



Poet's Corner

LIFE
(c) 1978

Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain
love and hate, joy and pain,
Of feeling and touching with days short and long
Jesus is the Life, He gives us a song.

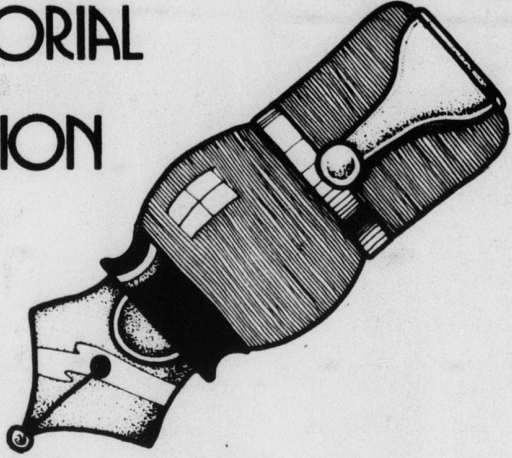
Sowing and reaping with impulse and restraint
Believing and daring both sinner and saint,
Sharing and caring, we borrow and lend
Life is much richer when we cherish a friend.

Excitement and bewilderment, praise and complaint
We choose the colors with which we paint,
Good can overcome evil and dispel dismay
No barrier too dense God's power cannot sway.

Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain
Of toiling and sweating for personal gain,
Dreaming and sighing, living and dying,
The losers quit, and the winners keep trying.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

EDITORIAL OPINION



For County Commissioner

We recommend

L.E. (Josh) Hinnant

Next Tuesday voters will again go to the polls in the Democratic Primary Election Runoff.

On the county level three commissioner candidates will appear on the ballot. There are two seats available. In the May 2 Democratic Primary there were five candidates vying for the two seats.

When the May 2 votes were tallied L. E. (Josh) Hinnant led, followed by C. M. Peeler and Pete Stamey. Tommy P. Bridges was fourth and J. D. (Doc) Turner was fifth. Bridges was eligible to seek a runoff next Tuesday, but chose not. Instead he said her would campaign again in two years.

If you haven't decided who you will vote for next Tuesday The Mirror-Herald would like to recommend at least one candidate for your consideration.

L. E. (Josh) Hinnant of Kings Mountain has served a full term on the county board of commissioners and is filling the unexpired term of the late Pop Simmons. The other board members thought enough of Hinnant's capabilities to ask him to step in and fill Simmons' term. He didn't go begging for the opportunity.

When Hinnant took over the post he said he would do it on his terms. He is not a "Yes" man. He took definite ideas on how county government should be run with him.

While he is aware it takes a majority of the board members to initiate action, Hinnant is also conscious of the fact that each man must have a mind of his own; must have a sense of what is correct for not only the countians in his district, but what is correct for all the citizens.

We like Hinnant's ideas on government and we like the fact that when you ask him a question he will give you the answer straight from the shoulder. He isn't afflicted with that common malady afflicting the majority of elected officials, that disease known as hemming and hawing.

Hinnant is a hard-headed businessman. It takes that to keep local government from going overboard.

And Hinnant is a dreamer. He dreams of things that can make life a bit better for Cleveland Countians in the days to come, then with that hard-headed business approach goes about finding a practical method for bringing those dreams to reality.

We could give you a rundown on Hinnant's background, but all that proves is he has been around in the thick of things for sometime. The main thing is to understand that while he's been in the thick of things he has also managed to help the rest of us out from time to time.

The territory east of Buffalo Creek needs representation in county government and Josh Hinnant offers that. He also offers the rest of Cleveland County representation equally as just.

So next Tuesday at the polls why not give the people west of Buffalo the same opportunity of seeing what Josh Hinnant can do for them. We know what he has done and will do for the rest of us.

AWARDS

Something for the little theatre to consider

The Gastonia Little Theatre started something last Friday that might be well for the Kings Mountain Little Theatre officials to consider.

