



Lib Stewart

We Finally Got Memorial Day Off

Memorial Day is not usually a holiday for newspaper folks but Monday we almost made it.

When we came to work Monday morning expecting to begin work on today's newspaper, it was dark at The Herald and Dan Finger and his electrical crew were on the front porch. It wasn't long, however, until a large group of city electrical workers were working on the big transformer near our plant at the corner of King and Canterbury. Lightning had apparently struck the transformer and the workmen told us it would probably take all day to make the repairs. We took their word for it, crossed our fingers that Monday would be a holiday, and went home.

Thanks to the quick service of the electrical crews, however, I was back at my desk shortly before noon.

Lightning was also blamed for a fire Saturday night at 9 p.m. at Sadie Mill and firemen speculate that the fire originated in a ceiling space in an office in the plant. Firefighters were out for an hour and a half in a downpour of rain during the Saturday evening thunderstorm.

The city was deluged with rain again Monday night, which came down in torrents, flooding some areas of the community, with more severe thunderstorms in other areas of the state, dumping as much as six inches of rain on parts of North Carolina in a matter of hours. Some families were evacuated as close by as McAdenville and about 30 families on Whitesides Road west of Gastonia were forced from their homes when streams threatened to wash over its banks.

About the time that the city board session ended Monday night at City Hall, the clouds opened again and all of us trying to get to our cars were drenched. During the middle of the storm my brother got a call about severe flooding of the streets in the Gold Street area and as I was driving home in the storm I met him as he drove back to town to make a picture.

Indoors was the best place to be on Monday evening.

Circle your calendar for several events which take place this weekend.

Awards Day is Thursday at 9 a.m. at Kings Mountain Senior High School. A large number of students will be honored during the ceremonies which will be held in the gymnasium.

-00-

A country breakfast will be served Saturday, June 2, from 6 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at El Bethel United Methodist Church. The public is invited to attend.

-00-

Activities Day is this Friday at West Elementary School and students will be involved in a number of projects ushering in the first day of June. Students will be enjoying sackraces, ballgames, and painting, among other activities.

-00-

The American Legion Auxiliary is planning a gigantic yard sale for next Saturday, June 9th, on the vacant lot behind City Auto and Truck Parts, site of the recent Shriners Barbecue.

Members are asked to clean out their closets this week and the public is invited to contribute yard sale items and flea market items to auxiliary members.

Call Arlene Barrett at 739-8072; Lib Stewart at 739-7496; or Myrtle Christenson at 739-9411 if you have items to donate.

-00-

Because of some typographical errors in two stories reporting the wedding and party honoring De Ann Powers and Doug Burton, The Herald is happy to make these clarifications.

When De Ann Powers and Doug Burton were married May 20th in First Presbyterian Church, Dennis Huffstetler was pianist, Shirley (Mrs. Darrell) Austin was organist and Carl Watts was guitarist.

The name of Sandra Burton was omitted from the list of hostesses for a shower honoring the bride-elect and the bride's mother, Mrs. Christine Johnson, was listed as brother of the bride.

Comings And Goings

Mrs. Bessie Childers and Mrs. Grace McDaniel recently took a tour of the many interesting sites of Tennessee.

The highlights of their tour were the Grand Ole Opry, Graceland, a boat ride down the Mississippi, monorail ride to Mud Island, Casey Jones Museum, Wally Fowler's Music Jubilee, Oak Ridge Electrical Plant and many museums and tourist sites.

Mrs. Childers and Mrs. McDaniel left Thursday morning and return Sunday evening.

Kings Mountain Herald

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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

My son keep thy father's commandment and forsake not the law of thy mother. Proverbs 6:20.

Bat Man & Arvel

Carroll Lawless of Bessemer City and Arvel Hill of Dallas, co-owners of Holt Exterminating of Gastonia, got quite a surprise when they went into the attic of a home they were treating for termites the other day.

The owner of the home, who was having the house checked for termites before moving into it, told the exterminators he had heard a bird in the attic and asked them to go up and check it out.

Lawless and Hill didn't find one bird...but 2,000 bats wouldn't be stretching it a bit.

The two spent almost a week killing, catching and carrying out bats from the two-story structure. The bats Lawless caught and stored in cages filled a five-gallon bucket.

Lawless is an experienced bat catcher and the only exterminator in the area who'll dare to mess with them. He dons a thick leather suit, leather gloves and a wire mask attached to a hood to prevent being bitten.

