

Our Elizabeth comes up a winner

TOM McINTYRE



Monday morning when Lib Stewart came to work I smiled and said, "Congratulations." "For what?" Lib Answered. "Awww, come on, Lib. You know for what?" "No I don't. What? What?" "On your first prize in the N.C. Press Women's Association competition." A funny look came over her face, then she started to blush. "Lordy mercy! I didn't even go to the banquet, either!" It's true. Lib was in Rutherfordton, Hendersonville and Brevard over the weekend on American Legion Auxiliary duty. "I've been going to those press things for years, but I only won once," she said. "So, I figured I would just skip the banquet this

year. Maybe I should skip it again next year. Who knows? I might win again." The Press Women's Association does not notify entrants who have won prior to the annual banquet. The N.C. Press Association does. Of course the latter never tells you what you've won, just that you're a winner. Lib said she guessed the NCPWA doesn't notify winners in advance because they want everyone to attend the annual banquet. Typical of the self-effacing Miss Stewart - she had to call someone to find out what feature of her's had won. She submitted three, but didn't remember which three. The winner was a piece she did last year, a follow-up on Brian Bickley. Bick, as he is known, suffered multiple heart attacks and was about written off. But intensive medical attention and some drugs

available only in Scotland and England gave him a fighting chance. During the interview at Bick's KM home a year after his release from the hospital, Lib asked what he thought helped pulled him through. "Anger. I just got mad," Bick replied. And that was the thrust of the feature, which earned Lib her award.

Elizabeth went to work for Martin Harmon at the former Kings Mountain Herald fresh out of high school. She was the late Mr. Harmon's good right arm - and now she is mine. The non-daily newspaper is a pretty good training ground for folks interested in beginning a journalistic career. Because of the limited staff, necessity dictates you learn how to handle a number of chores. Elizabeth has done everything from selling advertising to bookkeeping, circulation to reporting. The only aspect of news gathering she had never

done until The Herald and The Mirror merged was handle a camera. That, even after five years, still turns Elizabeth into a person with 10 thumbs and two left feet. Her efforts at picture taking are hit and miss and always a source of humor. She has had phenomenally rotten luck with pictures at East School, for instance. "I'll bet those people at East think I mess up their pictures on purpose," she will say, her face turning red. And that's another thing. I have never seen anyone blush as often as Elizabeth. Jack White, who served the recorders court in Kings Mountain years ago, said, "Lib used to cover the court and I think her face stayed red the whole time she was in the room. Some of the testimony can get pretty rough. I believe I asked her to wait outside on some cases." Elizabeth said that was true - "and I was thankful. I had never heard some of the

language used in court before. Some of it I didn't even know the meaning of, but it must've been bad because everybody would laugh-and I would turn red." But she hangs in there. By the way, if you wish to call her by name address her as Lib, Elizabeth or Miss Stewart. Never Ms. Stewart. She thinks the so-called women's liberation movement is a crock. Sorry, ladies. She was raised in a different era, you know.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Complaints paid off

Citizens complaints, often, seem to fall on deaf ears. But lately the complaints have been taken to heart by the city commissioners, particularly in the case of the destruction of city streets. Last week it was reported the commissioners were taking a tougher stand on the new national pastime in Kings Mountain. This stand was brought about by citizens complaints to board members. The first order was to the independent construction firms currently installing water lines toward the storage facility on the east side of town. The firms were told to cease destroying long enough to patch up the streets behind them.

The second order to delay decision on a proposal from Southern Bell to do even more street damage to install underground conduit for phone lines. This one really got next to the commissioners because Bell made its plans without once ever conferring with the city about what they wanted. But, Bell, the independent contractors or any other entity engaged in construction work in Kings Mountain cannot be held totally to blame for this and the commissioners realize this. The fact is the guidelines under which such work is to be done have never really been spelled out in no uncertain terms. Citizens now have a promise this will be corrected.

