

Grover needs public's help to get library

To the editor:

For some time a group of interested citizens from the Southern portion of Cleveland County have been discussing the possibility of raising funds to build a branch of the Cleveland County Library so that our friends and neighbors, and especially our children, could have access to a library in our area.

An old African saying declares, "It takes a village to raise a child." Think about it, there is no place in a community that reaches as broad a spectrum of people as a library. It is a place where the village comes together, the old and the young, the rich and the not so rich, the genders and the races. It is a place that enhances education and learning and entertainment and the coming together of neighbors and friends.

The library project was created by Elizabeth Bird Throop who began her life in Grover and who returned to Grover after retirement. Because her husband was a minister, their family lived in a number of New England villages and in each town there was a library where Elizabeth and her six children visited often. When she returned to her home town of Grover, she felt that the one thing that was missing was a library. So she gathered a group of people together and convinced them that we really needed a library in the community.

As the group met together and discussed possibilities for such a project, we felt that all the communities in the Southern tip of Cleveland County should be included. A site was chosen on the north side of Grover on Hardin Circle. The main factor in choosing this site was that the Town of Grover agreed to give the land and promised some help with utilities and maintenance if that was the building site. There have been some obstacles as the group has met and discussed the project, but we feel now that we are ready to move ahead.

First of all, we would like to have as many people in the community help us with this project as we can get. If you are interested in the possibility of a Southern Cleveland County Library Branch, please call John Higginbotham at 937-7145/home or 739-7401/work; or Jean Francis at 484-4018/work or 937-7725/home. It will take the efforts and caring concern for this project to be successful. And if we all agree to work on it together, it will truly be a community effort. We plan to raise all of the money needed to build the facility itself.

Which brings us to the second thing we need from the public. The Library Committee is in the process of preparing a proposal to be presented to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners asking them to add funds to the Cleveland Memorial Library's budget to provide for the staffing and operation of the branch. At this time the main library does not have a sufficient budget to fund another branch.

The Committee feels that the public could help substantiate the need for a branch library in our area. If you could write a one or two paragraph letter to the Commissioners, stating how you feel a library would benefit the area it would boost our efforts greatly. We would add your letter, along with those from other leaders, to the proposal that we present to the Commissioners. The success of this project is now based on receiving these operational funds from the county. We would also like to have all interested persons go with us to meet with the commissioners. If you are willing to do so, please let us know.

Please mail letters to John Higginbotham, Chairman of the Library Committee, 108 Springdale Drive, Grover, NC 28073.

We appreciate your help and hope to see you at the library!

Sincerely,
John Higginbotham

PICTORAL EDITORIAL



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
Daniel and Tanya Buchanan got out their jet ski and took a spin around Moss Lake on Memorial Day. The Buchanans said the water was chilly, but not too cold for fun.

Duh to state representatives

"Duh!" - or "Well, Duh!" - is a saying I've heard the younger generation use from time to time.

I don't really know what Duh means, but it's been directed at me when I've said something really stupid, or something that someone already knows such as "Snoopy is a dog," or "Felix is a cat," or telling someone with sweat rolling off his face that it's a hot day.

Politicians sometimes say and do things that aren't that bright either, and something that came across my desk recently suggests that we need to say a big "Well, Duh!" to a couple of our State Representatives.

A press release from our local Representative Andy Dedmon pointed out a couple of motor vehicle bills which have sparked some interest during this session of the General Assembly.

One bill would ban open alcoholic containers in motor vehicles and require alcoholic sensors on the vehicle of habitual drunken drivers. The other would allow motorcyclists to ride without helmets.

According to Dedmon, the open alcohol container bill is being pushed by Congress, which is threatening to withhold \$14 million in federal construction funds the first two years and \$28 million a year after that unless the law is passed.

Currently in North Carolina, open beer and wine containers in vehicles are allowed as long as the driver is not drinking.