He's been bitten only one time, as a youngster in Tennessee where he was exploring a cave. In over 35 years of catching bats for a living, he's never been bitten.

"Most companies won't tackle bats," he says. "The only way to get rid of them is to get up there with them and kill them or catch them."

Hill, the younger of the two and Lawless's nephew, contacted a local museum to see what should be done to the live bats.

"They said they didn't want them, for us to just turn them loose," he said. "But I don't plan to do that. I can't see taking them out of one place and turning them loose just so they can go somewhere else. They're dangerous. The man at the museum said they'd eat mosquitos, but I think rabies is worse than mosquitos."

"Bats are a lot more dangerous than most people think," said Lawless. "They go wild. They bite anything they can get hold of. When I got up there with them, they'd fly into my suit and just sink their teeth into the leather. I'd have to pull them off of me and put them in the cage."

Lawless said he's never seen as bad a case of bats as this one. "The first time I went up there, I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it," he said. "There was manure heaped up four feet wide, four feet high and eight or ten feet long. A pickup truck full wouldn't be stretching it a bit. It turned my stomach."

The daring duo, now known as Batman and Arvel (wouldn't it be nice if Arvel's first name were Robin?) even helped give birth to several baby bats.

Running into unusual situations is common for these two, who have met several snakes, bees, rats, and almost anything else you can think of during their professional careers as exterminators.

"Crowder's Mountain has the most rattlesnakes of any place around here," Lawless said. "I got three over there. I was crawling under a house over there one day, and shined my flashlight and a big copperhead was coming right at me. It scared me to death. I didn't know of anything else to do but keep shining the light and lie there right still. When he came by me, I grabbed him by the neck and carried him out."

They usually kill all of the poisonous snakes they come across and carry non-poisonous snakes such as king snakes and blacksnakes to Lawless's barn, where he uses them to catch rats.



Stewart's Slants

By Gary Stewart

"I've turned several king snakes loose. My wife's been threatening to leave me for years over those snakes, but so far she's still with me," he said.

He doesn't intend to test her with the bats, though.



The Bat Men ...And Cage Of Live Bats

EDITORIAL This Is Just Beginning

Though headline writers in need of short words, often use the word "finals" in handling news copy about "commencement" exercises, the true meaning of the word commencement is the "startin" or "beginning."

Obviously, the graduation program is correctly named commencement for the finishing up of a course of study, be it high school or college level, is indeed the beginning of something new in the lives of the graduating seniors.

For some, it means the transition from ward status of dependency on parents to the routine of hard work to earn a living. Others of this year's graduating classes will undergo furthering schooling. Others will marry soon, with the prospects of having before too many years, school youngsters of their own.

1984-85 Budget Presented

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management to assist personnel in particular with statistical control of time and equipment. All feasible operating economies and the most cost efficient practices must be followed to achieve the goals of this administration," he said.

APPROPRIATIONS

The General Fund includes the following appropriations for next year. The 1983-84 budget figures in parentheses. Administrative \$222,748 (\$299,153); Police \$515,626 (\$492,861); Fire, \$204,444 (\$167,401); Codes, Inspection \$41,005 (\$32,322); Public Works, Administration \$81,514 (\$66,404); Properties and Maintenance \$163,830 (\$134,634); Garage, \$83,987 (\$90,987); Street, \$312,132 (\$295,002); Sanitary, \$270,832 (\$245,200); Aging \$58,762 (\$62,619); Recreation, \$136,711 (\$144,833); Lake Authority \$33,024 (\$28,715); Neighborhood Facilities, \$69,663 (\$71,835); Cemetery, \$73,034 (\$70,127); The General Capital Projects Fund accounts for \$426,546 in the budget and cemetery perpetual care fund \$13,000.

REVENUE

The city expects to receive \$695,000 in current year taxes, \$20,000 from prior year taxes, \$221,000 from utilities franchise tax, \$35,080 from intangibles taxes, \$35,000 from interest income, \$165,432 from Powell Bill Street allocations, \$11,500 from gasoline rebates, \$270,000 from local option sales tax, \$144,852 from general revenue sharing, \$40,000 from Lake Authority in-

come, \$27,500 from street assessments, \$24,000 from Title III, \$25,000 from land sales, \$22,500 from recreation, and from other funds, \$67,603.

