

Leafing through the yellowed pages

And I thought the old Kings Mountain Mirror pioneered the six-column format for front pages in the historical city.

It just goes to show you there is very little new under old Sol.

Our good friend Frank Hamrick brought in a crumbling four page edition of the Kings Mountain Herald the other day. The yellowed paper was published June 27, 1929 by then editor and owner G. G. Page. I noticed the six column format and got out my pica stick and sure enough, Mr. Page's columns were thirteen and one half ems wide — same as our's today.

Pictures were very scarce in that old edition, however. There is one cut of the KM Battleground monument and a couple of cuts in the advertisements. There is no art on the front page. Just six full columns of news.

I suppose the lead story would have to have been the one concerning the arraignment of Rafe King of Sharon and Shelby for the slaying of his wife, Faye Wilson King. The story takes up the entire first column. The second column is taken up with a tribute to Mrs. King by Miss Margaret Love.

The story of the arraignment consists largely of the problems expected during the

trial with overcrowding and the fact that more jurors would probably be selected to hear the case. The case is referred to as the most sensational in Chester County (S. C.) history, but all details reportable at the time are missing from the story. However, in the poem by Miss Love, the fact that Mrs. King, a school teacher, was found dead in an outbuilding near her home, is included.

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Also on that 1929 front page is a notice of some importance concerning a new state marriage law supposed to go into effect July 1, 1929.

The story reads:

"Young swains of Cleveland County whose hearts have been going pit-pat this spring and the dainty damsels they plan to marry should get the ceremony over this week unless they want everybody to know about it in advance.

"Which is to say that the new North Carolina marriage law goes into effect July 1, and the law should help the month of June record a few more brides."

The new law required couples under 21, unless accompanied by their parents, to file application for a marriage license with the county registrar (Andy F. Newton in



TOM MCINTYRE

On page three appears a two column, three-tier head (three lines) — "Editor Scores Communism For Contaminating The Minds Of Young Boys."

The editor referred to was J. W. Atkins, former publisher of The Gastonia Gazette. Mr. J. W. was also the grandfather of Mirror-Herald publisher Garland Atkins.

Speaking to the Civitan Club here, Mr. Atkins talked about "the movement that is on foot by the Communists to contaminate the boys' minds." He explained that the Communists "has an organization known as the Young Pioneer and that their doctrines conflicted in every respect with those taught the Boy Scouts of America."

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And, according to an ad on page two, 1929 was the year local folks could buy a brand new Chevy Coach from Floyd Chevrolet Co. for only \$595.

A Chevy Roadster and The Phaeton were yours back then for only \$525.

But the Coach offered "Thrilling Speed and Flashing Acceleration."

Next week I want to show you a few samples of the wit and wisdom of Editor G. G. Page, written in his weekly column which he entitled "The Fool Column."

Ultra-liberals are root of distortions

Dr. I. Beverly Lake, retired Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, cited distortions of constitutional provisions by an "ultra-liberal" U. S. Supreme Court as the cause of many of the social, economic, military and educational problems facing America today.

He made his remarks during an address at Pfeiffer College in the North Carolina Political Issues Forum series.

"Constitutional provisions," Justice Lake declared "have been distorted by decisions of an ultra-liberal Supreme Court of the United States into havens for vicious criminals, the peddlers of pornography, the advocates of Communism and the justification for unbelievable extravagances and waste of public money which has brought upon us run-away inflation. If it is not promptly and correctly stopped, it will bring upon us a depression equal in severity to that in 1932."

Lake's remarks to the Pfeiffer student body and visitors from the community, dealt with the topic "Techniques of Good Citizenship," which he defines as a "loyal citizen."

"That is, he is one who commits himself," Lake continued "his abilities and his resources, his life — in an extreme situation — to the promotion, the furtherance, the attainment of the purposes of the government of his country."

Earlier in his speech, Lake distinguished, by hypothesis, "the government" from those who occupy its offices and administer the machinery. He contended that an individual can be a "good citizen" even though they may have strong differences of opinion with those policymakers who are currently in power.

"What appear to be differences of opinion," proposed the former Justice "are often the result of a confusion of terms."

"Citizenship is the relation between the individual and his country. A country is more than a land area, although that is a part of the concept. A country is a government established for the regulation of activities of individuals in that land area," Dr. Lake continued.

"A government, in turn, must be distinguished in this respect," he concluded "from the man or the group of men who are presently in charge of its machinery. That is, the government of the United States is to be distinguished, for our present purposes, from the Carter Administration."

Justice Lake responded to a question on whether or not he had changed his views on race relations since his two unsuccessful bids for the governorship of North Carolina in the early 1960's. "My views," he said "on the issues of those campaigns have not changed since I ran for Governor."

His campaign, according to the Justice, was not a racial campaign as "the media had characterized it." It was, instead, "distorted by the press who aided and abetted" in this matter.

Dr. Lake served as an Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court from 1965 until his retirement in 1978. He is presently Counsel to the law firm of Lake and Nelson in Raleigh.

