

Call it what you like, but ETJ is control

Being from the country myself, I can understand the concern of citizens of the surrounding areas of Kings Mountain whose property is included in the city's proposed two-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction.



Gary Stewart
Editor

Residents of Oak Grove, Bethlehem, Compact, Dixon and other surrounding communities packed City Council Chambers at last week's public hearing to oppose the city's plans to extend its jurisdiction into their areas.

Extraterritorial jurisdiction, or ETJ if you please, is confusing. It is a term used for a law authorized by the State of North Carolina which allows cities to control the zoning in a one-mile, and in special cases like this one, two-mile perimeter of the existing city limits. It is not necessarily a forerunner to annexation, although that would be hard to convince many of the folks living in the areas in question.

Most of these folks come from a farming background. Some are elderly and their land has been in their family for many generations. They don't understand why it is necessary for a city or county to tell them what they can and can't do with their land.

Some have ceased farming but have held on to the property so they can pass it on to their children, and some may also use their land to supplement their income in ways other than farming. It's typical to see garages, beauty shops, etc., in these areas.

I am not affected by the city's plans. I live about a mile south of where the proposed two-mile extension ends. But many of my friends and neighbors are affected. I've had neighbors and fellow church members ask me why it's necessary for Kings Mountain to come out and control the use of their property. As far as I've been able to determine, the city's best answer is, if they don't zone these areas Cleveland County will.

I agree with the gentleman who said he'd rather see KM zone his property than the County Board of Commissioners. I can also see that, if zoned properly, it could help prevent heavy industry or unsavory businesses like game rooms locating across the street from churches and residences.

Still, I feel ETJ is an infringement on the rights of the people. It's always been my contention that a city's authority should end at the city limits. Even a one-mile ETJ shouldn't be allowed.

Call it what you like - managed growth, orderly growth - but ETJ is about control. And, as the city has hinted, if they don't control it the county will.

Will it eventually lead to annexation?

Perhaps the families who oppose it hold the key, by ensuring that their land stays in the family and is not sold to big companies or anyone else who would develop it. When that happens, the open land in the Oak Groves and Dixons could come to resemble the I-85/Grover Road corridor, which was once farm land too.

When that happens, annexation would be a very attractive option for the city.

FUN AT THE FAIR



ALAN HODGE /THE HERALD

Despite some rainy weather, area folks turned out in record numbers last week for the Bethware Fair, sponsored for the 53rd consecutive year by the Bethware Progressive Club.

YOUR OPINION

Support Relay for Life

To the editor:

Can anyone say they have not been touched by cancer?

Twenty years ago I watched my Dad waste away to cancer. In the past two years my mother-in-law and husband lost their battle with cancer and my daughter has been treated for skin cancer for most of her 39 years, so I know what a horrible thing it is.

I know in my heart that a cure can be found. Yes, treatment has come a long way since Dad died years ago, but with new treatments, we're still losing our loved ones.

My wish is for everyone in Kings Mountain to get involved in fighting cancer with their support and involvement in the Joseph R. Smith (Kings Mountain's) Relay for Life. Research, education on prevention and patient services all take money.

Come out on August 18 at 3 p.m. through August 19 at 3 p.m. at the walking track and support those who are walking for contributions. You might like to light a candle for a loved one to show your support.

Just come and be a part of all the activities that will go on in those 24 hours.

Sincerely,
Becky Cook
Kings Mountain

Respect leaders' vision

To the editor:

Be respectful for the courage of our local leaders.

To entertain a vision of prosperity and growth, obtained in a fair and evenhanded way that would extend the quality of life that I have enjoyed to the next generation is indeed a noble cause. It's called growth management. Whether it is extending the city's ETJ, expanding its city limits, consolidating city and county services, or school merger, it's all the same. Growth management, pure and simple. Do I like it? No. I don't like growing old either but just like growth in Cleveland County, it cannot be stopped. The hard part is having the courage to deal with it.

I look at my family. My children now have children and in 15 years they'll have children. Where will they live, shop, work, go to school, and how will they get there? Maybe I should ask the tooth fairy or the Easter bunny.

