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GARLAND ATKINS
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DARRELL AUSTIN
General Manager

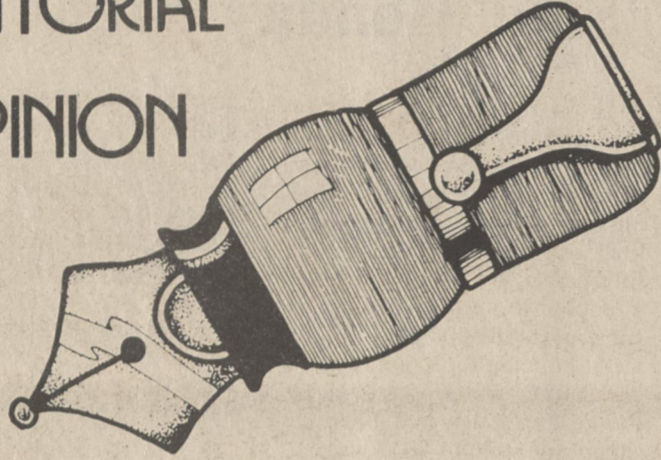
ELIZABETH STEWART
News Editor

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9.

**EDITORIAL
OPINION**



**We Salute
Vocational Week**

For many years Kings Mountain's businesses and industry have been engaged in partnership ventures with vocational education in the public schools.

Seventy percent of the students involved in the Cooperative Programs at Kings Mountain Senior High are working and going to school too and cooperative work students earned \$217,853.00 in the Kings Mountain area in 1983.

In North Carolina 31,000 students were involved in learning while they learn, in retail stores, manufacturing firms, offices, service stations and other businesses. Co-op students earned wages totaling more than \$53 million during 1983 in this state and more than repaid the cost of their training by their returns to the state's economy. These programs, mostly in marketing and distributive, trade and industrial, business and office, and agricultural education areas, involve classrooms instructors joined with on-the-job experience, all supervised by a school co-ordinator.

"Vocational Education: Creating Partnerships For Excellence" is appropriately the theme of this week's observance in Kings Mountain, the state and nation and reflects the realization that vocational education cannot possibly be self-contained enterprise of the public schools.

Our hats are off to Mrs. Betty Gamble, Director of the program in the Kings Mountain system and her staff, and to these local businesses and industries who employ young people: Thermacote Welco, Little Moo, Clevefont, Food Lion, Park Yarn Mills, Country Day Child Care, Cable Link Products, Belks at Eastridge Mall, Harris-Teeter, Mack's, Kings Mountain Senior High, McDonald's, Bi-Lo of Shelby, Spectrum Fibers, Bunch, Inc., James Norman Saw Mill, Moss Brothers, Mauney Hosiery, Morrison's Cafeteria, Gastonia, T.N.S. Mills, Blacksburg, Hardees, Whisnant's Chevron, Shelby, Kings Mountain Mica, Commercial Equipment, Hank's Bar H Ranch, Holly Farms, Bolin Day Care, Winn Dixie, Stedmen Corp of Gastonia, Roses at Cleveland Mall, Western Steer, Winn Dixie of Shelby, Sellers Construction & Landscaping, L & L Hosiery, Paul's Seafood, North Elementary School, Family Grocery, Bradshaws, Nichols, Eckerds, Toney's, Mountaineer Pharmacy, Lahmers Industries, K.M. Truck Stop, Revco, Pizza Hut, K.M. Pool & Garden, Matthews Belk of Dixie Village, Carolina Basket and Wendy's of Shelby.

**Producing Electricity
Would Be Real Plus**

City commissioners are excited about plans for establishing a Hydroelectric plant at Moss Lake and tapping this water source as an alternative energy system and rightly so.

Anywhere that the city can cut costs in power will be appreciated by taxpayers who are finding the winter fuel bills taking a big hunk from their pay checks.

At a recent board meeting District 6 Commissioner Jim Dickey pointed out that the city has been spending up to \$225,000 a year with Duke Power to operate a water treatment plant, a waste treatment plant and sludge plant and with all the water going over the dam at Moss Lake the city can generate that much plus. The water's there for our usage, said the commissioner.

