

# School trustees special people

January is School Board Appreciation Month in North Carolina. I've mentioned many times my appreciation for our school board. I think the community is fortunate



**Bob McRae**  
Superintendent  
KM Schools

to have such caring citizens interested in its schools. Their leadership is outstanding. I doubt the community at large really comprehends how much time our board members must spend on school system business. In today's column I would like to give you a better look at the time demands which Larry Allen, Melony Bolin, Ronnie Hawkins, Shearra Miller and Stella Putnam must face as board members.

First - and most obvious - is the meeting schedule. Of course, you know there is a regularly scheduled board meeting on the second Monday of each month. While that meeting will normally last only between one and two hours, the preparation time for it is considerably longer. Board members receive a packet of information related to the meeting on the Wednesday before. Our board members spend a considerable amount of time reviewing that information before they arrive for the formal meeting. That enables them to better understand the issues on the agenda and to manage the meeting agenda more efficiently.

There are also special meetings at times. During this past November the Board actually had three meetings - the regular meeting, a special meeting to consider a student discipline appeal, and a special meeting to discuss property acquisition. For the meeting to discuss the property matter, most board members gave time to actually ride out and take a look at the proposed school site.

Add to this schedule three other meeting demands which normally arise during the year. Our board holds two day-long work sessions and a three day board advance to allow time to discuss matters which affect the system in depth. These meetings usually mean time away from work for several members and time away from families for everybody. Clearly, board membership requires a significant time commitment from the meeting standpoint alone.

There are other time demands, however. Our board members try to attend a variety of special events at our schools. While they do attend activities related to students such as band and chorus concerts and PTO meetings, they also attend numerous events designed to recognize employees.

There are also training activities which board members attend. State law requires board members to participate in at least 10 hours of professional development activities each year. Members achieve that goal and more through local, state, and national activities. Our board members have been very active in the Boardmanship Academy programs sponsored by the North Carolina School Boards Association. Those programs and other activities of the Association usually cause participants to travel, at time to stay overnight.

Service as a school board member also results in requests to serve other boards. Numerous organizations such as the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, and Communities in Schools request representation from school boards on their governing bodies. While most of them are in Cleveland County, members occasionally serve outside our area. Dr. Allen is currently serving a term as a member of the North Carolina School Boards Association which is headquartered in Raleigh.

Another important function for school board members is

See McRae, 5A

# OPINION

Herald/Times

Editor: Gary Stewart 739-7496  
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## PICTORIAL EDITORIAL



**READY TO ROLL** - Bill Herndon, in fire truck, and Kenneth Putnam are ready to go in case of any Y2K emergencies when the clock struck 12 on New Year's morning, but because of an excellent computer system which was tested and re-tested throughout the year January 1, 2000 came to Kings Mountain without a single glitch.

## Cold weather always brings me flashbacks



**Alan Hodge**  
Staff Writer

As the air last week made crystal clear, cold weather is here to stay for a while. For the record, I'm one of those folks who can't stand being cold. Now, a sunny day with temperatures in the 50s is not so bad, but when the sky clouds up and the mercury plunges, my meat and bones suffer terribly. Though being cold is rough, those same conditions can make for some pretty interesting memories when they are recollected in a warm and luxurious office.

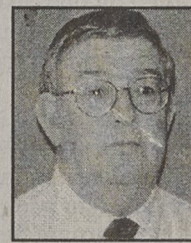
One of the first flashbacks that come to mind in this regard is the time when my teenage pals Brutus and Terry Casey and I were hunting in some really deep woods on an absolutely frigid and cloudy day. Brutus was dressed in an old shin-length overcoat and looked like a Cossack. Well, we got lost and were in danger of freezing when out of the icy mist an old black man and his pack of hounds appeared. With his direction, we made it back to safety. I sometimes wonder if that guy wasn't one of those guardian angels you hear about.

Another day when Old Man Winter did his thing on yours truly happened when I was in third grade. My sister Beth, a second grader at the time, and I walked almost a mile to school every day. The fateful day in question started off warm enough and we just wore thin coats and our Buster Brown oxfords. Around lunchtime it started snowing like a fiend and before classes were dismissed several inches had accumulated. To make it home we had to stop at every store along the way to thaw out, then continue on. Beth's legs looked like purple candy canes and my toes were so cold I thought they would snap off.

Cold times can also make for some warm memories. When I was but a wee lad, we lived in a house on Garrison Street in Belmont that had one of those central oil furnaces with one big grating in the floor. You know, the kind you stand on to get dressed in the morning until your feet look like fried waffles on the bottom. Anyway, one really cold night the furnace acted up and we put an old kerosene stove in the middle of the living room and made sleeping pallets around it like the spokes of a wheel to keep toasty.

Keeping a storehouse of cold memories can be useful. Refer to that fact next August when eggs are frying on sidewalks. Until then, stay warm and pile on the kivvers.

