Mountain the strongest rescue and ambulance service in the county.

Ledford Austin, who hails from Lenoir holds a masters degree in business administration from Duke University and is currently serving as regional acting director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development out of Greensboro, said this:

"There are three famous sayings. First one is, of course I'll respect you in the morning; the second is, the check is in the mail; and the third one is, Hello. I'm from HUD and I'm here to help you..."

Austin spent the day here last Thursday, first as guest speaker at the Kings Mountain Rotary Club (where he prefaced his remarks with the above anecdote), and secondly on a grand tour of the city to see the results generated through HUD funding programs.

Austin also left the Rotarians laughing when he explained how the relationship between HUD and a community is supposed to work, he said:

"A young lady went to see a dentist. He explained to her exactly what he was going to do to fill the three cavities she had in her jaw-teeth. As the dentist took down the drill and turned it on, the lady grabbed him in a vulnerable area. He asked the lady if she realized where she had her hand and the lady replied, yes, but we're not going to hurt each other, are we..."

Charles Wilson gave a "rah-rah" speech concerning the annual Rotary Scholarship Golf Tourney last Thursday and put in appeal for more volunteers to help and more door prizes to be donated.

He said the way the scheduling is going "it looks like everyone wants to play golf on Sunday. I'd like to ask anyone planning not to play to hold off on their rain dances until Sunday night, please."

Then he turned to Rev. Robert Boggan (Central United Methodist Church's pastor) and asked, "Is it possible for you to arrange a special prayer meeting for the golfers on Saturday night?"

Not to be outdone, Rev. Boggan answered, "If you will guarantee me the golfers will show up. I hold a service every Sunday night, but I see very few of you there."

Touche, Reverend.



TOM McINTYRE



SHAKE DEPRESSION

Let the mind travel lightly
The thoughts fly free,
Into a world of glad expectancy;
Refrain from going back
To sad times that have been,
Open up the thinking cap
Tuck a new dream in.

Ride on pleasant thought waves
Soar above your world,
Breathe the breath of freedom
When the fruits of faith uncurl.
Refrain from going back
To sad times that have been
With the shovel of the past
To unearth an old sin.

Let the mind travel lightly
With optimism as your guest
There is nothing like the comfort
Of Hope within the breast
Refrain from going back
There is a new day to begin,
Let the mind travel lightly
As the bow on a violin.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

SPRING RAIN (c) 1978

The sunshine takes an interlude
To spring little drops of rain,
To turn the earth April green
And bud flowers along the lane

Pitter-Patter little raindrops
There is pleasure for you to do,
Before you spring the sunshine
On the dashing new.

Flowers limbs with azalea blossom
Freshen lilac in the breeze,
Leave droplets in the center
To pamper the desire of the bees.

Bud the leafy rose bushes
Stirring the desire to grow,
Making them ready to hear
Causing the roses to show.

The sunshine takes an interlude
To spring little drops of rain,
To dress mother earth in April green
To ordain her for her reign.

VIVIAN S. BILTCLIFFE

Monday was Save The Children Day

We are happy to note that Governor Hunt has declared May 1 Save the Children Day '78. In doing so he returns that sometimes overly strident occasion to its rightful owners... the children.

Remembered history tells us that in all societies May 1 has been a day for rejoicing with our children. Children still dance around the traditional maypole in parts of Europe and Scandinavia. They fly paper kites shaped like fish in Japan.

Israeli boys and girls, wearing crowns of flowers, plant trees and celebrate with dancing, songs and games. In our own country children leave flower-filled May baskets on the doorsteps of their neighbors and American Indian youngsters perform special ritual dances welcoming the season.

Save the Children asks us to enlarge upon these celebrations of childhood. The international child assistance agency has organized a Letters For Peace Program, asking interested youngsters to write world leaders urging them to make new efforts to achieve peace. The agency has stimulated community betterment projects — tree plantings and clean-up projects on American Indian reservations and a community gardening project in an inner-city vacant lot.

In our time May Day has been too long given over to military parades and displays of weapons. It is fitting that Save the Children has returned May Day to the children. We hope that Save the Children Day '78 will herald a new day for all children everywhere.

Hostilities ended in Tar Heel State during the month of May



ED SMITH

North Carolina has suffered from a major invasion of enemy forces during two wars — the American Revolution and the Civil War. Both of these periods of hostility ended for the state during the month of May.

On May 6, 1865, near Waynesville, Brigadier General John G. Martin surrendered all of the Confederate forces in western North Carolina, thus ending the Civil War in this state. Only one other Confederate force would surrender at a later date, on May 26, further south.

Also during this same first week in May, in 1782, the British Army under Lord Corn-

wallis abandoned Wilmington and began marching out of the state toward Virginia. Cornwallis had retreated across the state to Wilmington after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in March, seeking the more dependable source of supply that the British Navy could offer. His destination — ultimately — would be Yorktown, where he suffered his final defeat.

The American military commander in eastern North Carolina was Colonel Gideon Lamb, commander of the state's Sixth Continental Regiment, whose job it was to oppose Cornwallis on the march — if possible. Lamb had been left totally without orders from the state's notoriously lax government in Raleigh, however, and was so bereft of manpower and supplies that he wrote headquarters plaintively saying "Pray let me know When, Who and What I am!" Thus it was, in spite of itself, that North Carolina backed its way into independence.

Charles Manley, the last Whig Governor of the state, died on May 1, 1871. He was also born during this month, on May 13, 1796. He was the last governor of the state born during the Eighteenth Century.



In those days the Governor was elected for a two-year term. While he could serve successive terms, the law prevented him from serving more than two terms during a six year period, thus effectively limiting him to four years in office. Manley served for only two years, however, 1849-51, being defeated in his bid for reelection by David S. Reid, the state's first Democrat governor.

The campaign of 1850 was an interesting and significant one in the state's history. A chief issue was the method of electing State Senators, the law then limiting those able to vote for this office to "freemen owning at least 50 acres of land." Blacks, Indians and women, of course, were not allowed to vote at all. All white male citizens of the state above 21 could vote in certain election, even without owning property, for U. S. Congressmen, Governor, Presidential Electors and state and local offices other than State Senator. (The State Senators then elected the U. S. Senators).

Reid favored the immediate abolition of property ownership as a qualification for voting for any office. He also favored the election of judges by popular vote. Manley preferred the slower, safer method of putting the issue before a constitutional convention. Reid's election was a pivotal one in the state's political philosophy.

KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

PUBLISHED EACH
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

OARLAND 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, \$5.50 six months; Student rate for nine months \$6.24