

Smith Looks At Electoral College From Inside

The first Monday following the second Wednesday in December.

It sounds like a quote from the almanac predicting a "snow date." Or maybe some religious holiday guided by the moon's phases. Actually this intricate date marks the day North Carolina electors venture to Raleigh to cast a very important vote...for the President of the United States.

And Kings Mountain's own Ed Smith was there.



Ed Smith

Smith, for the second time in four years, will be the Presidential elector from the 10th Congressional District. Ed counts it quite an honor to be an elector, especially for two terms. "The first time I was picked to go I was really surprised and gratified. This year however I more or less campaigned for a position. I want to write a book about the electoral college and I thought another

session would sharpen my insight into this system."

The choice of presidential electors starts early in the election year. Smith explained that each district holds a convention in the spring to nominate a slate of electors. Both parties (and American Party for '68 and '72) offer their choices and the popular vote presidential winner decides which party elector will go to Raleigh in December.

"What people were doing when they voted for Nixon-Agnew was to send me to Raleigh to cast my electoral vote," says Smith. There is no Constitutional law that says an elector must vote as the popular vote goes but there is a state law binding electors as to how they vote." Smith pointed out that the state law was enacted when an elector switched party lines to cast a vote for another candidate in 1968. When questioned on the fairness of the system of the "winner take all" concept Smith said "might just go to the courts and be found unconstitutional."

Smith, county chairman in 1968 and Republican precinct chairman in East Kings Mountain in 1972, thinks that the electoral college idea should be amended. "I think the system of electoral votes should be retained but be based on the notion of automatic apportionment."

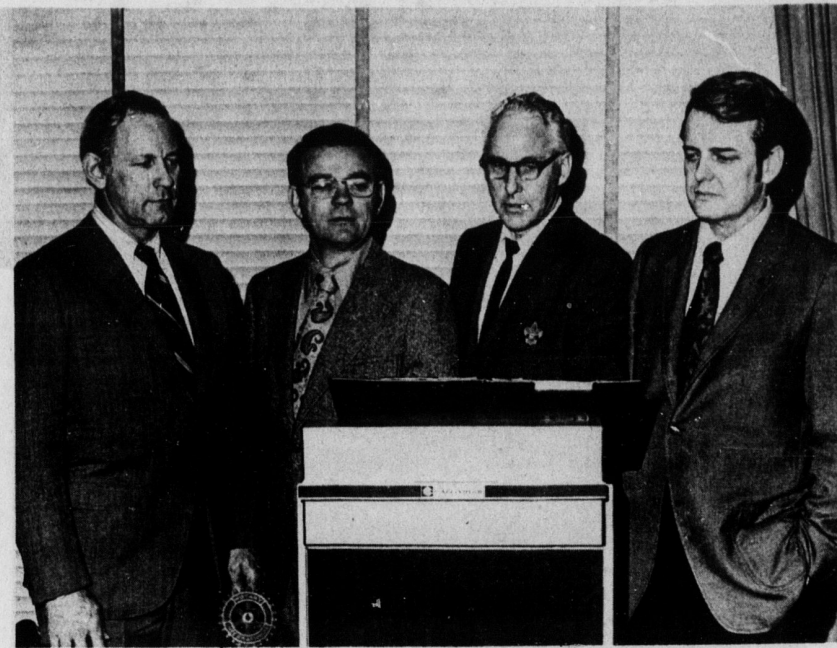
The basis for this thought is that electoral votes give protection to the smaller states. All states have electoral votes based on the

number of representatives plus two more for senators. These latter two are voted on "at large" and not in district party conventions. "These two extra give a smaller state a little more say so in the electoral process." For an example, Smith cited the state of Hawaii which has one congressman and two senators. "Without those two extra, the state would only have one vote, not a very strong edge."

Smith believes that the theory of popular vote deciding an election would only breakdown the two party system. "The popular vote party breakdown can be witnessed by many of the small European countries. The small state is gobbled up by the larger state. You get a lot of splinter groups which tend to break up any unity as you would have in an electoral system."

This year, Smith plans to lampoon the whole situation by honoring electors with a D.U.D. diploma. D.U.D. stands for Doctor Useless Degree. All those "graduating" from the electoral college this year will also have the honor of leaving Magna Cum Loyal. Embossed on the diploma will be a parody of latin phrases such as "E Pluribus Useless" and "Non Campus Loco." Smith hopes that this subtle hint will cause people to think about the present system and strive for reform.

For \$10 and five cents per mile-pay for being an elector—we hope a little more than apathy will come from the 1972 electoral college.



Smith Is Local District Vice Chmn.

Above are the officers of the Battleground District of the Piedmont Council of Boy Scouts of America. Left to right they are: John Cadwallader, Joe Smith of Kings Mountain, Bill Young and Tommy Thompson, Smith has the honor of being the District Vice-Chairman.

