

Vol. 1 No. 3

Kings Mountain, N.C. Wednesday, September 15, 1971

Employees Pleased With Change

Local Industry Experiments With Shorter Work Week

In keeping with the national trend toward a shorter work week, and due to a shortage of skilled labor, Mauney Hosiery Mills Inc. has become one of the first industries in the Kings Mountain area to initiate a 10 hour shift and shorter work week.

The new shift changes went into effect on Labor day in the knitting department and dye house, eliminating the third shift, and creating two 10 hour shifts.

Employees in these departments are now working 50 hours a week, and getting time

and a half for all over 40 hours, and no Saturday work.

Charles Mauney, 37 year old General Manager of the hosiery mill, says the change affects presently about 85 of the plant's 300 employees. The new schedule, said Mauney, "will provide employees. The new schedule, said Mauney, "will provide employees with a shorter work week and more leisure time off."

The two remaining shifts now run from 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. and from 4 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Horace Brown, Manager of the Knitting Department, which is affected by the change says he feels that his 60 employees all like the new work week from a pay standpoint.

"I feel that two shifts can cooperate better together than three shifts, and also feel that it will improve the running of the machinery. By putting the most experienced help on the first and second shifts we cut down considerably on the payroll, said Brown, who has been with Mauney for 21 years, the last 4 as Manager of

the knitting department.

His department knits 15-16000 dozen pairs of socks per week, ready for dyeing on 288 machines.

Employees in the knitting department expressed general satisfaction with the 10 hour work day.

Helen Moss, who will have been with the company 20 years in December, said, "I like it better than working on Saturday. . . It's a big help in the paycheck."

Roy Aldridge, head mechanic with the Knitting Department for 10 years, com-

mented that so far he likes it fine. "The more people on a machine, the more trouble you'll have this cut out most of the inexperienced help." Aldridge said he is already noticing less major problems with the machinery.

Victoria Bess is "Looking forward to payday-it's not too bad-the worst part is getting up earlier. There's no Saturday work, before we never knew about working on Saturdays, now we know we're going to be off, so you can make plans."

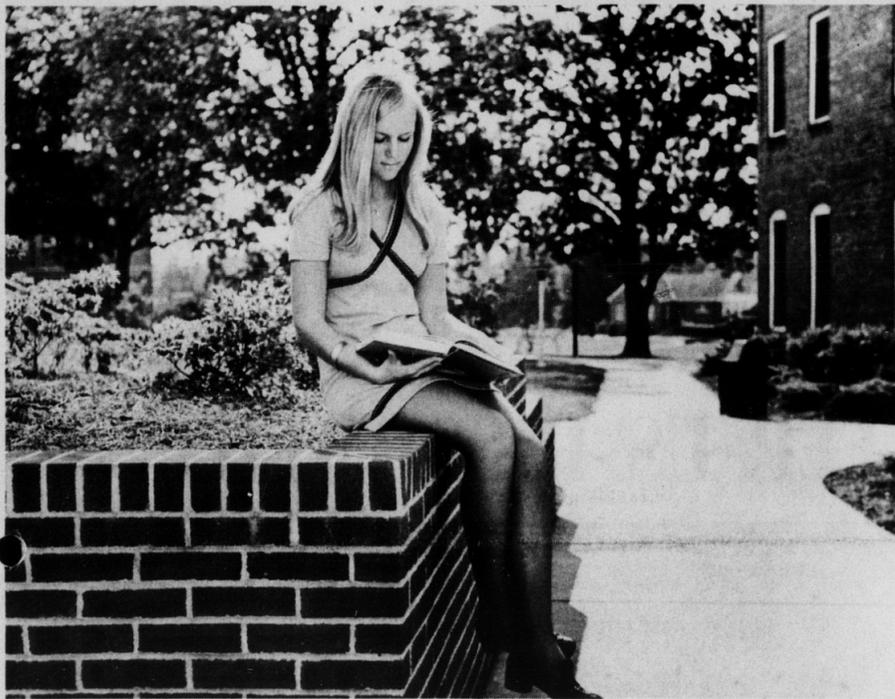
Clarence Peele, mechanic, and his wife

were among the first employees at Mauney Hosiery 30 years ago.

Said Peele, "I think it'll work out fine, we get better work." Peele added that when he and his wife started work, the mill was in the basement of the Mauney Cotton Mill, he remembers how the operation went from "Practically nothing to a big mill."

The company has been in operation in Kings Mountain since 1929, and was founded by Billy, Carl and George Mauney.

