

GUEST COLUMN

Frankie Laine and the American Idol

Music has my interest this week.

First there was the death of Frankie Laine. He was 93 when he passed away, so chances are younger folks won't remember him.

Laine had a strong baritone voice with a raspy, back-of-the-throat quality. A complex combination which lent distinction to his vocals. There was no mistaking a Frankie Laine rendering. As soon as the first words were sung, there was little doubt about the artist.

Several Laine hits stand out in my mind. There was That's my Desire, Jezebel, I Believe, That Lucky Old Sun and Gimbella, the Gambling Lady. But most of all, there was Mule Train, a mega hit for Laine during the 1950s. He also sang the theme for the TV series Rawhide.

Tex Ritter sang the theme for the Gary Cooper movie High Noon, but Laine's recording of the song was a much bigger hit.

He could handle several genres, including jazz and country, as well as romantic ballads. Laine was also a decent actor.

He will be missed in the world of music.

Secondly, there is American Idol. The wildly popular TV show is on for the sixth consecutive season and is drawing bigger numbers than ever.

Now, however, there is a new phenomenon.

The show is drawing interest from news and talk shows. Most of them are saying the judges are too cruel to those who audition and can't sing a lick.

Some of the contestants who have been turned down are showing up on the Today Show, Larry King Live, Good Morning America and other cable shows.

The bleeding heart anchors of

these shows seem to take pleasure in demeaning the AI judges: Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and especially Simon Cowell.

The NBC network seems to crawl all over the show constantly. One of their cable outlets, MSNBC, is especially vitriolic.

Former Congressman Joe Scarborough, who claims to be a conservative, but doesn't have a conservative bone in his body, has a special segment every night just to knock American Idol. He has a former failed contestant on his show who he thinks gives him validity, and she agrees with him every time he says something negative about the AI.

MSNBC, of course, has its own agenda. The Fox News Network leaves them in the dust ratings-wise, and Fox owns American Idol. Scarborough and Keith Olbermann, MSNBC's two "stars," love to bash Fox, especially Bill O'Reilly and AI.

O'Reilly eats Olbermann's lunch every night, and Hannity and Colmes constantly outdraws Scarborough.

Not only that, the NBC brass despise Fox because it leans to conservatism.

NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN and all the other news outlets lean left.

The difference is that Fox admits they are conservative, but the others claim they are simply middle of the road. Su-u-u-r-re they are.

At any rate American Idol will press on. It is a popular show, because it is entertaining. The people who go on know they have an excellent chance of being embarrassed. They choose to go on anyway, even though most of them sound like a dying goat in a hailstorm.

The show is bringing back good music, which people can hum and whistle the next day around the water cooler.

How many people have you ever seen standing around a water cooler in an office rapping one of Kanye West's filthy lyrics?

Up with American Idol and down with rap and crap.

LOOKING BACK



Ann Harbison supplied this photo of downtown Kings Mountain in 1948. The picture was taken by her father, Yates Harbison, who was the longtime manager of Winn-Dixie in Kings Mountain. The Dixie Home Market pictured here was the first store he managed. Winn Dixie later moved to Cherokee Street (the current home of Plonk Tire) and then moved to the KM Plaza on Shelby Road.

KM got 15 inches of snow in '69

From the February 20, 1969 files of the Herald:

King Winter dumped one of his biggest surprises on the Piedmont Carolinas during the weekend and Kings Mountain area citizens were still digging out on Wednesday. Cleveland County residents experienced their deepest snowfall since 1902, as an official 15 inches of the white stuff was recorded.

Linda Pearson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Pearson, and Douglas Sessoms, son of Mrs. Betty Sessoms, are Kings

Mountain's Top Teenagers of 1968. The awards were presented by the Optimist Club Friday at Kings Mountain High School. Runners-up were Nancy Reynolds, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Reynolds, and Mike McDaniel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde McDaniel.

Incumbent city commissioners Ray Cline, T.J. Ellison, Norman King and W.S. Biddix were the first to file for the 1969 municipal elections.

