

YOUR OPINION

Merger fight is not over

To the editor:
On Thursday, June 1, 2000 the State Board of Education will decide whether or not to approve the proposed merger plan sent to them by the Cleveland County Commissioners.

We must remember this board is an appointed board who will do only as their lawyer advises them. Please do not be discouraged if they pass this plan. Lawsuits have been filed for this very reason.

We cannot go to court until after this plan has been approved. Now is the time to raise money for our cause. We need everyone to contribute - every bridge club, garden club, book club, movie group, men's clubs, Sunday School classes, and especially every business in the county.

Our children need you. No amount is too small.

The denial of the Kings Mountain School Board's attempt for an injunction on May 22 does not mean defeat. Once the State Board of Education acts there will be appeals.

For those of you who have contributed, we thank you for your generosity. If you have not contributed, please make your checks payable to Save Our Schools, and mail them to Elaine Grigg, First Union National Bank, 125 South Battleground Avenue, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Thank you,
Holly D. Robinson

Representative backs Berry in run-off

To the editor:
The Republican run-off election for N.C. Commissioner of Labor offers GOP and unaffiliated voters a singular chance to end the Democratic Party's lock-grip on our state's cabinet-level offices.

Rep. Cherie Berry, a common-sense conservative, clearly possesses the experience, knowledge and political leadership required to seize this opportunity.

In recognition of Rep. Berry's record of service and her devotion to Republican principles, the Republican Caucus of the N.C. House of Representatives has given her candidacy its unanimous endorsement.

Rep. Berry is a successful business executive. As a legislator, she has demonstrated her expertise in workplace safety and compensation issues. Her reputation for fairness and personal integrity has earned her recognition by both business and labor organizations.

I am delighted to join with my legislative colleagues in support of Representative Cherie Berry and urge voters in District 48, Gaston, Cleveland, Polk and Rutherford Counties to endorse her candidacy as the Republican nominee for Commissioner of Labor.

Sincerely,
Rep. Debbie Clary

Letters

We appreciate your letters to the editor and encourage you to write. Because we receive so many letters, however, we must impose guidelines to ensure that as many readers as possible are able to share their views. We therefore limit the number of letters that any one person may have published to one a month. Also, we ask that you keep your letters short, no more than two pages double-spaced or one page single-spaced. Handwritten letters are accepted, but must be legible.

We will not publish letters from anonymous writers; names, addresses, and phone numbers must be included. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation, clarity, brevity and content.

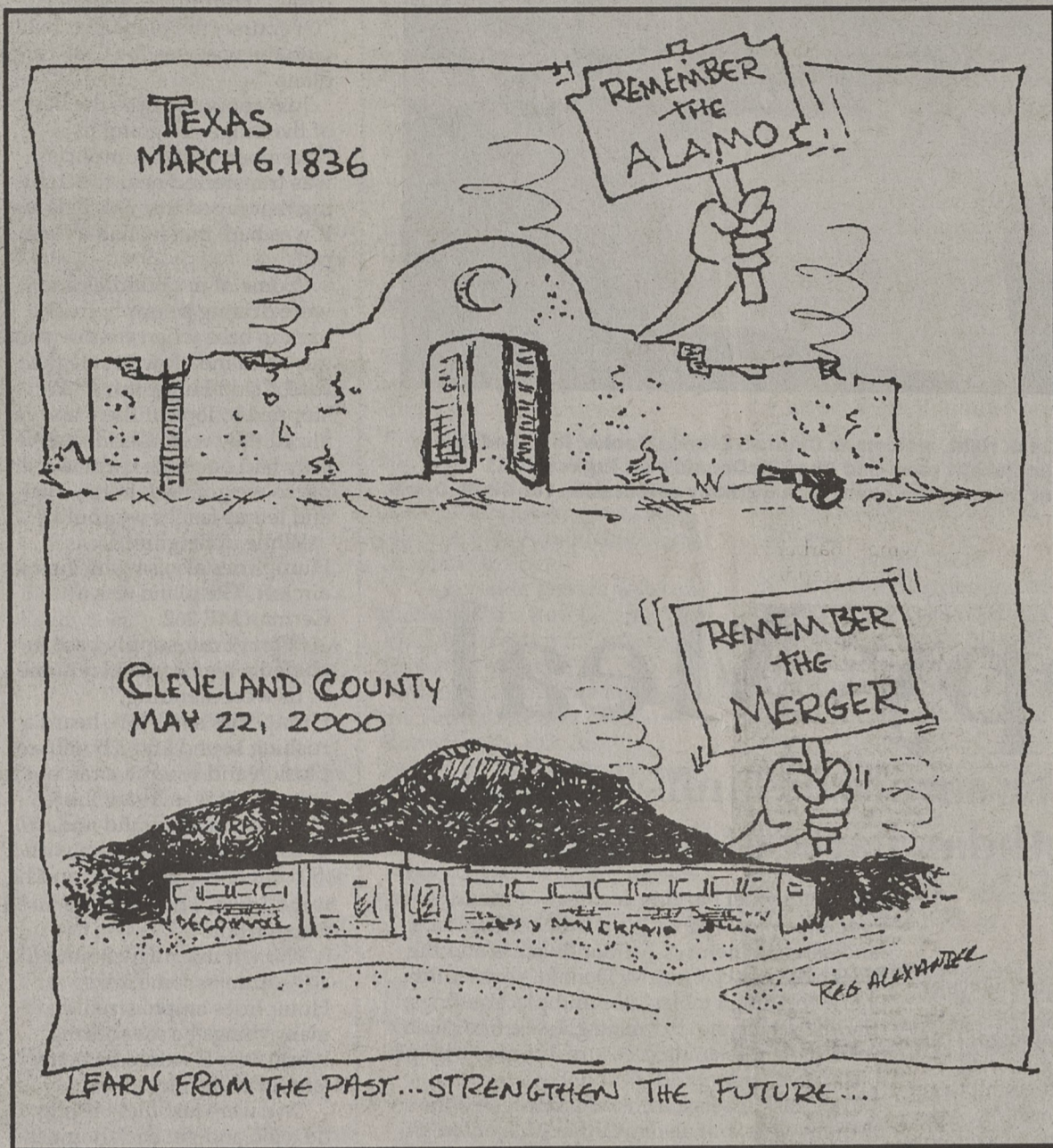
Letters must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday of the week they are to be published.

