


Opinions

JIM HEFFNER
Columnist



Nostalgia Corner



Here's how the business section of Kings Mountain (Battleground Avenue) looked shortly after 1900. The picture was taken between 1900 and 1905, according to the January 27, 1944 Kings Mountain Herald. The buildings were occupied (from right to left) by W.A. Mauney Brothers, W.A. Mauney Gents' Furnishings, John White's Drug Store, Baker Hardware, I.W. Garrett General Store, Williford's General Store, and Tom Kendrick's and Clyde Webb Drug Store.

Your Right To Say It

UNCC alumni wanted

To the editor:
The UNC Charlotte Alumni Association is searching for 8,000 "lost" alumni and is seeking help from the public to find them.
The university now has nearly 41,000 graduates on its rolls, dating back to 1946 when the campus was established as a center of the University of North Carolina. But about 8,000 of them are coded with bad addresses, and their whereabouts are unknown.
The Alumni Association has no way of communicating with those "lost" alumni with bad addresses.
Our alumni are found in all 50 states and many countries all over the world, but the vast majority remain in the Southern Piedmont region.
The university's records show that more than 30,000 of UNC Charlotte's alumni live in North Carolina with 23,000 living in 13 counties in the Southern Piedmont. More than 15,000 live in Mecklenburg County alone, a larger total than any other university in the state.
Keeping up with all those graduates has been difficult, because of the growing pains of the fast growing university, the state's fourth largest with nearly 16,000 students enrolled annually.
If you are a graduate of UNC Charlotte (1965-present), Charlotte College (1949-65) or Charlotte Center of the University of North Carolina (1946-49) and are not getting correspondence from the Alumni Association on a periodic basis, please notify the Alumni Office of your current address. We want to keep up with your life's successes and maintain good communications so that we may continue to serve you.
The telephone number for Alumni Affairs is 547-2273 or 1-800-PIK-UNCC for those outside the Mecklenburg calling area. Or you may want to write to Alumni Affairs, 1021 Colvard Building, UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, N.C. 28223. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Thanks for your help.

Garry L. Ballard
Director of Alumni Affairs

Thanks for business

To the editor:
To the citizens of Kings Mountain, thank you for your support of our new business and your expressions of appreciation for our lowering gas prices, not only in Kings Mountain but in neighboring areas of Cleveland County.
Mike Heath is proud that he has put an end to the price gouging that has gone on in KM for years. Too many KM people were taking their gasoline business to Grover and Gastonia. Not only has Mike enabled these people to support a hometown business, he will also be paying substantial city taxes which, hopefully, will further improve the town we live in.
We appreciate your business. Our goals are to keep gas prices low and give our customers the best service possible.
Thank you, Kings Mountain.

Sue Ann Heath

HERALD LETTER POLICY

The Herald welcomes your letters for publication in each Thursday's paper. We ask that you use the following guidelines:
Keep the letters brief and to the point. Type and double space them, if possible. If not, write legibly. All letters must be signed. Include your full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.
The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length, spelling, libel, slander, good taste, or any other reason; and reserves the right to reject any letter for any reason.
Mail letters to The Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086.



Memorize this number. If you see someone with a weapon on a school campus in the Kings Mountain area, call it. Confidentiality is assured.

What's your persuasion?

