Perspective

by Jay Ashley

Fads are an integral part of our society.

Anyone who is old enough to walk and talk can show you some fad in our world. Back in the twenties such crazes as flagpole sitting, swallowing goldfish, marathon dancing, seeing how many college frosh could pack into a telephone booth, etc., etc., were the vogue. Later came the hula hoop, and marathon rocking chair contests. Different dances have been as prolific as rabbits in a hutch. Charleston, Big Apple, Truckin', Lindy Hop, Jitterbug, Fish, Frug, Twist, Bugaloo, Swim to mention a few.

The most marked thing about a fad is that it is a temporary thing. Fads are social diversions from chaotic situations. If not for World War I maybe flagpole sitting would never have come about.

Todays fads and crazes are no different. Conflicts in society rip at people and in effort to escape, a fad is born. It may take the form of longer-than-has-ever-been - seen - before -and-most - hope- it -will -go-a-way hair or more seriously, drugs.

One thing is certain, though, and that is no matter how young one is, he will always look back at what seemed to be better days. We all do it. In fact, those "days of old" might have been the worst in the world, but from today's perspective they start looking better and better.

So what results is a fad engulfing a group of fads which we will define as nostalgia.

Old radio programs come back. Film festivals are overrun by patrons wanting to see Bogart, Fields, Chaplin. Howdy Doody (my hero) enjoys a rousing comeback. And in the bustle of todays world we find an escape and little by little the whole thing becomes a cycle. For an example we can look at the realm of fashions.

Take a good look at the picture in this article. A young school girl, age perhaps 15 years. The long hair curls in a Janis Joplin fashion and the dress comes straight from Any College, U.S.A. She wears the coy

smile that says, "I'm happy but it really wouldn't be cool to show it overtly." She is poised by the old wicker chair that belonged to grandmother and for an added touch, holds a collapseable fan. She could be in anyone's U.S. History class in high school.

The girl in the photograph is the late Mrs. B. D. Logan of Kings Mountain. When the picture was made she was Etta Ann Wells. Through the courtesy of her daughter, Mabel Logan, who resides at 707 West Mountain Street we are able to run the picture.

The similarities in todays dress and that of yesteryear were so great that Mabel Logan brought the picture for us to see and share with our readers. We can only speculate that the photo was taken in the early years of this century, yet 72 years later we can witness the same sight on any street in the country.

Many of us today often lapse into the syndrome of constant criticism. A man whose daughter wore such "outlandish" clothing today would certainly gripe and nag until more conventional garb were donned. The mother would wonder where her own child would get such notions to wear those "old tacky dresses."

Let's have enough gumption today to get concerned about bigger things than clothes. I have the strangest feeling that if Etta Wells Logan were here today she would offer a loving smile upon our fickle ways and level off our pointy little heads.

RODNEY DODSON- Editor & Co-Publisher

LEM R. LYNCH- Co-Publisher & Business Mgr.

JAY ASHLEY- News Editor

ELAINE TRIA- General Composition

SYLVIA HOLMES- Womens Editor

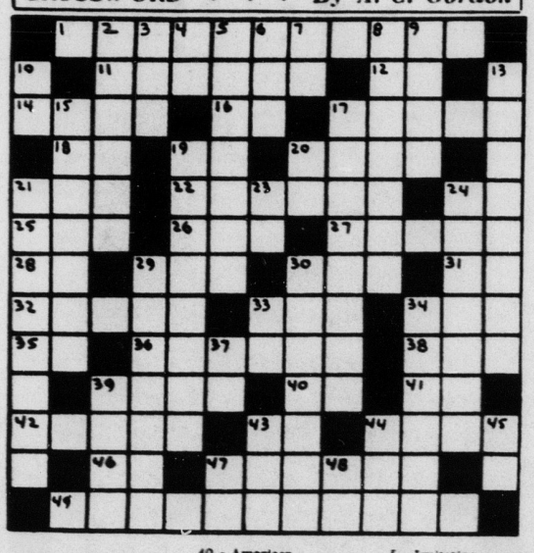
TONY TOMPKINS- Sports Writer

The Kings Mountain Mirror is published each Wednesday in Kings Mountain, N.C. by the Mirror Publishing Co. P.O. Box 345 Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Offices are located downtown at 222 South Railroad Ave. Phone-739-3851.

