

Opinions

Our View

Keep KM beautiful

What kind of impression does the city of Kings Mountain make on a visitor? Or a resident, for that matter?

An out-of-town visitor to this paper several months ago remarked that Kings Mountain was the least attractive town of several area cities she had visited. The most attractive, she said, was Cherryville.

Should we have told the lady to take a hike? Go live in Cherryville maybe?

Of course not.

What we need to do is make Kings Mountain more attractive so that on her next visit she will give us a better grade.

Kings Mountain--both the city and its citizens--has done a remarkable job of beautification in recent months. Coming into town on Highway 74 West a motorist's first view inside the city limits is an attractive monument, the symbol of the city, surrounded by beautiful flowers which were the hard work of city employees and private citizens.

Whether the motorist continues on 74 or travels up Mountain Street he continues to see businesses and homes whose owners and guardians take great pride in maintaining their possessions.

As noted here a couple of weeks ago, a downtown shopper who chooses to park in the "back lot" now sees attractive flowers and shrubs instead of old bent, overflowing trash containers. That was the result of the dedicated hard work of a few Garden Club ladies. Another out-of-towner, who is a salesman, recently commented that he was ashamed to bring someone with him to the downtown area because of the appearance of the back lot. Now, he says, he's proud of it.

Many businesses in downtown have done an excellent job of sprucing up their property. Special efforts by Larry and Bernice Chappell have changed several East Gold Street vacant buildings into a new "Corner" of businesses that not only offer good food and merchandise but a handsome surrounding. At the corner of East Gold and Battleground, Dennis Bolin and his employees have turned Kings Mountain Farm Center into one of the most attractive businesses in town by simply adding flower boxes along the edge of the parking lot. The traditional downtown area has always been attractive and its beauty has been enhanced in recent years by the addition of holly trees and flowers (again, an effort of Garden Clubs), and the addition of park-type benches in front of several family-owned businesses.

Along King Street, one business--Christmas Emporium--and several private property owners have taken old homes which were on the verge of violating city codes and turned them into show-places. The sites of two former service stations were improved a thousand percent last week after a story on the front page of the Herald. Maybe the story did it, maybe it was at the insistence of the city or individuals. At any rate, Petroleum World deserves a big thank you for its efforts.

At every city limits sign, motorists now see an attractive wood structure with the city's name and logo, and the grass around it is always well-groomed. Most property owners on the major highways leading to and from the city do an outstanding job of keeping their property manicured.

The city and its citizens are to be commended for their efforts, but we still have much work to do to turn Kings Mountain into a city that would leave a lasting impression on visitors. One grown up vacant lot, one old couch or broken down car left sitting in a lawn for months, or one old rotten, falling down sign at a business can ruin the appearance of an entire community.

The state and some of the major utility companies need to be encouraged to do a better job of keeping their rights-of-way cleaner. Just about every time one sees a power line, he'll also see weeds growing head-high, and it's almost a disgrace (and even dangerous) the way the state sometimes allows weeds to grow along the interchanges of I-85 and the new Highway 74 bypass.

We commend the above-mentioned citizens and business, and all others who have made special efforts to beautify Kings Mountain. We encourage others whose property may be an eyesore, or just may need a good cleaning up, to get busy.

We also encourage the city to keep its eye on potential abusers of the city codes and make sure the ordinances are enforced.

With just a little effort on everyone's part, Kings Mountain could be a town that anyone would love to visit, or live in.

(More Editorials, 5-A)

Nostalgia Corner



1947 CORA MILL BALL TEAM - Boyd Howell supplied The Herald with this photo of the 1947 Cora Mill baseball team. The team played in the Textile League which included teams from mills in Gaston County and Kings Mountain. The team also played community teams such as Cherokee Falls and Boger City. Team members were, front row, left to right, Fred Kiser, Rocky Ford, Wesley Kiser, Willis King and Tom Ross. Second row, Norman Roper, Buster Brown, Aud Tignor, Ed Bridges and Floyd Smith. Back row, Coach Elzie Bridges, Jack Harvey, Charles Patterson, Alonzo Goforth, Boyd Howell, business manager Harold Phillips and score keeper Paul "Cocky" Ramsey.

Film at eleven

Local television news departments are getting sillier and sillier. When I say local, of course, I'm referring to the three Charlotte stations that present "newscasts."