A couple of weeks ago Dan Rather visited Charlotte for a speaking engagement. He appeared on Channel 3 news and was interviewed by my favorite radio man, Mike Collins on WBT.
Collins got into the question of whether news media people were all liberals, as is claimed by some. Well, of course all media people aren't liberals, but I can't think of one conservative on any of the major networks, and all the large newspapers are laced with liberal reporters and editors.
Many will argue that the press, nationwide is more conservative than liberal, and that's probably true. I have made the point in the past, however, that the media in the larger centers of influence, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, et al, are peopled with those of a liberal bent.
Anyway, Collins, nice guy that he is, cannot admit to being a liberal. He asked Rather, "Are you a liberal?" To which Rather replied, "I'm for clean water and tight money, what does that make me?"
Conservatives don't mind being called conservative while most liberals will tell you "I don't like labels."
I like Mike Collins a lot, but he really has trouble being called a liberal. I think it's because he is conservative on some points, but mostly his leanings are left of center. I can tell that just by listening to him comment on local and national issues.
Dan Rather, regardless of his tight money philosophy, is a flaming liberal. I resent the fact that Rather thinks only liberals are for clean water, but I don't dislike Rather.
My problem with most liberals is they absolutely refuse to believe there is any other view.
Anyway, for those who don't know where they stand. Here's a few quick checks:
If you are pro-abortion, you're more than likely liberal.
Most conservatives can name at least ten John Wayne movies.
Many liberals believe there is a hole in the ozone layer over some part of the country (not always the same geographical area). Al Gore thinks it's over Bessemer City or McAdenville, I forget which.
If you agree with Rush Limbaugh 52 percent of the time you probably have conservative leanings.
Liberals watch Murphy Brown on TV, while conservatives would rather see re-runs of Gunsmoke.
Some liberals will go out into the woods and hug a tree; conservatives will chop that same tree down without giving it another thought.
If you voted for Clinton, you are probably a liberal. If you voted for Bush or stayed home on election day, you are probably a conservative. If you voted for Perot, you're probably confused.
Some liberals don't eat meat. Some conservatives don't eat broccoli.
Liberals call the first lady Hilary Rodham Clinton. Conservatives call her President Clinton.
Liberals think Jesse Helms is a buffoon. Conservative are certain Ted Kennedy is that and worse.
A liberal will say, "I'd like to share something with you." A conservative will say, "listen up, Bub, I'm only going to say this once."
A liberal would never admit that JFK and Martin Luther King were womanizers. A conservative would say more power to them.
Liberals attend tennis matches. Conservatives go to turkey shoots.
Liberals believe in a clean environment, so do conservatives, but conservatives don't think they have to clutter up their clothes with green ribbons to prove it.
Liberals donate money to organizations such as NOW and ACT-UP. Conservatives support the Salvation Army and the Red Cross.
Liberals believe you should talk to your children, not spank them. Conservatives believe you should talk to your children as you spank them.
There you have it. Pick and choose, and in a few days you'll know what you are.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.
"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:6-8

Our View

Know where your kids are

On December 9, two young Gaston County girls, ages 13 and 15, were murdered in cold blood.
One of the alleged murderers told a reporter that he and his partner slit their throats and stabbed them repeatedly with a straight razor and a pocket knife.
"The 13-year-old cried," he said, "but the other one remained quiet."
How heartbreaking.
The girls were dating men much older than themselves. It has been reported the 13-year-old was keeping company with a man 19 years her senior.
The girls disappeared on December 9, but their mother didn't file a missing persons report until four days later, according to news reports.
It is hard to fathom why a mother would wait that long to report her two young daughters missing.
It doesn't matter that the girls skipped school and left home without permission on occasion. The fact is, they should have been reported missing every time they disappeared, if that was the case.
There isn't a 13-year-old girl on earth who should be allowed to go out with a 32-year-old man.
A parent should always know where his or her young children are at all times. Children are, to a large degree, helpless when they're that young, and they need guidance and protection. If parents don't provide that guidance and protection, they are derelict in their duties.
It is a parent's responsibility to take care of children and to see to their safety. The world is full of predators, and their choice of prey is young and tender.
These two girls will never wear a prom dress, drive a car, enjoy another Christmas see another sunset or visit their grandparents again.
We should all pause and think about that.

Smoke detectors save lives

On Tuesday, December 28, two elderly ladies were killed in a house fire in Bessemer City. The wooden frame dwelling was not equipped with smoke detectors.
Nobody knows for certain that the two women would have been saved had smoke detectors been present, but there is that possibility.
Fire is a reality, especially this time of year when cold weather entices some to turn up the heat or to use unsafe methods of heating their homes. One of fire's accomplices is apathy.
There are many people out there who know they should have smoke detectors installed, but they "just don't have the time" to get it done. It takes less time to have the devices installed than it does to make funeral arrangements.
We urge everyone in Kings Mountain to get smoke detectors if you don't have them.

