

Opinions

OUR VIEW

Many Children Need Your Help

Nothing is more pitiful than a neglected or abused child and nothing pulls stronger on the heart strings of concerned people who want to do something to better the plight of the needy.

A group of these caring people had a vision eight years ago of building a facility that would house abused and abandoned youngsters here in Cleveland County. Thanks to their untiring efforts, countless volunteers and donations, the James Home will soon be a reality. Two more fund raisers have been scheduled this month that will hopefully raise the remaining \$7,000 needed to start construction of the facility (see story page 3-A).

Why should we concern ourselves with these children? Isn't the issue of needy children really a problem that is in the big city ghetto?

No, the suffering of needy children here in Cleveland County is just as strong here as the inner city. Here's why:

—One out of five children in North Carolina live in poverty. Most are white, but minority children are four times as likely to be poor.

—More than 19% of the children in Cleveland County live below the poverty line.

—More than 34,000 children were reported abused in 1987, a figure that has increased the past four consecutive years in North Carolina.

—There are approximately 190 children in foster homes in Cleveland County, and 82 more placed outside the county.

The number of abused and abandoned children continues to grow in our area. Social workers and other professionals at times feel they are losing the battle.

But there is hope, and the James Home is an example of what can be done on the local level. We hope you will attend the upcoming fund raisers for this needy project, or send a donation by calling 482-7471.

And we also encourage you to voice your concern to your elected representatives. North Carolina can do better in meeting the needs of our young needy, but only if the effort starts with a concerned citizenry.

Old-Timers Honor Roll

I would like to nominate the following individual to the Kings Mountain Herald Honor Roll of Kings Mountain old-timers:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Age this calendar year: _____

Check one: —My nominee is a Kings Mountain citizen who has reached 95 years of age or older this calendar

—My nominee is a Kings Mountain citizen who has worked for one professional, or one employer (including self-employed) in Kings Mountain or Cleveland County for 35 or more years. Give details below:

Employer or profession:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Years: _____

Name and phone number of person making nomination (not for publication):

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

Honor Roll
Kings Mountain Herald
P. O. Box 769
Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086

Letter Policy

We ask that you follow these guidelines and deadlines when submitting letters:

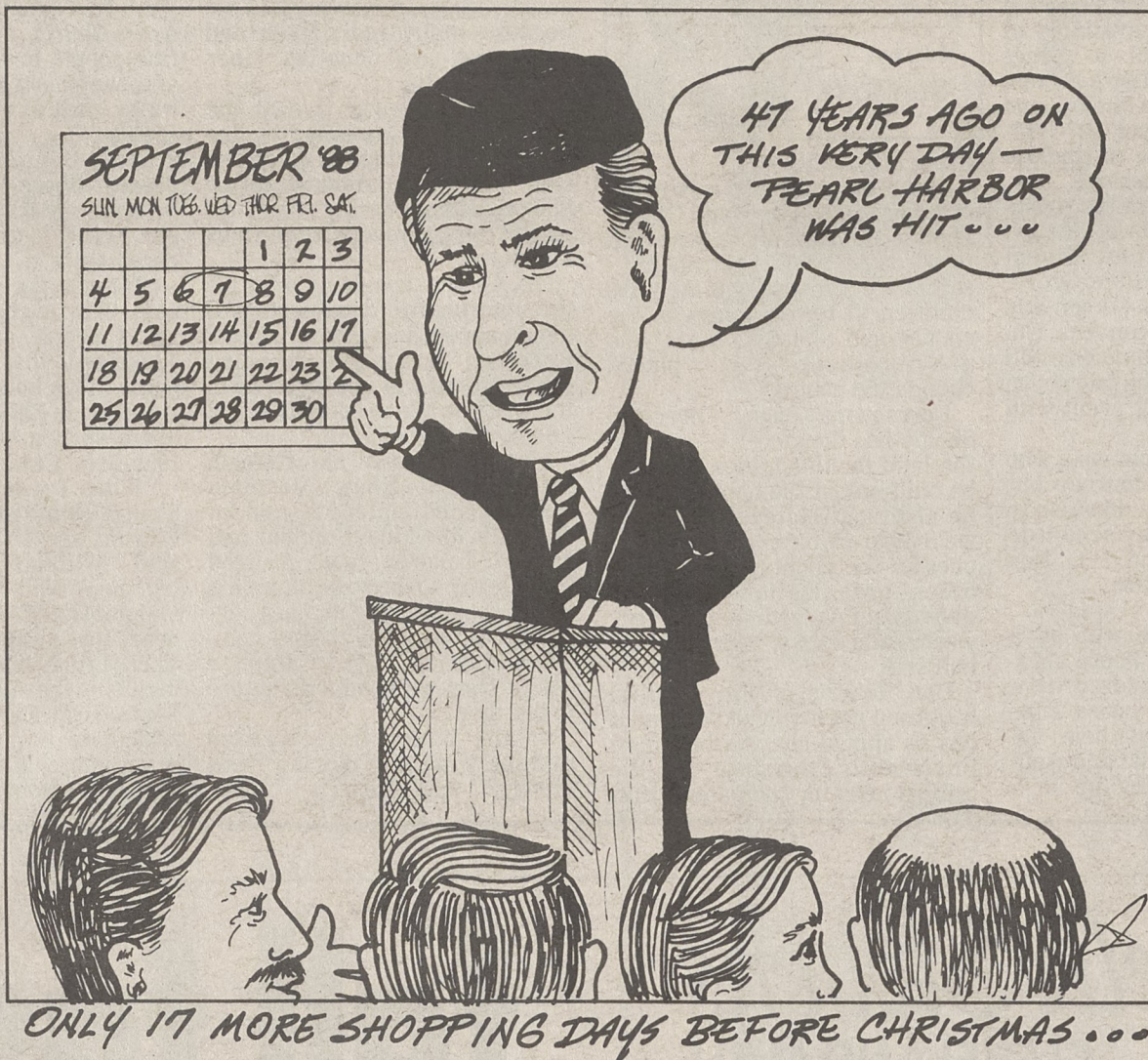
Keep the letters brief and to the point. Type and double-space them, if possible, but sign them in ink and include your full name, address and telephone number for verification.