I'm not going to refer to either by name or channel but one of them is running ads on radio stations that say something like, "Why watch an hour news broadcast, with a lot of fill when you can get a compact 30 minute show on our station? That's really all you need."

The point they are trying to make is the other two stations' news shows are one hour long and theirs is one-half hour. That's rubbish. It is true they present a 30 minute show at 5:30, but they follow with another at 6:00. They can call that a 30 minute broadcast if they like, but to me, it's a one hour broadcast separated by a station break and a string of commercials.

Because this station started bringing their news on at 5:30, the other two decided to go them one better and present a newscast at 5:00. Now you can see 30 minutes of news at 5:00 and another hour beginning at 6:00. Talk about fill, that 90 both those stations really have to struggle to fill 90 minutes. On a slow news day they are truly in trouble.

I get sick of watching them sometimes. They'll have a story on at five, then come right back with the same story at six. In case you missed it, you can be sure it will put in yet another appearance on the 11 o'clock news. Then, if you switch on the tube in the morning before you go to work, you can see the same story again. At noon, you're likely to get a re-hash, and just in case there might have been someone out of town or hiding in the woods, they'll do a once-over-lightly version on their next 6:00 show. Then later in the week they'll run a promo three or four times that says something like, "If you weren't watching W\_\_\_ News you missed this," and the once-over-lightly version is tossed on your face again.

All during the week, these stations run advertisements telling you how wonderful their news shows are. It's almost laughable.

Don't misunderstand me, I have no problems with the people who appear on these broadcasts. I know a couple of them and there was a time when I considered at least one a friend. I do have difficulty with their over-promotion and their redundancy. Let's face it, the national news broadcasts last just thirty minutes.

I'm not too happy with the way some of the local news is presented either.

When there is a serious story, there is one lady who puts on her long, sad face, then when a not-so-serious piece comes on she gets so perky I sometimes think she is going to bump her head on the lights. Then there's the guy who reminds me of an evangelist because he punctuates every report by pumping his arms up and down and making so many hand gestures, you think he might be on the verge of having a fit.

I don't like the way the anchor people find it necessary to ask reporters in the field questions when

JIM HEFFNER Columnist [Portrait of Jim Heffner]

they've finished their reports. Most of the questions are unnecessary and some inane.

One of the stations has the disconcerting habit of taking a story that is going to be, or has been, presented on the national news, and hanging it on a local peg. Let's say, for example, that the network produces a piece on lead content found in soil, as they did recently. This station immediately has some soil tests made on local samples and presents their own "story." As far as I'm concerned, that is pure laziness.

As always, you get your best, in-depth news from your local newspaper. It has always been that way and it always will be.

TEACHERS - I wrote a column recently on teachers salaries, and received a nice card from Carol Wheeler who teaches 8th grade at Kings Mountain Middle School. I don't think Miss Wheeler would mind if I mention one comment she made.

"I will be beginning my 33rd year of teaching in August," she said, "and I'm still excited about the opportunities that I have to make a difference in the young people of Kings Mountain."

That statement reinforces one of the points I was trying to make, that school teachers are about as dedicated a group as you will find anywhere.

I am a little taken aback that school teachers might be reading my column, though, I guess I'll have to start watching my sentence structure and punctuation.

Thanks for the correspondence, Carol.

News Deadlines

The Kings Mountain Herald welcomes your news items for publication in each Thursday's paper. We ask that you follow these deadlines when submitting material.

The deadline for social news including weddings, anniversaries, reunions, engagements, birthdays, club news, church news, etc., is Friday at 5 p.m.

The deadline for A section news, including community and school activities, sports news, etc., is Tuesday at 5 p.m. News of Tuesday night meetings and other activities will be accepted until 10 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Call your items of interest into the Herald at 739-7496 or bring them by our office on East King Street at Canterbury Road.

Your Right To Say It

Book available

To the editor:

Cleveland County, from the time of its organization in 1841, has always had civic leaders, business people, educators, politicians, home builders, physicians, bankers, store keepers and farmers. Without them, life in the county and its towns and cities would be greatly different. In addition the communities have needed postal clerks, librarians, newspaper reports and editors, factory workers, musicians, artists and office workers to make local life more enjoyable and meaningful. And it goes without saying that the county has been well supplied with good cooks, homemakers, and faithful church workers.

