

# Kings Mountain Herald

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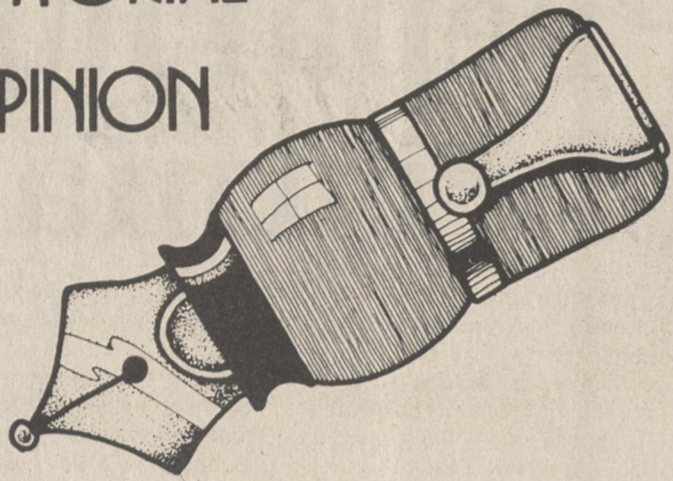
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## TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

And she shall bring forth a son and shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins. St. Matthew 1:21

## EDITORIAL

## OPINION



## Be Glad At This Season

The lobby serving the post office was filled with patrons one morning late this week, each trying to complete mailing of last-minute Christmas packages and cards. "I wish Christmas would hurry up and come," said one lady who was busy stamping her cards and in a hurry to get to the grocery store. "I'll be glad when it's over."

How many of us share her frustrations? So much to do, so little time. That gift list still is long. All those Christmas cards to address and mail.

Relax, people. Be still and know what you're about.

Take time to read again the Christmas Story from the Second Chapter of Luke.

"In those days a decree was issued by the Emperor August for a general registration throughout the Roman world. This was the first registration of its kind. It took place when Quirinius was governor of Syria. For this purpose every one made his way to his own town; and so Joseph went up to Judaea from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to be registered at the city of David, called Bethlehem, because he was of the house of David, by descent, and with him went Mary who was betrothed to him. She was pregnant, and while they were there the time came for her child to be born. She wrapped him round, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them to lodge in the house.

"Now in the same district there were shepherds out in the fields, keeping watch through the night over their flock, when suddenly there stood before them an angel of the Lord, and the splendour of the Lord shone round about them. They were terror struck, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid; I have good news for you; there is great joy coming to the whole people. Today in the city of David a deliverer has been born to you, the Messiah, the Lord. And this is your sign: you will find a baby lying all wrapped up, in a manger.

"All at once there was with the angel, a great company of the heavenly host, singing the praises of God.

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and on earth his peace for men and whom his favor rests."

Be glad, people. More than anything you do during this time of self-imposed pressure. Be glad. Take time to remind yourselves why are you trying to do so much for so many?

## Some Differences

There are some differences about Christmas 1983.

Christmas 1983 should be a more prosperous one for the vast number of Americans. More people are working here in Cleveland County in 1983 and from the looks of crowds at local stores shoppers are buying more this season than last. And the economic forecast for the New Year is the best news in many years.

Christmas 1983 is a time for reflection. We cannot stop the world even if we wanted to get off. And usually at this season of the year, we'd want to hang on. There's too much to celebrate, too much anticipation and excitement. We'd wait until another time, another place.

Holidays, it is true, can be the loneliest times of the year. For many, Christmas is a time for memories of times that might have been or times that will be no more.

Yet, that solemn, yet splendid celebration of the birth of Jesus, the carpenter's son who is the Messiah to Christians, transcends the lights and the Christmas glitter and wrappings. That birth, long ago, is reason enough to get us through the holidays in better spirits than we might have otherwise known under any current circumstances.

Man is imperfect and seems incapable of attaining the high goals set by Jesus Christ 2,000 years ago.

But the observance of His birthday on this Christmas and every year, cleanses the spirit and lifts the hopes of people all over the world.

All should strive to work and pray that Kings Mountain and the world will more nearly practice the teachings of Jesus in their dealings with their fellowman in 1984.