OPINION

The Kings Mountain Herald

Editor: Gary Stewart 739-7496
May 25, 2000 Section A, Page 4

CARTOONITORIAL



Some politicians' blunders are minor, others make you cough up big bucks

Some loose notes and thoughts that have been piling up:

Ila McIntyre recently came across a tax bill her uncle, John Chalmus Murphy, received from Lincolnton Township, Lincoln County January 29, 1919. His taxes for the year were \$3.98, including:

- State tax - 95 cents.
 - General county tax - 66 cents.
 - Special county tax - 13 cents
 - Property tax for schools - 69 cents.
 - Road bond tax - 69 cents.
 - Special bridge bond tax - 24 cents.
 - Special bridge bond tax - 14 cents.
 - Special school tax: 48 cents.
- Ah, the good ole days!



Gary Stewart
Editor

I never cease to be amazed how politicians can find all the money they need to fund the programs they want, but can't scrape up a cent to fund requests that are important to other people?

The Cleveland County Commissioners can't seem to find a way to fund a \$150,000 request for the new Kings Mountain Senior Center, but they're having no problems finding the \$4.5 million (and climbing) special price tag it's going to cost to implement school merger.

It's also amazing how some politicians and news media are quick to point out the speck in someone else's eye while ignoring the log in their own.

At a recent county commissioners' meeting one of their members, Joe Hendrick, had the gall to scold Ronnie Hawkins of the Kings Mountain School Board for what he claimed was the illegal spending of \$800 to charter a bus so taxpayers who are being gouged by the

county commissioners could (on a first-come, first-serve basis regardless of their opinion on school merger) attend the recent meeting of the State School Board in Raleigh.

While it's true that the KM School Board approved financing the bus trip - and that, technically, it might have been illegal - it should be pointed out that the school system did not end up paying one cent toward the cost of the chartered bus. All of the money was donated by local businesses.

Don't forget how this merger mess started in the first place. The five county commissioners, instead of acting in an open session, called for a merger study in a letter to a Shelby newspaper.

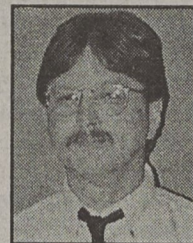
That, folks, is definitely illegal, according to the State Open Meetings Law which requires all decisions by elected boards to be made in a public meeting. And, despite public outcry, that decision led to the eventual official decision to merge schools and will cost the taxpayers millions.

Now, the folks across the creek are claiming the KM School Board violated the Open Meetings Law by listening to their attorney explain the judge's decision after Monday's injunction hearing in Raleigh. I don't believe the members of the KM School Board planned such a meeting in advance. It was a simple matter of attorneys translating a bunch of legal mumbo-jumbo into plain English to their clients, which incidentally, also included other plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

And, while on school merger, do you recall when this issue first cropped up that one of our commissioners said that nine out of ten people he'd talked to in the county favored merger? And another one said public opinion on merger was 50/50?

Wonder where those nine out of ten people were on primary election day?

The highs and lows of summer vacation



Alan Hodge
Staff Writer

It's time once again to engage in those campaigns known as summer vacations. Intended to be fun and relaxing breaks from the daily grind of the working world, vacations all too often end up leaving the sojourners feeling as if they had traversed the length and breadth of Hades.

Everyone has had a vacation that seemed like a nightmare. From both my youth and in recent years several such trips have lodged themselves forever in the mystic chords of memory. To my examples, feel free to add your own recollections of personal vacations from the nether regions.

