

Opinions

Telling the story of a legend...

John Henry Moss

By Lib Stewart

The man who shaped the South Atlantic Baseball League - Kings Mountain's John Henry Moss, former mayor for 24 years and a baseball legend in his own right after spending a half-century living baseball, is the subject of his part biography, part South Atlantic League history, in the new book just off the press by retired sports writer Bob Terrell, "John Henry Moss-Baseball's Miracle Man."

Moss presented three copies of the 174-page easy-to-read book to Jacob S. Mauney Memorial Library this week. Librarian Sharon Stack is planning a book-signing prior to the holidays.

Kings Mountain folk have long known the accomplishments of Moss in and for the Kings Mountain community, his forethought and leadership in the planning and construction of city-owned Moss Lake as a much needed water source, and now a much touted recreation/residential area, his legacy.

To recognize his 50 year contribution to baseball the SAL will retire No. 50 throughout the league, an honor afforded to only one other man, Jackie Robinson. Ridgetop Books, 206 Riva Ridge Dr., Fairview, NC 28730 published the book available at \$16. Copies will also be made



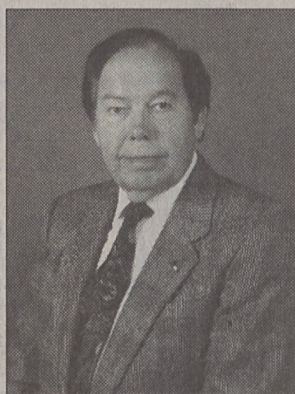
available at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum or log onto www.brightmountainbooks.com.

Baseball stadiums across the Southeast are putting up bronze plaques to honor John Henry Moss's successful effort to keep the stands full and to provide quality, wholesome, family entertainment at an affordable price.

Terrell, the author of over 70 books, has written for over 40 years about the Asheville Tourists and other teams in the South Atlantic, Tri-State, Southern and Western Carolina Leagues, and millions of words about baseball, according to Moss. The two have been friends since 1948 when John Henry met Bob at an All-Star game in Asheville when Terrell was on the sports staff of The Asheville Citizen-Times.

They got their heads together for this book and lots of research materials came from Moss collections compiled by his late wife, Elaine.

This book is a celebration of the South Atlantic League as well as the man who shaped it.



John Henry Moss

Merry Pre-Christmas all y'all!

Most of you who have read this column for the last year and a half know by now that I am a sucker for this time of year. Fall is way up on the Powell's list as quite possibly our most favorite time of the year, with the exception of Christmas.

However, old fogies that we are, we still get a bit leery when we turn on our television to watch our favorite shows and we get inundated with more pre-Christmas advertisements and commercials then you can shake a stick at. I get that advertisers have to start early in order to make sure their products are seen by all the tots out there, many of whom haven't even gotten started on their Santa letters yet, but give us all a break! Some of these businesses began their Christmas ad blast way back in July and August. No doubt many wish it could be Christmas all year 'round. However, buyers have to have a breather every now and then.

My wife and I, once we get over the shock of the aforementioned inundation's usually try to make the best of it, fantasizing about buying our new grandson something truly grandiose for his first Christmas. By grandiose, I mean something on the order of one of those battery-powered Cadillac Escalades or a battery-powered Harley-Davidson. When we call our daughter to tell her about what we want to do, her usual answer is "Daddy He's only a few months old! He won't be able to ride it until he's at least one!" Sheesh! She acts like he's going to fall off it or something. I mean, for crying out loud, his dad races cars and motorcycles, right? He can teach him how to hang on and when to give it the gas in a curve!

Once we hear her argument, my wife elbows me and says, "Honey, she's right. He's just a baby. He's so little and we both know his tiny toes can't quite reach the floor even when he's in his walker. Now, just imagine him trying to reach the pedal on one of those kinds of toys." I hate their girl logic sometimes. It makes me mad that they're always right! Both of them! And at the same time! I tell you, it's a conspiracy and they surely must've formed it when "Killa" was born. Poor "Killa" and "Killa's" father. They're doomed.

I'm not too worried though, because I know the Christmas commercials will continue, increasing as the day of all days draws closer. Fortunately, I can sit in front of the television and have my senses blasted by toy after toy paraded before my eyes, begging me to buy it. I'm so into watching it, I'm too weak to reach for the remote and do the manly thing, like turning off the "tellie".

I finally get around to turning off the infernal machine and we get ready for bed. My wife, seeing I have a crazed look in my eye, tells me to get the mail. Oh, yeah! That'll calm my nerves! Like a lamb being led to the slaughter, I step outside, reach into our mailbox and pull back what appears to be thousands, if not millions, of brightly colored mailers, resplendent with every toy imaginable. Before I can chuck them into the waste bin, she snatches them from me and runs upstairs with them, laughing maniacally. She thinks this is a game. It is. A cruel one!

To make matters worse, my compatri-

POWELL'S NOTEBOOK



By MICHAEL E. POWELL
Editor@mycherryville.com

ots in the journalism and advertising world I know so well have let me down too by jamming the local papers already with what look like larger, more garish versions of the smaller fliers I retrieved from my mailbox. Is there no escape from all this?

