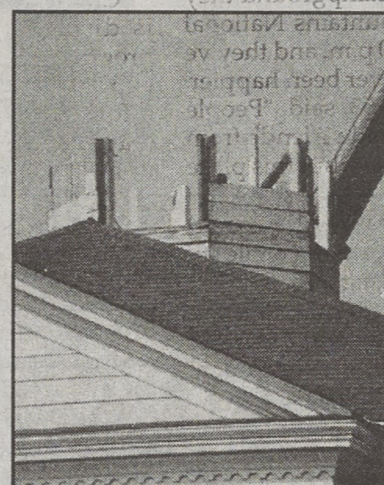
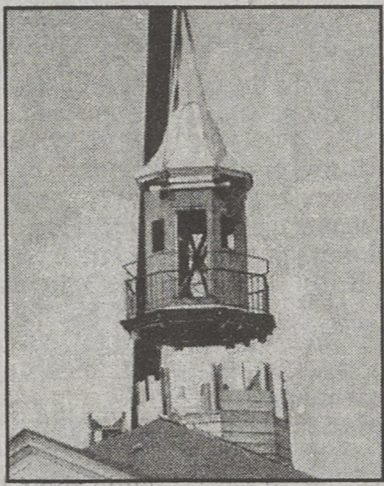
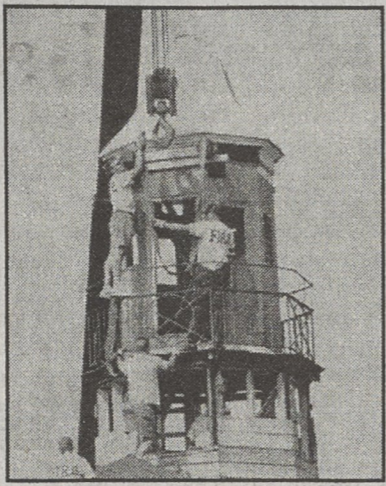
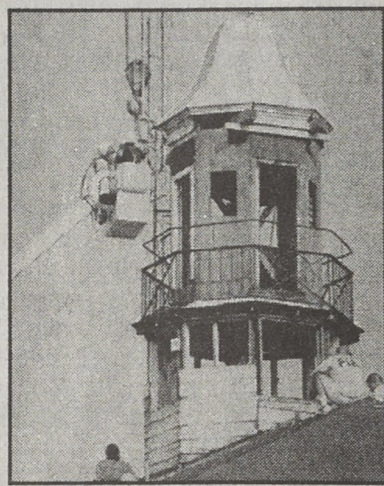


OPINION

Pictorial Editorial



UP, UP AND AWAY - Kings Mountain firemen, utilities workers and others worked several long and hard hours Wednesday morning removing the cupola from the top of the old City Hall/Law Enforcement Building. The dome will be used by the firemen in the future, hopefully atop a new fire station.

Your Right To Say It

City leaders doing good job

To the editor:

After watching the tragedy unfold on Capital Hill a few weeks back, it occurred to me that perhaps some of us fail to fully appreciate the work and sacrifice of the people who hold these public jobs.

Perhaps it is just me, or maybe human nature, but quite often I find it easier to criticize than to appreciate; therefore, in this brief space I would like to comment on our local government employees. I find this an easy task concerning this administration.

First, I believe our elected officials made an excellent choice when they hired Jimmy Maney for our city manager. At the time he was hired, our city was facing some very trying times in economics and many other areas. Now, thanks to our city manager's leadership and some excellent decisions by our elected officials, the city is in a very strong economic conditions. If I am not mistaken this was accomplished without a raise in taxes.

The progress of this administration is too numerous to fit into this space. I will say that I did go to see the new pool. It really is first class and includes a state of the art handicap access. When I saw the new ball fields I wished I could be a kid again just for a season.

The city manager has also shown his leadership abilities by selecting competent and knowledgeable department heads. We now have a smooth running city with a group of good employees who are absolutely getting the job done.

I believe we are fortunate people to have such a progressive government. I feel we should take it upon ourselves to make it our duty to support and encourage these people. I would encourage everyone to call or drop by the city government to say thank you - job well done.

Steve M. Blanton
Kings Mountain

School employees, great job!

To the editor:

Please allow me to use this forum as a way to publicly thank the employees of the Kings Mountain District Schools for a job very well done in 1997-98. We have recently confirmed that of the seven schools in our district formally a part of the State Board of Education's ABC's plan, all of them met expected growth. In fact five of the seven met exemplary growth. Of that group Bethware is a School of Distinction and West is a School of Excellence.

Success such as this does not come easily nor should it be taken for granted. This community needs to value highly the dedicated employees who tend to the education of its youth. We know we still have room to grow, but there is clear evidence that we have a quality instructional program. That is the case because we have a staff of people who have been willing to spend whatever time and energy is required to assure it to be that way.

I am very proud of the employees who made this significant accomplishment. I want this community to know how appreciative I am, and I want to encourage all community members to seek frequent opportunities to say thank you to our staff members for a job very well done.

Excellence is never an accident. The excellence found in our school system is the result of hard work and talent. Let's celebrate that fact loudly.

