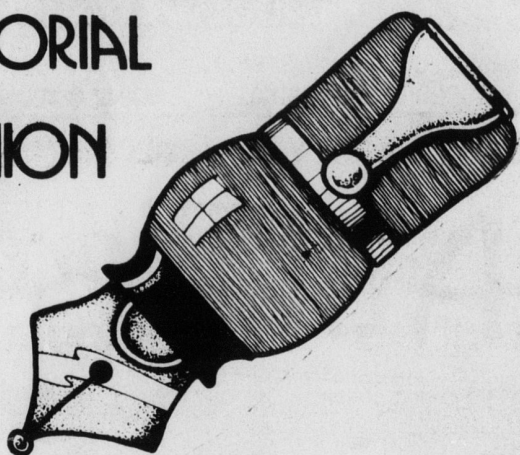


# EDITORIAL OPINION



## What is happening in development office?

What's happening with the Kings Mountain Business Development office? Since taking over as director several weeks ago, Jerry King has been busy running down the loose ends left dangling with the resignation of Larry Billings last year. King has mailed out over 100 invitations to as many business firms in other cities and states to give Kings Mountain consideration in any plans for expansion in the works. King has also been given a commitment of assistance from the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce on leads to firms considering a location move or expansion of operations. It takes a little time to get one's ducks in a row, so we thought we would let you know that the city's business development office is again staffed and that work is underway to bring in new business blood to the community.

## College education chances are growing

A quarter of a century ago college was something alien to most of the working class people. And for some even harboring the thought of going to college was next to dreaming the impossible dream. This has changed over the years until today going to college is possible for just about anyone with the time and a few evenings to spare. The chances for getting college credits are going to increase for greater Kings Mountain citizens in August because the local district schools officials have had the foresight to help establish evening courses here through the assistance of Gardner-Webb College. Tentatively, August 22 has been set as the opening date for college courses to begin in Kings Mountain. The program is called GOAL - greater opportunity for adult learners. That is the key - adult learners. There will be courses designed to help people continue toward degree work and courses for people who merely want to increase their skills. Cleveland County Technical Institute has offered various skills and creative courses in Kings Mountain for several years and will continue to do so as long as interest warrants. But the Gardner-Webb College program offers area citizens more concentrated educational opportunities on the college level. The Mirror-Herald happily endorses this latest effort by Kings Mountain District Schools and Gardner-Webb College to provide educational opportunities to citizens who may not have been able to use them before.

## Here's an opportunity to invest in community

Citizens now have the opportunity to invest in this community's future at \$10 per share. That is the going rate for a share of stock in the Kings Mountain Development Corporation. A non-profit organization, KMDC was formed to take advantage of a new federal funding program - Urban Development Action Grants - which offers to qualifying applicants seed money for projects. The loosely defined HUD guidelines on UDAG funding indicates the major portion of financing for projects is left up to the individual communities, but if projects qualify the UDAG money represents a guaranteed third of project costs. The main thrust of Kings Mountain Development Corporation is to bring in revenue producing businesses that will employ local people. It would mean stimulating the local economy and revitalizing the local business community. To raise the initial money that might be needed for a full program the corporation now offers two types of stock for sale. There is the Class A Voting Stock and the Class B Non-voting Stock. The funds raised are to be used for planning an overall project, which may include several individual business projects in the community. The final application to be submitted to HUD must contain the entire project contemplated along with cost breakdowns involved. It is a one-shot opportunity for a long-range revitalization program for the city's business community. Corporation officials stress the fact that buying shares of stock in the organization is not limited to a privileged few, but that stock was priced low enough to interest everyone in the community. The unvarnished truth is everyone's help is needed to make this venture a success. Success in this instance is a vital necessity for the life of Kings Mountain's business community.

# Quiet man speaks and speaks

Have you ever engaged in the practice of pigeonholing people? Do you study your fellow folks, then decide what they are and bel them thusly? Let's face it. Everybody does. Take The Mirror-Herald's sports editor Gary Stewart, for instance. This August Gary and I will have been working together for five years. Earlier on I thought I had him pegged. I was wrong. In the early days Gary was the silent man. He slipped in mornings, did his number, then slipped out. He spoke hardly a dozen words a week. So I said to myself, "Self. Gary is the quiet type."

But as time went away and the birds sang, a strange thing happened. Gary became more vocal. With each passing day he became more and more vocal. Today, Gary is a regular non-stop vocalizer. Sometimes it is difficult for anyone to get a word in edge-ways.

