

## Back and still flying friendly sky

As our economy slows because of the recent heart-break and tragedy, it is up to us to continue enjoying the freedoms we have always had, including flying with confidence.



Lib Stewart  
Staff Writer

the worst thing we Americans can do is to give in to fear. But I have to admit to a sinking feeling when I boarded jets recently to fly to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It was the first time I had flown since the September 11, 2001 tragedy.

After logging thousands of air miles in 1999-2000 as National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, it was the first time I was ever apprehensive about flying because I love to fly.

Not to be cavalier about it, but my traveling companion said, "Aw Lib, I think when it's your time to go it's your time."

And that's pretty much how I had felt before September 11 as I replied to her, "But we can shorten our time by our choices." Several of our Auxiliary friends opted to drive their cars to Iowa and several others cancelled out.

What has changed since September 11 really did not register until we left safe, comfortable Kings Mountain. At four airports we saw beefed-up security, national Guardsmen wielding M-16 automatic rifles.

Our travel agent told us to be at the airport two hours early and it was necessary on our return flight when one flight was canceled. Every piece of clothing was taken from my bag and examined by airport personnel. Despite, or maybe because of that increased security, I never felt any danger.

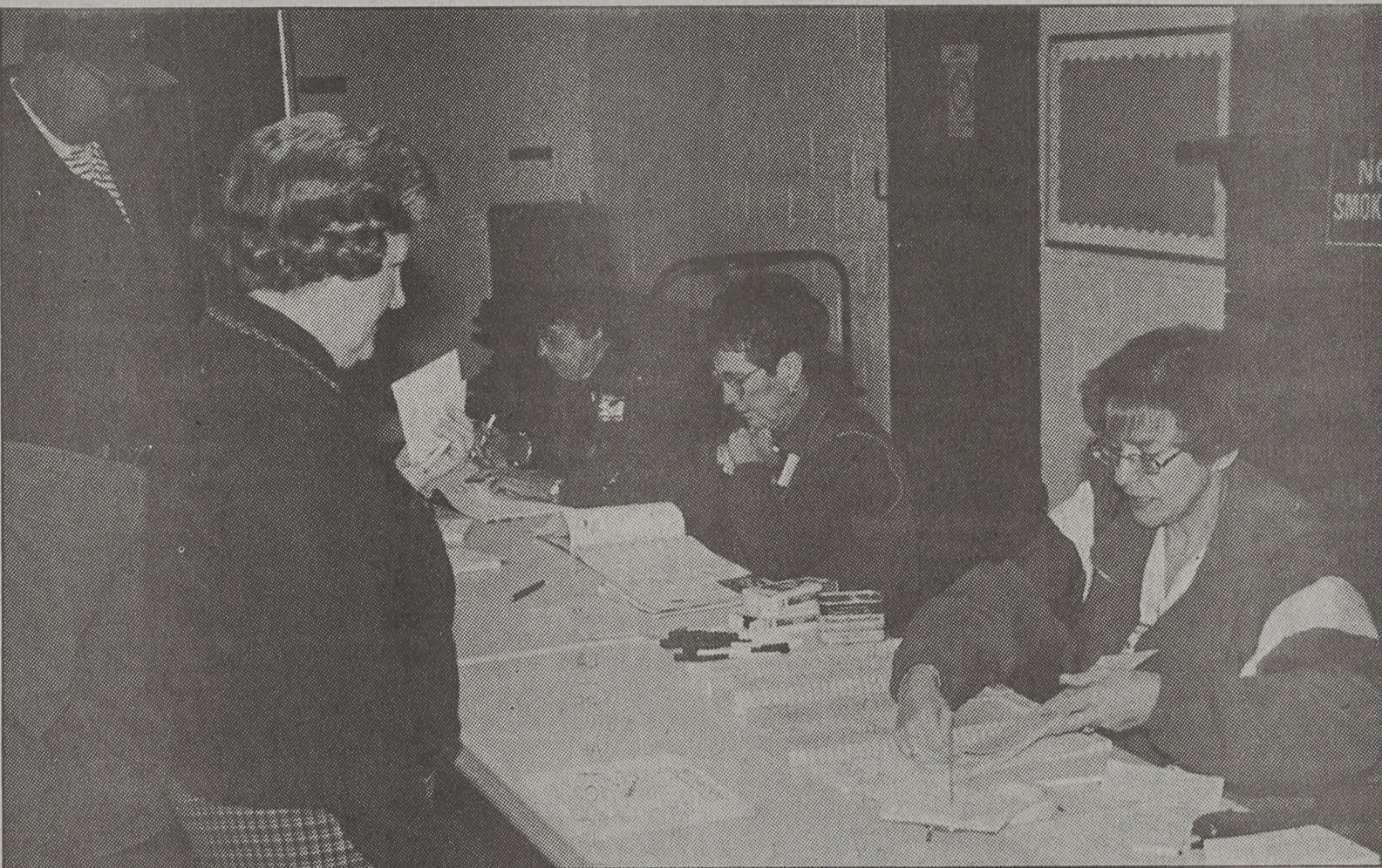
There are reportedly more steps in the works by the government and airlines to ensure safety in the air, whatever the cost - screening of all checked baggage, more air marshals on commercial flights, anti-hijack training for flight crews, and quick action on background checks of airport screeners.

