

YOUR OPINION

Remember those who spoke out against merger

To the editor:

We are fast approaching one of the most important days of the year, Election Day. This is our one chance to shape the future of our town, our county and our state.

The following list contains candidates from both parties who spoke out against school merger. (If they refused to take a stand, they didn't make the list. Sorry, Jim, Walter and Debbie).

County Commissioners - Ronnje Hawkins, David Morrow, Mary Accor, Tom Bridges, and Kenneth Ledford.
N.C. House - Andy Dedmon.
N.C. Senate - Scott Neisler.

These candidates deserve our support. They spoke out for the majority of us when others ignored or were non committal. This time, this election, it's personal. In Cleveland County, elections are won by a very small number of votes. Each one matters.

Sincerely,
Holly Robinson
Kings Mountain

Plan would stimulate saving for retirement

To the editor:

For 10 years, our elected officials in Washington have worked in unison on HR 1102, a comprehensive pension reform package to provide Americans with the opportunity to save and invest for retirement. That decade of effort will soon bear fruit.

The U.S. House of Representatives approved by a 401 to 25 vote the bill that would gradually raise contribution limits for individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and 401(k)s. The measure is currently being considered in the Senate.

This proposed legislation would incrementally increase the annual IRA contribution limit from \$2,000 to \$5,000 beginning in the year 2001. The bill would also increase 401(k) contributions to \$15,000 annually from \$10,500.

Increasing the IRA contribution limit is of critical importance for several reasons:

- The IRA limit has not been raised since 1981, the same year the late Princess Diana was married and IBM sold its first personal computer.

- IRAs are the only retirement account not indexed for inflation. Had the IRA limit been indexed for inflation, it would be \$4,616 today.

- The accumulated difference between saving \$2,000 and \$5,000 over 15 years at 8 percent is an additional \$81,000.

- Half of all working Americans are not covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan, so the IRA is their only tax deductible opportunity to save and invest.

- Millions of Americans are nearing retirement and their need to save and invest is even more critical.

- The U.S. savings rate has dropped to an historical low and is one of the lowest among industrialized nations.

Unfortunately, as this proposed legislation has worked its way through Congress, that spirit of bipartisanship that got us to this point is fading. Changes and additions to the bill have clouded the original intent and impact of the version overwhelmingly approved in the House. People's retirement is too important an issue to be used as leverage to gain political advantage.

We should urge our elected officials to move beyond partisan politics and forge ahead with this vital piece of legislation that will stimulate savings, increase retirement security and eliminate obstacles to retirement plan coverage for small business. After 10 years of

work, failure to pass this vital legislation would be far more than disappointing. It would deny millions of Americans the chance for a more secure retirement.

Dwight E. Mathis
Edward Jones Investments
Belmont

Education bonds vital to our future

To the editor:

During my ten years of service in the North Carolina House of Representatives I saw many funding bills passed for education. Now the Legislature is asking us to vote for a \$3.1 billion bond referendum for our 59 community colleges and 16 campus university system. If passed, this money will be spent over a six-year period for improvements that have been studied carefully by the House and Senate. The legislation requires a Legislative Oversight Committee to make sure the money is spent in the manner in which it was proposed to the Legislature.

The bonds are to be paid off over a 25-year period. This makes sense to me because the buildings and programs that are to be funded will be utilized for at least that length of time. Reminds me of a home mortgage, i.e. you live in your home and enjoy it as you pay off the mortgage.

Harlan Boyles, State Treasurer, has stated that he does not think we will have to raise taxes to pay off the bonds and that the annual payments will amount to less than 1% of our State budget, barring any unforeseen down-turn of the economy.

