

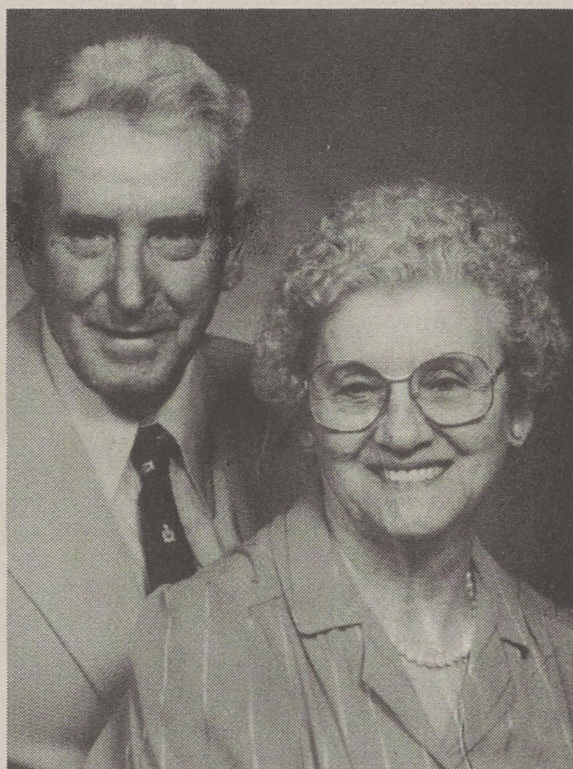
Mr. And Mrs. Pearson Married For 60 Years

At a time when the divorce rate is spiraling, Olland and Iva Lee Pearson stand out as an example of a happily married couple who have stayed married to each other for 60 years. And they would do it again.

Olland, a former city commissioner in the Garland Still administration in 1951-53, teases his wife that 60 years ago he stole his bride and "is still paying for it." He quickly explains that as an 18 1/2 year-old bridegroom he carried his 17 1/2 year-old bride over the state line and they got hitched in York, South Carolina without the consent of her guardians.

Iva Lee Falls and Olland Pearson had been childhood sweethearts since he was 13 and she was 12. They planned their elopement on a Saturday with another couple, Johnny and Florence Stroupe, but told Iva Lee's folks that they were attending a medicine show at the location of what is now Phifer Hardware. Returning to Kings Mountain they spent their wedding night in the old Bill Hord house, which used to be located across the street from the old Herald building downtown, and Iva Lee, who had not taken additional clothes from home, wore her wedding dress on Monday to the Old Dilling Mill where she was a spooling hand and Olland worked on speeders, the roving frames. Their first home was a room in the old Hord boarding house downtown.

Since those early days, the Pearsons reared a family. Iva Lee has retired three times. She worked 42 years in the mill, retired and went to work at Kings Mountain Hospital in the housekeeping department, retired and then went back to work at the hospital. She would still be on-the-job but suffered a heart attack. Olland retired twice: from the mill in 1960 and then worked 20 years for the late Fred Plonk at



OLLAND AND IVA LEE PEARSON

Battleground Service Station. Two years ago the Pearsons moved from their Grover Road home and renovated a home at 211 Fairview Street, across the street from their daughter.

The Pearson family includes their son, Harold Dean Pearson, a sportswriter for The Richmond Times-

"We never went to sleep mad at one another. Every couple has ups and downs but we stuck to our vows."

-Iva Lee Pearson

Dispatch in Richmond, Va. and their daughter, Shirley Mayes of Kings Mountain. Their pride and joy are their grandchildren, Chris Pearson and Jackie Putnam and great-grandsons Jason and Brandon Putnam.

Harold Pearson came home on their anniversary May 18 and took them out for a quiet family supper to celebrate their anniversary and Mother's Day. Pearson stops by frequently after covering sports events in the Piedmont or in Atlanta, Ga.

Mrs. Pearson enjoys piecing quilts and both used to enjoy fishing. Back in the early days of their marriage the couple would pack fatback meat biscuits and carry them to the fishing holes at Crowder's Mountain where they would spend the day. Iva Lee drives the family car but credits her husband with being a "back seat driver" and Pearson shows off his membership card in the "back seat driving club" every chance he gets. Olland says he's glad for his wife to do the driving and has never wanted to get his driver's license although he helped a number of friends obtain theirs over the years.