The Herald reserves the right to edit the letters for spelling, good taste, libel, or any other reason, and reserves the right to refuse the letters for any reason.

All letters must be mailed to Letter to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Under no circumstances will hand-delivered letters be published.

Cartoonitorial

By J. Day



Hey George! That's December 7

President Ronald Reagan has addressed the American Legion and Auxiliary eight times during his administration and four times in two years this reporter served as National Public Relations Chairman for the one million member Auxiliary.

So, it was no surprise to me that the crowds would come to Louisville, Ky. last week to Commonwealth Convention Center to hear him address thousands of delegates representing 3.8 million members at the national convention.

The President came to Louisville Tuesday, Sept. 6, followed on Wednesday, Sept. 7th by Vice President George Bush and on Thursday, Sept. 8th by Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis.

The crowds also jammed the convention center for the presidential candidates but neither candidate got the reception that President Reagan received.

Arlene Barrett of Kings Mountain and this reporter were seated with the Panama and Indiana delegations close to the front of the podium where the speech making took place. The Bush goof before the Legionnaires was as a real surprise! When he inadvertently announced to the American Legion that "today Sept. 7th is Pearl Harbor Day" he had apparently departed from his prepared speech. "I wonder today how many Americans remember that today, Sept. 7, 1988 is the anniversary of Pearl Harbor," the presidential candidate said to a stunned audience. "That date stands clearly in my mind, as a high school student coming out of a church service at prep school in Andover, Mass. 47 years ago to this very day we were hit and hit hard at Pearl Harbor and we were not ready." Murmuring ensued and heads turned. TV cameras scanned the crowd for reaction. The whispers in the audience grew louder as Bush continued his speech.

Then, a chuckling Bush paused and said, "Did I say Sept. 7th? Sorry about that. Dec. 7, 1941, 47 years ago this year," he said. Then, thousands of conventioners applauded and the murmurs ended up with forgiveness.

Looking Both Ways

(Ed. Note: Rusty Gates wants to get involved with local sports, so we accepted his offer, and now he is in charge of the key to the batter's box at the local ball park.)

A few weeks ago Hollywood unleashed another attack on all that has been held inviolable for decades: P this time the target was minor league baseball, which is undoubtedly the greatest sporting event since people began playing around.

I don't mean major league baseball where kids who aren't old enough to shave own Montana and the Lesser Antilles but can't write to find out how things are going because they can't spell the names of either of their places. These are the people who say the owner doesn't respect them, or they say the manager doesn't do a good job of inspiring them to play.

