

# KM could still win in the 9th

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter was a prize fighter in Patterson, N.J. when his life took an unexpected turn for the worse.

One night in the sixties, some Caucasian bar patrons in Patterson were shot and killed, which put Caucasian and African American members of the south New Jersey city at odds.



Ben Ledbetter

Carter, who was not even at the scene of the crime at the time of the shootings, was charged with the murders along with a friend, and he ended up spending the better part of his life in New Jersey prisons.

Trials in the state courts were no help to Carter, who was known to be defiant while in prison. The New Jersey courts had already had opinions by the time they went to the bench to make their respected ruling.

What saved Carter was a chance, a lofty chance at that.

To make it out of the New Jersey penal system for the second and final time, Carter took a chance when he had his lawyer file an appeal in a federal court.

The big gamble for Carter was if the court did not rule in his favor, the case was done and he would spend the rest of his life in prison barring any slim possibility of parole.

Eventually, the federal court ruled in his favor and Carter has since lived as a free man in Canada and the United States.

What saved Carter could save the Kings Mountain District Schools.

With rulings in both Wake County and the North Carolina Court of Appeals that went against the school system, it strengthens the argument that the cases need to be heard in a courtroom that does not lean one way or the other toward school merger.

It can't happen in North Carolina, since it has a predisposition to merged school systems, although it's an implicit one.

So the Rubin Carter example might be a bit extreme, but the merger issue has a lot to do with athletics, according to Kings Mountain Merger Attorney Brian Shaw.

"It's more like a baseball game," Shaw said. "There's nine innings, maybe we're in the sixth inning and there's still some ways to go."

Professional sports leagues and the court system share another similar element, they both have a system of appeal in place.

The United States Court System has an appeals process in the federal and state courts.

Shaw said an element of appeal in the court system is something that is needed.

"There should be an opportunity to have that one person's judgement reviewed by a three-judge panel," Shaw said.

"Every judicial system should have an opportunity for review so no one judge's decision is the final decision."

Controversy manifested itself in state government when protesters gathered in Raleigh to protest a proposed \$441 million dollar tax hike to help a budget shortfall. While the protest was in the right spirit, protesters of the proposal have misinterpreted their own cause. The "Tar Heel Tea Party" ties the protest to the Boston Tea Party.

At issue with the Boston Tea Party was taxation without representation, which was discussed in an editorial in a Charlotte newspaper. The last time I checked we still had people serving in legislative bodies of government.

During the time of the Boston Tea Party, the United States was not yet a country, and no one from the colonies was in England representing any constituents.

The state legislature might be having a tough time with passing a budget, but we are still represented.

Protesters should be more aware of the circumstances before taking up signs.

# OPINION

The Kings Mountain Herald

Editor: Gary Stewart 739-7496  
August 9, 2001 Section A, Page 4

## LOOKING BACK



Mrs. Dewey Styers of Kings Mountain provided this picture of the Night Force at Dilling Rayon Mill, Kings Mountain, on February 11, 1930. Mrs. Styers recognized several of her relatives on the picture. Information imprinted on the picture noted that W.K. White was overseer of the weaving department, and I.A. Ball was overseer of the preparation department.

## YOUR OPINION

### KM School Board should consider needs of other 80%

To the editor:

Census figures show only 23% of Cleveland County households have school-age children. Of that 23% many attend private schools or are home schooled. Every property owner is taxed to provide a free education for approximately 20% of the households and some of these households with school-age children own no property. Cleveland County spends 26% of your property tax bill for education.

Our county currently has the second highest unemployment rate in the state, yet a school official was recently quoted in The Herald as saying that while less expensive furnishings for the new school were available, they were purchasing top-of-the-line furnishings. Few homeowners in this county can afford top-of-the-line furnishings for their own homes, not to mention the half million dollars spent fussing over the merger. School officials must learn that the needs of the other 80% of the households may deserve some consideration. Few businesses are willing to relocate to Cleveland County and bring their children into the chaos of this school system.

The juvenile, combative competition that exists between Shelby and Kings Mountain officials is an item of amusement and ridicule to folks outside the county. Those who live inside

the county are forced to pay for it.

Children learn by example.

Ann Kirby  
Kings Mountain

### Enough is enough!

To the editor:

Enough is enough! It is my opinion that the court system in North Carolina has spoken and it is time for the Kings Mountain Board of Education to back off and quit spending taxpayers money. It is obvious that Brian Shaw (Kings Mountain attorney) is just looking for another pay day.

Let me say that I stand on neither side of this merger issue. In other words, I don't really have a dog in this fight. They have already raised my taxes for the merger and I'm sure they will never give that money back. We voted out the county commissioners that started the merger issue and put in a bunch of inexperienced commissioners that only want to reverse merger. This in itself will hurt Cleveland County in the long haul.

Over the years the state board has combined almost every system in the state, so therefore why should Cleveland County

be different?

The bottom line in this issue is, let's give the students of Cleveland County a quality education and not give the Kings Mountain attorneys a new house on the lake or a new Lexus to drive around. And also, my suggestion to the Kings Mountain School Board is to start spending all that money you seem to have in an effort to bring an educational lottery to the state of North Carolina.