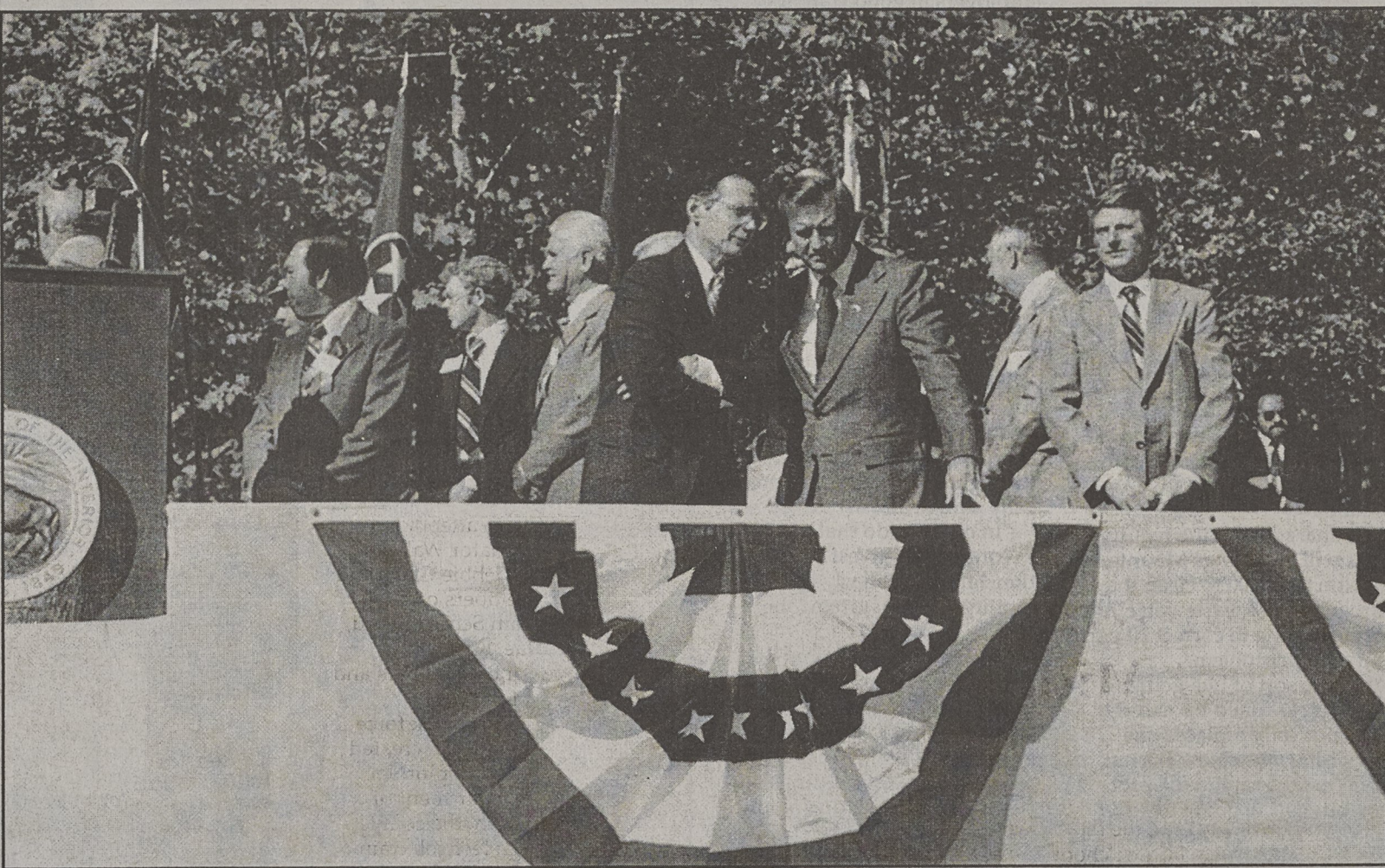
To fuel our economy, to attract new businesses, and maintain a sophisticated work force, it is imperative that we maintain and improve our institutions of higher education and their programs. It is estimated that over the next 10 years we will have an additional 100,000 students hoping to enter our universities and community colleges. Please help pass the bonds so we will be ready for these students.

W.W. "Dub" Dickson,
NC House (Retired),
Gastonia

Address letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Letters must be signed in ink and include the full name, address and telephone number of the writer for verification purposes.

Letters may also be brought to our office at 824-1 King Street, or sent by fax to (704) 739-0611.

LOOKING BACK



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Then Governor Dick Reilly of South Carolina, left, talks to Governor Jim Hunt of North Carolina during the 200th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1980 at Kings Mountain National Military park.

Rat named Elmer made for many mill village memories

Of many things that have changed in Dixie over the past couple of decades, few have experienced an evolution such as that visited upon the textile industry. Where once a cotton mill was characterized by the clatter of belt driven machinery and clouds of choking cotton dust, now computerized looms and spinners smoothly churn out their produce.

Along with the changes in cotton mills themselves, the way of life that textile employees experience has also evolved. Well paid, and protected by numerous safety laws, the old mill days and those of the 21st century stand in sharp contrast to one another.

I spent several impressionable years of my childhood during the late 1950s in a mill village in East Belmont. My grandmother worked in a mill and my aunt Emily worked in the mill office. Memories of living in an old time mill village for even a short length of time can make impressions that will last forever.