Subscription rates are $4 per year by mail inside North Carolina. Out-of-state subscriptions are $5 per year.

Second Class Postage Paid At Kings Mountain, N.C.

CROSSWORD • • • By A. C. Gordon



ACROSS
1 - Clarification
11 - Legal bond
12 - Greek letter
14 - Ponder
16 - Krypton (chem.)
17 - Ossetian native
18 - Correspondence afterthought
19 - Pronoun
20 - An abrasive
21 - Stipend
22 - Wanderers
24 - That is (abb.)
25 - Unit
26 - Little devil
27 - Particulars
28 - Public way (abb.)
29 - Hail!
30 - Union of National Security (abb.)
31 - Measure of quantity (abb.)
32 - Entwine
33 - Girl's name
34 - Scottish "to"
35 - Public notice
36 - Wandering
38 - Matured
39 - Scottish Gaelic
40 - American Education (abb.)
41 - Pronoun
42 - Italian poet
43 - Day segment
44 - Lose luster
46 - That is (abb.)
47 - Provider of heat
49 - This and that (three words)

DOWN
2 - Receiver of real estate
3 - Employ
4 - Two centuries in old Rome
5 - Irritating
6 - Beetle
7 - .. shucks!
8 - Perseveres
9 - Eject
10 - Exist
13 - Affirmed
15 - Stood up
17 - Mathematical magnitude
19 - The cosmos
20 - U.S. southern state (abb.)
21 - Transmits
23 - British legislator (abb.)
24 - Pierced
29 - Turned aside
30 - Not titled
33 - Inter-American (abb.)
34 - In the direction of
37 - In reference
39 - Girls' name
43 - Play on words
44 - Bog
45 - Adjective suffix of comparison
47 - Musical note
48 - Football position (abb.)

"SO YOU'RE MY NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR..."

Hunt Busy With Committee Appointments

KQ SYNDICATE
By JOHN KILGO

The assignment of secretaries for legislators will take on a new look when the General Assembly convenes next month.

Lt. Governor-elect Jim Hunt and James Ramsey, the next Speaker of the House, are busy getting their committee appointments made now, so that legislators may be assigned office space and have their secretaries appointed.

This year, freshman legislators will share a secretary--one secretary for two legislators.

Those legislators with previous time in the General Assembly will have their private secretary.

Hunt and Ramsey both feel it's important to get the office space and the secretary assignments out of the way quickly, so that the Legislature can get down to business when it convenes on Jan. 10.

Some lawmakers feel one reason for the relatively slow start of the 1971 session was a delay in committee appointments.

And one legislator tells me: "It was three weeks last year before I knew where my office would be located. They moved me around like a marble on a Chinese checker board."

Everyone ought to have their permanent office assignment before the first week of the legislature is over.

***

Make no mistake about one thing. Hunt and Ramsey are determined to get more working hours in each week. Instead of the Legislature meeting from 9 a.m. until noon, as in the past, they hope to get it working until 1 p.m. They also hope to utilize the afternoon hours better.

Ramsey is looking for ways to convince the legislators to put in more working hours on Friday, a day that has been almost completely open in other years.

It looks like a no-nonsense session.

***

Liquor-by-the-drink continues to raise its head as an issue for 1973. However, as this column reported a month ago, it won't be the same emotional, drawn-out battle that it has been for the past six years.

Attempts will be made to get some mixed drink legislation passed--and there will be a battle.

But the leadership of both Houses--and individual legislators that I've talked with--seem determined not to let the argument bog down the Assembly as it has in years past.

And from the outside looking in, it would appear that the liquor forces are weaker this year than they were in 1971. They didn't exactly have control of the situation that year.

***

BANNED TOYS SOLD

WASHINGTON--Consumer action groups in 17 states have reported that many toy stores across the country were stocked with hundreds of dangerous toys banned by the Government. The organization did not specify which banned toys were found.

The Christmas Spirit

December is the most exciting (and tiring) month of the year in many American homes because of the approach of Christmas and all associated with it. In the commercial scramble which Christmas has become for many the real meaning of the day is lost to many of us.

Christmas gets its name from the mass for Christ and it is, of course, the birth of Jesus that we commemorate on the 25th. At one time it was more a religious observance than a general holiday with Santa Claus, gifts, family reunions, etc. In broadening the observance some have increasingly minimized the religious aspects--which is their privilege.