Robert R. McRae Jr.,
Superintendent

Where's my water going?

To the editor:

My daily estimated use of city water:

40 gallons for my wife's bath.
30 gallons for my shower.

4 gallons for washing dishes
2 gallons for coffee and ice maker and dog.
24 gallons for eight toilet flushes.
1 gallon to refresh fish tank.

Total: 101 gallons times 30 days = 3,030 for 30 days.
Plus 1,000 gallons for under estimating the above.
4,030 total.

My water bill reads 11,000 gallons for last month. Minus 4,030 gallons, did I let loose 6,970 gallons on yard to water grass and wash vehicles? The answer is no.

I know that I and many others live in an old and forgotten area in the city. I have been on the earth 67 years and I think that the water meter has been under the earth for over 1/2 of these years.

I do not function as I once did and neither does the water meter, in my opinion.

I do not wish that my boat be sunk no more than anyone else does. Who knows, a few waves from time to time may be healthy.

I am a lot like my water meter. I run too slow and it runs too fast.

Henry Hodges
Kings Mountain

HERALD LETTER POLICY

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Thursday's paper. We ask that you use the following guidelines:

Keep letters brief and to the point. Letters in excess of 600 words will not be published. Type and double space them, if possible; if not, write legibly. Letters must be signed in ink and include the full name, address and telephone number of the author.

Mail letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Sen. Lauch Faircloth
North Carolina
Guest Column



Your 8 cents could make difference in cancer fight

The next time you go to the local Post Office you can become a foot soldier in the war against breast cancer.

Last year, Congress passed a new and innovative idea to increase funding for breast cancer research. For the first time in history, the Post Office will be selling a new stamp that will actually fund breast cancer research.

The stamp will sell for 40 cents - eight cents more than the regular price of a first class stamp. But, the eight cents from each stamp will go directly to fund research efforts to find a cure for breast cancer.

We all know someone who has been affected by breast cancer. This year, it is estimated that 44,000 women will die from breast cancer. In 1998 there will be 178,000 new cases discovered.

In the United States today, one out of eight women will be afflicted with breast cancer.

While research dollars are increasing, too many applications for research projects are still not being funded.

I recently had a school teacher from my home town tell me she has breast cancer. She worries about what will happen to her and who will pick up her children from school. I told her there is still a lot of hope and we will leave no stone unturned until we find a cure.

This is why I believe the new stamp is the perfect idea for fighting this disease.

The idea for the stamp came from a doctor in Sacramento, California, Dr. Ernie Bodai, who had performed over 1,500 breast cancer surgeries. Growing tired of not having a cure for this terrible disease, Dr. Bodai developed an innovative and easy way to raise money for new research - selling a stamp for just a few pennies more.

His efforts still prove that in American, the greatest democracy on earth, one person with a good idea can still make a difference.

Furthermore, often you hear that Washington doesn't work anymore - that partisanship is too high. I am a conservative - and I disagree with my liberal colleagues on a lot of issues - but this is one idea we all agree on.

It's reassuring to know that the Breast Cancer Research Stamp passed Congress with the help of Republicans and Democrats alike, especially Senator Dianne Feinstein of California. The stamp itself was designed by a breast cancer survivor. It's a colorful stamp with a simple message: Fund the Fight - Find the cure.

Across my home state of North Carolina, I have found that many people are searching for a way to help the fight against breast cancer. In fact, the stamp has drawn support from a wide range of people - from a professional women's basketball team that dedicated one of their games to promoting the stamp, to a troop of girl scouts that told me they are earning a merit badge by encouraging people to buy the stamp.

This is what attracted me to this idea. It's a chance for everyday, working families to fund the fight and find a cure for breast cancer.

A trip to the Post Office used to mean just mailing a letter. But next time you are at the Post Office, I would encourage you to ask about the special Breast Cancer research stamp. Yes, it's a little more money than the regular price - 40 cents versus 32 cents - but those eight pennies will add up to millions in new research dollars.

Just imagine telling your children one day that - just maybe - the eight cents they sent to fund breast cancer research was the eight cents that made the difference.

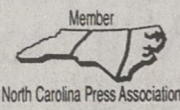
(Lauch Faircloth is a U.S. Senator from North Carolina)

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Sidewalk Survey

• By Lib Stewart

After two days at the Middle School how do you like it?



DARREN GILMAN
6th grade

"It's fine. I like changing classes and I really like having more than one teacher."



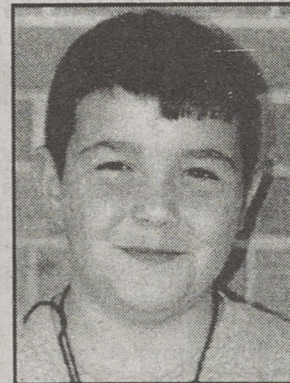
PATRICK JAMES
6th grade

"It's all right. Cool, I guess."



JOSH SANDERS
6th grade

"Great. I like meeting more kids and making more friends."



JOEY WILLIAMS
6th grade

"It's okay. I like the bigger classes here."



BRITTANY McABIE
6th grade

"Fine. I like having a different teacher and I like bigger classes."