Water has been used in North Carolina for many years. The next few months should see Kings Mountain getting into the business of producing electricity for its customers.

LOOKING BACK

From the Feb. 19, 1953 edition of The Kings Mountain Herald. Former Sheriff Hugh A. Logan, Jr. is Kings Mountain's new police chief. He assumed his new duties last Thursday.

The county board of commissioners may get final figures next Monday on real property evaluations in the county, when the commission meets in special session.

A meeting of the general membership of the Kings Mountain Little Theatre, Inc. has been scheduled for Thursday night at 8 p.m.

Grover High School's basketball team posted win No. 22 for the season at Casar last Friday night, taking the Casar lassies 49-31. Grover's boys dropped the finale of the county loop doubleheader by 35-54.

Baptists Honor Hicks

(ED. NOTE: This article about Kings Mountain native John Hicks may be of interest to friends and relatives in this area. It was written by Henry Robinson of the Asheville Citizen-Times.)

When friends go to see the Rev. John G. Hicks at the hospital, they don't see a thin, sickly man with his head resting on a hospital pillow. They see an erect, white-haired gentleman, hands gripping the pulpit, leaning forward and delivering the Word of God.

That's the way Hicks wants to be remembered. He is fighting a fierce battle with cancer in the intensive care unit of St. Joseph's Hospital. He entered the hospital December 13.

Fighting battles is nothing new for Hicks. More than 40 years ago, he drew the battle line when he accepted Jesus as his Savior and took an even greater foe—the forces of evil. And he emerged from the battle a champion.

Hicks is director of missions for the Buncombe Baptist Association in Asheville, a post he has held since 1972. On Sunday, Feb. 5, some 92 Baptist churches in Buncombe County held a "John Hicks Appreciation Day." Congregations across the county offered prayer for their beloved leader and gave of their resources to help with mounting medical bills.

"For many years, John has served our Lord and for about 12 years has been the director of missions for Buncombe Baptists," said the Rev. Johnnie Tiller, moderator of the Buncombe Baptist Association. "When one thinks of him, certain Scriptures come to mind: 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love' (Gal. 5:22).

"John Hicks has given of himself unstintingly; now we have a golden opportunity to share with him and his family," Tiller said. "Perhaps the best word to describe John G. Hicks is the Biblical word—beloved," said the Rev. Gayle Brown, director of social ministries for the Buncombe Baptist Association.

"John is dearly loved by pastors, staff and church members all across Buncombe County. As pastor of the First Baptist Church in Old Fort, Westwood Baptist Church in West Asheville and as director of missions, his life has touched thousands of lives in so many ways," Brown said.

"In the truest sense, John G. Hicks is a pastor's pastor. He would always take time to listen carefully, give a person an opportunity to vent his feelings, and then speak words of encouragement and wisdom to a hurting heart," Brown said.

"Everywhere he would travel across the association, visiting in the various churches, there was an air of graciousness, goodness and kindness about him."

Hicks is married to the former Martha Eller, who serves as director of church development and financial secretary for the Buncombe Baptist Association.



HICKS



**Stewart's
Slants**

By
Gary Stewart

"John and Martha Hicks have continued in the tradition of dedicated leadership of Buncombe Baptists," said the Rev. Ollis Revels, the former pastor of Arden First Baptist Church who served as chairman of the search committee when Hicks was called as director of missions.

"Their work has been intense, fruitful and supportive. They continually hold a vision before the association in areas vital to a well-rounded ministry.

"The structures put in place during the past 12 years," Revels said, "will provide a solid basis for effective ministry for years to come."

When Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne elected to go for two points and a chance to win the ballgame instead of kicking an extra point for a tie and sure national championship in the January 2 Orange Bowl game against Miami, he made a lot of friends.

One was Kings Mountain's assistant police chief, Bob Hayes, an avid football fan.

"It took a lot of courage for him to go for the two-point conversion. He could have kicked for the tie and there's no doubt Nebraska would have been voted the national champion," Hayes said.

Hayes was so impressed with Osborne's coaching, he wrote the young Nebraska coach and told him how much he supported his winning effort.

Hayes received the following reply from Coach Osborne this week: "Thank you for your very kind letter. We are sorry that we couldn't have done better in the last game, but we felt that we had a good year. Our players performed close to their ability levels.