Dedmon's press release noted that Rep. Jim Crawford, co-chair of the House Appropriations subcommittee on transportation, is not happy with the Congressional tactic. He says Congress is "holding the dollars over us." Well, Duh! That's politics.

Rep. Dan Blue said Congress was "intruding for the sake of intruding" and he further questioned if there is any research showing that ban-

ning open beer and wine containers in cars reduces drunken driving.

Well, Duh! It doesn't take a genius - and it certainly doesn't take research - to assume that open containers of alcohol in cars means that someone in that car is drinking and that there's a pretty good chance the driver is involved. Even if the driver isn't drinking, perhaps he should be held accountable for the actions of his or her passengers.

Statistics show that raising the legal drinking age from 18 to 21 saves lives. Statistics also show that wearing helmets while riding a motorcycle saves lives and greatly reduces the risk of brain injuries.

When the seat belt law came into effect several years ago, I was one of the ones that bucked it. I thought that wearing a seat belt should be my decision, not the government's. Following the example of our own State Senator Ollie Harris, I went to my doctor and got a signed statement saying that I have a phobia to seat belts. I've used it several times at traffic stops to keep from getting a ticket.

However I'm older, and hopefully a little wiser, and I now wear a seat belt and know that the legislators who supported that law were trying to save my life. Statistics prove it, and I really knew it all along.

I imagine some drivers who don't drink but allow their passengers to, and some motorcyclists who feel like a helmet detracts their attention from other motorists and makes it difficult to hear trains, sirens, etc. would argue that they are the ones taking the risk and it's not the government's business. Hopefully, they'll someday realize that wearing helmets - just like wearing seat belts - is for their own good.

And, hopefully, the majority of our legislators who know deep down that drinking in cars and driving motorcycles without helmets cause problems, will not be influenced by a small group of politicians who resent Big Brother holding tax dollars over their heads.

If they are, the whole bunch of them will deserve a gigantic "Well, Duh!"



Gary Stewart
Editor

Day trips opportunity to reflect on times past

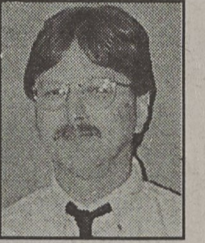
Recently my wife Sharon and I took a day trip to Old Salem. Having used that restored Moravian village in Winston-Salem as a source for some of my freelance work with "Our State" magazine, and having not actually been there since I was a lady boy, I thought it would be nice to get a refresher course on life as it was lived around 200 years ago.

But first there were a couple of hurdles to clear. Traffic on the way up there was murderous. Both I-77 and I-40 resembled raceways with everyone from huge trucks and SUVs to a clapped-out, smoke billowing Ford Escort running at speeds well over 75 miles per hour. At Old Salem proper, mobs of folks who had come to hear Oprah Winfrey speak at the Salem College commencement clogged the parking lot and thronged the streets before heading home.

After those twin ordeals, we finally got some brochures from the visitor center and walked up the hill to the village. Upon entering the restored structure that was once home to the single Moravian men of long ago, I felt a sudden and soothing transformation wash over my body in that cool, quiet, and sparsely decorated environment where life long ago was simple and unhurried. The sensation was like a drink of water to someone dying of thirst.

Whether at a Civil War encampment, or at living history sites like Old Salem, the more I see and feel of the way folks once lived, the more I question if our modern pace of life actually benefits mind, body, or spirit. Having three jobs, four cars, and a house to keep up, plus commuting 40 miles every day on the Banzai Pipeline that is I-85, I often reflect on how marvelous it would be to have the chance to go back - if even for a few weeks - to a time before automobiles, computers, and an overpopulated world full of people rushing around like mad mice.

If you've been feeling like that lately, let me recommend a slow walk along the cobbled sidewalks and among the restored 18th and 19th century buildings at Old Salem. While you are there, talk to the costumed living historians and learn the ways of days past. Also stop and admire the lovely flower gardens many of the cottages have out back. Finally, get yourself a box of Moravian cookies, sit on a bench enjoying their crisp delicacy, and let your mind and soul drift back to the way life was long ago. Now, my fellow moderns, that's what I call living.