His appearance marked the first of the new semester in the on-going North Carolina Political Issues Forum speaker's series, a program designed to illuminate the wide variety of political and social issues facing North Carolina from both a state and national angle. Speakers in the past have included U. S. Senator Robert Morgan, former U. S. Budget Director Bert Lance, candidate Jimmy Carter, Howard Lee, North Carolina's Secretary of Natural Resources and Community Development; N. C. House Speaker Carl Stewart; and former U. S. Senate candidates John Ingram and Luther Hodges.

READER DIALOGUE Orchids for rescue squad

To the editor,

I would like to take this time to thank, Roy Hammett, and Larry Slycord and the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad, for the fine effort they put forth to see that the citizens of the city were taken care of during the snow and ice.

It is great to know that we have great men in our community that will give the time that they have, to see that the hospitals and convalescent center nurses were transported to and from their jobs. Plus work wrecks, help stranded motorists, haul the sick and injured to and from the hospital.

It takes a special breed of person to really give that amount of time to do what they did. These men I feel are not selfish. They have families to but they spend time to see that the people are taken care of.

The citizens of Kings Mountain should be proud of these men.

I know I have the greatest respect for men of this caliber.

GAIL MORRISON
Route two

WALKER
SANDIEGOUNION
Copley News Service



A CHANGED LIFE

Once the path of sin and shame I traveled all alone.

For me there was no peace of mind,
It seemed all hope was gone.
I sought in vain for pleasures,
Then swiftly they would flee
When it came to foolishness
There was no fool like me.

But one day I realized
There was a better way
Then on bending knees I knelt
And I began to pray.

I cried, Oh Lord have mercy
And hear this sinner's prayer
The sweetest peace has filled my soul
Since that very hour
He took away my heartache
All doubts and fear are gone
Now my Lord walks by my side
I never walk alone.

CALVIN WRIGHT

SWEET ROMANCE (c) 1979

I would pick a pretty flower
I would cage a bird,
I would sing a love song
And live every word.
If you give me your heart
I will give you mine,
Take an aim at happiness
Our life to enshrine.

I would slay a dragon
I would calm your fears,
For all the smiles and laughter
When the sunshine disappears.

I would never crush a heart
Or make a heart ache,
Cause a heart to bleed
Or make a heart break
I would pick a pretty flower
I would cage a bird
I would sing a love song
And live every word.

VIVIAN S. BILTCLIFFE

Poets Corner



A matter of "career maturity"

By LUCY COULBOURN
Special To Mirror-Herald

Teachers and parents have observed for some time there's a lot more to doing well in a career than having made good grades in school.

What factor causes one exceptional student to flounder in the world of work and do poorly in career choices, or helps an average student achieve success?

Dr. Bert W. Westbrook, professor of psychology at North Carolina State University, who is researching the subject believes it's "Career maturity."

"Career maturity," says Westbrook, "is more than choosing an occupation. It involves maturity of attitudes, knowing one's own strengths and weaknesses, knowing about jobs, planning ahead and being able to solve career related problems such as those which often arise between a student and parents."

OBSERVATIONS LED THE WAY

As part of his research, Westbrook and other psychologists in 1968 began researching these abilities in 9th and 10th graders in the public schools, under the support of the NCSU Center for Occupational Education.

"We found there were students who had average mental ability but were very mature in their attitudes towards work and who were planning for their careers in a systematic fashion," Westbrook stated. "So we began to realize there was a possibility that career maturity and mental maturity were different things. A person could be good in one and not the other."

Westbrook then set out to devise ways of measuring this career maturity.

"One of the problems in measuring career maturity is getting test items and exercises that tell us how well students can solve real career choice problems, not just how much knowledge they have," he explained.

The texts which he formulated in 1972 were published by the American College Testing Program, and his "Assessment of Career Development," is one of two major tests for career maturity, or career development, used today throughout the country.

TEST NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

"The test has merit," says Westbrook, "but it still doesn't do entirely what I want it to do."

"We still have too many students who do

poorly on the test because of reading problems. We need to reduce the reading level of the tests so that poor readers are not at a disadvantage. We want to be able to identify career mature students who are below average in reading ability or mental ability. We also want our test to be able to identify high ability students who are not mature in their career development."

Westbrook thinks it will be possible to develop a test sensitive enough to single out these students.

"If we're able to validate tests to accomplish this, then perhaps we can identify these students at an early age and provide them with some career development skills that will help them make career decisions in an orderly manner," he said.

"One of the notions I'd like to dispel," he added, "is that career maturity is merely choosing a life's work at a particular point in time. Selecting an occupation is a process which spans a considerable number of years, usually from late childhood into early adulthood."

NEEDS IN CONFLICT

He says the individual's needs and the needs of industry are not always the same. They're often in conflict. If a person learns

how to make the proper career choice, he will stand a better chance of getting into a career that is personally satisfying and one in which he will be more likely to do well.

Westbrook is now in the process of following up students he tested in 1971 in order to relate their current vocational adjustment to their earlier test results.

"We're getting close to determining if the tests really work and if it makes sense to measure career maturity," he said.

He thinks some key findings are just around the corner.

"I'm committed to the concept that career maturity can be assessed," he admitted. "I think it's just a matter of finding the best way to do it and then verifying it."

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.

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