

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Hi-ho, Silver and away!

Strange deadlines

Didn't you think it strange that the announcement of filing deadlines for mayoral and commissioner candidates in Kings Mountain last Thursday was a week behind?

We did. So we asked Luther Bennett, chairman of the Kings Mountain Board, why? The answer was not filled with intrigue. Chairman Bennett did not receive the data on time. According to his information the date was late from the state and later from the county.

Now, there has been no great hue and cry from the populace over the fact the announcement was late because this election year there appears to be little or no interest in politics. At least that is as it appears now.

Of course four years ago was a time when an unusual degree of interest was being expressed. That was when 39 candidates paid their filing fees to seek office in the historical city.

Anyway, the announcement has been made and the filing deadline is noon on Fri., Sept. 7. The fee is still \$5 for mayoral and commissioner candidates alike.

The commissioner seats up for grabs this go-round are in district one, three and four - currently held by James Childers, Corbet Nicholson and Norman King. Mayor John Henry Moss and Commissioner Nicholson are definitely going to seek re-election. The other two incumbents have been non-committal.

Anyone else interested?

Downtown revitalization?

It was interesting to note in a story last Thursday that a downtown revitalization program is now on the city's priority list.

This is not the first time this program has been talked, but we sincerely hope it is the last: last because this time something positive will have been done in this area.

The interest was there before in some minds, but lip service doesn't get the job done. The downtown business community is the heart of this city. It always has been. It was the center around which life here revolved.

This comment is in no way meant to snub the business sections lying without the downtown because those areas are of great and vital service to the community at large. What is meant here about creating a positive atmosphere in the downtown area goes deeper than just business.

The mayor has made some strong statements about this time a revitalization program getting all of the attention it deserves and then some. But this project is going to require a lot of assistance from the city officials, business people and private citizens working in concert.

And in order for this push to be successful, a lot of attitudes in the downtown area are going to have to change. We don't believe new life will ever be pumped into the downtown business district if individual businesses feel, or are made to feel, they are fighting this battle alone. Sure, the businesses are owned by individuals or companies and offer different types of services to the public. But the CBD is still a community and in any community it takes cooperation between all concerned to keep that community breathing.

Dialogue from a good book

Twice each year the religious community sponsors interdenominational services in Kings Mountain.

The first week in September a third program is being added. It is called a Christian Growth Celebration and the services will be held under the stars in Gamble Stadium at Kings Mountain Senior High.

Sponsored by the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association, the services will feature a different minister each of the seven nights - Sept. 2-9 (excluding Thurs., Sept. 6) and music by various church choirs nightly.

In most cases this type of program would be called an evangelical revival with a name-minister from out of town holding forth. Not this time, however. The Christian Growth Celebration is being planned and will be executed entirely by members of the KMMA.

The speakers scheduled to preach are Rev. Bob Boggan, Rev. Jerry Smith, Rev. Leroy Cox, Rev. Gary Bryant, Rev. Harwood Smith, Rev. Prueella Kilgore and Rev. Tom Patterson. The congregations who attend these nightly services will hear dialogue taken from Isaiah, John, First John, Hebrews, Romans and James.

It promises to be a taste of that 'ole time religion and, frankly, we feel it wouldn't hurt for the Almighty's spokesmen to remove themselves from the quite confines of the chapel to the open air once in awhile.

As I passed through the den to leave for work last Thursday morning I spotted a familiar figure on the tube.

It was The Lone Ranger.

My 11-year-old (who usually rises early enough to wake up the roosters) was tuned to the Today Show and the news end of that program was doing the piece on The Lone Ranger.

In reality actor Clayton Moore was being interviewed, but as anyone ought to know, Clayton Moore is The Lone Ranger. With the exception of a couple of movie serials made by Republic in the late 1930s, starring Robert Livingston, and one season on TV in which John Hart wore the mask, no other actor has been so closely identified with a role as Moore with LR.

Radio buffs know, of course, that the late Bruce Beemer was the Ranger's wife. But no one saw Beemer doing the role.

No, The Lone Ranger has been Clayton Moore since 1949 when Jack Chertok Productions started the series on television. Moore appeared in a couple hundred half-hour TV episodes and two feature length movies astride the "great horse, Silver."

For 30 years, Clayton Moore, who in his mid-60s still physically looks like he could handle a baddle or two, has worn the LR mask and pearl-handled Colts: on TV, in the movies and on personal appearance tours.

TOM McINTYRE



So, why was he the subject of a Today Show news feature?

Well, it appears the court is about to succeed in doing something a thousand outlaws failed to do: The court is going to unmask the masked man.

A new conglomerate has purchased all rights to The Lone Ranger character and is planning a multi-million dollar movie on him. So, the new owners are upset over the fact that Moore is still being booked and appearance at various functions as LR, mask and all. They want Moore stopped and have taken their case to the courts. It is up to a judge now to decide whether or not Moore should remove the mask once and for all and cease and desist from making public appearances as the character.

Moore, naturally, is fighting against this.

In the Today news segment, Moore appeared at the interview searing a Stetson - and the mask. He was still ramrod straight and his eyes were still clear blue.