Camping trips often make for some interesting vacations. When I was a vigorous youth, my uncle Ronald Lamar "Pineknut" Helton arranged for me to spend a couple of weeks at a summer camp. Part of the adventure was a two day campout in Cherokee.

Things I recall from this jaunt include being jammed in a mosquito infested pup tent between two brothers who were both sunburned from head to toe. All night long they took turns slapping each other's blisters - with me in the middle. Another episode on this trip happened when the counselor bent over to look in my tent and a kid who was popping a bull whip cracked him right on the buttocks. The counselor screamed and dove in on top of me bellowing in pain.

Later in life, my pal Brutus Casey and I decided we would make a motorcycle road trip from Charlotte to Mount Pisgah. Being the fall of the year, it was pretty cool to begin with, but Nature had even more in store before our wheels stopped turning.

Riding higher and higher into the hills, the temperature plunged, then a freezing rain set in. If you've never been on a motorcycle in a cold rain, you don't know what cold is. Even now I can see the icicle that was hanging off the end of Brutus' nose as we turned around and headed for the flatlands and warmth. As for myself, there was a tiny crack in one of my bike's spark plug wires, and every time my soaking wet leg got too close I got a jolt of high voltage that nearly knocked me out of the saddle.

To all you who are heading out on vacation, here's hoping everything goes smoothly for your excursion. If it doesn't, just call it "high adventure."

War was raging in May '42

World War II was raging all over the globe when the May 28, 1942 edition of the Herald hit the streets. Top local news was the graduation of 65 seniors from Central School. The commencement address was given by Rev. Embree Blackard of Myers Park Methodist Church in Charlotte.

On home front efforts for the war, the Herald reported that the army was in dire need of jams and jellies for the men. Army supply sources were quoted as saying that the boys in uniform were consuming 800,000 pounds of jelly every day. The front page of the May 28, 1942 Herald also featured a story concerning the local Red Cross chapter and an upcoming meeting they were having to discuss ways they could help with the war effort.

No page of the May 28, 1942 Herald was free of war news or other military related factoids. Several pages had cartoons that illustrated how much material it took to build military machinery or how vital industry was to winning the war. One article entitled "The Pocketbook of Knowledge" stated that factories were turning out 36,000 ack-ack guns per year and that the government estimated it would take 1,700,000 workers to build the 125,000 airplanes needed in 1943.

Though the Herald was full of patriotic fervor, folks in Kings Mountain still had a need for amusement. The Imperial Theater had a large ad in the

Looking Back

AT KINGS MOUNTAIN
By Alan Hodge

May 28, 1942 edition of the Herald that showcased current movies including "Drums of the Congo," "Ball of Fire," "Black Dragons" with Bela Lugosi, and "Where Trails End" with Tom Keene and his famous horse named "Prince."

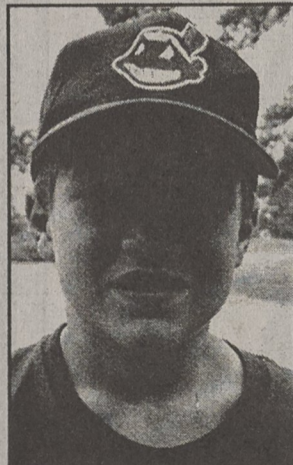
The Herald for the last week of May, 1942 also had several advertisements for products that have since vanished from the scene. One ad featured actress Olivia de Havilland hawking Calox Tooth Powder. For upset stomachs, Bell-ans Tablets was advertised for symptomatic relief of gastric hyperacidity. Just in case anyone in Kings Mountain had malaria, they could reference the ad for 666 syrup for relief from fever, chills, or shakes.

With elections coming up, the May 28, 1942 Herald also had a good crop of political ads. Folks seeking office included A.L. Bulwinkle for Congress, W.H. "Coot" Lutz for Board of Education, Lee Weathers for State Senator, and Haywood E. Lynch for State Legislature.

SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ALAN HODGE
Kings Mountain Herald

What would your fantasy vacation be?



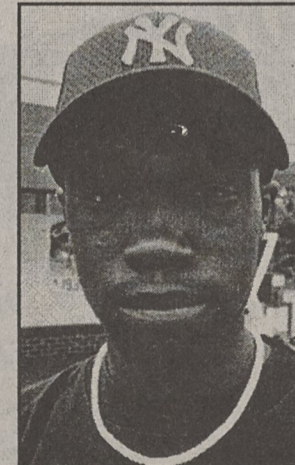
A trip to Hawaii is where I want to go.



A trip to heaven.



I would go to the Bahamas.



I would take a trip to Hawaii.



I would take a trip to Amsterdam.

Trey Funderburke
Kings Mountain

Kevin Friday
Kings Mountain

Jennifer Rucker
Kings Mountain

Dustin Shipman
Kings Mountain

Jason Hendren
Kings Mountain