The GLT presented its first annual GRETA's at a dinner at the Gaston Country Club. GRETA stands for Gastonia's Recognized Entertainer Theatre Award. The recipients were people involved in the just ended little theatre season.

Over a hundred persons saw the Best Actor award go to Max Shoaf for "I Do, I Do"; Best Actress award go to Julie Chandler for "I Do, I Do"; Best Supporting Actor award to Gunnar Neilsen for "The Price"; Best Supporting Actress award go to Betty Blume for "Butterflies Are Free"; and Best Play Direction go to George Gray for "I Do, I Do."

Gray was also presented a Greta for Meritorious Service to the little theatre.

The program took on all the glamor and excitement of the Academy or Emmy Awards and the statuettes these amateur theater participants won meant as much to them perhaps as the Oscars and Emmys do to the professionals. It was their recognition for doing their extracurricular jobs well. They were paid much earlier in the form of audience appreciation at the conclusion of each performance.

The reason I think the Kings Mountain Little Theatre should consider an annual presentation such as the one in Gastonia last Friday is simple. It is a great stimulus for creating further interest among the talented people in the community get involved in little theatre.

On the whole the people who are involved in presenting plays in the community remain pretty much the same group. The same thing, generally, applies to the people who attend the shows. Through an awards system, which elevates the event into an important social function within the community, more interest is stirred up. Something like this could be just what the doctor ordered to make those undecided talents to take the plunge.

There is no pay involved in little theatre. It is all strictly volunteer and it requires a lot of evenings to rehearse and perform. The director and the actors usually get pats on the back by those who are there to see their work and, regrettably, that is as far as it goes.



TOM
McINTYRE

Awards presented at a social function let the public at large know that something worthwhile has happened in the community.

Everybody loves a winner. And everybody longs to be a winner at something. And even those who have not won plaudits like to be shown their efforts have been appreciated.

Carol Fry, current president of the Gastonia Little Theatre, organized the awards presentation last Friday and took a few moments to explain how it came about. How the nominees were selected and from that, the winners.

A group of regular theatre goers were solicited to help, according to Mrs. Fry. They saw each show during the regular season and compiled a list of nominees for each category. Each nominator worked separately and secretly from the others and all nominations were sent to the GLT board of directors. There were a lot of duplications, but enough to give the directors a clear view of who was in contention and who was the winner. The results were kept secret until presenters in each category read the nominations and opened the sealed envelopes.

The only thing missing last Friday was a drumroll before the winners was announced. Mrs. Fry said next year they even add to the program.



ED
SMITH

During May of 1870, the tensions and hostilities of the Reconstruction Period reached new heights in North Carolina. For several years terrorist activities by the Ku Klux Klan had increased steadily, keeping pace with the restrictive actions of the radical Republican Congress in Washington.

On May 29, 1868, some five years earlier, President Andrew Johnson had issued the first of his proclamations concerning the future of the former Confederate states. John's terms were generous, totally in keeping with the merciful peace envisioned by President Lincoln. He had pardoned all Southerners who had taken part in the war, except for the Confederacy's top leaders and men of great wealth. His second proclamation had applied to North Carolina only, appointing William W. Holden as provisional Governor until normal government could be resumed. Holden was required to call a convention to rewrite the state's constitution and then see to the

Hostilities reached new highs during May

election of new state officers. Similar proclamations for the other Southern states were soon to follow. Johnson's intentions were that the Southern states would then be readmitted to the Union.

The Radical Congress quickly intervened in Reconstruction matters, however, and harsher measures followed, paving the way for much of the bitterness of that period. The Southern states were responsible for much of the trouble themselves, however, by refusing to make concessions on their own side. Leaders like Johnson and Holden, caught in the middle and trying to minimize the excesses on both sides, came in for much trouble.

By the summer of 1870 the violence and bitterness in North Carolina reached its zenith in what some historians later called the "Kirk-Holden War." Members of the KKK lynched a prominent black politician named Wyatt Outlaw in Alamance County and murdered a Republican state senator

named John W. Stephens in the Yanceyville courthouse. (By then many former Klan leaders had disassociated themselves from the organization because of its increasing violence.) Striking back, in an effort to control the Klan, Governor Holden had hundreds of its members arrested by the state militia, and illegally refused to allow their release on bond. It was this action which paved the way for Holden's impeachment by a now Democrat-controlled legislature.

