

Liberty is worth preserving

A funny thing happened to British troops on that fateful October day in 1780.

They believed the Patriots were beaten down and that their remaining task, that of driving through the Carolinas and Virginia on to New York, would be a lark.

Lord Cornwallis and Major Patrick Ferguson made a serious error in judgement.

After the surrender of the huge American Army in Charleston, British troops had routed General Gates and his forces at Camden and had won another victory at Fishing Creek. In effect they had overrun the state of South Carolina and intended to do the same in North Carolina.

Bud they hadn't dealt with anything near the likes of the volunteer army that confronted them at Kings Mountain.

These hearty men, mostly farmers, with a few tradesmen mixed in, not only turned the Loyalist forces back, but defeated them soundly, killed Patrick Ferguson as he tried to escape the battle and turned the tide of the Revolutionary War.

The Patriots, dodging from tree to tree, swept up the sides of the mountain and laid waste to the British with devastating musketry.

There were cases of neighbor against neighbor and, in at least one incident, brother against brother.

The mountain fairly glowed with flashes and musket smoke hung to the trees for hours after the battle was over.

The Patriots exhibited uncommon valor during the Battle of Kings Mountain. Their courageous stand delayed Cornwallis' plan for several months, and the British eventually abandoned their North Carolina campaign.

The entire battle was over in one hour, but it was an hour marked by valor and patriotism on the part of American citizens who were tired of being ruled by despots.

Perhaps the lesson to be learned from that battle is that liberty is precious and worth fighting for. The Patriots at Kings Mountain were willing to lay down their lives for their country.

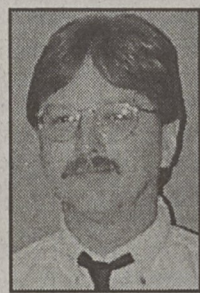
We wonder if Americans would willingly go that far today.

LOOKING BACK



Kings Mountain High's 1952 cheerleaders are pictured above. Left to right are Lois Ann Spake, Anne Dilling, Janel Medlin, Marcelene Spake and Maxine Eubanks.

Old time stores are getting harder to find



Alan Hodge
Guest Column

Like steam locomotives and moustache wax, old time stores are getting harder and harder to find.

Recently I had the good fortune to visit a genuine general store that hearkened back to the days when "rat" cheese was a dietary staple and bib overalls were the uniform of the day. The place I'm referring to is the Washburn Store near Bostic in Rutherford County. It was this trip that set me to recollecting some other quaint retail establishments that I have given trade to over the decades.

When I was a chap we lived for a time on Garrison Street in Occupied Eastern Belmont behind a lady we called Granny Carrot. There was a little grocery store on the corner, operated in those days I am told by a proprietress named Nanny Richardson. This was around 1959. Someone refresh my memory if I'm wrong about the owner.

Anyway, this store made several impressions on my young mind. In fact I still recall very clearly certain images from the establishment. The place always had some green sawdust-looking stuff on the floor, but I don't remember why. It also had a screen door with a metal piece across to push on. The metal piece advertised bread I think. The screen door always made a big slamming noise. It was hot inside the store and smelled like oil and wood.

Though I am certain my mommy sent me to this store for the staples of life such as bread and milk, my real mission was to get candy. Particular favorites that come to mind were little wax bottles of candy-juice and miniature marshmallow ice cream cones.

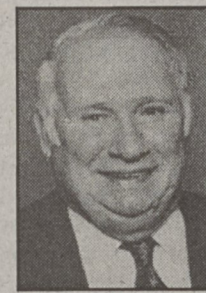
When we moved to Charlotte and lived on Attaberry Drive, there was a store at the corner of that street and Shamrock Drive. This little cinder block affair was known simply as "Utley's."

Two things from Utley's were placed in my memory bank. One was a type of snack that came in a cardboard tube and contained peanuts and loose coins. The coins were a prize. I wonder how many kids choked on the coins as they tipped the cardboard tube back to get at the nuts.

The other thing was some sort of medical condition that afflicted Mr. Utley's index finger. In a way that both amazed yet frightened us kids, his digit puffed up to the size of a hot dog. Perhaps he slammed it in a car door.

See Alan 5A

How in the world have we survived without all A's?



Jim Heffner
Columnist

There was a story from the left coast last week about a couple of parents petitioning their local school board to consider lowering the passing grade level for "some" students. Their thinking is that young children might be traumatized if they fail a grade and have to watch their friends advance while they stay behind to try to learn what the passing kids learned the first time around.

My question is why have school in the first place? It would eliminate a lot of paperwork if they would just issue diplomas and birth certificates at the same time.

It's hard to believe most of us have lived as long as we have. We survived at least 12 years of schooling, most of us that is. Some of us even flunked a grade and remained unscarred.

But not only that. As children, we rode in cars without seat belts and air bags. Why, we even rode in the back of pickup trucks on a warm day. That was a special treat.

Our baby cribs were probably covered with bright-colored lead-based paint. They might have been painted with it too.

One skeleton key fit every front door on the mill hill, but they weren't needed, because nobody locked their doors anyway.

We had no child-proof lids on medicine bottles and when we rode our bikes around the neighborhood, we didn't wear helmets. Some of us even skated up and down the streets without getting dragged off to juvenile court.

We drank water from garden hoses, and the stream that ran behind the house, not from a bottle purchased at the local market.

We spent hours building go-carts from scraps of lumber, then rode them down the hill, only to find we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned when to drag our feet, and we didn't get taken to the emergency room to treat the scratches from the bushes. Mom would just paint them with Bismuth of Violet or mercurochrome.