As I traveled to nearly 50 states and 10 foreign countries from September 1999 until mid-September 2000, I didn't think about terrorism and felt safe.

Mine was a fast-paced job, visiting Auxiliary units for a day or two and moving on and changing plans and hotels along the way. Heightened security was evident in South Korea, where Arlene Barrett and I attended the 50th anniversary observance of the beginning of the Korean Conflict; in Taiwan, The Philippines, London, Belgium, Germany and France. For years

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## PICTORIAL EDITORIAL



EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT - Voters receive ballots from precinct workers Tuesday at Second Baptist Church fellowship hall.

## Maybe now it won't be as muddy in KM

As I write this, Kings Mountain is in the middle of a long and somewhat controversial election campaign for all elected offices for the city.

Much of the controversy has been similar to Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing."

And by the time this column runs, it will be over, and the city will have its officials for a two year term.

One thing I'll be glad to not hear about other people being dragged through the mud for mistakes they made long before they have sought office.

How does a traffic ticket or other minor charge keep someone from doing their jobs now?

People change, learn, and evolve over time.

But I think President Bush handled his storied past the best. He took responsibility for it and went on about life.

I'm glad the mud slinging's over.

Let's get back to business.

• Weird Al Yankovic has made a living with song parodies so I thought I would give it a try and slant it toward Cleveland County politics. I've always liked Simon and Garfunkel's "Mrs. Robinson", so here goes.

"Where have you gone Jim Crawley, three school systems turn their collective eyes to you. What's that you say South Carolina, Crawley has left and gone away..." Ok, I won't leave my day job on that one.

• A friend of mine sent me an e-mail about the Kansas City Chiefs suspending practice after finding an unknown white powdery substance on the field. After law enforcement agencies put in their two cents, the story said, it turned out to be the goal line. If that story is true, I hope the Carolina Panthers haven't lost sight of it.

• Michael Jordan has made his way back to the NBA, playing for the Washington Wizards. If he was able to purchase the Charlotte Hornets, could he be playing for the Hornets now? If he was, the new arena team officials have bargained for would be ready for the season now.

• Why is it the big issues with government seem to appear at election time? Would there be a new playground or senior center now if it wasn't an election year? Would the school merger talks have started if county commissioners' seats were not open at the time? If every year was an election year, progress would be at an all-time high in Cleveland County.

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Ben Ledbetter  
Staff Writer

## A season of loss but there's still a new day coming

I think I shall call this autumn the "Season of Loss."

In too many ways and places, loss has come to our land and homes. It all started, of course, back on September 11 with the World Trade Center attack. How do you comprehend thousands of lives snuffed out in a matter of minutes by airliners used as guided missiles? How can you see two majestic buildings - symbols of our economic and commercial might - turned into smoking rubble in a matter of minutes? It is simply surreal.

Loss has hit closer to home for me this autumn. One of my best friends lost his mother to cancer a few weeks ago. Another friend saw his father waste away in a similar fashion about the same time.

Yet another friend and his wife were expecting to adopt a child in a few weeks. They had fixed up a nursery room in their home for the infant and even bought some clothes in eager anticipation of the arrival. Now the whole thing has fallen through and they are devastated. Loss has hit again.

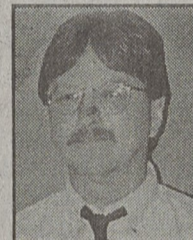
At our house, loss has also made its unwelcome presence known. Last week, our pet rooster Big Fred died. Just last night, his mate Little Wilma had to be put to sleep because she had also gotten an incurable avian illness.

There are those of you out there who may say it is silly to feel saddened by the loss of a chicken or two. After all, isn't a chicken just something to stew, fry, bake, or broil? Maybe so, I can't deny that I consume my fair share of fowl, but to our minds, Fred and Wilma were more than two birds saved from the pan.