Iva Lee Falls and Olland Pearson are both Kings Mountain natives. Mrs. Pearson is the great-granddaughter of the late Robert Falls, Kings Mountain pioneer who sold the city the first 25 acres of land and gave the Southern Railway a right-of-way when the City of Shelby refused. He also gave the first acre of

land to start Mountain Rest Cemetery. The family's roots in Kings Mountain probably accounted for Pearson's popularity as a city commissioner. Pearson credits the Still administration with cutting the tax rate five cents, opening up the Linwood section of town for residential development, and beginning use of Powell Bill funds for street improvements. He was paid \$10 a month and Still, who functioned at first as a part-time mayor, earned \$50 a month. The five-member board split on several issues, including the city manager form of government, fired the then-city manager 3-2 and re-instituted the mayoral form of government and raised Mayor Still's pay to \$150 a week. Pearson beat veteran politician Tommy Ellison for the Ward 4 seat that term and then was defeated the next term by Lloyd Davis. "Those were the days," said Pearson who laughed and said he'd never return to politics.

"Our phone rang off the hook all the time," said Iva Lee who said after her husband's two year venture in politics she was glad he got beat the second time around.

"We never went to sleep mad at one another. Every couple has ups and downs but we stuck to our vows," she said.

The Pearsons are members of First Wesleyan Church.

Both agreed they wouldn't make any changes in their lives if they had them to live over and agreed that their love had been tried and tested over the years. Married all their lives, they say if two people work hard at staying married to each other they can succeed.

KM Weather

(Compiled By Kenneth Kitzmiller)

MAY 24-30 LAST YEAR

Total precipitation	0	.72
Maximum one day	0	.70
Year to date	19.80	11.49
Minimum temp.	57 (28th)	44 (26th)
Maximum temp.	92 (26th)	90 (30th)
Average temp.	75.5	65.7

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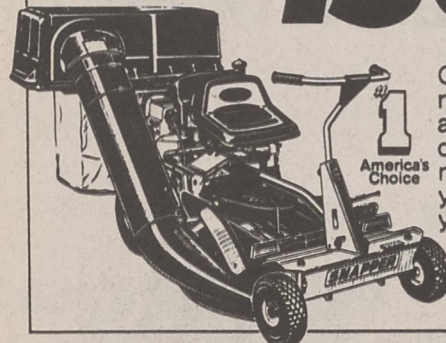
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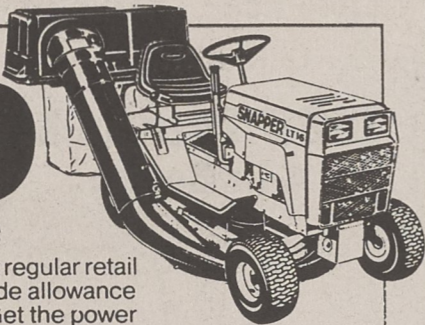
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It's a snap with a Snapper.

180-Day Prohibition On Signs Is Recommended By Planning And Zoning

A 180-day prohibition on off-premises commercial signs was recommended Thursday night by the Kings Mountain Planning and Zoning Board.

Chairman Wilson Griffin said the recommendation is included in

an amendment to the city's sign ordinance, which must be approved by city council.

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on June 13 on implementation of the temporary ban

on new billboards.

At the May 22 meeting of City Council the commissioners voted to ask the planning and zoning board to recommend the temporary ban to allow time to strengthen the current sign ordinance which City

Manager George Wood said is "very weak."

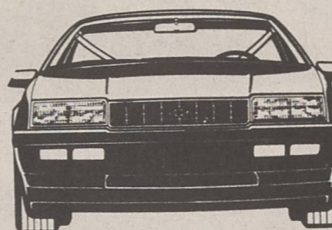
The temporary ban will have no effect on non-commercial signs or on commercial signs erected at a place of business.

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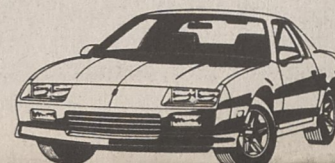
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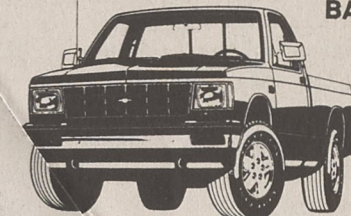
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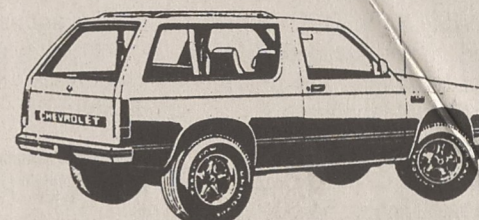
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