We are not to please ourselves

Letter To The Editor: I will leave to your discretion (since I don't know how to address this letter) as to where this message will go. I recall some days ago that there was a welcome on your part concerning religious views: I sincerely appreciate this attitude on your part. There are "gospel ministers" today who loudly advocate that what a person considers right or wrong is dependent on their interpretation of scripture: this is a dangerous doctrine. It is this kind of thinking (doing that which is right in their own eyes) that brought judgement to the Israelites during the time of judges. There has to be a standard: each cannot successfully "do his own thing." Nobody lives to themselves or dies to themselves. Everything a person does affects others. Each person is either a part of the solution or the pollution (polluted minds are much worse than polluted streams). The Bible makes it as clear as a cloudless day that "we are not to please ourselves." There is much emphasis on inviting Jesus into our hearts today with all to little emphasis on repentance: God commands men everywhere to repent. It is only after we have repented that Jesus will come into our hearts: Only the PURE in heart will see God. Only after this has happened to two people do they become brethren. I make no apologies for standing with the local ministerial association concerning its public statement on a proper observance of

Sunday. The Lord of heaven, through Isaiah, said (Is. 58:13): "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. It is interesting to notice in the gospels, where "the first day of the week" is mentioned, that the original writings (Greek) renders that word "sabbath": thus, a literal translation would be "the first day sabbath": Mat. 28:1, MK 16:2, LK 24:1, and Jn 20:1, 19. Obviously Paul the apostle accepted this view for we find in Acts 20:6-7 that he and his companions purposely remained in Troas to be with the saints over the first day sabbath, Sunday. I Cor 16:1-2 supports this same premise.

E.M. Roberson, Minister, Kings Mtn. Pentecostal Holiness Church

N.C. corridor for waste traffic

Nearly everyday, trucks carrying radioactive waste pass through North Carolina on their way to Barnwell, S.C., which is the only commercial waste disposal site in the eastern United States. According to Dayne Brown, chief of Radiation Protection for the Department of Human Resources, this type of traffic has increased in the past few years. "We know it has increased because the volume of facilities using radioactive materials has increased," said Brown. "We don't have any exact figures because vehicles carrying such wastes are not required to be licensed or to give us any advance notification of their trip through the state. But with Barnwell being the only commercial disposal site in the eastern United States, it stands to reason that waste from states north of North Carolina are going to have to pass through here to get to Barnwell. We're a corridor for this type of traffic," he continued. Brown said that the manpower and funding required to carry out a licensing and inspection program for all radioactive waste traffic in the state would be prohibitive. "We do try to maintain readiness for such an accident at all times, though 90 percent of our calls are false alarms," he said. "Two people in our section are on call 24 hours per day. We also have a mobile lab which we put in operation in January that can be used for periodic checking of vehicles carrying waste." To check vehicles, officials from Radiation Protection set up sophisticated instruments at weigh stations. All vehicles carrying certain levels of radioactive materials must bear an indicating placard or symbol. Officials check to see that unapcarded

vehicles aren't carrying radioactive materials. They also see that waste materials carried on labeled vehicles are properly packaged and labeled according to federal regulations and don't leak. "Another way we prepare for accidents is to train first responders like ambulance, rescue and law enforcement officers how to protect themselves and others until we can get to the scene," said Brown. In the event of an accident involving radioactive materials, Brown's office is notified directly or through the N.C. Highway Patrol. Officials from Radiation Protection are transported to the scene by Highway Patrol helicopter or relayed by patrol car. An evaluation of the situation is made and necessary action is taken. "Our new mobile lab allows us to set up for several days if necessary," stated Brown, "and we can do on-the-site testing rather than having to take samples back to Raleigh as we did before." Brown said that one ironic accident he remembers involved an Atomic Energy Commission (now Nuclear Regulatory Commission) "Atoms for Peace" display which used some radioactive materials. "An axle sheared on the transporting vehicle and it overturned. We checked for leaking radiation, found none and arranged for reloading of the materials." In another incident, the driver of a vehicle carrying scrap material from a nuclear plant in the New England area noticed that a container had broken open. The Highway Patrol isolated the vehicle in a remote area