Dr. Hugh Williamson, one of the most talented and versatile men in the state's early history, died on May 22, 1819. Williamson signed the U. S. Constitution as a delegate from North Carolina. He was the author of the first published history of the state. A noted scientist and physician, he was a pioneer in the use of inoculation and served as chief surgeon of North Carolina troops during the Revolution.

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Forced retirement at age 65 thing of the past for most people

Forced retirement at age 65 is a thing of the past for most people now because of a recent bill passed by the Congress. The retirement age has been pushed up to 70, and after September 30 of this year, federal workers cannot be forced to retire at any age.

"Some people look forward to retirement at age 65," said Nathan H. Yelton, Assistant Secretary of Aging, Department of Human Resources. "On the other hand, a great many people have been resentful that this has been mandatory. People who are healthy, active and interested in their work take a dim view of retiring on a low fixed income when they are productive workers."

According to Yelton, more older persons are being employed now and more employers are realizing that older adults are among their best prospects for employment.

"The prevalent image of doddering, senile, fragile senior citizens is being dispelled every day by the accomplishments of vigorous, active, productive men and women over the age of 65," he added.

Here is a brief explanation of the recent legislation on retirement:

Q. What would the legislation do?
A. Beginning in 1978, if a person is employed in a private business that has at least

20 persons on the payroll, he cannot be forced to retire before his-her 70th birthday. Federal workers cannot be forced to retire at any age after September 30, 1978.

Q. Can an employer, either alone or through a new union contract, make an employe work until age 70 before collecting retirement benefits?

A. No. Pension laws require 100 percent vesting of the pensions not later than age 65 unless the employe has less than 10 years of service at that time. The employe has the choice as to whether he-she will retire at the age 65 or 70.

Q. If a private sector employe reaches the age of 65 on December 31, 1978, does he-she have to retire?

A. Yes. A person reaching the age of 65 this year gets little help from the bill, but the overall Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 protects against discrimination in hiring as well. A person who is forcibly retired in these months before the increase to age 70 takes effect could reapply for his-her old job immediately after January 1, 1979. Presumably the employe is qualified to fill his-her old job, or a comparable one, if it

is vacant.
Q. Will a person's Social Security payments be affected if he-she remains on the job after reaching the age of 65?

A. Yes, but not as a result of this bill. Any earnings over \$4,000 in 1978 will reduce one's Social Security benefits 50 cents for each dollar over that ceiling until age 62. After that there is no limit to the amount of money a person may earn.

Q. Do workers who remain on the job past age 65 if they so choose, the bill will permit them to earn a bonus once they start receiving Social Security. The bonus will be 1 percent for each year they work beyond age 65. For example, if a person works until age 67, his-her check would be 2 percent higher than it would have been at age 65, with the same earnings history. Beginning in 1981, the bonus is increased from 1 percent to 3 percent for each year of work under the new Social Security bill.

Q. Will the bill change 65 as the age when workers can retire and receive full Social Security payments?

A. No. Age 65 is the age for full payments under Social Security, and nothing in the bill changes that.

Q. Can an employer fire a person between 65 and 70 for any reason?

A. Yes. The law explicitly permits a person's discharge from the job for cause, such as incompetency. The whole point of the bill is to require that employment decisions be made on the basis of merit, not arbitrary age.

Q. What would be the effect of the bill on pension contracts? Could a person continue working beyond age 65 and still draw pension benefits?

A. The wording of most plans requires that a worker retire before being eligible for a pension. Nothing in the bill changes that. If there are plans that require payment of a pension at a specified age, rather than on retirement, those plans could be changed without violating the law. To encourage the hiring of older workers, present law does not force an employer to pay a full pension at age 65 or 70, to a person hired, for example, at age 62.