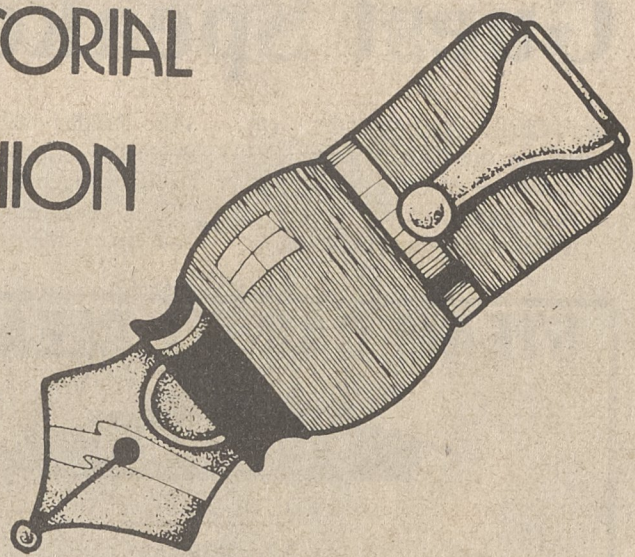


EDITORIAL

OPINION



Thanks, we needed that

The opening of the Piedmont Avenue bridge at the Highway 74 bypass Monday was welcomed news to the many residents of the area and motorists who travel in a North-South direction through Kings Mountain.

Several streets in the area were closed several months ago so the bridge could be constructed and traffic was detoured to Cansler Street.

Driving on Cansler Street has been total aggravation ever since. When traffic was detoured onto Cansler, the City Board of Commissioners approved a request requiring vehicles in the left lane at the intersections of Cansler-King and Cansler-Mountain to turn left. Traffic in the right lane could either turn right or go straight.

Although the lanes are well-marked, the idea never caught on. Motorists in the left lane continued to go straight as they had for years, and some citizens continued to use the right lane as a parking place, as they had for years.

A motorist traveling south on Cansler from Waco Road to Gold Street will find it almost impossible to do so in the right lane. In fact, on one afternoon we tried it.

One of our staff members got onto Cansler at Waco Road and attempted to drive in the right lane all the way to Gold Street. At the St. Paul Church, the driver had to pull over into the left lane because cars were parked in the right lane. At the traffic light at Cansler-King, two cars in the left lane (which is supposed to be for left turn only) drove straight ahead. Another car was parked in the right lane between Bridges Hardware and First Federal Savings and Loan, so our man had to stop until the left lane traffic passed, and then move into the left lane and back into the right. At the light at Mountain, the two cars in the left lane went straight again instead of turning left as they were supposed to. At the house beside the dentist office at Cansler-Gold, another car was parked in the right lane and our man had to stop again, move back into the left lane and then back to the right lane to make a right turn onto Gold.

It's disgusting, to say the least, for someone who is trying to obey the law.

With Piedmont now re-opened, the city should allow Cansler traffic to go straight or turn in either lane, or else disallow parking in the right lanes of Cansler Street and ticket all violators.

Little citizens can do about increases

There appears to be little the individual citizen can do about the ever-increasing price of utilities.

If electricity or phone service isn't going up, natural gas is, as Kings Mountain residents have learned. Their natural gas has been increased three times this fall.

The three increases, which went into effect September 1, October 1 and November 1, were a result of increases from the city's supplier, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line of Houston, Texas. Combined, the three increases came to 66 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

The city hopes that citizens can join together to do something about the increases. The board of commissioners has placed petitions at 14 different locations around town, and citizens are signing them, urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to consider denying any future increases.

Paula Norton of Transco says there likely will be no more increases until April or May. Two of the three most recent increases were allowed through a Purchase Gas Adjustment agreement which Transco has with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which allows Transco to determine what its costs has been and increase or decrease rates accordingly. Transco can do that twice a year, usually in March and September. The September and November increases were a result of the PGA. The October 1 increase was a general 10-cents per 1,000 cubic feet increase.