I plop myself down on our bed as my wife is humming to herself and smiling like a child, rifling through the Christmas ads like an old veteran. "Grab a stack and help me look," she says.

"Look for what," I dully mumble. "Why silly, for 'Killa's' first Christmas present, of course," she replies. "I just know it's here somewhere!"

Looking at the inserts and fliers piled high on our bed, I know I have my work cut out for me. I'm beside myself with the fear I know she must surely see. As a man, my shopping know-how amounts to, like all of my gender, entering a store after seeing what I want on TV (sometimes), then heading to the mall or a big box store and purchasing same.

Seeing my dejected look, my wife asks, "What's wrong? I thought this was your favorite time of the year? Help me out here, O.K.? We've got to find something for our grandson. It's his first Christmas!"

"Yes, I know," says I. "And it may very well be my last if I don't find some way to de-Grinchify myself!"

After what seems like hours wading through insert after insert, I finally fall back on my pillow, too exhausted to look at another advertisement. I turn on the television, hoping against hope that my favorite channel, the History Channel, will have something totally escapist on to distract me from the reality of pre-Christmas shopping.

I can see I've just missed the "Search for the Real Sasquatch," so I wait for the next program, hoping it will be about great battles or something equally cool and manly. Suddenly I see it. Brand new to the History Channel, shown for the very first time: "The History of Black Friday - Shopping on the day after Thanksgiving!" I can't win. I throw down the remote and roll over and try to get some sleep. All I can see after I shut my eyes is me sinking in a sea of multi-colored fliers while "Killa" rides a wee battery-powered Harley-Davidson motorcycle around my head. I just can't win, even in my dreams.

Oh, well...Merry pre-Christmas!

New Classes at YMCA

Kings Mountain Family YMCA has added two new classes, the nationally acclaimed Hip Hop Hustle & Turbokick. No experience is required to take the classes which are taking reservations.

Mauney Library opens door to new friends

Mauney Memorial Library is looking for new friends to join in support of its activities and role in the KM community. Friends can join now for a small \$2 membership fee.

Friends of the Mauney Memorial Library are a group of concerned citizens that recognize the importance of the library to the citizens of Kings Mountain. Their purpose is to support the mission, goals and objectives of the library and the Board of Trustees. Their efforts support the library's book and materials collection as well as the Summer Reading Program.

Becoming a Friend entitles members to be invited to special events and early admission to book sales. In 1989, the Friends of the Library was an active group of volunteers. The group ceased existence in 1994.

The lifetime memberships that were purchased through the 1989 Friends will be honored by the current organization. For more information, contact any Board member or Library Director Sharon Stack at 704-739-2371.

Notice

If you have left a photo at The Herald and wish to reclaim it, please do so

THIS WEEK!

We will be moving into our new building at 700 E. Gold St. next week. **Unclaimed photographs will be destroyed at that time.**

Thanks for protecting our neighborhood

Letter to the Editor:

The residents of the West End Neighborhood along with many citizens of Kings Mountain were so relieved, when, last Thursday, Walgreens withdrew plans to build one of its combination drug and convenience stores in the West End neighborhood.

Walgreens says they pulled out because of the economy, but this is unlikely because of the timing of their announcement. They withdrew just hours before the Planning & Zoning Board was to vote on the rezoning they needed to build the store.

Do you really believe that Walgreens just realized last Thursday that the economy would not sup-

42¢ Forum...

Letters to the Editor

port a new store here? I doubt that. If the economy was the reason, they would have pulled out a long time ago.

The real reason they pulled out is that they realized that the citizens of Kings Mountain did not want a combination drug and convenience store destroying one of our beautiful, traditional residential neighborhoods.

Our public officials and the citizens serving on the Planning and Zoning Board understand the importance of protecting our

residential areas. This development would have eventually destroyed a large part of our neighborhood.

Walgreens finally saw the handwriting on the wall, and made a face saving retreat.

Thanks to everyone who supported the West End Neighborhood on this issue! I hope Walgreens will now find a better location for their Kings Mountain store.

Helen Hatch
Kings Mountain

Kings Mountain Herald

Published every Wednesday

Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086

USPS 118-880 by Gemini 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

E-mail: heraldnews@kingsmountainherald.com

Bill Parsons - Publisher
(bparsons@kingsmountainherald.com)

Emily Weaver - Editor
(eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com)

Gary Stewart - Sports Editor

Lib Stewart - Staff Reporter

Nancy Miller - Advertising Coordinator

Lisa Zylbe - Composing Manager

Wendy Isbell - Office Manager

Kathy Reynolds - Circulation/Classified

Betty Johnson - Mailroom Supervisor

Helen Wells - Inserter

Mary Wood - Inserter

Mail Subscription Rates Payable in Advance.

All Prices include 6% NC State Sales Tax.

	1 Year	6 Months
Gaston & Cleveland County	\$28.00	\$17.50
Other NC Counties	\$29.50	\$19.25
Outside NC	\$34.50	\$21.25



We reserve the right to refuse any advertisements or news that we deem inappropriate or offensive to our readership.