## Don't overload county ballots with KM people



**Gary Stewart**  
Editor

Filing for County Commissioner and several other local and state offices opened Monday and will continue through noon February 7 at the Board of Elections in Shelby.

It is good that there were a host of candidates on hand Monday to file their papers for public service. Only one was from Kings Mountain, and that could be good too.

A race that will be closely watched in Cleveland County this year will be the County Commissioner's race, in which three seats are available.

Coming on the heels of another in a long line of school merger talks over the past several years, Kings Mountain folks seem especially eager to run or recruit people to run for county commissioner.

Kings Mountain School Board member Ronnie Hawkins has already filed and several other names are being mentioned as possible candidates.

We appreciate the interest, but let's not be too hasty. Kings Mountain deserves to be represented on the county board. But I can count on the fingers of one hand the Kings Mountain residents who have been elected in the past.

What are our chances of having representation if the ballot is loaded down with folks from Kings Mountain? With the majority of the voters of Cleveland County residing in and around the city of Shelby, it would be very difficult for more than one person from Kings Mountain to be elected.

In our way of thinking, Kings Mountain folks should get together and put their support behind Hawkins, a Republican, and then recruit one well-known Democrat who is highly-qualified and highly-respected throughout the county, to run in the primaries.

Then, make a determined effort to get all Kings Mountain, Bethware and Grover area citizens to the polls for both the primary and general elections, and support only those candidates from Kings Mountain. If there are too many people from Kings Mountain on the ballot the votes would be split, making it almost impossible for any of them to win.

Short of district representation - which the county commissioners have turned a deaf ear to in the past - this is the only way we're going to have a shot at being represented.

## SIDEWALK SURVEY

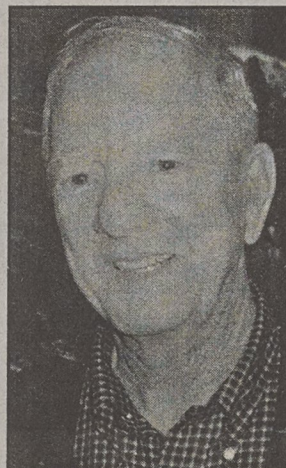
By ALAN HODGE  
Herald/Times

What is mankind's greatest challenge in the 21st century?



Overcoming poverty in the world.

**Pam Cogdell**  
Kings Mountain



Learning to deal with new technologies.

**Don Cossett**  
Kings Mountain



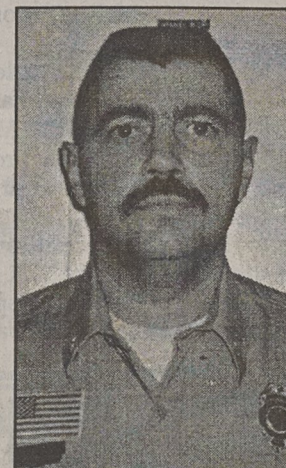
To come together as one.

**Billie Dawson**  
Kings Mountain



To balance family and career lives.

**Lacy Petty**  
Lawndale



To live each day like it might be your last.

**John Wright**  
Kings Mountain

## Looking Back



(The Herald today begins a new editorial page feature, Looking Back, which recalls some of the top stories of years gone by).

### January 3, 1980

The first week in January, 1980, saw the very building which currently houses "The Herald" featured on the front page of the newspaper. Called the "largest log building in the world," the 20,000 square foot structure is shown under construction with walls up and bare roof trusses awaiting sheathing.

Also making news in Kings Mountain that week was the appointment of Don Graham, chief of the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department, as "Fireman of the Year." The award to Graham was presented at a gala dinner by the 1979 winner Harold Dean Farris.

Headline news for the first week of January 1980 centered around a 400 page report that the City of Kings Mountain had presented to the federal government's Department of Housing and Urban Development. The report documented the use of nearly \$1 million in government funds by the city.

On the sports scene, Kings Mountain High School's wrestling team whipped Shelby and increased their conference tally to 3 wins and 0 losses. In basketball, the Kings Mountain High girls jayvee team beat R-S Central 36-29 for their first win in several outings.

Advertisements in the January 8, 1980 "Herald" featured Arrow detergent for 69 cents at Winn-Dixie. Harris Teeter was offering pork n' beans at four cans for a dollar. Folks in the market for a new TV could swing by Timms Furniture and buy a 25-inch RCA XL-100 console model for \$569. Homes were listed in the classified section for as little as \$30,000 for a 3 bedroom, 2 bath model located on Rt. 1 in Kings Mountain.

In social news, it was reported that Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth H. McGill were getting ready to head to Africa for a mission project.

The crime scene in the Kings Mountain area for the first week of January, 1980 listed a string of robberies that included Little Dan's store on Grover Road where \$850 worth of Timex watches were lifted, and the home of Marshal Van Dyke on Rt. 4 where \$1,310 worth of items including a motor bike and shotgun were stolen.