until Brown arrived in the middle of the night. "In this instance, the material could have been dangerous if exposed for a long period of time or if contaminated articles had fallen off along the roadside. This was not the case. We saw to the off-loading and repair and sent the vehicle on its way," stated Brown. Since 1961 when Radiation Protection began keeping records, there have been 80 radiation incidents in North Carolina. These incidents may involve contamination, exposure to radiation, fire, illegal possession of a radioactive source, theft or a number of others. None of the accidents have constituted a serious threat to public health or safety. The most significant one occurred more than 10 years ago. It involved a leaking source in a licensed facility in Mecklenburg County. The facility was shut down for a while for decontamination. From 1961 through 1970, there was no more than one transportation related incident per year and for two of these years there were no incidents. In 1971, there were three incidents; from 1972-74, there was only one per year. However, in 1975 there was a notable increase of six incidents. This dropped to three in 1976 and rose to five in 1977. There was only one incident in 1978 and none thus far for 1979. "We try to critique each incident we respond to," said Brown. "We look for any mistakes or loss of time which we might have made to make sure they don't happen twice," he concluded.

Guest columnist

Keith Wood

What would you think of if you only had a few seconds to live?



Men and women face death differently - but alike, too.

When that big jet rolled over and shot from 39,000 feet to 12,000 feet a couple of weeks ago, passengers thought they were living their last few seconds.

A woman hoped that death wouldn't hurt.

A man quickly kissed his wife - and thought he was going to die before he could enjoy retirement.

A young man remembered he had not told his wife that morning that he loved her.

There were 80 passengers on the plane. The pilot, a skillful one indeed, made rapid-fire decisions and got the plane under control. He landed safely with only three passengers slightly injured in the 27,000-foot drop.

A college student said he remembered thinking that his death would be a quick one.

A 70-year-old man said he felt as if his arms were glued to the

seat. His reaction was simple: "I was just plain frightened."

A woman thought, "If this is the way I have to go, please make it fast." That woman couldn't sleep for 48 hours after she returned home.

A 64-year-old man had a loving reaction: "Well, we've had a good life," he whispered to his wife - and then he kissed her.

Two young social workers, bringing tots from India, thought of the children before they thought of themselves: "The first thought was, 'Come on God, these kids have made it through so much, don't blow it now.'"

That might have been the most irreverent prayer I have ever heard - but God answered it.

A wife said she had "a crazy thought - I wondered, did I kiss my husband good-bye?"

A 42-year-old businessman had a business-like thought: "I thought it was an 'inconvenient'

time to die." That wasn't selfish. "Inconvenient because my grandmother had died recently and I didn't want my mother to suffer my death as well."

A research medical doctor looked at his briefcase: "Well, there's a year's work down the tubes."

When a person faces death he thinks of little things - and that should be a lesson to us that little things are most important.

There's another lesson about a quick look at death. You make vows that you will live a better life - and then, about a week, later, you begin leading the same life all over again.

Which is harder to face - death or life?

Poets Corner



THE DANCE OF THE RAINDROPS

I heard the raindrops dancing before they went to swell a stream, Or flow in a river to fulfill a dream; Or give the garden a drink in the middle of the night, But first they brought the flowers out for a beautiful sight.

I heard the raindrops dancing Oh how merrily they drop, I sat upright in bed With the elbows in a prop; I envied the little raindrops As they danced above my head, Then I remembered too they soon would go to bed.

I heard the raindrops dancing in the middle of the night, The stars in the heaven had turned out their light; A cloud was covering, the face of the moon the raindrops keep dancing to the raindrop's tune.

Vivian S. Blitcliffe

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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