This letter was written before the commissioners voted and said exactly what I said in the first paragraph, and that is "Enough is Enough." The courts have spoken and we need to get on with educating our students in a way that sets a standard for the rest of the state.

Larry Gamble  
Shelby

### Keep fighting Kings Mountain

To the editor:

No, Kings Mountain Board of Education should not drop their merger appeal, they are fighting for all of Kings Mountain and for all of those who were wronged in this whole merger process.

All those who oppose merger need somebody to stand up for them and their rights. I applaud

Kings Mountain Board of Education for pressing on to do what's right for its people.

Keep fighting Kings Mountain!

Hayley Flynn  
Kings Mountain

### KM needs more for children to do

To the editor:

I think it is great that we have a walk track, a gazebo and are going to get a Martha Rivers Park, but I recently spent the day with my grandchildren.

We were trying to think of places to go (in our town) but there was very little to do.

I asked my grandchildren to come up with some things that they would like to see in our town for all ages of children.

Here were their suggestions: An arcade (in the Heilig Myers Building), with a skating rink or bowling alley in the middle.

How about miniature golf and a mountain climbing rock?

How about a place to ride scooters, bikes, and skateboards?

One even suggested a small movie theater in an empty building.

We have many empty buildings in this town. Surely some could be used for these ideas.

Even some of the old mill plants could be converted.

Surely, our city manager or whoever, could seek finances for these ideas.

I don't think it is too much to ask for our young people to have places to go and things to do. After all, they are our future. It can be done.

Thank you for your time.

Mrs. James Hamrick  
Kings Mountain

## 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 third party letters, thank-you letters or letters from anonymous writers;

Letters must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday of the week they are to be published. Mail letters to The Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or fax them to (704) 739-0611.

## PEEP INTO THE PAST

Excerpts from the Thursday August 5, 1987 edition of the Kings Mountain Herald:

- Clyde Dupin Crusade Director Wes Dupin said this week that controversies surrounding the PTL television ministry had caused serious credibility problems for

America's evangelical movement but that his father, Evangelist Clyde Dupin who comes to Kings Mountain Aug. 16-22 for a week of services, will continue to preach and use ministries such as Billy Graham's as models of "evangelism with integrity."

- As of today incumbent

Mayor John Henry Moss had not announced if he plans to run for his ninth term at City Hall. Moss will announce his decision Thursday at 4 p.m. The three incumbent commissioners whose terms are up in October have filed for re-election.

- A five-man race is on in District IV with the filing

Tuesday of Veteran District IV Commissioner Norman King. King has served on the board of city commissioners for 22 years and is being challenged by four first-time candidates, three of whom are city employees and former policemen.

- A race developed for two seats on the Kings Mountain

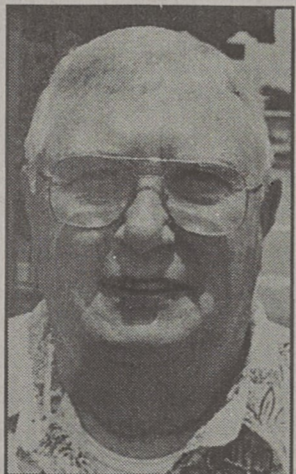
Board of Education this week when Floyd William (Will) Sanders Jr. and Steve Wilson announced their candidacies. They challenge incumbent Doyle Campbell and newcomer Susan Belt Nov 3. Veteran School Board member June Lee recently announced she would not seek re-election.

## SIDEWALK SURVEY

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Kings Mountain Herald

Do you think the Patient's Bill of Rights that passed in Washington is a good thing?

At The Kings Mountain Senior Center And Eden Gardens



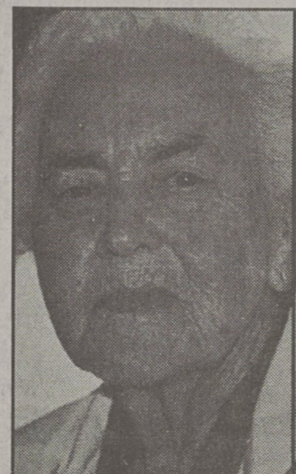
It could be better. If it was better, it would never make it through.

Bud Jackson  
Merritt Isl., Fla.



I guess so. It's fine.

Isobel Lutz



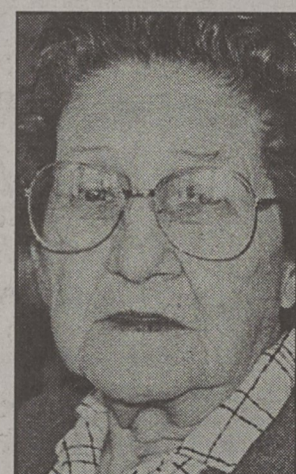
Oh yes. It is a very good thing.

Velma Moore



They tell you that and when it really comes down to it, they're not on your side.

Margaret Tate



Yes. I think people should have the right to say what goes on and what they do to them.

Lillian Wright