## One More Christmas Wish

The Christmas lights in the business district this year are the prettiest ever, thanks to the additions. And homes in the community are decorated with lights and tinsel and glitter of the season. We appreciate the beauty but hope Santa will grant us one extra present this year. In 1984, how about a Christmas parade? We missed it this year in both Kings Mountain and Grover. Town commissioners in both towns agreed to spend extra funds on Christmas decorations and eliminate the parades. We hope that early next year the Merchants Association and Chamber of Commerce will join in a concerted effort in both the Kings Mountain and Grover to open the Christmas shopping season with big parades early in December.

# Forget Those Dolls, And Fill These Requests

Dear Santa:

Well, big guy, it's that time again.

You ought to know me by now. I've been writing you for years. Sometimes you don't come across.

I know you've probably been pulling your whiskers out wondering how in the world you're going to fill all those requests for Cabbage Patch dolls. I'll let you by on that one, but would you consider some of these:

A good, pro football offer for Clemson's Kevin Mack, an outstanding runner who could also make it as a defensive back...

A Southwestern 3-A Conference championship for Kings Mountain's football team next year, and a place on the Shrine Bowl roster for Tracy Johnson, a junior on last year's KMHS team who'll be playing for Kannapolis next year. While you're at it, Santa, bring the North Carolina coaches a better way of selecting their Shrine Bowl players. Either the Tar Heel coaches are doing a sorry job, or South Carolina's brand of football is head and shoulders above North Carolina's...

A major college football scholarship for Kings Mountain's Curt Pressley, a young man who could have been on that Shrine Bowl roster a couple of weeks ago had he not been bothered by injuries late in the season...

A pro baseball contract for Kings Mountain lefthander Tim Leach, who'll be hurling his senior season for Wingate College come spring...

A conference championship next spring for Kings Mountain High tennis coach Ed Guy, who'll be stepping down after the season because of his recent promotion to assistant principal at Kings Mountain Junior High. The saddest thing about Guy's departure as tennis coach will be that he won't get to coach his own son, Jeff, who along with Bryan Jones should bring the Mountaineers a lot of victories in the future...

A lot of victories for former Kings Mountain players and coaches who are now at other schools. Let's see, that would be Bob Hussey at Davidson, Nancy Scoggins at Limestone, Mike Ware at Newberry High, Jerry Adams and Darrell Van Dyke at East Gaston, Charles Greene at South Point, Charlie Barnes at Richmond County, Dan Brooks at the University of Florida, Tony Leigh at Bessemer City, Frank Morehead of Cherryville, and maybe some others I can't think of. Just don't let those wins come against the Mountaineers...

A SWC baseball title next spring for the Mountaineers and their new coach, David Heffner, who is replacing a very successful Barry Gibson at the KM helm...

SWC Player of the Year honors and a major college scholarship for Sonya McClain of the Mountaineers, who is leading the SWC in scoring after playing in the shadows of another outstanding player, Trina Hamrick, the past two seasons...

A mounting size crappie for Rob Caveny. But he'll have to get it early in the morning. He quits in time for brunch...

Another NCAA championship for the N.C. State Wolfpack. Instead of trying to put so much coaching strategy into the game like most other big college coaches, Jim Valvano lets his players go out on the floor and play basketball...



## Stewart's Slants

By Gary Stewart

A lot of food, clothing, money and the other necessities of life for organizations like the local Helping Hand Fund which serve needy people, and more desire from the people who have to help those who have not...

A league full of superstars for John Henry Moss and the South Atlantic League, and some good pitchers, including the Goose, for Ted Turner and the Atlanta Braves. Throw in Pete Rose for the Braves, too. Maybe his hustle would rub off...

A quick opening of the new Highway 74 bypass. Many people feel the bypass will hurt the merchants on King Street. I disagree. Many local people, including myself, avoid King Street because of the heavy traffic and stop lights...

A return to good health for all those persons who are suffering from bad health or a disease. This Christmas, we especially think of two fine people of our community who have been under the weather, Mrs. Lauris Blalock and Dewitt Hambricht...

More politicians like Jim Broyhill who go out and see what the people are concerned about. I've lived in Cleveland County for all of my 37 years and I've never seen a county commissioner in my neighborhood...

