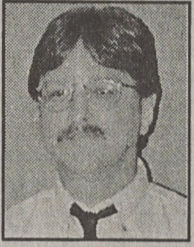


Swimmin' holes and summer fun

Recently I ran across an ad for Suttle's Swim Club in an old Mount Holly News. This discovery sent a wave of nostalgia coursing through my body about swimmin' holes and creeks I have known.



Alan Hodge

Guest Column

Let's start with a trip down memory lane to Suttle's. Back when I was a wee lad, a visit to Suttle's was like a vision of heaven. Once located on Wilkinson Blvd. just past Sam Wilson Road, Suttle's is gone but its memory lingers forever in the minds of those who once knew its refreshing waters.

Besides the huge pool full of sparkling H₂O, Suttle's also had a great snack bar and rides of different types. Even today, the aroma of Suttle's French fries and the delicious taste of a grape or orange Nehi soda is vivid in my mind.

Another recollection of Suttle's is the tar that they used to seal cracks and joints in the pool bottom. Equipped with a skin diving face mask, the object was to dive down and pick the tar out from between the cracks. You could tell if a kid was a true Suttle's veteran by how much tar was under his fingernails.

When I was six and we were forced marched to Charlotte to live, I left Suttle's but quickly found a watery replacement in the creeks and bayous near our new house in the Midwood neighborhood.

One of these streams ran through deep woods near the Charlotte Country Club and in some places was wide and deep. As many of you former boys and girls out there know, bread balls and bits of baloney or hot dog make excellent bait for catching bream and suckers.

One feature of our secret creek was a giant Tarzan swing. Some older kid whose name I fail to recall had climbed way up in a tree that overhung the creek and lashed a rope on a stout limb. The rope trailed down long enough to reach the creek about 30 feet below. To swing across the creek on this ersatz trapeze was like going into orbit.

One fine day during the middle of the summer some of us urchins decided to go swinging. The creek was very low and had turned a sickly orange color and smelled like a sewer (which I think it really was). On this fateful morn, a friend of mine named Ricky Crump grabbed the rope and swung out a mighty swing. At the exact apogee of his flight the rope snapped.

To this day the image of Ricky falling through time and space, then hitting the sewer water with a hug and malodorous splash remains emblazoned in my brain. So too does the aftermath of this mishap when, coated with unspeakable goo, Ricky climbed the bank crying his eyes out.

Everyone out there in reader and no doubt has similar recollections of their own aquatic adventures. If not, then the time is nigh to slap on a bathing suit, grab a towel, and head for the watery world of summer.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

James 3:8-9

LOOKING BACK



Merger anyone?

The October 1, 1953 Kings Mountain Herald carried this picture of the Grover School Committee signing a petition asking the County Board of Commissioners to call for an election to consolidate schools in Number 4 Township. Left to right are Glenn Rountree, Charles Dixon, Frank Royster, Carl McGinnis and chairman W.B. Harry.

Two who made a difference

In a day that felt like a full moon was upon us, America lost two people that had a deep impact on its culture.

John Lee Hooker was the no glam-our blues musician. He didn't have much flash during his recordings, nor did he doctor his songs any. What he did do was sing from his conscience. Doing that led his works to having a cold, haunting feeling that he and few other musicians were able to capture in their works.

But don't get me wrong, the blues isn't depression chased with prozac.



Ben Ledbetter

Staff Writer

And neither was John Lee Hooker's work. He had something in common with an actor in the seventies; that they both tug on the emotions of Americans during that time.

Carroll O'Connor, played the likeable bigoted character of Archie Bunker on "All in the Family."

Often Bunker challenged government, but more often he was known to challenge his liberal son in law played by Rob Reiner.

O'Connor's character was a throwback in some respects. He was someone who still thought it was after World War II in America, and thought with the same mind set of that time.

Social turbulence of the period did not escape Bunker, he knew about it but was always against it.

When the late former President Richard M. Nixon

talked of the silent majority in that time, the citizens who have been shut out of the Democratic process of our government, Archie Bunker was the personification of that expression.

Beside serving as the human form of the President's expression, O'Connor's character dealt with many controversial issues in a unique way, by being against them.

Issues such as homosexuality and civil rights were bought up, and Bunker would be against even listening to the issues since it was not the way he was raised.

By his stubbornness during the seventies sitcom, O'Connor got people talking about it.

Think about it, at the office water cooler the next day, someone will bring up the issue of a television show or how a particular sports team won or lost.

Television, and the world lost

a superb person and actor in O'Connor.

The general national social climate might not be as tense as when Archie Bunker came out, but some of the same issues which were part of the script in "All in the Family," "The Jeffersons" and even "Sanford & Son" have not been addressed widely among script writers and producers.

These issues can be in various news media for many years and all of them will not generate a reaction in Americans.

By addressing social issues in television, a wider audience can be reached because when many people are watching sitcoms or dramas they tend to be relaxed.

And having people see the issues addressed in a television show will cause them to talk more, although some might not realize it.

Received your loophole bill yet?

I don't understand why politicians refuse to call a tax by its proper name. They will refer to increased taxes as revenue enhancements, user fees or loophole closings, but none of them will come straight out and say, "we're going to raise taxes."

I like David Hoyle. I think he is a good guy, but he's just like all politicians when it comes to distancing himself from the dreaded T word. As co-chair of the N.C. Senate Finance Committee, Hoyle helped spearhead a tax program which he and his fellow Democrats refer to as "loophole" closings.