DISBURSEMENTS

The city expects to spend \$85,109, down from \$147,533 in administrative salaries; \$30,107 for commissioners expenses, \$22,000 for professional services; police salaries for a 24 member staff \$331,751; police retirement, \$31,573; police group insurance, \$35,305; police uniforms, \$10,000; fire department salaries (eight plus 24 volunteers) \$96,947; volunteer firemen, \$10,000; group insurance, \$12,280; uniforms, \$5,000; hose and nozzles, \$10,000; inspection department salaries, \$28,927; retirement for two employees, \$2,829; group insurance, \$3,070; salaries for public works-administration, \$46,130; \$110,472 for salaries of property and maintenance employees; \$53,213 for salaries of garage employees; \$141,045 for salaries of 12 street department employees; \$25,000 for supplies and materials of street department; \$161,780 for salaries of sanitation department employees, 16; \$43,007 for salaries of Aging Program, two plus four part-time; \$55,660 for salaries of recreation department, five employees, plus \$12,000 for seasonal employees; \$10,00 for special recreational activities; \$16,770 for salaries of Lake Authority; \$34,646 for salaries of Neighborhood Facilities, 3; \$47,109 for salaries of cemetery department, four; \$37,500, library contribution; \$25,00, D.O.T. right of way; \$20,000, DOT utility agreements; \$4,000 election expenses; \$12,500 utilities;

One of the Herald's favorite themes is the encouragement of high school students to make every possible effort to attend college. The pace of living continues to quicken with the years, and additional knowledge makes the always required experience come much more painlessly. There are the additional advantages of living in a new community with new people and somewhat removed from the protecting parental wing.

There is always a demand for skill and knowledge, and if accompanied by doses of personality and common sense, the advantages of more schooling, be it literary or vocational, are quickly found in a time when specialization seems to be the order of the day.

Our best wishes to the several graduating classes of the area. May their future be marked with success and happiness.

\$17,000 for salaries in purchasing department, one employee plus one part-time; \$31,500 for community development salaries, one plus one part time employee; Salaries for water and sewer department, \$25,301.

Professional services, \$31,559; interest expense, \$99,094; retirement of debt, \$192,000; meter readers salaries, \$26,976 for two employees, salaries for water treatment plant employees, five; \$68,889; purchase of power, \$220,000; chemicals, \$62,000; salaries for construction and maintenance, water and sewer, \$91,245, eight employees; emergency overtime, \$6,000; maintenance and repair equipment, \$12,000; supplies and materials, \$40,000; capital outlay, \$60,000 plus \$24,000 for equipment; waste water pump station employees salaries, \$43,852, three; emergency overtime, \$5,000; purchase of power, \$15,000; supplies and materials, \$12,500; equipment, \$15,000 salaries for five plus one part time employee in Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$60,298; purchase of power, \$62,000; supplies, \$15,000; salaries for five employees in the electric depart-

ment, \$106,146; administrative services, \$31,559; emergency overtime, \$10,000; purchase of power, \$3,815,110; maintenance and repair trucks, \$6,000; supplies and materials, \$80,000; \$80,000 is budgeted for capital improvements and equipment.

Expenditures in the Gas Department included \$148,306 for salaries for nine employees; \$31,559 for administrative services; \$3,707,183 for gas purchased; \$50,000 for supplies and materials; \$22,000 for catholic protection; \$96,000 for capital improvements.

The city expects to receive \$4,624,540 in gas utilities charges, \$4,500 for gas out on fees, and \$4,922,842 from electricity charges to customers, \$3,750 from electrical taps; \$1,185,582 from water and sewer utility charges to customers, \$10,000 from taps and connection charges, \$76,000 from the Clean Water Grant. From all its utility funds, the city expects to receive \$10,956,714.00, according to budget projections or 45 percent from electric, 42 percent from gas, and 13 percent from water-sewer.

Commissioners Remember Those Killed In Service

A tribute to "those who serve and those who paid the supreme sacrifice for freedom for all Americans and the world over" was given by Mayor John Moss on Memorial Day at the opening of the special meeting of board of city commissioners.

Prior to silent prayer, the flags were advanced by Chief of Police Jackie Barrett and Fire Chief Gene Tignor and those in

attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

In other actions: The city board of commissioners took the recommendation of the city planning and zoning board and denied the request of Mr. and Mrs. Doyt Falls to rezone their property on N. Dilling St. to R-20 for placement

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