

A little this 'n that

Random thoughts:

Compared to last week and the first of this week, the weather today may feel like a heat wave. But, don't get too used to it. A year ago today



Gary Stewart
Editor

the Kings Mountain area had an ice storm... I think there may be some confusion by a few citizens about the city-YMCA agree-

ment. The city pays the Y approximately \$300,000 a year to run its recreation program and from the outside looking in it seems to be a good deal for the city. I doubt very seriously that Kings Mountain could run much of a recreation program for \$300,000 a year, and the city recoups a lot of that money through the Y's utility payments. As for folks paying to play sports, that has become necessary in a lot of sports nationwide, even high school sports. But I'm sure if a kid that cannot afford to pay to play sports tries out for a team at the Y, someone will make sure he gets to play...

Again, the Board of Adjustments will vote on some video poker permits tonight. I don't play video poker, and it would suit me just fine if it was banned. But isn't it odd that the city and the state law enforcement turn their heads on raffles in churches, schools, clubs, sports, and almost any other organization you can think of?

The death of Johnny Carson over the weekend took from us probably the best late night comedian in TV history. Today's late-nighters can't compare to him. Some of the acts he had on his show - most of which were not rehearsed - were some of the most hilarious you'll ever see, especially the animals from the zoos. And Carson was probably the best ad-libber ever. A couple of local people even made it on Carson's Tonight Show. Remember Chainsaw Ted from Cherryville and Barney Odom and his tree-climbing dog, Flat Nose from South Carolina? Flat Nose appeared several times in KM. Somewhere, I still have a picture of him that I made when he climbed a tree in Kings Mountain.

If the Super Bowl is anything like Sunday's NFC and AFC championship games, the most exciting thing to watch on Sun., Feb. 6 will be the commercials. It seems like I heard someone say that the halftime entertainment will be Paul McCartney. Even he won't be too good without John, George and Ringo...

My how times change! It seems the uproar over school merger is now taking place across the creek as parents in the Elizabeth community are upset that their kids are going to be reassigned to Shelby middle and high schools from Crest. It'll all work out. In '61 I was caught up in merger (they called in consolidation back then) and I hated leaving Grover to come to Kings Mountain. But after a few days you make new friends and get used to the new surroundings and everything works out just fine.