What does he talk about? Anything and everything. And besides talking he has taken to singing. He sings country songs, rock songs, ballads, etc. And when he tires of those songs he makes up his own. He uses tunes to well-known songs, but adlibs his own lyrics, usually with hilarious results.

And nothing is sacred. Everything and everybody becomes grist for his mill. Our typesetter, Libby Good, recently purchased herself a fine 35 mm camera and for practice she has shot everybody in the joint. Last weekend Libby took off with her camera for Charleston, S. C., so Gary made up a new set of lyrics to the old rock tune - "Johnny B. Good."

It goes something like this: "Down in Old Charleston where alligators grow, visited a rock and roll photographer we all know.

And everynight folks came from miles around, just to hear her camera make that clicking sound. Go, Go! Go, Libby, go! Go, go! Go, Libby, Go! Libby B. Good."

Rogers Whitener writes a weekly column called "Folk - Ways and Folk-Speech."

In a recent column Rogers talked about graffiti. Not the semi-literature found scrawled on the walls of public johns, but some discovered on a bulletin board at Appalachian State University.

"... usually the work of deskbound professors who long to be on the tennis court or golf course," Rogers said.

"A prime example is the following bit of word play which evolved over a period of several days on the Appalachian English Department bulletin board," Rogers continued. "It numbers contributions from sundry members of the staff who paused to



### TOM MCINTYRE

read, added an entry, and chuckling, went their way."

Examples included: A mobile of homes; a cord of wood; a cloud of Canadian Mist; an orgy of busy bodies, a knot of contritionists; a squeeze of misfits, a horde of misers; a flash of exhibitionists; a riot of students...

Rogers wrote that the inspiration for this could have come from the "old chestnut about four Oxford dons who, during an evening stroll, encountered a group of ladies of the evening."

"My word," said one. "What a jam of tarts!"

"Quite an essay of pros," said the second. "A veritable anthology of trollops!" exclaimed the third.

"A marvelous flourish of strumpets," blared the fourth.

My personal favorite is "I'm off like a herd of turtles!" Who said that? I did. Who did it sound like?

Steve Meehan, director of public affairs, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, writes of a departmental plight.

Steve 'llows as how it appears no one can get his department's name right.

Some of the titles erroneously stuck onto the department include:

Natural Resources and Environmental Management; Natural Resources and Development; Natural and Human Resources; Natural Development and Human Resources; and Natural and Community Resources. A particular favorite of the news media is "Natural Resources," Steve said. "Please use

our correct entire name. The public is already confused enough by bureaucracy. Let's at least let people know the right name of the department in case they want to call or write."

Steve added a p. s. - "If you've got a better title for the department, we're open to suggestions."

Okay, Steve. How about Dialing For Dollars For Development of Depressed Communities?

Or Herr Hunt's Handouts Here and There? Would you believe Move Over For I Too Wish To Feed At The Public Trough?



### Poet's Corner

#### MOTHER LOVE C 1978

Her love is like a lovely song that bares a sweet refrain, and charming as a lovely rose that sparkles in the rain.

Mother love knows no barricade her love will make a way, to brighten up a barren life as a rose to dispel dismay.

So appealing we desire to touch as we would a rose overwhelmed with the fragrance as a butterfly in repose.

Her love is easily multiplied and grows as though enchanted, blossoms beautifully continually her love is taken for granted.

Her love is like a lovely song that bares a sweet refrain and charming as a lovely rose but never shatters in the rain.

Vivian Steart Bilcliffe

## You need evidence when requesting card replacement

A person who needs a duplicate social security card to replace one lost or to show a new name must now present evidence of identity before the new card can be issued. Kenneth Shelton social security Branch Manager in Shelby said today. Previously, all a person had to do was submit the stub of the lost card, or the old card, and a new card could be issued on the spot. This can no longer be done, Shelton said.

In addition to submitting evidence of identity, the person's application will

be checked against the records at social security headquarters. If all the information checks out, a new card will be issued.

Shelton said the new rules are intended to help protect the person's social security record, assure that it is complete and accurate and to prevent anyone else from misusing or abusing the person's social security number.

Evidence of identity should show the person's picture, signature, date of birth or age, or other identifying information. All documents are subject

to verification with the agency which issued them.