W.D. Flowers has been named Sales Manager for the Marketing Department of Southern Bell

Telephone Company in Gastonia.

Construction of a unique "Welcome to Kings Mountain" sign - a replica of the monument at Kings Mountain national Military Park - is nearing completion on U.S. 74 at the western city limits.

Charlie Dixon, "the Walking Man's Friend," owner and operator of Victory Chevrolet for many years, announces that effective March 1 the company's name will be changed to Dixon Chevrolet, Inc.

Billy F. King, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Willis F. King, was graduated from Technical School at Chanute AFB, Illinois, as an Aircraft Electrical Specialist.

Mayor John Henry Moss was recently appointed a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Council of the Cleveland County Board of Health.

Forty-six students from KMHS will be guests to hear Commander M. Scott Carpenter, one of the original seven U.S. astronauts, speak in Charlotte on Sat., Feb. 22.

YOUR VIEW

A 'Jewel' in this world

To the editor:
Jewel B. Leigh was a very lovely lady.

The friendship that Jewel, my sister Etha Bumgardner and I enjoyed was a very special and unique one.

Before Jewel's health declined and Etha's death, we always called each other on the telephone, saying "Let's hit the road and go shopping." We would enter the department stores and Jewel and I could always spot what we liked - the same style of clothing.

Jewel would always say, "I want something that will knock your eyeballs out."

Then we would have lunch at a very special place and if we made it home by dark, that would be a surprise to us and also our husbands.

The friendship we shared was very special. As I entered her house, Jewel would say, "Hello, Molly." That was Jewel's nickname for me - only she called me Molly.

She will be missed by all. We had some "good ole" times. If there was a jewel in this world, she was that jewel. My love goes out to her and her family.

Myra Hagans
Kings Mountain

It seems like the older I get everything that happens brings back memories of the past. There are three ladies who work back in the mail room here at the Herald - Betty Johnson, Mary Wood and Helen Wells - and we share a lot of those old memories.



Gary Stewart
Editor

A couple weeks ago the folks over at Crowders Mountain State Park were having a controlled burn. State and federal parks around here have them quite often to burn off all the dead stuff and help the natural plants come back to life.

I was sharing with the ladies that when I was growing up way out in the sticks there used to be at least one woods fire every summer.

I grew up - and still live - on part of what was my grandfather's farm. He had about 400 acres along Kings Creek and when he died it was divided among his children, each getting what the deeds called "40 acres more or less." Until my father's generation got old all of the land basically stayed in the family.

There were no rural fire departments in those days, so anytime the woods caught on fire the property owners and other men in the community would have to get together and take brush tops and beat the fire out. (Maybe that's where my mother's expression "If you don't behave I'm gonna beat the

fire out of you" came from).

As I said earlier, there were woods fires every summer. There were also tales that spread every summer of a bear, monster, or mountain lion on the loose in the community and that you should not be out roaming around in the woods. I recall a lot of folks talking about seeing paw prints "at least 12 inches across" and telling stories about things being destroyed by these animals.

Mary, who lived on the York Road, says she did see a bear one time when she was hanging out clothes. It had gotten out of its cage at a beer joint called the "Bear Den" just across the South Carolina state line.

I never saw any of the creatures. Come to think of it, since the bootleggers died out the woods haven't caught on fire either.

The Herald

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Kings Mountain City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the Kings Mountain City Hall, 101 W. Gold Street, Kings Mountain, NC. The purpose of this hearing is to receive citizen comments about a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application the City is submitting to the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance (DCA).

The City is requesting \$440,000 in CDBG funds to install 6,400 linear feet of 8" sewer lines and connections to 31 single family housing units in the Westover neighborhood on the west side of Kings Mountain on the north side of U.S. Highway 74A. These funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to serve low and moderate income households.

All interested persons are invited to attend this hearing. Persons with disabilities, non-English speaking persons or those needing special assistance should contact the City offices at (828) 734-0333 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing, or the North Carolina relay number for the deaf at 1-800-735-8262.

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