He commented that the character he has portrayed for so long "changed his life."

Well, as one of the generation that grew up with LR on radio and TV, I can tell you that the message LR and Tonto delivered had an impact.

It only makes me wonder what the new title owners plan in the way of a movie. Is it going to be campy like "Superman?" Or a Mel Brooks farce?

Either way, I think it is only fair to warn the new owners (and the courts) that the late Jim Croce phrased it well in one of his songs. He wrote there are three things you just don't do: (a) you don't spit into the wind; (b) you don't tug on Superman's cape; (c) and you don't pull the mask off the 'ol Lone Ranger.

At this point in every Lone Ranger show, LR would huddle at the campfire and comment, "Tonto, I have a plan." "Uhhh. That good, Kemosaby."



Poets Corner



PLEASANT ATTRACTIONS

A hummingbird entertains me while I am doing time at the kitchen sink, A blue jay shows pretty feathers to the crepe myrtle turning pink.

A butterfly lights on the window screen in yellow and orange array, to linger awhile and I am hoping; but suddenly it glides away.

A spider puts me in stitches weaving steadily a web of round, an ant crawls along the window-sill an escapee from the armies red mound.

A squirrel darts up a pecan tree to size up the crop for the coming fall, then down the tree with his chitter-chatter I don't understand at all.

Charming little summer visitors I welcome them one by one, Yet I wonder how I ever will get my dishes done! Vivian S. Biltcliffe

Heat stress can be a health hazard

As the mercury continues to climb during these hot, humid summer months, the danger of on-the-job heat stress increases dramatically across North Carolina.

That warning was issued today by Donald G. Wiseman, director of the N.C. Department of Labor OSHA Division.

Wiseman said worker illness or death is a possible result of summer weather conditions in the state, and he called on employers and employees alike to take the precautionary steps necessary to reduce the chances of heat-induced illness on the job.

Heat stroke is the most dangerous possible result of heat stress, and it can mean a life-and-death emergency situation. Heat exhaustion and heat cramps also cause serious problems in the work place, according to Wiseman.

Symptoms of heat stroke are extremely high temperature (106 degrees Fahrenheit or higher); failure of the sweating mechanism; hot, dry skin; rapid, strong pulse; and possible loss of consciousness.

"A person suffering from heat stroke must be cooled immediately by an available means," Wiseman said, "even before emergency medical personnel reach the scene. That means to remove the victim's clothing, sponge with water or alcohol, apply ice packs, submerge in a tank of cold water spray with a garden hose. Immediate medical care is imperative."

Heat exhaustion is characterized by fatigue, weakness and possible collapse, leg spasms or abdominal spasms. Heat cramps,

which can be an early sign of heat exhaustion, affect the legs and abdomen. Treatment for either symptom is to apply pressure on and massage the affected muscles, and to give salt water for one hour.

Wiseman recommended the following measures to prevent on-the-job heat-induced illnesses: pre-employment health examination; proper clothing, including protective equipment if necessary; gradual increase in physical activity in the heat during first four to 10 days on the job; properly spaced intervals for rest in cooler recovery areas; plenty of drinking water available near the work place; careful use of supplemental salt and adequate salt and potassium intake at meal time; and relaxation, rest or sleep in cooled quarters following heat exposure.

Employers also should provide engineering control of heat stress at work locations, instruct supervisors and workers in the recognition and treatment of heat-related illnesses, and distribute the work load over the entire day, attempting to schedule the hottest jobs in the coolest part of the work shift, Wiseman added.

OSHA inspectors conduct random safety and health inspections in nearly 98,000 workplaces throughout North Carolina. Heat stressful conditions are among hazards they evaluate routinely. The division also responds to worker-initiated complaints about heat stress, which have numbered approximately 20 each summer in recent years, Wiseman noted.

Considered a pioneer in developing regulatory methods for the recognition, evaluation and control of heat stress, the division also issued the nation's first OSHA guide on the subject. It was prepared in 1977, by David J. Pierce of Reidsville, consultant with the division's consultative services section, and is still the only such guide in the nation.

North Carolina is also the only state known to have issued OSHA citations for heat stress violations. They are issued under the authority of the 1973 N.C. Occupational Safety and Health Act general duty clause, which reads: Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or serious physical harm to his employees.

What's your opinion?

We want to hear your opinion on things of interest to you. Address all correspondence for this page to Reader Dialogue, Mirror-Herald, P.O. Box Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N.C., 28086. Be sure and sign proper name and include your address. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Reader Dialogue

What would happen?

To the editor: What would happen if the Federal government was to foreclose on its loans to the City of Kings Mountain?

Or if the citizens were to demand return of lights, water and gas deposits?

Or if each citizen would refuse to pay property taxes?

Would the city crumble?

Would the city be able to cope with such a crisis if these events were to happen? I think it behooves each and every citizen to take a look at what jeopardy too much over-spending can place us in. I think the time has arrived for the city to publish quarterly where every dollar is being spent and for what purpose.

Right now it doesn't look like the situation is going to get any better, so citizens should wake up and be careful when casting votes for a new mayor and commissioners in October.

EVERETTE PEARSON
Kings Mountain

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