

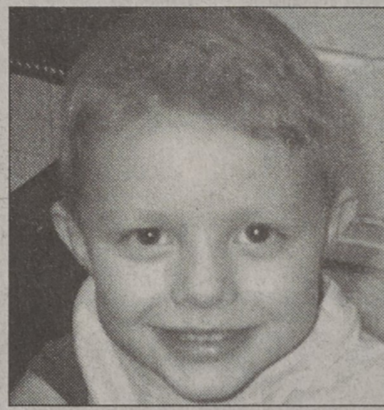
SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY EMILY WEAVER
THE HERALD

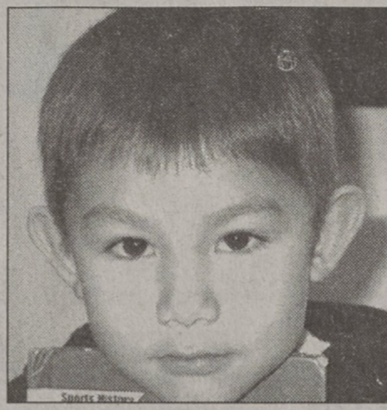
If you could have one super power what would it be and why?



Andrew Estridge, West Elementary
"Laser vision to blow stuff up."



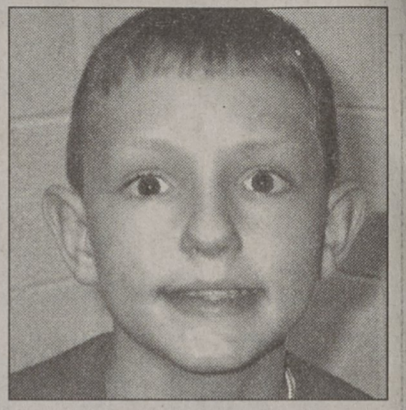
Josh Lewis, West Elementary
"Heat vision to destroy the universe (or maybe to help people)."



Mason Nguyen, West Elementary
"To be a great catcher so I could be a good football player."



Meredith Wyte, West Elementary
"To sing really well because I love singing."



Dolan Ball, West Elementary
"A high-pitched scream that would bring down walls."

GUEST COLUMN

We know how to talk in the South

Ever since American voters suffered simultaneous brain cramps and elected Jimmy Carter, those cotton picking Yankee writers have been publishing books on how Southerners talk.

They always include words they perceive we use, such as Jawjuh (Georgia) and rats (rights).

That's all malarkey, of course, but we do have our own way of saying things, as do those smart alecky Yankees.

I will admit to using "cane chew" (can't you) quite a bit, but it isn't our words that are unusual, it's the way we express ourselves.

The Yankees say we use "bob war" for barbed wire. Everybody in the South knows that isn't true. The correct term is "bob wire."

One of the words we use, a little oddly perhaps, is "fixin." It means getting ready, as in "I'm fixin' to go to the grocery store." Everybody in the South uses that term.

Another expression we use down here is "connipion fit." Example: "Old Charlie had a connipion fit when he stepped on that piece of bob wire."

That is not to be confused with a "hissy fit." Hissy fit is a purely feminine term, while connipion fit is used by men and women.

Then there are axioms such as tight as Dick's hat band. I can't say who started that one, but I know my Uncle Mose was tight as Dick's hat band. He was buried with the first dollar he ever made. Mose was the only man I've ever known who refused to say a curse word.

He would say "Oh hello," for Oh hell. The strongest words he ever used were "spit fire." You figure it out.

"Reckon as how" is another one. "I reckon as how I might go to the hardware and buy a roll of bob wire."

I'm beginning to run out of space and I haven't even used some of my favorites. My grandmother always said "I swanney." I can hear her now, getting up in the morning and saying: "I swanney, it's going to be another hot day."

When Southerners are irritated with someone they will say: "I'm plumb put out with those cotton picking Yankees."

They are especially put out with anyone who "puts on the dog."

Putting on the dog means showing off, or trying to be more than you are. Grandma would say something like "I swanney, I'm all put out with that woman. She struts around in that tight dress putting on the dog. She looks like a street walking strumpet. I "seed" (saw) her traipsin down the street the other night and I got mad as a wet hen."

"Tard" to a Southerner means worn out, i.e. "I've worked hard and I'm tard as I can be."

By the same token, when you quit working and draw your "rockin' chair money" you're "retard." Those are the days when you can "rare" back in a chair in front of the "far" and begin to enjoy life.

I guess my two favorite Southern terms are "quare" and "curuss." Quare to a old time Southerner means odd or queer. "I swanney, she shore is quare."

Curuss is a redneck version of curious, and is used thusly. "You know, that boy shore is quare. He's right curuss acting."

It all makes sense to me, but good gravy, some people think I'm right curuss acting.

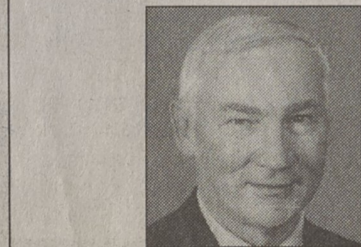
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LOOKING BACK



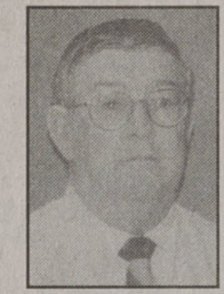
This photo circa 1940 is inside L.L. Alexander Grocery on North Piedmont Avenue in Kings Mountain. The grocery store open in 1934 until the late 1950s. Pictured, left to right, are L.L. Alexander, his wife Lula, sons Dwight (small boy in front), James and Charles (far right).

OUR VIEW

Time for county leash law

Things I'd like to see in 2007:

More (and higher paying) jobs in Cleveland County. Despite the good economic news we've had lately with companies such as Chris-Craft Boats, Indian Motorcycles, Telerx and Parker Hannifin locating here and/or expanding, the unemployment rate is still



Gary Stewart
Editor

higher than it should be. According to the Employment Security Commission, the overall employment picture in the state is good but in November the percentage of unemployed workers increased in 92 counties.

A countywide leash law. If the recent mauling of a 10-year-old boy by three dogs on Mountainside Drive isn't enough to convince county commissioners that something has to be done about all of these animals running loose, nothing will. Although this is the first time something of this magni-

tude has happened in that community, it is not the first time dogs have caused problems in the community. I know of at least two nearby property owners - myself being one of them - who had goats killed by big dogs running loose. If the county can require property owners to put tarps over their trash before hauling it to the dump, they at the very least can require

people to keep their dogs up. Trash on the side of the road may be unsightly but I've never known it to cause physical harm to someone.

Fewer politicians and more public servants. It seems like when some politicians get a little power they're more interested in keeping that power than doing what's right for the people.

The Herald
KINGS MOUNTAIN

Published every Thursday
Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.
Postmaster, send address changes to:
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611
Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086
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Mail Subscription Rates
Payable in Advance. All Prices include 6% NC State Sales Tax.

	1 Year	6 Months
Gaston & Cleveland County	\$27.00	\$17.50
Other NC Counties	\$28.50	\$19.25
Outside NC	\$33.50	\$21.25

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