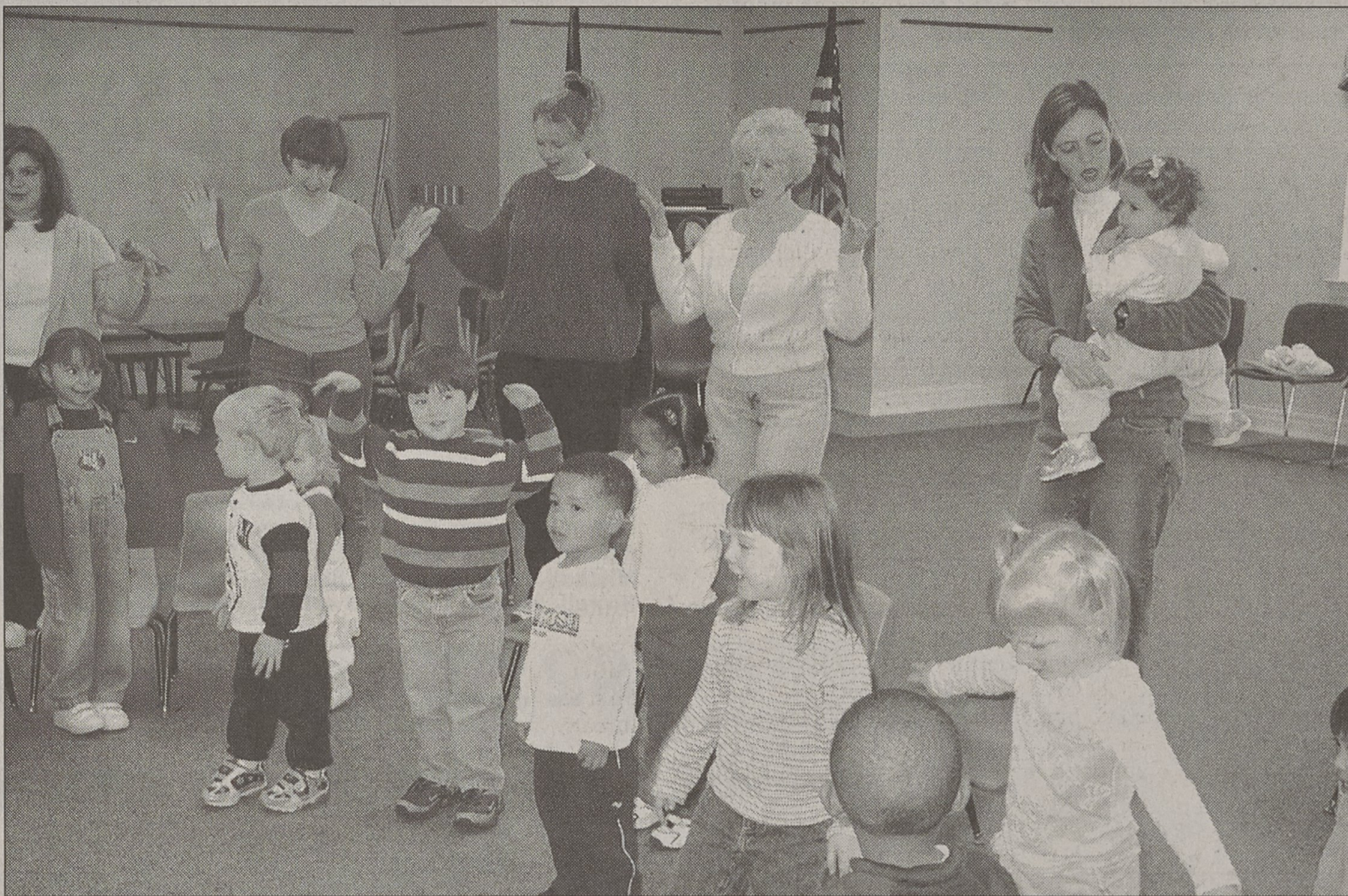
OPINION

The Kings Mountain Herald

Thursday, January 27, 2005

4A

FUN AT THE LIBRARY



Toddlers, their parents and caregivers pretend to fly while singing the Bear Hunt Song during story time at Mauney Memorial Library. Story time for children three to five years old starts at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays. Toddlers two and under meet at 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Living wage would make SS idea work



Andie Brymer
Staff Writer

President George Bush promoted an ownership society during his inaugural address last week. Sounds Clintonesque to me.

The details are different. Bush is moving toward privatizing Social Security. Clinton turned welfare into workfare.

Both ideas have merit. I think most of us agree that young, healthy folks should work for their living instead of getting an allowance from the government. As for Social Security, I like the opportunity to take control of a bit of that money that so far has gone out of my paycheck and into government coffers, though I'm not convinced Social Security is in the dire straits Bush describes.

However, neither of these good ideas will work if we don't have a living wage. One can't invest money one doesn't have. Individuals can't afford housing, food, transportation, utilities and insurance on minimum wage. If you don't believe me, read Barbara Ehrenreich's "Nickel and Dimed: On Not Getting By In America."

I don't know of any elected leaders pushing for a living wage. I'm sure a few have tried but the legislation hasn't gotten on the radar. I'm not surprised. Paying a living wage would mean smaller profit margins for the people at the top. Those same folks are often the ones who make large campaign contributions.

The situation isn't without hope though. Economic salvation could come in the form of labor unions. I know, I said the "L word" and I don't mean "liberal." This "L word" brings a far stronger emotional reaction. Here in the south it's almost blasphemous.

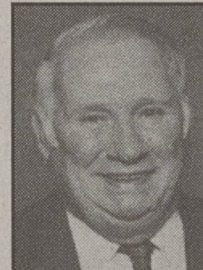
Why? Only the powerful stand to lose. Unions mean higher wages for workers.

Union detractors point to crooked labor bosses. All organizations must be mindful of the tendency toward corruption. Labor is not immune but lets not throw the proverbial baby out with the bath water.

More and more American jobs are going to Third World countries where labor comes cheaper. The wages demanded by U.S. labor unions have been blamed for this. The detractors may be partially correct, however it's not just heavily unionized states who have lost jobs. North Carolina, by no means a pro-Union state, has been hit hard.

If laborers across the world were unionized that would end the problem for good. Maybe instead of spreading a vague "liberty," Bush could vow to spread fair, living wages across the world. Liberty, on its own, would follow.

I just want everything that Dell gets



Jim Heffner
Columnist

Dell wants to build a computer manufacturing company in North Carolina. If it comes to pass, according to reports from the state, 2500 new jobs will be made available, even more when the smaller companies which serve a large manufacturing plant are considered.

The problem is Dell wants a truckload of promises before it will make a commitment. They've already asked the state for half the world, and now they want to operate for the first 20 years without paying taxes. Chances are our stalwart governor will end up giving them what they want.

I'd like to operate for the next 20 years without paying taxes, but I've got about as much chance of that as a chain smoker being given a clean bill of health.

Major league baseball has agreed to move to Washington, D.C. now that the Washington city council has agreed to build them a \$200 million stadium.

It reminds me of the movie "Field of Dreams." Remember the voice that whispers: "If you build it he will come."

Well, if you build a stadium, a sports team will come. If you give a large company 10 zillion dollars and your first born child, they will build a plant in your state, and suck the taxpayers dry, while pocketing prodigious profits.