A peaceful Christmas weekend for all rescue and fire volunteers in the area, who are some of the most dedicated people I've ever seen...

An end to the building of nuclear weapons, and a disassembling of the ones now in existence...

Good health, peace, the love of our families and friends, and the realization of the true meaning of Christmas for all persons all over the world.

# Nothing Sadder To Awake And Not Be A Child

Erma Bombeck's "The Lost Christmas" has become a perennial. We are reprinting it this Christmas.

There is nothing sadder in this world than to wake Christmas morning and not be a child.

Not to feel the cold on your bare feet as you rush to the Christmas tree in the living room. Not to have your eyes sparkle at the wonderment of discovery. Not to rip the ribbons off the shiny boxes with such abandon.

When did the cold bare feet give way to reason and a pair of sensible bedroom slippers? When did the sparkle and the wonderment give way to depression of a long day? When did a box with shiny ribbon mean an item on the charge?

A Child of Christmas doesn't have to be a toddler or a teen. A child of Christmas is anyone who believes that Kings have birthdays.

Maybe they diminished the year you decided to have your Christmas cards printed to send to 1,500 of your "closest friends and dearest obligations". You got too busy to sign your own name.

Maybe it was the year you discovered the traditional Christmas tree was a fire hazard and the needles had to be vacuumed every three hours and you traded its holiday aroma for a silver one that revolved, changed colors, played "Silent Night" and snowed on itself.

Or the year it got to be too much trouble to sit around the table and put popcorn and cranberries on a string. Possibly you lost your childhood the year you solved your gift problems neatly and coldly with a checkbook.

Think about it. It might have been the year you were too rushed to bake and resorted to slice and bake with no nonsense. Who needs a bowl to clean—andlick?

Most likely it was the year you were so efficient in paying back all your party obligations. A wonderful little caterer did it all for you for \$5 per person.

Children of Christmas are givers. That's what the day is for. They give thanks, love, gratitude, joy and themselves to one another.

It doesn't necessarily mean you have to have children around a tree. It's rather like lighting a candle you've been saving, caroling when your feet are cold, building a fire in a clean grate, grinding tinsel deep into the rug, licking frosting off a beater, giving something you made yourself.



## Lib Stewart

It's laughter, being with people you like, and at some time falling on your knees and saying, "Thank You for coming to my birthday party."

How sad indeed to awake on Christmas and not be a child. Time, self-pity, apathy, bitterness, and exhaustion can take the Christmas out of the child, but you cannot take the child out of Christmas.

To our family, Christmas has always meant a time to have the family together in a happy state of love, companionship and good will. A time that can win us back to the delusions of childhood, recall to the older person the pleasures of youth and bring the traveler back to his own fireside and the quietness and joy of a happy home. At our house this Christmas the hand that directed us is missing for the first time, as Daddy went to heaven on Labor Day. While we have many things for which to be thankful, Christmas will never be quite the same. In the spirit of the season I extend to each of you a warm and sincere wishes for good health and happiness and a Merry Christmas.

THURSDAY: 12:00 - Kings Mountain Rotary club at Holiday Inn. 6:00 - Christmas Party for "Swinging Mountaineers," Senior Citizens Band, at Depot Center.

TUESDAY, DEC. 27 - 4:30 - Children's Art Class with Artist John Brady at A.B. Snow Studio, 3600 Margrace Road.

7:30 - Adult Art Class with Artist John Brady at KM Depot. all citizens interested in forming a Working Artists Guild are invited. You don't have to be an artist to belong.



## Peeps Into The Past

(From the Dec. 23, 1952 edition of The Kings Mountain Herald).

Annual Phenix Plant supervises and office personnel Christmas party was held at Masonic Hall dining room Saturday night with 34 people attending.

A crowd which filled Central School Auditorium Sunday afternoon attended the Christmas party for employees of Craftspun Yarns.

Mr. and Mrs. J.O. Barber announce the engagement of their daughter, Iris Elizabeth, to Sr. William B. Thompson, who is stationed with the U.S. Navy in San Diego, Calif. The wedding is planned for late December.

Kathryn Ware entertained a group of friends at a surprise party Sunday afternoon honoring Ronnie Kincaid on his 17th birthday.