

# But, daddy. KM ain't no big town

While making his advertising rounds last week, Darrell (Big D) Austin engaged Johnny McGinnis (of the department store McGinnises) in high-tone conversation about how Kings Mountain is growing.

Big D cited the new growth, new industry and new folks moving in.

"Yeah," Johnny said. "But ever stop to consider what you can't get here?"

Johnny said you . . .

. . . can't pay county taxes here . . .

. . . can't buy state vehicle tags here . . .

And you can't go to jail or be tried here.

And all the negativism caused Big D to

risk a serious head injury by thinking about

non-availabilities in the historical city.

And D said you . . .

. . . can't buy booze here (from an ABC

Store) . . .

. . . can't buy lumber . . .

. . . can't buy bestsellers.

. . . wedding dresses . . .

or a motorboat.

When D told me of this, I said, "You can't get

a decent newspaper here except two times a

week, and some people can't get elected

here."

Gary Stewart piped up with "You can't go

bowling, skating or to a public golf course

here."

"Why you can't even go to a massage parlor or a palm reader in Kings Mountain," Big D said.

Yeah, but, D, you and Johnny gotta look on the bright side.

You never have to fear being eaten by a shark or swallowed by a whale in Kings Mountain. And you can't fall off a 10 story building here, either. Of course, you could fall off a two story building five times, but it ain't the same.

And, boys, You also gotta remember what the young man said after his daddy commented, "but, son. That girl's been engaged to every man in Kings Mountain!"

"Well, heck daddy. Kings Mountain ain't no big town!"

-00-

Last week as I was putting this particular page together, it dawned on me that I did not have a Tar Heel history column from Ed Smith.

Well, the deadline came and went and no word from Ed.

Wednesday, I ran into Ed at the post office and asked what happened to his column.

"It's lying in a frozen ditch up in Lincoln County,"



TOM McINTYRE

Ed said. "It wasn't so bad you threw it away, was it?"

"No. Nothing like that. I was bringing it to town on the Friday the ice storm came. My car went in the ditch and I got out to walk back home with all my belongings. On the

way my feet went one way and my backsides went the other and the stuff I was carrying went another."

Ed hobbled back home, but said he would go look for the column sometime this spring.

-00-

Billy Yeagin, managing director of the Tobacco Growers Information Committee, is

going to "do everything in my power to campaign effectively against (Jose) Califano HEW's" efforts to sink the tobacco industry. And he is asking help of everyone who has realized benefits, economics or as a consumer.

(Cough) You can (hack) count (sneeze) on (cough) me, Billy (gag, wheeze, cough) ahhh-chooo!

## READER DIALOGUE

### Increases greed

To the Editor,

Recent events concerning United States policy towards Red China point to disturbing trends within the Carter Administration.

President Carter, contradicting all of his earlier statements, has taken the step of abandoning Taiwan (national China) in favor of recognition of Communist China.

The U. S., with precious few allies left anyway, stands to lose one more faithful friend as a price for a very doubtful relationship with the mainland.

We are told that in exchange for this latest deal that the U. S. can expect massive trade now with the People's Republic of China.

American textile workers will no doubt rejoice when they hear that, thanks to Pres. Carter and the "America Last" State Department, they can expect more unfair condition from cheap foreign imports.

"How many will lay-offs will hit NC and SC so we can have the "privilege" of commerce with a murderous, brutal dictatorship.

I can assure you that the Carter Administration alleged friend of the working people, could not care less what effect this has.

Pres. Carter, Teddy Kennedy, Walter Mondale, and the liberal elite that controls the Democratic Party will continue to live high in their ivory towers. After all, when do they ever have to worry about making a living or trying to balance a personal family budget against raging inflation and high taxes?

It is the average American worker who will have to struggle and sacrifice so that the foreign aid and social engineering schemes of the leftists can be financed. With what will the Red Chinese pay for the goods we sell them? Why, with credit, that we let them borrow for long-term "loans," courtesy of good ole Uncle Sap and the unfortunate American taxpayer.

Anyone who favors trade with communist countries and Marxist dictatorships must be either a fool or a traitor. There is no third possibility.

The clinking of glasses at U. S. -Red Chinese diplomatic receptions will not be loud enough to silence the agonized screams of the tortured and oppressed victims of communism.

There are not enough dollars in this world or any other to purchase back the lives of the estimated 30 to 60 million innocent persons murdered by Mao Tse-Tsung and cohorts, who were merely "agrarian reformers," according to our enlightened thinkers.