Maybe we should wait about 20 years, when Charlotte's outer belt is Cherryville's highway, then a group of citizens, much the same as today will be asking our local leaders: What went

wrong? Why didn't you guys see this coming? Why didn't we plan for it? What do you think we elected you for?

I'm proud of our local elected officials for having the courage to do the right thing, especially when they know it is political suicide. Their only vice is that their patriotism outweighs their political ambition.

Tom Brooks
Kings Mountain

Citizen sues commissioners

To the editor:

I would like to thank the Kings Mountain School Board and the citizens that supported them for their efforts to stop the fiasco that is called merger. Throwing \$5 million away for nothing that will actually improve education or improve anything else is an idea that belongs more in an insane asylum than an actual plan approved by our County Commissioners.

When the Commissioners announced they were going to spend the merger tax money on other things, something else had to be done. So, on July 26th I filed a lawsuit against the Commissioners to restrain them from spending the tax money raised for merger on anything else. Also, to order the Commissioners to return the tax increase if merger is set aside or abolished. The Commissioners have 30 days to answer my complaint. More time if it gets to court.

I foresee several problems:

(1) Judges in Cleveland County can't be depended upon to make the right legal decisions. The Kings Mountain School Board lawsuit proved that. My lawsuit most likely will also have to go to a higher court.

(2) I sued the Commissioners as an individual with the option of additional taxpayers joining suit. The Commissioners could quickly send over some money to settle my individual lawsuit and leave everybody else holding the bag.

If you want to join the lawsuit to restrain the Commissioners from spending merger money on other things and return your tax increases to you if the merger is set aside or abolished, stay tuned for instructions at a later date. All I ask is that anyone joining be registered to vote and plan to vote for the candidate of their choice in November. Anyone not willing to do that can file their own lawsuit.

How regrettable it is than any lawsuits have to be filed at all.

Robert A. Williams
Fallston

A baloney sandwich by any other name is just as sweet

Among the many things people put in their mouths, food is one of the most interesting. I once knew a truck driver named Spanky who said some people would eat anything if it was baked right. No matter where you might be on the globe, folks chow down on some pretty unusual fare. Unusual, that is, if you don't happen to live in that geographical area.

Being from the sunny Southland, I was introduced to a new food several years ago in Gettysburg. This food went by the name of scrapple. I had inquired as to the availability of grits in a restaurant in that Pennsylvania tourist mecca and was told such a thing was unknown. Instead, the Dutch gal suggested I tried the local delicacy of scrapple.

In a few moments a slab of scrapple arrived along with a bottle Karo syrup. The idea was to take the scrapple and put the syrup on it - which I tried. Even Emily Post would have been proud of the discreet manner in which I deposited my mouthful of scrapple so daintily into the napkin. Scrapple I was later told is made as if you commanded a hog to jump through the propeller of a WWII fighter plane and collected the meat on the other side then made a cake out of it.

Folks who come Down South also have some things to get used to on the table. Once some people from England stayed at our house and we took them to a fish camp. The result was culture shock for the Brits as well as the waitress when the chap, Ken Butler, picked up a hushpuppy and declared "I say, what is this bit here?"

On the TV Travel Channel there's a show where a little Englishman named Ian goes all over the world and eats whatever the natives put in front of him. I've seen Ian sample a steamed woodchuck in Mongolia, a roasted kangaroo tail in Australia, a goat eyeball in Saudi Arabia, and raw worms in Africa as big as the plastic kind fishermen use to catch bass. Yummy!

No matter where you go, tastes differ and there are different tastes. All of which leads to the old conclusion that "one man's meat is another man's poison" and that includes kangaroo tail.

Pay raise was big news in KM on August 3, 1967

Headline news for the August 3, 1967 Herald proudly announced that employees of Burlington Mills Phenix Plant in Kings Mountain would be getting a pay raise come that September 11. Following

suit, C.F. Harry, Jr. president of Minette Mills of Grover also said in the article that his firm would raise its employee's pay. Other front page news in that week's Herald was an announcement that the Miss Kings Mountain beauty pageant would be held August 16. Nine of Kings Mountain's loveliest ladies were slated to vie for the crown then held by Rita Volbracht.