As a joint contribution to the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the founding of Cleveland County, the Cleveland County Chapter of AARP #3488, Inc. and the Broad River Genealogical Society have collected and published the biographies of women who were nominated, as being noteworthy in these fields. This book, "Handmaids of History," provides a wealth of detail on these women's lives. All were residents, and most still live in Cleveland County, but the scope of the book's contribution to the preservation of local history is gained from the range of the birth dates of the individuals. In keeping with a woman's privilege, birth dates re recorded for about one half of the entries. The earliest date is in the 1850's, and they extend to the 1920's, with the most popular ones recorded for the 1900's.

This publication, "Handmaids of History," made its formal entry into Cleveland County literature during Freedomfest. It now can be purchased for \$5 at the gift shop of the Senior Center, Council on Aging, 408 East Marion Street, Shelby, or by calling members of the Broad River Genealogy Society at 482-4254 or 487-9332.

Yours truly, Paul L. Losee, President Cleveland County Chapter AARP

Wants Council seat

To the editor:

The following letter was sent via registered mail to each present city council person and Mayor Kyle Smith. In order for the people of Kings Mountain to know that I have requested to be considered for the Ward 4 council seat recently vacated by Mr. Scott Neisler, I respectfully request that you publish this letter in the editorial section of your paper.

Dear City Council and Mayor:

Please accept this letter as my formal request to be considered for the Ward 4 council seat, which was vacated due to the resignation of Mr. Scott Neisler.

As you know, I was a candidate for city councilman in October of 1989 which, at that time, was Ward 6. The late Mr. Harold Phillips ran second on the ballot and I received the next highest vote. I was very much interested in this seat two years ago, and even more so today. I sincerely hope that you, as an elected official, would not disregard the voters' wishes, shown in the 1989 election, by appointing someone who showed no interest at all, or to any person who received less votes than I did.

I think it is imperative that our elected officials show honesty and fairness to every citizen of this city, especially to those who went to the polls and made their decision.

Thank you for any consideration you can give me in this matter.

Jerry L. White

Muriel is missed

Dear Editor, There is a sadness in the hearts of everyone at Peggy's Restaurant today.

The death of our friend and co-worker Muriel Yarbrough has left a void that will be felt for a long time. She was a quiet, gentle person, one that never stepped beyond the realm of friendship to inflict any harm on anyone.

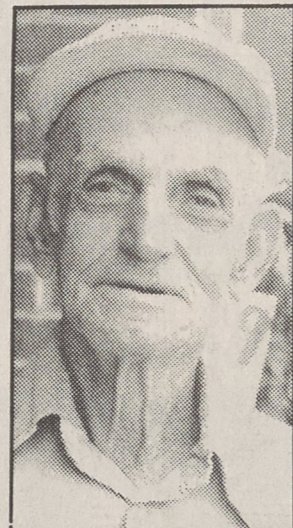
What a wonderful world it would be if everyone could give to each other the same love and consideration that Muriel gave to us and also the customers.

We will miss her with a deeply felt sorrow. May God be with her family in their loss. In loving memory of Muriel Yarbrough EMPLOYEES OF PEGGY'S RESTAURANT

(More Letters, 5-A)

Sidewalk Survey

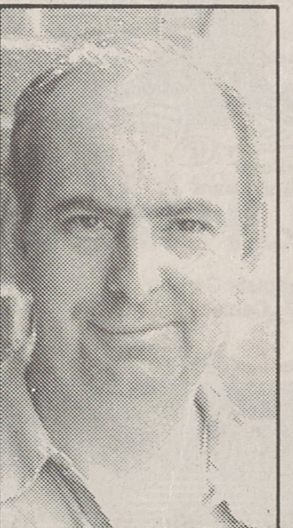
What is one thing you would like to see done in Kings Mountain?



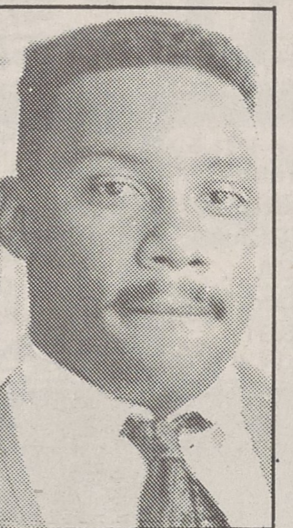
Charles Stewart There ought to be a lot more street improvements.



Betty Brackett I'd like to see better roads.



James Hall Some of the streets need to be re-paved and worked on.



Scott Byers More emphasis on stopping drugs.



Glendora Pearson Pave my street.



Candace Wallace Putting the economy back in better shape.

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