The plant now turns out 30,000 dozer pairs of socks per week which are distributed throughout the United States.



Pretty Lynn Cornwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Cornwell of Route 3, Kings Mountain, takes advantage of a warm September afternoon to prepare for her freshman classes at Gardner-Webb College. She is a 1971 graduate of Kings Mountain High School. Of the 250 graduates last year, 48 are enrolled in 4-year colleges, and 80 are enrolled in commercial, technical, business, and trade schools.

At Kings Mountain Park Service Begins History Demonstrations

By William E. Cox Park Historian

The sounds of gunfire slowly died away as the victorious patriots surveyed the scene. They would not be revived until 191 years later. The only difference is that the shots now fired are not in anger. They are fired with the same type of weapons the British and Americans used in the Battle of Kings Mountain. Why has the sound of gunfire returned to this peaceful mountainside? This is part of a program the National Park Service has started which they call "Living History Demonstrations."

This new program implemented at Kings Mountain National Military Park displays the weapons and the accouterments the British and American Militia Soldiers carried. The interpreters, Bill Bates, Jim Scruggs, George West and William Cox tell the park visitors about the Brown Bess Musket the British Militia carried, how the weapon was fired, how cartridges were made and the mode of 18th Century Warfare that led to the British defeat at

Kings Mountain. The Park has also the Kentucky rifle which was really the Pennsylvania rifle that the American Patriots carried. However, they tell the visitors how the rifle got its nickname, the Kentucky rifle. The frontiersmen who fought here also were called "long knives or big knives" and we explain how this name was given them. "Basically we try to tell something of the weapons and the men who carried them and their way of life. The Visitors often comment 'well, I never knew that' as something is explained or 'now I understand better the difficulties our forefathers endured for our Independence', Cox added."

Superintendent Moomaw summed it up when he said, "We are reaching more people through a different technique and yet showing them something that a museum cannot." On weekends we resume the sounds of battle and smell of black powder while telling of a way of life that enables us to live our present one.

Bethware Fair Gets Underway Today

The 24th Annual Bethware Community Fair gets underway this afternoon for four big days at Bethware School.

Today's program is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. with the opening of the fair. Judy Ware, 17 year old Senior at Kings Mountain High, is this year's queen of the fair. She

will participate in the official opening today.

Later today, games and contests are scheduled for children, and at 9:30 p.m., the drawing for prizes will be held. This is the 14th year the Fair has offered cash prizes to winning exhibitors.

There will be a display of fireworks each night after the drawings.

Thursday is children's day from 1-6 p.m. Kiddie rides will be offered at cut prices.

Admission for the fair each day is FREE, with a 25-cents parking fee.

It Began With A Nickel's Worth Of Beans And Corn

Local Mail Carrier Finds Nature's Secrets

"It all started back about 1945 with a nickel's worth of beans and a nickel's worth of corn," Arthur Biltcliffe began as he surveyed his front yard on Goforth Street which contains 3,000 different varieties of plant life.

It was one of those warm September afternoons that linger nostalgically, with a hint of Autumn in the air, Biltcliffe had just got home from his mail carrying job, and was piddling with his

rose bushes. "The new shoots are breaking out," he said excitedly, as if seeing it for the first time. His front yard is planted in rose bushes, every eight square feet apart. The roses are getting ready to bloom now, and will stay in bloom for 28 days, or till frost.

A moon calendar traces the new shoots on the rose bushes. "Plants follow the moon," Biltcliffe remarked convincingly. "The Agricultural Department says no, but I've got the proof."

"For years and years I used to experiment," said the Rhode Island native who came to Kings Mountain back in the 30's. He explained how in '45 as a construction worker, he heard of people grow-

ing things in their yards. He decided he would try it and went to the seed store and asked for 5-cents worth of beans and 5-cents worth of corn. He recalled how they laughed when he placed his order.

He grinned broadly as he explained how he brought the seeds home and proceeded to plant each seed about 4 inches apart.

Biltcliffe has developed quite a green thumb since those early attempts at planting, and now people from all over the state come to his home to study his unique methods of gardening which he simply calls "natural".

He says it usually takes about two hours to tour his yard. There's plenty to see - banana trees, which he grows for the fun of

it, pear trees, apple trees, and a "mechanical tree", which is actually a tall pole hanging with wire and grape vines running to the top. It was a sight to behold, as the gardening wizard busily turned the pulley mechanism, lowering the grapes within picking reach.