How is imposing a one percent gross premium tax on HMOs closing a loophole? Is it closing a loophole to levy a one percent insurance premiums tax on insurance companies?

Insurance companies are pretty good whipping boys. They don't have many people who are sympathetic to them, but call it a tax, not closing a loophole.

If this bill passes, satellite television companies will begin paying a six percent sales tax and the cable TV tax would be raised by one percent. If that isn't a new tax and a tax increase, I don't know what is.

To levy a six percent sales tax on local phone service and all long-distance calls cannot qualify as closing a loophole. Everything I've mentioned here can only be described as a new tax. Calling them loophole closings doesn't mean the tax-paying public will pay any less.

Hoyle says he does not consider them tax hikes, but loop-

holes recommended by the governor or his loophole commission.

That sounds suspiciously like Mr. Hoyle is for these tax hikes, but seeks to lay the blame for them elsewhere.

I wonder what kind of experience is required to serve on a loophole commission? Imagine interviewing one of those people.

"What do you do for a living, sir?"

"I look for loopholes."

"Well, I hope you pick up a few around town."

This just appears to be another way to hang new taxes on people, or increase those taxes citizens already pay. Something like this always happens when the state comes up with one of its "shortfalls."

When Jim Martin was governor there was a "shortfall," and before this so-called conservative was through the state had a huge surplus.

How did you spend your

share of the surplus? I didn't get any back either.

The state is some \$200 million short and they are agonizing over how to make up the "shortfall."

They are withholding funds that are usually returned to the towns and cities, and now almost every budget in the state is in trouble, so the taxpayer gets it from both sides. They pay the new taxes the state levies on phone companies, cable companies, insurance companies, etc., then turn around and find that their local governing bodies are increasing their property taxes, and in some cases adding taxes to phone companies and cable companies so that those consumer organizations take a double hit.

When a politician says he is going to close loopholes, it always sounds like the big rich corporations are going to get hit pretty hard, but actually, in the world of business, the consumer always pays the freight.

Legion Juniors fell to Cherryville Post 100 three games to one in the opening round of the Area IV playoffs.

Hunter Suber and Rusty Putnam will represent Kings Mountain High School and the American Legion squad in the State Games baseball competition in Greensboro.

The June 19 conviction in U.S. District Court in Statesville of Anthony "TJ" Blackwood and Tony Hoey marked the culmination of a combined law enforcement effort to stamp out the largest drug ring in Cleveland County, according to trial testimony. Officers from the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the DEA worked with state and federal prosecutors on the Light Oak investigation which was named for the area of Shelby the drug ring was centered in.

Remember 1997 and the Ingles controversy?

Excerpts from the Thursday, June 26, 1997 edition of the Kings Mountain Herald:

- City Council passed a motion 4-2 that would allow Ingles Markets, Inc. to begin construction of a \$3 million dollar grocery store on Oak Grove/Scism Road that is expected to bring 90 new jobs to the community.

- The Kings Mountain City Council's public hearing on the issue of two of four year term of office attracted four speakers. Gene White, Wayne Worcester and Michael Smith spoke against a change to four year. Former elections board supervisor Becky Cook wanted another public vote.

- The recent wave of rate hikes that have hit area municipalities missed Kings Mountain as City Council passed a \$20.8 million dollar budget by a 4-2 vote.

- The City Council is moving to annex 857 acres or 1.34 square miles in four areas of the city to take in 592 people.

- With approximately 1,000 children participating in the city baseball program at the Community Center, City manager of Kings Mountain Jimmy Maney said a priority will be placed on recreation.

- Betty Hullender won 31 ribbons for her day lilies at the annual show of the Piedmont Day Lily Club at Cotswold Mall in Charlotte.

- The Hav-A-Tampa racing series will be back in Gaffney, S.C. this weekend for the sixteenth sanctioned points event of its season. Defending series champion and Kings Mountain resident Freddy Smith has captured two of his 14 wins at Cherokee Speedway.

- The Kings Mountain High Booster Club is soliciting advertisements for its 1997 football program.

- Kings Mountain's American Legion Juniors fell to Cherryville Post 100 three games to one in the opening round of the Area IV playoffs.

- Hunter Suber and Rusty Putnam will represent Kings Mountain High School and the American Legion squad in the State Games baseball competition in Greensboro.

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SIDEWALK SURVEY

By BEN LEDBETTER
Kings Mountain Herald

What is or has been your favorite July 4th memory?

With Residents at Eden Gardens



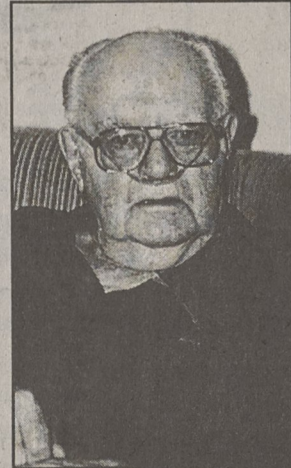
Spending it at home with family in Kings Mountain.

Margaret Tate



I've had lots of them. I can't remember just one certain one.

Mabel Ross



We went to the mountains.

Jake Bridges



We used to get all our family and go out together and make ice cream and have cookouts

Mae Sue McGill



In Charleston they would have a lot of fireworks.

Betty Knece