It seems to me—and to a lot of other people—that if a man pays a kid a dump-truck load of money to play a child's game, the owner is showing about \$1.5 million worth of respect. And if a base salary of \$6,000 per day isn't motivation, it's hard to imagine what is needed.

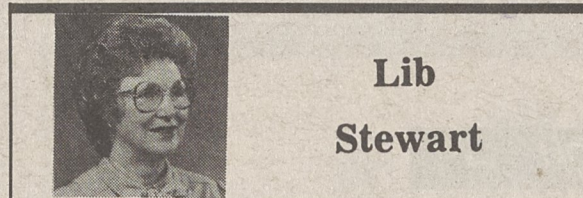
The game that was unparalleled was the old semi-pro games that were played all over the South. In this area some of the best players who ever swung a bat played for years, and the best pay-day some of them ever received wouldn't have bought a hubcap for one of the fancy cars kids drive today.

Running a close second to the semi-pro games were those of the Class D leagues in the area. The characters that emerged from these contests did not need a Hollywood scriptwriter to make them appear to be interesting.

These players fought, drank, chased women, gambled, and then showed up at the park and knocked the cover off the ball, and as soon as the game was over the cycle started anew. It is safe to say that the players were colorful.

At least. One area player grew tired of running around and decided he would marry a friend of the team. When the players rushed to his aid and informed him that she had been on rather intimate terms with every man in the municipality, the love-stricken athlete said, in total surprise at their center, "Why, this ain't a big town at all!"

One player, who was rather thick through the middle and between his ears, loved to crawl up under the stands during the playing of the National Anthem. He was looking for lost coins, I suppose.



Lib Stewart

The next day, Dukakis made reference to the Bush goof in his prepared speech before Legionnaires. He chuckled and said "I hear it's closer to Christmas than I thought. Guess I'll have to start my Christmas shopping." His speech was interrupted about 15 times by applause from the audience.

Reagan, Bush and Dukakis told the Legion and Auxiliary, the world's largest veteran's and patriotic organizations, what they wanted to hear, increased veterans' benefits and each appeared on the podium in a blue Legion cap. They all said they favored a cabinet level position for the head of the Veterans Administration.

Democrat Michael Dukakis and Republican George Bush offered starkly different views of the nation's economy. Dukakis said that under the Republicans "the rich have gotten richer and the poor have gotten poorer." He said millions of high paying jobs have been replaced by low wage positions and asked, "Can we afford four more years of that?"

Republican rival Bush touted economic gains under the Reagan administration, saying the administration "has created 17 1/2 million jobs, more disposable income for the American people, lower taxes and all my opponent can do is tell the American people how bad things are."

Demonstrators appeared at all three events but Louisville police were prepared for them and for the estimated 20,000 people in the city for the Legion events which included a Labor Day festival at the fairgrounds featuring country music singer Lee Greenwood well known for his rendition of "God Bless The USA."



Rusty Gates

At any rate, one night he had crawled as far back as he possibly could—in search of the elusive coinage—and about the time the public address system started playing the anthem, a spectator stood and dropped her cigarette, which went through a crack, landed in a wrinkle in the chubby player's neck, and began to burn.

The player began to writhe, to scream, to shake, rattle, and roar his dismay. The harder he tried to extricate himself, the tighter he was stuck, and the more the cigarette burned, the louder he yelled. Finally someone poured a Coke through one of the cracks and several players tugged at his feet until he was both extinguished and out.

One player had a wager with the owner that the player would finish the season batting over .300 for the team, and a week before the end of the season the player was around .330. At that point the owner released the player and demanded that the wager he paid to him (the owner) because the player had not finished the season.

Up at East Monbo the workers in the mill could go outside to watch games as long as someone, according to the boss, kept an eye on the machines. When the boss walked in later he found the mill totally empty, and when he went outside to raise Cain one of the workers pointed out that a weaver had left his glass eye on top of one of the machines.

The boss could not argue that the workers did not keep an eye on the machines. And one game was settled in a bizarre fashion. In the ninth inning the home team led by one run with two outs in the inning. The next batter looped a soft liner over third base and the ball took a crazy bounce into a patch of honeysuckle. While the runner steamed around the bases, the shortstop looked frantically for the ball.