Biltcliffe says he is trying to show people the simplicity of filling their yards. . . so people all over the U.S. can have food and flowers in their yards.

"Every plant in the world is trying to reproduce itself," he theorizes, "to be sure that life stays there." This is the basis for his unusual method of tree and bush planting. "You can walk up to any tree in the winter, cut off a branch or twig above the fork, stick it in the ground with water, in the sunshine... next Spring, there's your plant!"

He calls that God's handiwork. "If people would do that, we would have apples, figs, etc., there's no since in people going hungry."

Nearly everything in his yard, including the double white altheas now in full bloom was grown from twigs. Using this method, he said, you can start with 6 tomato plants and end up with 400.

Biltcliffe believes firmly that nature's way is the best way. He doesn't use insecticides on his fruit or plants, and says a gallon of rainwater is better than 1,000 gallons of city water, with the minerals removed. In his backyard are several free fertilizer bins. He takes the dead grass after cutting the lawn, places it in 50 gallon drums in holds in the backyard. When these overflow with rainwater, he has all the fertilizer he needs.

There's a key to Arthur Biltcliffe's philosophy of living. It is inscribed in white paint on the brick chimney of his house, it reads:

Commit thy way into the Lord and put thy trust in him and he shall bring it to pass.

Verily Verily I say unto you; Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine.

No more can ye except ye abide in me. I am the vine ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit for without me can do nothing.

Lo, I am with thee always. Obedience is greater than sacrifice.

Biltcliffe's home itself has an interesting background. He built it himself from the ground up, using a wheelbarrow he dug out the foundation himself. During that time he was working as a bricklayer, and brought home scrap brick to fill in the porch.

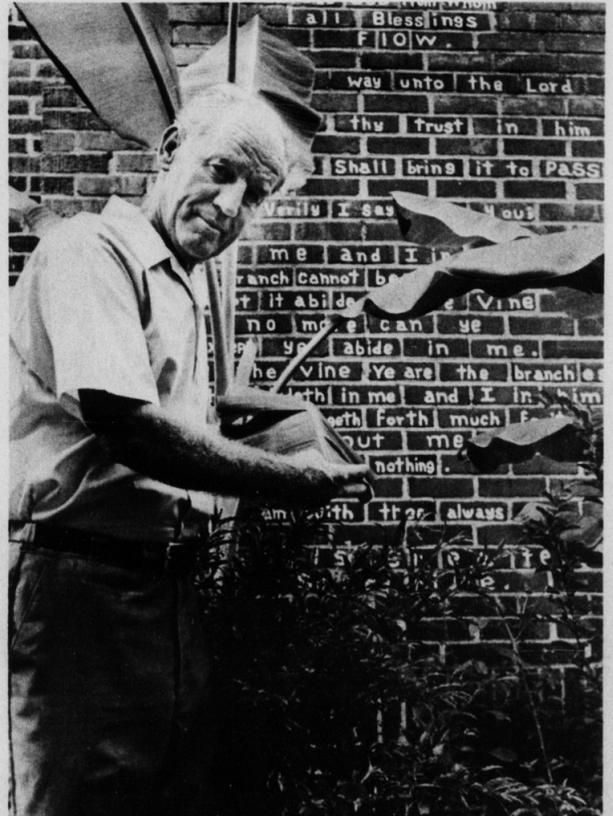
It took him seven years to finish the home, and neighbors didn't offer much

encouragement, telling him he would never make it. The house is fortified with multiple ceilings and is reinforced with steel beams, not exactly standard procedure in modern home building.

Biltcliffe is a refreshingly sincere man to talk to. He talks freely about his faith in God and love of nature. He is per-

plexed by man's selfishness. Some people he admits, even wonder why he gives away these secrets and shortcuts to gardening that he has learned over the years.

We're only on this earth just a short while, what good is the little knowledge we gather if it isn't shared with the rest of the world?" he asks.



Arthur Biltcliffe Displays backyard Banana Tree. . . He grows them just for fun.



A 25 year old Anderson, S.C. mother and her five-year-old son were killed Thursday night when this car veered off the road, jumping a guardrail on I-85 just south of Grover.

Mrs. Brenda Joyce McCloud of Anderson, and her son, David were pronounced dead at the scene. Two other children, Gregory McCloud, 4, and Jackie Lee were hospitalized.

Traffic was blocked for more than an hour while wreckers pulled the car from the bottom of the embankment. Members of the Kings Mountain and Grover Rescue Squads transported the injured and dead to hospitals in Kings Mountain and Gaffney.