Whatever happened to the get out of my way and let me make my own living attitude? August A. Busch built his own stadium in St. Louis for his baseball team. He didn't saddle citizens with his company's expenses. Charles Comiskey did the same thing in Chicago.

That's the way it used to be everywhere in sports and in business.

My message to Dell is take your company elsewhere if you expect a free ride.

Does anybody think they would sell computer equipment to North Carolinians at a discount if we let them build their factory here?

I don't know what motivates people in positions of power. Over in the world class city, voters turned down the idea of tax money to finance a basketball arena, yet the mayor and city council gave the new basketball franchise everything they wanted.

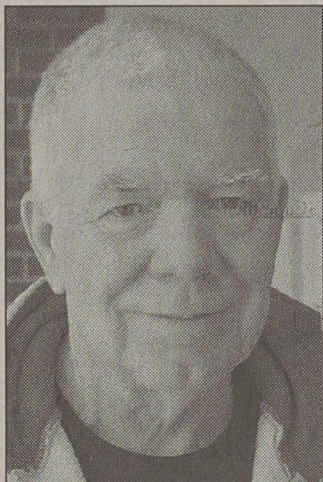
Ironically, the man who brought the team to Charlotte is a multi-millionaire. I guess he has all that money because everybody gives him what he wants.

I'm thinking about sending a letter to several cities telling them, I'll move there if the city fathers will build me a company. My idea should be attractive to them. I'll See Heffner, 5A

SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
THE HERALD

What do you think of the amount spent on the Presidential inauguration?



I think it's a lot. I understand it has always been that way.
Don Roark
Kings Mountain



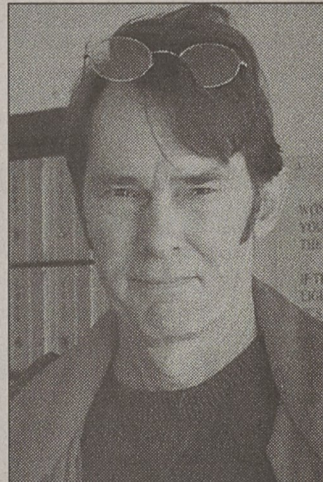
I think it's just fine. I'm 100 percent behind him.
Mary Krieger
Kings Mountain



They should have given that money to the U.S. to help us get jobs.
Mary McKinney
Kings Mountain



I know it's necessary but it's too much money.
Tommy Hawkins
Kings Mountain



I'm against it. That money could have been used in our area to help people.
Tony Washam
WKMT radio
Kings Mountain

LOOK BACK

The Herald changed hands in January '35

From the Thursday, Jan. 17, 1935 edition of the Kings Mountain Herald:

With this issue of the Herald, the management passes from Eugene Matthews, lessee, to H.E. Lynch, lessee, G.G. Page, owner and former editor of the Kings Mountain Herald, announced.

E.W. Goldsmith, Supervisor of Safety and Sanitation for the Southern Railway System, paid a visit to the Kings Mountain Central School Monday.

The Men's Business Club at their meeting Thursday heard open discussion on the prospect of getting Kings Mountain National Military Park in the near future. The last Congress passed a bill authorizing \$250,000 for establishing Kings Mountain National Park, but no appropriation was made for it.

After paying all local expenses of the Post Office except for the R.F.D. carriers, the Kings Mountain Post Office had a net surplus for the year of 1933 of \$652.38 and after paying all local expenses of 1934 except the R.F.D. carriers, the Post Office had a surplus of \$3,501.15.

Members of the Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter, D.A.R., were entertained at the home of Mrs. Booth Gillespie Thursday with Mrs. W.S. Dilling as hostess. Mrs. W.T. Weir had charge of the program.

Friends of E.W. Griffin will be interested to know that he is able to be out again following an illness of several weeks.

Dr. O.P. Lewis, who has been confined to his room on account of an attack of flu during the past week, is able to be out again.

The regular meeting of the Woman's Club will be held Friday afternoon at 3:30. Mrs. W.K. Mauney and Mrs. Ladd Hamrick will have charge of the program.

A Crazy Barn Dance will be held Saturday at 7:45 sharp at the high school auditorium.

Good Buys:

Fresh eggs were 29 cents a dozen, potted meat was 3 cans for 10 cents, Pure fresh ground coffee was 15 cents a pound, Heinz soups were 2 for 25 cents, jello was 3 for 19 cents, U.S. No. 1 Irish potatoes were 10 pounds for 15 cents, pinto beans were 3 pounds for 25 cents, and bananas were four pounds for 19 cents at the Home Store...

New 1935 V-8 Ford trucks were \$500 at J.S.P. Motors...A new Standard Chevrolet car was \$465 at Cleveland Motor Company, and the New Master De Luxe was \$560.