With the government having deregulated the gas industry and that industry having pumped many dollars into political campaigns, the voices of a few hundred citizens in Kings Mountain aren't likely to be heard.

But, maybe there's hope, and the city's action could be a start. We'll find out next April.

Thanks, Ladies

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the women from the Kings Mountain Physical Fitness Program who volunteered their time and energies performing at the recent Mountaineer Days Celebration. Special thanks to Marisa Alvarez, Sadie Thrower, Helen Young, Shirley Pate, Eva Page, Debbie George, Katie George, Sandy McGinnis, Tammy Clevis, Bev Weld, Cheryl Blca,

Joyce Wheeler, Ronda Wheller, Sheila Bunch, Lisa Yarboro, Carolyn Lovelace, Charlotte Coner, Louanne Parker and Brenda Severs. Their performance was truly a mark of excellence and played a big role in making the Mountaineer Days a success.

Sincerely,
Patsy Parker
Ladies Exercise Instructor - KMNF Center

Crime must be curbed

To the editor:

Crime can and must be curbed. The President has mentioned there will be a task force implemented to get behind the rampaging crime which is occurring.

The greatest hindrance has been that those who legislate and enact the laws of the land themselves do not wish to adhere to such laws.

Much of the problem of law enforcement has been the tendency of covering up crime instead of uncovering.

It has become too prevalent within recent years that those who legislate and enact the laws and those who are supposed to carry out the law have gotten so deeply involved in breaking the law of which they are to enforce. When you have such a combination, it doesn't leave much of a choice for the decent citizens to look forward to for

protection, since those who legislate and enact the laws and those who enforce the laws have become crooked themselves.

Freedom is one thing; responsibility of enforcing the laws of the land is another matter. Allowing too much freedom of roughshodding over the freedom of others creates a dangerous precedence of all losing their freedom and becoming slaves under a dictative force of lawlessness.

If America is to remain a free nation, drastic action must be taken as to putting teeth into the laws and enforcing the laws. It's either that or arming oneself.

Everette Pearson



BILLY GRAY...The Chimney Sweep

Citizens Are Liable

According to statements released this week by the City Codes Department and the City Attorney's office the City of Kings Mountain is not liable for injuries or death caused by citizen's violations of the City's Code of Ordinances concerning obstruction of streets and sidewalks.

Page 815, Section 21-9 of The City of Kings Mountain Code of Ordinances states "No person shall obstruct in any manner any of the streets or sidewalks in the City in such manner as to hinder or delay the travel thereon on foot or otherwise. In such case it shall be the duty of the police to cause such obstruction to be removed and keep such streets and sidewalks clear for the travel of the public."

Page 447, Section 10-2 of The City of Kings Mountain Code of Ordinances states "It shall be unlawful for any person to allow or permit any shrubbery, undergrowth, trees, weeds, or any other form of plant growth to grow upon, protrude or project into or upon any sidewalk, street, alley or public square within the City or to allow any shrubbery, undergrowth, trees, weeds or any other form of plant growth by whatsoever name called, to stand upon any property at or near any street intersection so that the same may obscure the view of pedestrians or persons traveling in vehicles at such street intersections."

Page 452, Section 10-29, of The City Code of Ordinances states, (a)Tree limbs, cuttings, shrubbery, etc., of more than one (1) load will be hauled at such time as trucks are available; provided, that such limbs, cuttings, shrubbery, etc., are cut in lengths that can be handled by two (2) men, and placed on the front corner of the owner's or tenant's property nearest the street right-of-way. Lawn trimmings shall be placed in boxes or cans for pickup.

Contact person with the City of Kings Mountain Jim Downey, foreman of the City Sanitation Department. Downey can be reached at 739-8136.

The Codes Director and the City Attorney are urging all citizens to comply with the above ordinances so that enforcement will not be necessary.