The United States desperately needs courageous and intelligent leaders, with a President who has a foreign policy similar to Theodore Roosevelt and a State Department that is in our side, for a change.

Continued appeasement and piecemeal giveaways will only increase the greedy

appetites of our opponents.

RUSSEL S. "RUSTY" DAVIS, JR.  
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### In appreciation

Dear Editor:

I appreciate Senators Ollie Harris and Marshall Rauch for their last "no" vote on ERA and let them know this by writing them a letter to that effect. I was not personally asked by them how I felt about ERA. I am a concerned woman, wife, and mother. (Of yes, I also a working woman). I keep in touch with my senators because I feel it is my duty. In regard to Senator Harris: He cannot possibly write and talk with everybody. He is only a man out there trying to help us — not God Who can perform miracles for us.

I am against ERA one hundred percent and hope to see it again defeated in the 1979 state legislative session in Raleigh.

I am familiar with the true ERA facts and I do not like them. One fact being: The Equal Rights Amendment will make women subject to the draft (if we ever have one again.)

One day I hope my children and grandchildren and so on down the line can thank Senators like Harris and Rauch for their "no" vote, and for their courage in their firm stand, and for my speaking out against ERA.

MRS. JEWELL L. CANIPE  
Rt. 1, Box 609  
Grover, N. C. 28073

### KM is rough

Dear Editor,

How can a small town get so rough in a few years?

I have lived in Kings Mountain for 29 years and when I was a small girl we could go off for the day and leave the house unlocked but things have really changed.

Last night for the third time since July 1978 our house was egged but last night they got the van too.

If the person or persons that did it reads this, I hope they got their kicks out of it. And let them ask theirself what if it was your house and car? How would they feel.

Sometimes we wonder why God put people like that on earth.

BECKY BROOKS

### What's your opinion?

We want to hear your opinion on things of interest to you. Address all correspondence for this page to Reader Dialogue, Mirror-Herald, P. O. Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086. Be sure and sign proper name and include your address. Unsigned letters will not be published.

## EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

### Strength and readiness of military decreasing

When Congress repealed the military draft, it presupposed that the Army Reserve, National Guard, and rapid mobilization via the Selective Service system would be sufficient to bolster the active Army in an emergency.

In the nearly six years since the draft ended, the strength and readiness of both the Army Reserve and the National Guard have declined steadily.

The Selective Service system has also been permitted to atrophy to the point where it could not possibly provide sufficient recruits, on time, should full mobilization become necessary.

Rep. Melvin Price, D-Ill., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, describes the shortcomings in the Selective Service system as "an acceptable risk to national security."

We agree. An obvious inability to respond adequately to a conventional war threat jeopardizes the ability to deter aggression and lowers the

nuclear threshold should it occur.

The Selective Service system's chief problem is that it now employs only 98 persons and maintains no registration or classification machinery. In a mobilization, the system would have to start from scratch. The obvious solution is creation of a true standby system that could begin providing recruits immediately as needed. This was, in fact, the original intent of Congress.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have recommended the re-institution of draft registration and classification of military age men. This would in no way dilute the nation's current political commitment to an all-volunteer military. It would effectively address the problem of providing large numbers of recruits in a short period of time.

Rep. Price has promised hearings on the Selective Service system next year. We respectfully urge the committee to act favorably on the Joint Chiefs' recommendation.



Poets Corner

MYSELF

I have to live with myself, and so I want to be fit for myself to know; I want to be able, as days go by Always to look myself straight in the eye; I don't want to stand with the setting sun And hate myself for the things I've done.

I don't want to keep on the closet shelf A lot of secrets about my self, And fool myself as I come and go, Into thinking nobody else will know The kind of man I really am; I don't want to dress myself in sham.

I want to go out with my head erect, I want to deserve all men's respect, And here in the struggle for fame and pelf I want to be able to like myself. I don't want to look at myself and know That I'm bluster and buff and empty show.

I never can hide myself from me, I see what others may never see, I know what others may never know, I never can fool myself and so Whatever happens, I want to be Self-respecting and conscience free.

MYRTLE GOFORTH  
Selections  
Author Unknown

# In praise of Mountainhouse

"Mountainhouse has helped my nerves a lot."

"The work and people here give me the support I need."

"I haven't been so tense since I became a member of Mountainhouse."

Club members of a special organization known as Mountainhouse spoke recently of what membership has meant to them. They are high on the program not because of any drugs or artificial stimulants, but because of the good feelings that come naturally with being accepted, respected and productive. It's a first for some.