Sports news in the August 3, 1967 Herald stated that the first annual N.C. Open Karate Championships would be held in Kings Mountain that coming Saturday. The event was scheduled for the National Guard Armory. Also featured in the Herald sports pages for that week was a story on the State Junior Babe Ruth League Championships which were being held at City Stadium. As reported, Kings Mountain's entry in the games was being coached by Porter Grigg, Steve Baker, and Buck Bridges.

State and national news in the August 3, 1967 Herald had a variety of interesting and informative features, not the least of which was an article about a revolutionary new product called canned meatloaf. Suggestions from N.C. State University for the product included putting slabs on English muffins. On the national scene, the Herald ran a story from the Safety Council about the fact that the death rate for farm accidents was 20 percent higher than the rest of the country.

Herald Society editor Lib Stewart had a full page of weddings and other events in the Herald for the third week of August, 1967. In addition to the nuptials, the Society page mentioned that members of the Junior Woman's Club would soon be conducting a house-to-house canvas to benefit the 1967 Community Calendar project. It was also reported that coaches of the Victory Chevrolet-sponsored Tee Ball team would be holding a watermelon cutting for their boys at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D.C. Payseur, Jr.

Ads in the August 3, 1967 Herald ran the gamut from appliances to books. Besides featuring Jane Parker bread at four loaves for 99 cents, A&P was advertising the Funk and Wagnalls encyclopedia at 49 cents per volume. Ready to help with back to school clothes, McGinnis Department Store was offering dresses for girls as low as \$1.98. A car ad by Southwell Ford offered new 1967 models with as little as \$50 down. Movie ads for the third week of August, 1967 included the Joy Theater showing "God's Little Acre" and Kings Mountain Bessemer City Drive-In which was screening "Thunder Alley".

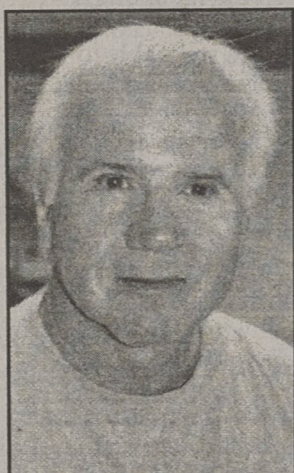
Looking Back

AT KINGS MOUNTAIN
By Alan Hodge

SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ALAN HODGE
Kings Mountain Herald

What would be a good cabinet appointment for General Colin Powell, should Bush be elected President?



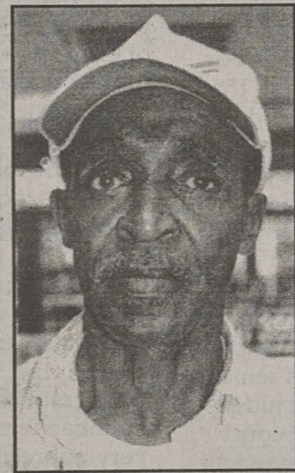
He is very intelligent and would make an excellent Secretary of Defense.

Steve Tate
Gaston County



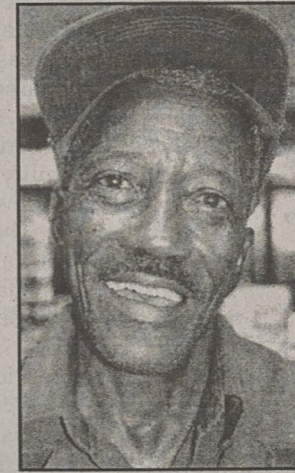
Powell would make a good choice for Secretary of State.

Allen Eaker
Cherryville



I think he would do a good job as Secretary of State.

Sammy Robbins
Kings Mountain



Colin Powell should be named as Secretary of State.

Winslow McClean
Kings Mountain



Either Secretary of State or Secretary of Defense would be good jobs for Powell.

Norma Martin
Kings Creek