We left home in the morning and played all day, the only restriction we had was we had to be home when the street lights came on. Nobody could find us if we didn't want to be found, and nobody panicked.

We played dodgeball, and sometimes the ball really hurt, but we laughed about it and nobody got sued.

We ate cupcakes, bread and butter and drank sodas with

See Jim, 5A

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When Andy Dedmon votes it costs money

To the editor:

Recently I have noticed a few letters in our local newspapers concerning the votes that Representative Andy Dedmon did not cast upon the floor of the State House of Representatives. First of all, let me wish Rep. Dedmon's father a speedy recovery.

What concerns me more than the votes that Rep. Dedmon didn't cast are the ones that he actually voted on. Upon doing some research of the voting record of Rep. Dedmon I came across a few issues that - well, to put it bluntly - hit me right where it hurts, in the pocketbook.

I found out that Dedmon voted for the Budget Appropriations Act of 2001 (Senate Bill 1005), which included numerous tax increases. He also voted for the local option sales tax increase, which increased the sales tax from 6.5 cents to 7 cents (House Bill 1633).

Regardless of whether he was not present to vote for the additional half-cent tax increase voted upon recently, Dedmon is on record for already voting to increase our taxes. Dedmon also voted for the budget revenue act of 2002, which also included numerous tax increases.

I think the record is quite clear that Rep. Dedmon has a history of voting to raise taxes. I also found it quite disturbing that Dedmon signed a pledge with "Citizens for a Sound Economy" not to vote for any tax hikes. He has blatantly and numerous broken this pledge so much that he refused to even sign this same pledge again for this session passed.

This is not the type of leadership we need in Raleigh to represent Cleveland County, where still today many consider a man's word as his bond. The leadership role that Dedmon has obtained while in the

State House should have been used for the taxpayers of our county and not as a pawn on the governor's chessboard.

Governor Easley has taken money away from Cleveland County for the past two years and created havoc upon the county commissioners to scrounge for funds to keep the county operational and Andy Dedmon has done nothing but align himself with Governor Easley and his tax-hiking, county-robbing machine.

Mr. Dedmon, lower tax rates and tax incentives is what lures businesses to make commitments to provide jobs for our county, not tax increases. What this county and state needs is more jobs and less taxes.

In retrospect it's probably a good thing Andy Dedmon was not available to cast those votes. Seems like we may be better off when he doesn't vote. For when he does vote it seems to always cost me more

money.

Rebecca Estes Shelby

Murder victim's mother supports district attorney

To the editor:

My husband and I had only one child, Krista Byers. In 1997, she was brutally murdered. District Attorney Bill Young prosecuted her four killers.

Watching Mr. Young work gave me an appreciation of the difficulties he must handle. I had thought justice would come easily. I came to see that justice would not have come at all, but for his hard-nosed prosecution.

Mr. Young kept my husband and me informed. We witnessed the

See Letters, 5A

LOOK BACK

WKMT was being built 50 years ago

From the October 9, 1952 edition of the Kings Mountain Herald:

"Progress on the construction of Radio Station WKMT, Kings Mountain, is going forward and the station may get on the air waves by the middle of November, John Greene, partner in the enterprise, said this week. Greene and Rock Hill businessman R.H. Whitesides are partners in the radio station."

"Friction in the city's department of public works was aired at a special meeting of the city board of commissioners last Thursday, but only a minority of the board was present to hear the discussions. Present were Mayor Garland Still and Commissioners Olland Pearson and James Layton, while Commissioners Lloyd Davis, C.P. Barry and B.T. Wright were absent. Two employees claimed that another employee had used city materials in building of his residence."

"The Kings Mountain Little Theatre closed its 12-performance season Saturday night of "The Sword of Gideon," having played to approximately 4,000 persons."

"KMLT elected Jimmy Spivey as its president for the coming year, succeeding B.S. Peeler Jr., and welcomed six new members including Bill Briggs, Phyllis Ware, Phillip Baker, Mrs. Merle Beatty, John Curtis and Jane Looper."

"Sonny McDaniel has been named president of the senior class at Kings Mountain High School. Other officers elected were Darrell Austin, vice president; Janel Medlin, secretary; and Delores Davidson and Peggy Crocker, co-treasurers. Sarah Frances Mauney and Gary DeVinny were selected as class mascots."

"Kings Mountain failed to cross the goal line in two serious scoring threats at Forest City Legion Memorial Stadium Friday night as the Golden Tornadoes kept the goose eggs hanging with a 12-0 Western AA verdict."

Good buys at area merchants:

Baby blankets were selling for 69 cents to \$3.98 at Keeter's...Women's hats were going for \$2.50 to \$8.95 at Plonk's...Men's socks were 15 cents a pair at Myers Department Store, and winter suits were only \$19.95...

A year's subscription to The Herald was \$2.50...Bread was 15 cents a loaf, bananas two pounds for 25 cents, grapes three pounds for 29 cents, 20 packs of chewing gum 67 cents, ham 49 cents a pound, Kellogg's Sugar Corn Pops two packages for 20 cents, cigarettes 16 cents a pack, and kerosene five gallons for 80 cents at Blalock's Park-In.

A 36-piece electric drill kit was \$12.95 and an automatic coffee maker \$6.95 at City Auto Home Supply...Admission to the KMHS football games was \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students, and a double feature and cartoon at Kings Mountain and Bessemer City Drive-In was only 40 cents with children under 12 getting in free. Admission on Monday and Tuesday nights was 50 cents a car load.