Mountainhouse is a community program for former mental patients, many of whom had been institutionalized for years. It is a place they learn, through membership in the "club", to adapt to community life, to earn their own living, to be on their own as productive members of society. The Mountainhouse approach to rehabilitation is relatively new and unique in this country. And, according to Mountainhouse Director Genie Myers, it works.

"We are not just a teaching situation," Ms. Myers explained, "We are a doing place. We guide them through situations that are relevant to all adults' lives. That is, working, living independently, and socializing."

Located in a residential area in Asheville, Mountainhouse is one of four such programs in North Carolina. Others are located in North Wilkesboro, Gastonia and Smithfield, and two more are being developed in eastern North Carolina. All are modeled after Fountain House in New York City, which began in the early 1940s when patients on the wards of a state hospital banded together to try to help each other get out of the hospital

and assist each other in getting jobs later. They had the help of a volunteer, and once out, continued to meet in the city. As other patients were being discharged they were welcomed into the new group, learning how to get jobs, medical assistance when needed, and support in handling day-to-day problems of living. With the help of more volunteers to raise funds, a small house was purchased and a board of directors formed. By the mid-1950s a director was hired and the program continued to expand, including a transitional employment program and apartment finding and leasing.

Since that time Fountain House (so named because of a fountain in the patio of that first house) has served as a model for psychiatric rehabilitation programs in other cities. There are now about 30 programs in the United States. With four of those in North Carolina, Mary Adams, Chief of Geriatric Services for the N. C. Division of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, feels that the state is a pioneer in these efforts.

"The President's Commission on Mental Health recently established a national priority to meet the needs of people with chronic mental illness," Ms. Adams said. "Part of that plan is to provide appropriate alternatives to hospitalization in the community through programs such as Mountainhouse. North Carolina is a bit more advanced than other states in insuring that we do have programs in the community to help these former patients readjust to normal life situations."

What makes Mountainhouse and similar programs different from aftercare services designed to follow-up the patients after being discharged from a hospital?

According to Mountainhouse Assistant Director Doug Sturgill, the program is more normal and closer to everyday living situations than many other follow-up programs.

"The members do things that most adults do," he explained. "They belong at the clubhouse, and they are needed. They develop new attitudes and value system; they learn to reach out and to help one another. They work together. And the jobs are real jobs, and living is not in separate, isolated half-way houses."

Each member of Mountainhouse is given non-paying daily work assignments to keep the club operating. The clubhouse is divided into four units: food service, thrift shop, clerical and maintenance. Some of the work assignments in these units are cooking, waiting tables, typing, answering the phone, cleaning, or selling in the thrift shop located in downtown Asheville.

The forty or so members come to the clubhouse as often as they like, although they must be attending daily on a regular basis before being placed on a job. When a member feels ready, staff will help him or her adjust to a part-time job in the community, earning a wage by the employer. The staff person finds the job, learns it firsthand, then trains the member. Staff works on the job with the member for a temporary period thus not only insuring that the work is done efficiently but also helping reduce the tension that might arise from the members' anxiety to succeed.

Since Mountainhouse began a year ago, firms that have employed members include Asheville's Inn on the Plaza, a dry cleaning company and rehabilitation hospital. Mountainhouse neighbors have also hired

members to do yard work. Six members are now working full-time, and six others have worked successfully in the traditional employment programs. Their earnings have been a source of pride to people who have too often been dubbed marginal.

In addition to work adjustment training, Mountainhouse recognizes the importance of social interaction and offers weekend and evening programs. Staff also insures that each member has a decent place to live and secures leases for those who want a Chance to live on their own. They are assisted in getting settled in their own apartments or boarding houses and are provided supportive groups to maintain their independent living status.

Funded by the Blue Ridge Area Mental Health Program and a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, Mountainhouse is open to anyone at least 18 years of age, with a history of vocational and/or social difficulties. Priority is given to persons with histories of long term or multiple psychiatric hospitalizations. Most referrals come from the local hospitals, social service agencies, or the mental health center.

A visitor to Mountainhouse is impressed by its pleasant and accepting atmosphere and the enthusiasm of the staff. They do not isolate themselves from members, but work together, play together and do the things that most friends do to show they care. Meetings are held informally as a time to give recognition to club members' achievements and to reinforce the strengths and capabilities of all members.

In relating his feelings about the program, one member perhaps summed up the very reasons for the success of the Mountainhouse: "We're just like anybody else here."

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