And while many feel this is unfortunate it should be remembered by all that about one in three Americans belong to no church. Millions of others, such as those of Jewish faith, do not believe Jesus was divine, though admiring him as a man. In addition, millions of others--of Chinese, Japanese, Middle East origin, etc., have a different deity altogether.

Yet all of us can enjoy the Christmas spirit--which pertains to all men, of all faiths and origins, and is a message of love for one's fellow man and peace on earth. And so in this general way, too, Christmas is highly important. This general spirit, enjoyed within the philosophical concept of tolerance, enables all Americans to have a happy holiday each December.

Santa Claus

While some in this country choose not to observe the Santa Claus tradition at Christmas, which is their privilege and not to be criticized, for most American children Christmas Eve is a magic night unmatched for the rest of the year.

How many have tried to stay awake Christmas Eve night, to hear Santa land on the roof? How many have left food by the fireplace? How many have thrilled to the marrow at a glimpse of him, in red and white? How many millions of letters have gone out to him, of childish hopes for wonderful toys and fun?

If it can't last, and it can't; if it isn't real life, and it isn't, it is nevertheless a magic time of joy and excitement and wonderful anticipation for youngsters, and even more reward for parents. For young and old the sweet memories never die--and help keep the home a nostalgic, loved centerpiece in our long agos and memories.

Reflections

WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK

Looking at WASHINGTON

Carcinogens

Harrison Wellford, writing in "Atlantic Monthly" says the Food and Drug Administration has approved five drugs for animals with estrogen-like activity to speed up growth --all replacements for the recently-banned stilbestorol (DES), now known to cause cancer in laboratory animals, and used for years as an animal feed.

Wellford says the Agriculture Department, which is supposed to have a practical and accurate system to test for residues of such drugs before FDA approves them, has no such testing method. And, moreover, he says all five drugs approved by FDA are suspected of being carcinogens--as was the recently-banned DES.

In that the National Cancer Institute has taken the position that any drug which increases the carcinogenic burden in man ought to be avoided, the Wellford charge should be one of the first investigations of the 93rd Congress opening next month.

Lower Property Taxes?

A federal revenue sharing program began December 8th when the Treasury Department mailed the first checks (totaling 2.7 billions) to states and cities. The program is expected to pump thirty billion dollars into state and city treasuries in the next five years.

The Nixon Administration has emphasized its hope that these federal funds would be used to reduce property taxes --which have become excessive and even confiscatory in many U.S. communities.

Whether state and city officials will allocate the newly arrived federal funds to this purpose depends upon public opinion in the various states and communities. If sentiment is strong, among a well-informed public, and officials are pressed to pledge these funds to reduce taxes, the goal can be realized.

This, then, is the time for an informed electorate to see to it that property taxes are reduced.

Auto Pollution

A recent court decision postpones mandatory air-bags in U.S. automobiles until at least 1976 because the court was convinced automatic air-bag safety devices are not yet refined to a practical and workable degree.

In this connection, a growing weight of opinion leans toward a relaxation of the 1970 pollution law's new-car emission requirements by about five per cent. It is felt a five per cent relaxation by the Environmental Protection Agency would enable the industry to avoid fifty per cent of projected cost increases on 1975 and 1976 cars and also reduce projected gasoline consumption--which goes up with the new devices: In addition, the relaxation would avoid the stalling feature in emission-device engines.

If older cars, those built before 1968, were required to be fitted with relatively simple emission control devices, costing less than $50, this would eliminate far more pollution than the loss caused by a five per cent relaxation on new-car emissions. From many viewpoints, then, the five per cent relaxation might be justified, though the national anti-pollution goal as legislated in 1970 should otherwise be strictly adhered to.

Phosphate Ban

Progress on the water pollution front is accelerating. Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New York and Florida have now banned high-phosphate detergents from grocer's shelves (as of January 1st).

These states, following earlier action by various counties and cities, have resorted to the ban to protect their water resources and they are none too early. The hope is that by the end of 1973 all fifty states will have banned these high-phosphate detergents.

The ban bars detergent products with a phosphate content higher than 8.7 per cent--a level considered safe for human health and water quality.