The 1973 officers of the Battleground District of the Piedmont Council of Boy Scouts of America were recently announced and Kings Mountain's Joe Smith was named District Vice Chairman. Other officers include Tommy Thompson of Shelby, District Chairman; John Cadwallader, District Commissioner and Bill Young, District Scout Executive. The Battleground District comprises all of Cleveland County and covers 61 Boy Scout packs, troops and Explorer Posts in the area. Smith and Thompson are members of the Piedmont Council Boy Scouts of America Executive Board.

Tax Service

Hetty R. Cox and Linda Davis of Hetty R. Cox Tax Service have just completed a course at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. The title of the course attended December 6-7 and taught by IRS Audit Agents, was Tax Farm and Business Course. Cox Tax Service is located at 146 W. Mountain Street.

JOY THEATRE Starts Sunday, Dec. 24



TERENCE HILL

The man with no name

People are already talking about Terence Hill's "screen presence." The arresting young actor co-starred with Eli Wallach and Bud Spencer in *A Fistful of Dollars* and followed that with the comic western *They Call Me Terence*. His current performance in Film Ventures International's *Boss Hill* should insure him space on anybody's roster of favorite action stars.

Hill's rough good looks and his ease and western trappings have led to inevitable comparisons with Clint Eastwood whose big break came as the "man with no name" in *A Fistful of Dollars*. Coincidentally, although Hill is listed as Cat Stevens in the credits to *Boss Hill*, no one calls him "Cat" during the film. He becomes mother "man with no name."

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May the sweet joys of Christmas fill the hearts of you and yours, now and evermore.

Jones Trim Shop
Gastonia

New Tree Shipment

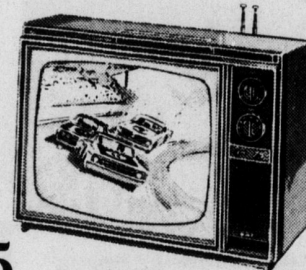
For you last minute decorators, the Jaycees have a new shipment of trees in at their sale lot on the corner of West Mountain and Battleground, according to Tom Jenkins, Chairman.

Bridges Radio & TV

Sales & Service
423 N. Piedmont Ave.

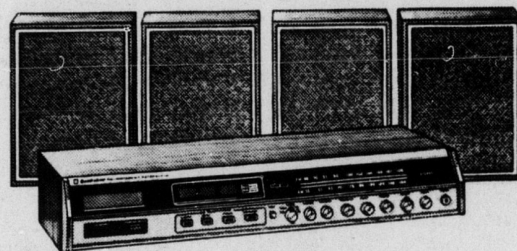
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Central News

by Chris Holmes



Students got out at eleven thirty on Tuesday for their Christmas holidays. On Tuesday morning during the first period the seventh grade volleyball tournament final was held. It matched Bennet-Wells against Mr. Toney's homeroom. Second period matched Mrs. Powell's homeroom against Mr. Gibson's homeroom in the eighth grade finals. After the Christmas holidays students will report to classes on January 2, 1973. At four o'clock Monday afternoon Central played its second basketball game of the season. They won by the score of 49 to 27 against Holbrook. The leading scorer for the Patriots was Thompson with 15 points.

Mercier had 14 points and Roberts had 8. Edwards, Ingram and Lancaster all had 4 points. Last was Bumgarner with two. Central's next game is January 8, 1973.

On Tuesday Mrs. Wright came to Central to check some students eyesight. She came during fourth period of Tuesday and stayed til the first part of fifth period.

Mr. Moffett's homeroom is performing a play entitled "The Christmas of 1957." It was written by Bonnie Hinant, Kevin Allison, Ricky Deaton and Chris Holmes. The play will be presented to Mrs. Brown's homeroom. Along with the play Mrs. Hedden's homeroom will do a selection of choral read-

ing and singing. Being a part of the play myself I can tell you how fun it is been putting on the play. A scene everybody likes is where Jim Russell played by Mike Bumgarner comes in the door and hugs Mrs. Nelson played by Sarah Maner. Wesley Narron adds a great deal of humor to the play with his slightly out of wack prayers.

On Thursday night the Kings Mountain City School Bands had their annual Winter Concert. Donald J. Deal directed the eighth grade band in three selections. The ninth grade band also played three songs. The senior band played five selections. The concert was at eight o'clock in Central's auditorium.

As you probably well know there was a School Bond Issue that was voted on on Saturday. Many of the faculty and students worked together to help get it passed. Many volunteers were at the poles on Saturday to greet the voters and urge them to vote in favor of the issue. All the faculty were glad to see that it passed and they felt that their services were not in vain.

On Monday afternoon Mrs. McClure came with the freshman choir to Central. They gave a program for all the Central students.

On Monday Central had its first fire drill of the year. It took one minute and forty seconds to completely evacuate the building.

There was a banquet on Tuesday night for the Central faculty. It was at the Shelby Elks Club at seven o'clock.

Ambassador "Merry Christmas" the way you'd say it yourself

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May the spirit of Christmas be an ever-present joy to you.

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FOR CHRISTMAS

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