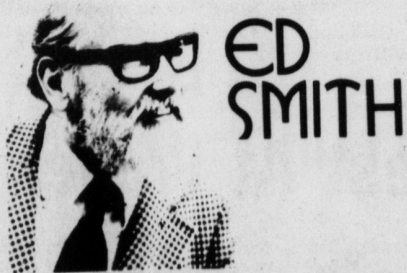
Since it takes three to four weeks to issue and deliver the new card after all documents have been submitted, Shelton said that it is a good idea to apply for the duplicate card as soon as possible.

A free leaflet, "Applying for a social security number," lists the kinds of evidence that can be used to establish a person's identity. Copies can be obtained at the Shelby social security office, located at 231 N. Lafayette St.

## READER DIALOGUE Candidate says thanks

To The Citizens Of Cleveland County; Please accept my most sincere thanks and appreciation for your support in my race for Sheriff in the Primary Election on May 2. As you know, I lost the race, and, of course, I was very disappointed. Nevertheless, it was great experience, and my only regret is that I did not have more experience in "The Fine Art of Politics." Meeting so many new friends and renewing old friendships made it all worthwhile, and it will certainly help me to be better qualified for whatever the future holds. Again, my most sincere appreciation for your participation in the election, and I look forward with great anticipation to our continued involvement in the Government of this fine County, State and Nation. CHARLES L. PEELER

**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, \$5.25 six months; Student rate for nine-months \$6.24

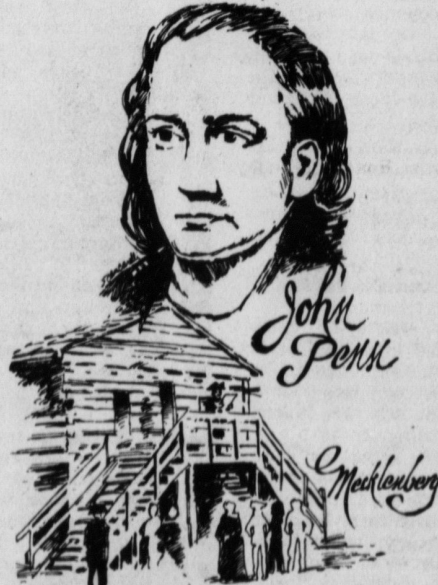


May 20, 1775, is one of the two dates included on our State Flag. It is the date of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. This was once a highly-honored event in our state's history. Now it represents a situation many North Carolina historians find embarrassing.

Most experts now believe that the Declaration of May 20, 1775, never occurred. Others stand by it stoutly, however, and the controversy surrounding the Mecklenburg event makes for one of the deepest mysteries in the state's history.

According to tradition, the citizens of Mecklenburg County met in Charlotte and declared their independence from Great Britain over a year earlier than the July 4, 1776, date of our national declaration. Unfortunately, no copy of the May 20 declaration was preserved, and when the matter first became a controversy (around 1820, some 45 years after the event) all of the survivors could not agree on the exact date. Most of them said May 20, however, which agreed with what had been -- until that time --

# Did Mecklenburg really sign Declaration of Independence?



a totally-accepted local tradition. A few years later, authentic and unquestioned newspaper accounts were discovered concerning a meeting held on May 21, 1775, involving the issuance of a document called the "Mecklenburg Resolves." Historians leaped upon this later meeting as an explanation of what had "really happened" in Charlotte. This later -- authenticated -- document, the "Resolves," is less bold in concept than the text of the May 20 "Declaration." The word "independence," for example does not appear in it. (I will discuss the Resolves more fully two weeks from now.

Thomas Jefferson had been offended by North Carolina's claim of an earlier declaration of independence than his, and his supporters were eager to debunk the Mecklenburg document. Today's historians remain skeptical also, largely because of the absence of a recognized original copy.

My own feeling is that entirely too much strong evidence in favor of the Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20 exists for it to be

totally discounted. An excellent case can be made on its behalf. Frankly I doubt if a final verdict can ever be safely reached -- either way. It would take the discovery of evidence which probably no longer exists (if it ever did) to establish the claim for a Mecklenburg Declaration, but I am unwilling to state flatly that it did not occur.

Ironically, John Penn, one of this state's three signers of the national Declaration of Independence, is also associated with this week in history. Penn was born on May 17, 1741, in Virginia.

An early, staunch supporter of a separation from Great Britain, Penn served in the Continental Congress from 1775 - 80. North Carolina's other two signers, William Hooper and Joseph Hewes, were much slower in making up their minds to vote for freedom.

After the war, Penn forsook government service to practice law. Both he and Hooper are buried in the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, near Greensboro.