Suddenly he saw a next of tiny rabbits, and he picked up one and tossed the bunny to the third baseman, who tagged the sliding runner.

And the umpire ruled the runner was out—by a hare!

Your Right To Say It

Writer Supports Mike Dukakis

Dear Sirs:

Having read the articles by Mrs. Beam and Mrs. Cashion on the Bush/Dukakis race, I feel compelled to state my reasons why I plan to support Mr. Dukakis this November. I disagree with the governor on many issues (abortion, the death penalty, school prayer), but I feel that most Americans will look at the most important issues that affect this nation.

1. Jobs. Though the Regan Administration has taken credit for creating millions of jobs since 1980, many of these jobs are minimum-wage, or low-paying jobs with very few, or any benefits, and many people are unable to support a family on them. The class of "working homeless" has gotten bigger, as has the class of super-rich. The middle class in this country has been slowly diminishing. All this has been at the expense of high-paying jobs that allowed Americans to own homes, cars, and support their families. Just look at all the American companies that have either closed down, or moved their operations overseas in order to save a few bucks.

2. The National Debt. On January 5, 1987, the National Debt was announced at being \$2,218,428,901,299.50. In 1980, the debt was just under one trillion dollars. The Regan Administration has almost tripled the National Debt by deficit spending, borrowing recklessly, and allowing our trade deficit to increase. Foreign investors, right now, own so much of America's businesses that should they pull their assets out, our nation would collapse, and according to many economists, this would make the Crash of 1929 look like a church picnic. Though I do not support a tax increase to pay for the Debt, I feel that Mr. Dukakis would have a better handle on the debt than Mr. Bush.

There are other issues that have swayed me toward Dukakis (housing, trade, etc.) and I hope that many other Americans will see how things have been for them since 1980, and whether they want to improve, or maintain the status quo.

John S. Hardin
Springfield, VA

Jim Gardner Clear Choice

TO THE EDITOR

North Carolina voters have a clear choice on November 8th in the race for Lieutenant Governor.

I urge our citizens to vote for Jim Gardner, the Republican candidate for Lt. Gov. Mr. Gardner has an outstanding record in government and business. He served as Congressman from the 4th District, co-founder of Hardee's Food System, former commissioner and president of the American Basketball Association, and recently as president of Gardner's Foods, Inc.

A close look at the philosophy and support of each candidate for Lt. Gov. shows the differences between Jim Gardner and his liberal Democratic opponent, State Senator Tony Rand.

Senator Rand has the endorsement of such left-liberal interest groups as the AFL-CIO, Teamsters Union, and NOW-Political Action Committee.

We need a Lt. Gov. presiding over the N.C. State Senate who will work with Gov. Jim Martin, not against him. Jim Gardner favors the veto power for the Governor. He wants to maintain our right to work law. Mr. Gardner wants to see state government committed to quality education, with specific programs, not just promises.

A vote for Gardner is a vote for conservative values and positive economic development. Voters should reject the Jordan-Rand-Ramsey-Watkins clique and support the Martin-Gardner ticket. This will reduce the role of the Raleigh power brokers and restore accountability to state government.

Sincerely,

Russell S. "Rusty" Davis, Jr.
Charlotte

Another Good Job, Shriners

(ED. NOTE - The following letter was written to the White Plains Shrine Club of Kings Mountain, which hosted the ISA World Series recently at Belmont).

Dear Shriners,

Thank you so much for the Southern hospitality shown by your organization to the ISA and all the teams which played in the 1988 ISA World Series.

To say that you were most gracious hosts, or that your tournament was very well organized would be a gross understatement. I can't say enough good about your group of Shriners to do you justice.

I had the good fortune to work with Artie Shoemaker and Carl Champion and I can personally tell you that both of them put in many, many hours of hard work before the first pitch was ever thrown.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the ISA has decided to give your organization first right of refusal on next year's World Series, also to give you first right to refusal each year following each ISA World Series which you host without your having to pay a bid fee.

Hopefully, we will be able to pick up Corporate Sponsors and perhaps some TV Coverage in the future which would benefit all the children we are working for.

Again, thank you so much for the great job you did at our World Series.

The ISA appreciates you and I know that thousands of children across the nation in need of your help appreciate you even more.

God Bless all of you. Keep up the good work.

Respectfully,

Larry Nash
Exec. Director, ISA

Kings Mountain Herald

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