To me, Big Fred was the living embodiment of manhood. A full blooded gamecock, Freddy was a sight to see and hear each morning when he greeted the new day with a chorus of crowing. His feathers were a mixture of deep burgundy, jet black, golden yellow, and rich orange. His legs were armed with spurs at least two inches long. He was the King of the Barnyard, our pet of three years, and a darn good guy. Now he's gone and the yard is silent and drab. Loss is everywhere.

In her own fussy hen way, Little Wilma was Fred's perfect companion. She always carried her tail straight up like a flag in

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Alan Hodge  
Guest Column

## LOOKING BACK

### The way we were in 1959

Excerpts from the Thursday, November 5, 1959 edition of the Kings Mountain Herald:

- Will Kings Mountain natural gas rates be increased? Mayor Glee A. Bridges said Wednesday he didn't know, but that the city commission is expecting a report from its gas engineer, Bell Edwards, of Greenwood, S.C., in the near future. The possibility of rate increases came about several months ago when Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corporation, from whom the city purchases gas, filed application with federal and state regulatory commissioners for a rate increase of six percent.

- Halloween night "Trick or Treating" provided \$140.97 to UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, a project conducted locally by young people of Central and Grace Methodist churches. Young people all over the nation joined in the Halloween promotion.

- Kings Mountain firemen have been going to school this week. Serman Pickard, representing the State Commissioner of Insurance, is the instructor and has been holding classes nightly for Kings Mountain's 24-man department, of whom 20 are volunteer firefighters.

- Moss Electrical Company opened for business this week in the Walker building, 504 E. King Street. It was announced by R. W. (Bill) Moss, owner.

- Kings Mountain City Schools will join in the nationwide observance of American Education week, beginning Sunday and continuing through November, Robert M. Kennedy, East School Principal and President of the Kings Mountain National Education Association Unit said this week. The schools will hold open house next week and are inviting all citizens to visit the schools during the observance.

- Pierre Dasen, 17-year-old exchange student from Geneva, Switzerland, has adjusted well to Kings Mountain life and is doing well in his activities here.

- The Kings Mountain Merchants Association is currently conducting a fund drive to improve the city's Christmas lighting.

- Fred Withers, Kings Mountain High School teacher, was elected chairman of the steering committee of Television-in-the Schools, a statewide program at a meeting at NC State College in Raleigh last weekend.

- Kings Mountain Woman's Club will hold "Teacher Recognition Day" on Tuesday during the national observance of American Education week.

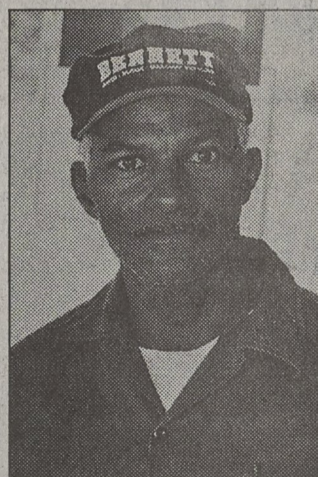
## SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY BEN LEDBETTER  
THE HERALD

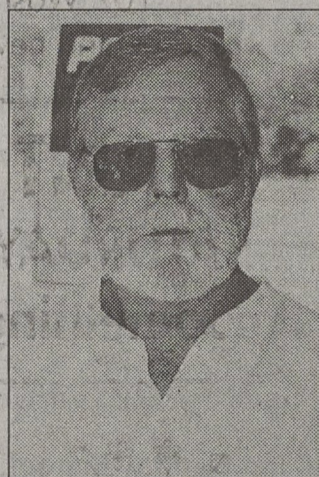
How important do you consider voting?



It's very important.  
Taris Howell  
Kings Mountain



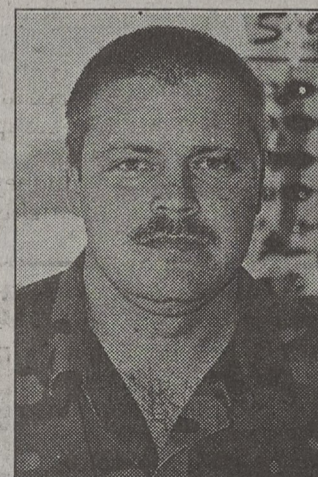
Voting is important because of our future kids.  
Allen Cole  
Kings Mountain



Pretty good, to make sure we get the right person in there.  
Roland Gibbons  
Lawndale



I think its important to vote.  
Lavander Little  
Monroe



I wonder sometimes if it makes a difference who you vote for.  
Billy Malpass  
Kings Mountain

Got a question you'd like to submit to Sidewalk Survey? Send your question by mail to us here at The Herald. If we use your question, we'll give you the credit.