"We appreciate your support and your taking time to write. Best wishes, Tom Osborne, head football coach."

**Laura Bingham Working
In Jordan's Campaign**



A former Kings Mountain woman, Laura Carpenter Bingham, is serving as Director of Special Projects for Bob Jordan's campaign for Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina.

Mrs. Bingham, daughter of Charlie and Marion Carpenter of Kings Mountain, will be on the program Feb. 23 at Gaston College, along with Senator Wilma Woodard of Durham, who will lead a discussion of "Women and Economics"

Laura was conference director of the Governor's Conference on Women and Economy on Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at the Raleigh Civic Center. This was the first such conference of its kind in the nation. During the two and one half days, everyone participated

in four issue discussion sessions, Business Development, Education, Employment, and Financial Security.

The North Carolina Assembly on Women and the Economy is a citizens group appointed by Governor Hunt, with Laura Carpenter Bingham as its first director.

Dr. Juanita Kreps is honorary chairman, Wilma C. Woodard, N.C. Senate, was conference co-chairman, Wilma C. Woodard, N.C. Senate, was conference co-chairman, and other members of the commission are J. Allen Adams, N.C. House of Representatives, and Jane Smith Patterson, secretary of the N.C. Department of Administration.

Laura invites her Kings Mountain friends to come to Gaston College on Feb. 23 for the timely program, which is free, and will be held at 7:30 at Myers Center.

Valentine's Day was Tuesday and Charlene Potter (Mrs. Harold) Gardner, 28, took the occasion to send a special love letter to her parents Alice and Dallas Hoyle of Hendersonville, formerly of Kings Mountain.

The Hoyles, who once were employed at Lake Montonia and also at KM National Military Park and KM State Park, are Charlene's foster parents. Charlene said the Hoyles "took me in" when she was 11 and a half years old in 1967 and when nobody wanted her. Now, Charlene is a mother herself, to four year old Kelli Anne and two year old Kneeli Gardner, and recently went to Erwin, Tennessee where she was reared as a small child to check on her "roots."

"I received my papers (records) from Erwin yesterday and was surprised to find that so many of my biological relatives had plenty of chances to take me and raise me but none of them were concerned enough," she wrote her mother. "I found it very saddening to realize that since I was so small as my own daughters that no one wanted me", she wrote.

Charlene's parents divorced when she was small and her mother remarried and was given custody of her daughter. Two other children were born of the second marriage and problems developed between the mother and the alcoholic husband and Charlene's mother placed her daughter in one foster home after another, later abandoning her. "I was raised from pillar to post until Mom and Dad (Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle) took me when I was 11 and a half", said Charlene. Charlene's biological father died and her biological mother took her own life some years ago.

"In this day and time when help is so readily available there is no excuse for parents dropping their children off at social services for other people to raise. Thank God for foster parents", she wrote.

"When I look back I don't know where I'd be if you had not taken



**Lib
Stewart**

me in and gave me my first home. It was the first time in my life that I had a nice, clean, dry bed to sleep in and regular, good meals every day. My first bathtub and shower with towels fresh and clean and my first real toothbrush and toothpaste. I'm so very sorry for all the times I've hurt you but I want to thank you for sharing your lives with me," she wrote the Hoyles.

"This letter has been long overdue", wrote Charlene, "but now it must be written. If my own life ever got so bad that my girls were going to be hurt I would beg, borrow, steal, kill or whatever to keep them with me as a family. I know that kids can do a lot of things to hurt parents and not act like they care but I would not nor could I reject one of my girls because of anything she would do. I will also be there for them and hope that I can raise them to depend on the Lord for all their needs", she continued.

"I was so grateful and happy when I came to live with you that I would have done just about anything to stay there. I had never known such a home and family before. I have always loved you and considered you my own parents. I will always be grateful for all you have done for me but most of all for being your loving daughter", said Charlene.

Mrs. Gardner and her family were going to hand deliver the letter to her parents in Hendersonville Tuesday where they had planned a family party and where Charlene will share with her family her plans for writing her life story entitled, "Scattered Child."



MR. AND MRS. DALLAS HOYLE
...Foster Parents