Making of a celebrity

A couple of months ago you read here about Kings Mountain's Tony Crawford catching an 88-pound Buffalo Carp which set a new world's record.
The news has now spread around the globe, and it's making the part owner of Midway Lakes in Kings Mountain and Blacksburg a celebrity.
Bait and tackle companies are beating a path to his door trying to get him to endorse their products, and next month Crawford will be one of the featured speakers at the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show at the Charlotte Civic Center.
His record catch is now in the freezer, awaiting the conclusion of a 90-day period required by the International Game Fish Association to recognize it as a world record. After that he will have the fish mounted, and also have several replicas made, and go on the road with it.
One stop will be the Game Fish Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wis., which will induct the fish as the largest Carp ever caught. Crawford feels someday it will come down, because he has his mind set on catching a 100-pounder to break the world's record for the biggest game fish ever landed. The current record is a 97-pound catfish.
Crawford has already appeared on several radio and TV broadcasts, including the CBS Morning News with Harry Smith and the very popular John Boy and Bill Show on Charlotte radio. He has several seminars lined up, and has had contact with Hank Parker and Roland Martin about the possibility of taking them on a carp fishing trip.
"Every time we go carp fishing we catch 30 and 40-pounders," he says, "so it would make a very interesting fishing show for one of the big boys."

GARY STEWART
Editor




He is talking with two large department store chains and one major reel company about endorsing their products, and is working with former Kings Mountain Mayor and South Atlantic Baseball League President John Henry Moss about some promotional work.
Crawford said he plans several promotions at Midway Lakes this year. The lakes open the first week in March.
Just this week, Crawford was contacted by a representative of one of the top automobile manufacturers about the use of two trucks to pull his equipment to seminars and fishing shows.
If all of these contacts work out, Crawford no doubt will be spending a lot of time away from Midway Lakes.
"I hope it works out, but we're still going to try to run the lakes," he said. "But you do what you have to do. I think this is a big thing for this area and we're just proud of it for what it can do for the area. This could put Kings Mountain and Lake Wylie on the map because there will be a lot of people coming out to our lake and to Lake Wylie because of this."
"It's not every day that a world record happens around here."

Word 'victim' has a new meaning

The word "victim" has a new definition in North Carolina. According to Administrative Law Judge Brenda Becton, a suspected criminal shot in the commission of a crime can be a "victim" for the purpose of qualifying for a \$20,000 award from the N.C. Victim Compensation Fund. The fund was established by the state to award crime victims up to \$20,000 for lost wages, counseling expenses and hospital bills. The fund recently ran out of money and has not been replenished by the state.
Mark McCrimmon, the "victim," was shot by a Moore County general store owner while attempting to flee the store's premises after he stole a twenty dollar bill from a customer and a soda from the store. The store owner, Fred Sineath, demanded that the intoxicated McCrimmon stop, but when he continued out the door, Mr. Sineath shot him. A bullet struck McCrimmon in the back.
This was not McCrimmon's first criminal act. He had been out of prison just seven months after being released early under North Carolina's prison cap for breaking and entering and assault on a female. He has now been charged with larceny in the general store

GUEST COLUMN
THOMAS GOOLSBY
Carolina Syndicated Columns



case. Mr. Sineath, the store owner, has been sued by McCrimmon for the shooting and has been charged with assault by the District Attorney.
Where does it all end? It all could end in a nightmare of Orwellian proportions. The criminal has been accorded "victim" status by Judge Becton through some convoluted thought process that would make Roy Bean turn over in his grave. In addition to the \$20,000 awarded him by the judge at the expense of other "real victims," McCrimmon may be victorious in his lawsuit against the store owner who shot him. Who

knows, maybe McCrimmon will end up owning the store. And what of our would-be, should-be hero, the store owner, Mr. Sineath? He may lose everything in the civil suit and could even be sent to jail for "assaulting" McCrimmon.
In an interview with the Associated Press, Mr. Sineath said, "I feel like my rights are being violated when I can't protect my customers or myself. I didn't ask for this situation. He brought it to me, and it's cost me hundreds of dollars." Mr. Sineath is correct. His rights and the rights of every law-abiding North Carolinian have been violated by a criminal justice system that is anything but just.

Lawbreakers are accorded victim status while hard-working, upstanding citizens are treated like criminals. Why does it surprise us that our crime rate is going through the roof? Crime pays and it pays well. The risks are few and the rewards are high. McCrimmon may have taken a bullet in the back, but who knows, with a good lawyer he may soon be the owner of a general store. So much for the American dream of working hard and getting ahead.

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