Alan Hodge
Staff Writer

Armory under construction in '61

Construction bids for a new Armory in Kings Mountain made the front page of the June 1, 1961 edition of the Herald. As the Herald reported, the low general contractor bidder for the job was L.B. Gallimore of Greensboro who put in a figure of \$106,813. Local firm Porter Plumbing won the piping contract with a bid of \$6,085.

Also on the front page of the June 1, 1961 Herald was a photo and story welcoming the new Kings Mountain city council on board. Councilmen included T.J. Ellison, Eugene Goforth, Ben Bridges, Zip Rhea, and Ray Cline. Kings Mountain's mayor in 1961 was Kelly Dixon.

Society news in the June 1, 1961 Herald featured an article touting a piano recital held by students of Mrs. Martin Harmon. The performances were held the Kings Mountain Woman's Club. Some of the tunes played included "Mompoo," "Two-Part Invention Number 13," "Put Your Little Foot Out," and "Lover, Come Back to Me." Students who showed their stuff were Frances McGill, Rita Bell, Buzzy Shuford, and Joan McClure.

On the Herald sports beat for June 1, 1961, editor Neal Patrick reported that eight Kings Mountain High School students had received their monograms in three sports. One of the recipients was Dale Hollifield. A total of 96 letters were awarded to both boy and girl athletes at ceremonies held at the end of the 1961 school year. Another

Looking Back

AT KINGS MOUNTAIN
By Alan Hodge

sports item in Herald for the first week of June, 1961 announced that a new season for American Legion baseball was coming to Kings Mountain when Coach Bill Powell's team went up against the team from Mt. Holly-Paw Creek.

Present-day homeowners can only look back at the ad for new houses posted by Elmer Lumber in the June 1, 1961 Herald. Promising a completely new home built by local craftsmen, Elmer's ad showed a three bedroom model for \$60.62 per month, and a carport-equipped bungalow for \$53.90 per month. Other ads in the Herald featured a brand new For Falcon from Plonk Motors for \$1,680, a jumbo play tent from Sterchi's for one dollar, and duck pants from Belks for \$2.99. Duck not included.

For amusement in June 1961, Herald readers had their choice of several feature flicks. The Joy Theater's ad featured a list of attractions including "Toughest Gun in Tombstone" and "Lost World."

SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ALAN HODGE
Kings Mountain Herald

What does Memorial Day mean to you?



It means we should remember everyone who has passed away, whether they were a veteran or not.

Gloria Pauley
Kings Mountain



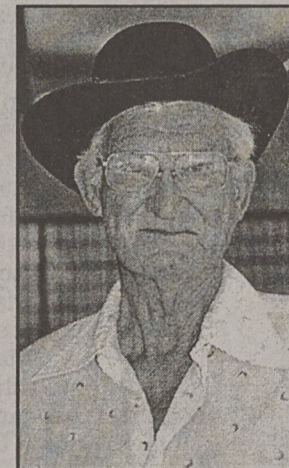
Memorial Day is the day you should remember the soldiers who died for their country.

Quay Moss
Kings Mountain



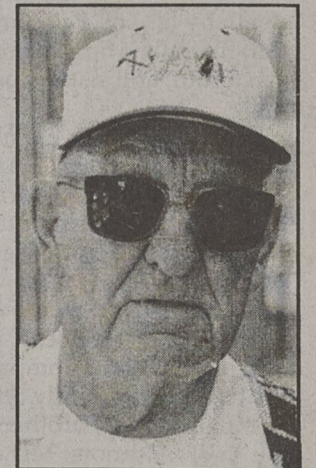
We should remember those who died for our country on Memorial Day.

Raye Ann Sipes
Kings Mountain



Memorial Day is a good time to clean things up and get things done.

Doc Burton
Kings Mountain



I was a German POW for 482 days in World War II. On Memorial Day we should remember all those who didn't come back.

Shelby Collins
Kings Mountain