Stewart's Slants

By Gary Stewart

Sweep Is Concerned With Fire Safety

You're not likely to see him dancing on the rooftops like Dick Van Dyke in Mary Poppins, but you may be wondering who's the guy in the black top hat and long tails who walks on the rooftops of Kings Mountain.

He's Billy Gray, the chimney sweep, who as his telephone recording says, "is covered in soot from his head to his foot."

Gray carries out the dress of the old English chimney sweep, but that's about as far as the novelty goes. Except for the dress, he's all business. He's more concerned with making homes more fire-safe than lighting up children's eyes.

With winter just around the corner, Gray expects to see more smoke coming out of chimneys. And possibly, but hopefully not, more fires.

With the high energy costs of recent years and the tendency of most of us to go back to wood as a fuel, sales of woodstoves have increased by more than 300 percent and many old fireplaces have been pressed into use.

As the wood burns in creates creosote, which dirties the chimney. If it's not cleaned regularly, it will build up and could eventually clog the flue.

Gray offers several safety suggestions, the first of which is to have your chimney checked once a year to see if it needs cleaned. To inspect your own chimney use a powerful light and a mirror to look up the flue from the bottom. If the bricks look pink, everything's fine. If they're black or furry looking, the chimney needs cleaned.

Burn well-seasoned wood. Gray says split wood should be cured at least six months and round logs should be cured a year or more.

Burn fires consistently. A hotter-than-usual fire could spark a chimney fire. If your chimney is not equipped with a cap, consider purchasing one. It keeps out the elements and keeps birds from nesting in chimneys.

If you decide to hire a chimney sweep, make sure he's covered by insurance, just in case something goes wrong and he dirties up your home. Gray says he's never had anything to go wrong, but just in case it ever does, you'll be covered.

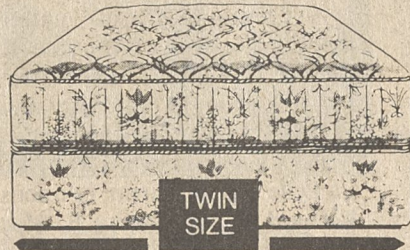
Find out how much the job costs. The average fee should be around \$40. A cut-rate will probably mean cut-rate work.

And, just for the heck of it, find out if he wears a top hat. It's a symbol of luck...good luck if you treat your chimney the way it should be treated.

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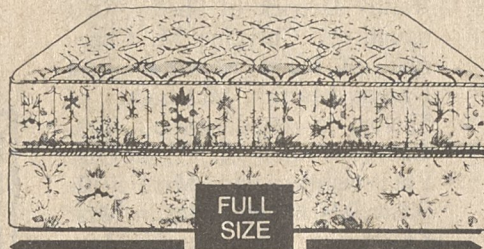


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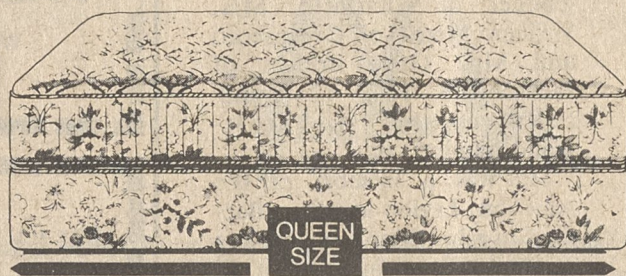
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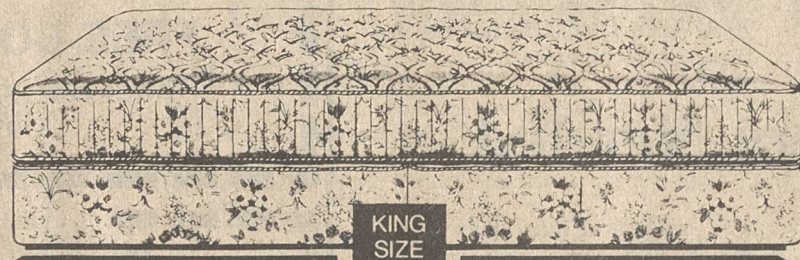


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