I think one thing that living there did for me was ignite the spark of imagination. Lacking somewhat in store bought amusements, we mill kids could take a large cardboard box and in an instant have a fort, submarine, army tank, and clubhouse. Even the bobbins and cones that my grandmother Mozelle brought home could be used to make Christmas decorations, bugles, clown hats, and miniature blackjacks. We even chewed the little round discs of wax that we found in her apron pocket. I still don't know what they were used for.

We never lacked for a pet in our Garrison Street dwelling. One co-lodger was a red field rat we named "Elmer." Once I looked under the kitchen sink, and there sat Elmer in cool repose. As I recall, a neighbor came over one afternoon, caught Elmer in the open and set upon his hairy body with a sturdy broom. After the engagement was decided, Elmer had taken a sound thrashing but escaped with his life.

Unlike today when children are too often in mortal danger if they stray from their yard, we mill village children never felt scared to explore any field, forest, garage, vacant building, etc. within a day's march from home. Sometimes strangers would give us a ride. Everyone looked after each other and knew at least their near neighbors. Of course we sometimes got into mischief, as when a group of us young'uns climbed into Granny Garret's cherry tree and broke it in half.

Today, what mill village houses that haven't been torn down are being renovated into attractive and affordable bungalows for new buyers. I often drive by some of these tidy dwellings that were once architectural derelicts. It is good to see them made fresh again. I have to smile to myself though, and wonder if the children that cavort across those green lawns that were once bare dirt have ever had the pleasure of meeting a rat named Elmer.



Alan Hodge
Staff Writer

Election, Mountaineer Days big news October 12, 1989

Election results topped the headlines for the October 12, 1989 edition of the Herald. Incumbent city commissioner Fred Finger was declared the only clear winner in a contest that saw just 28.5 percent of the city's voters turn out. To retain his seat, Finger eased by challenger Marshall Camp by a mere 34 votes. In Ward 6, political newcomer Scott Neisler garnered the most votes at 584 to earn a spot in an upcoming runoff.

Also on the front of the Herald for the second week of October, 1989 was news that long-time Grover barber Bill Camp had passed away. A respected and beloved figure in the community, Camp, 83, had been in the barbering business for over six decades.

Continuing an interesting series on the history of area houses of worship, the October 12 Herald spotlighted Patterson Grove Baptist Church. Dating back to 1884 when the "church" was no more than a brush arbor, the story related the changes and growth the congregation had experienced over the decades.

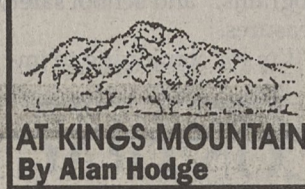
Though it was three weeks past, Hurricane Hugo was still in the Herald news on October 12, 1989. Advice for folks who had hurricane-produced brush piles came from Cleveland County Forest Ranger John Hunt who said that Smoky the Bear wanted to remind everyone to be careful if they had to burn that debris.

Sports news for October 12, 1989 featured a big story on the whipping that Kings Mountain High School administered to South Point. Ramrodded by Timmy McClain and D.J. Williams, Kings Mountain conked the Red Raiders from Belmont by a score of 42-0. The game saw Kings Mountain set new school records for longest kickoff return (100 yards by Williams) and longest touchdown pass (99 yards) from McClain to Petie McNeal.

Also on the sports beat in the October 12 Herald was a photo and story about an upcoming kick boxing tournament that would pit local champ Robbie Eng against Danny "The Stone" Rhinehart of Gaffney. Eng's associate, David "The Rock" Humphries was set to trade licks with Sam Upton of Tennessee.

Mountaineer Days got a full page photo spread by Lib Stewart in the October 12, 1989 Herald. Pictures featured the Cleveland County Arts Council booth and staffers Jim Champion, Barbara Brock, and Bruce Corrigan. Another photo focused on the singing Kings Revue. Yet another picture showed Shriner Harold Phillips "locking up" several local citizens in a make believe jail.

Looking Back



SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ALAN HODGE
Kings Mountain Herald

What are you doing to get your home or car ready for winter?



Putting more logs on the fire.

Cynthia Mackins
Kings Mountain



Everything is already prepared for winter.

Melba Queen
Grover



I wrapped my pipes and pump.

Ray Black
Blacksburg



I made sure my car heater was in good shape.

Nellie Lefevers
Kings Mountain



I had my heat pump tuned up.

Lucille Wells
Kings Mountain