

Kings Mountain Herald

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

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The Herald is published by Herald Publishing House, P.O. Box 752, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Business and editorial offices are located at 431 N. Piedmont Ave. Phone 739-7496. Second class postage paid at Kings Mountain, N.C. Single copy 15 cents. Subscription rates: \$10 yearly in-state, \$5 six months, \$11 yearly out-of-state, \$5.50 six months. Student rate for nine months \$7.50. USPS 931-040.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Food stamp abuse

Someone is always saying they saw, or heard about, food stamp recipients carrying out their groceries to Cadillacs.

The "information" comes from citizens who are friends of the program, but worried about abuse, and from others who consider it an unnecessary hand-out.

In Kings Mountain, folks are probably more sympathetic to the program than in the bigger towns and cities. However, some of us are fretting about the long lines we incur at the post office on "food stamp days." Several postal patrons told us at a recent meeting of the Welcome Wagon newcomers club that they were quite pleased with Kings Mountain but hated to wait in line at the postoffice over an hour to mail a package. We told them to take their complaints to the postoffice.

The "handout" opinion is shared by some members of Congress and when the food stamp program was revamped, Congress imposed annual spending ceilings through 1981, based on late 1976 economic projections. Higher than estimated food prices and caseloads required a lifting of the ceiling of \$620 million this summer to avoid cutting one month of benefits. More Congressional hearings are slated.

Overseers of the program, that gives low-income families help with food budgets to the tune of \$7 billion a year, say that the food stamp program is far from being "a giveaway" and benefits average only 33 cents per meal.

Unfortunately, as in the case with every massive federal program, the food stamp program is beset by administrative confusion and a degree of abuse.

A democratic system of government must deal with such fundamental problems as hunger.

LOOKING BACK

From the Sept. 24, 1953 edition of The Kings Mountain Herald

Sgt. First Class Bailey Gillespie, 23, who was released in the POW exchange in Korea earlier this month, is scheduled to arrive at Charlotte Airport Friday at 1:30 p.m. Relatives and friends from the Kings Mountain area are expected to be on hand when the young soldier lands.

A printer's simple typographical error got Kings Mountain nation-wide attention during the past week.

A missing "g" in the headline on a ticket for a Saturday night "all Night Singing" changed the ticket title to "All Nigh Gospel Singing." By the time some imaginative publicity seekers and tongue-in-cheek newsmen finished with it, the All-Night Singing was an advance sell-out, new tickets had to be printed, and news of the approaching sinning spree was spread to the four corners of the United States, at least.

Social and Personal

Johnnie Reed Caldwell, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Caldwell, celebrated his first birthday Sept. 2.

Miss Pauline Mauney, piano teacher in the Salisbury Schools System, was weekend guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mauney.

Mrs. Walter Harmon entertained the Queen of Clubs at her home Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Childers, Rt. 2, announce the arrival of a daughter, Sept. 21, Garrison General Hospital, Gastonia.

Today's Bible Verse—Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world. The Acts 15:18

Some of the Cadillacs are probably for real, but every effort should be made for a compromise situation to help those in real need while removing some of the taxpayer oppression.

FIGHT GLAUCOMA WITH CHECK UP

Nearly 66,000 Americans are blind from glaucoma, the "sneak thief of sight." Two million others have the condition, but half don't know it. While drugs are the main defenses against the visual loss glaucoma causes, glaucoma patients don't always stick with their treatments, because some of the drugs have unpleasant side effects.

Kings Mountain Lions Club, in an effort to encourage adults to use their best defense against glaucoma, are sponsoring a free clinic Thursday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Lions point out that two of every 100 Americans over 35 have glaucoma. The risk is four times as high after age 65. The risk is twice as high in diabetics. Glaucoma runs in families and usually later generations get it earlier.

According to Robert Amelkin, M.D. of Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, blacks get glaucoma three times more often than whites; they get it earlier and suffer more severely from it.

W.K. Mauney, Jr., chairman of the Lions promotion, and Lion President Tim Gladden advise that our best defense against glaucoma is a checkup every two years.

THINGS COULD BE WORSE

A trip to the grocery store is pretty depressing in terms of what it does to your pocketbook these days. It's enough to make you come home, flop in the chair and just sit. While you're sitting, consider how it would be if you were living elsewhere.

Remember that pound of beef for which you paid \$2.19 a pound? In Great Britain you would have paid \$3.03 for it, in France \$3.94, in West Germany \$2.45 and in Japan (are you ready for this?) \$9.09.

If you bought a loaf of bread for 30 cents you'll be depressed to know it would have only cost 20 cents in West Germany, but in France it would be 52 cents and in Japan, 61.

Incidentally, the gas you had to buy to get to the store might have cost you \$1.00 a gallon or close to it, but in Britain it would be \$2.60 and in France \$2.80.

There now, you see things could be worse. It's time to get up and put away the groceries. When you finish you can watch your television for which you paid \$500. In Japan you would have paid \$800 and in France \$1,145!



Poets Corner

OUR SINCERE THANKS

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray
If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest word,
As any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much whatever the part.

CLYDE ADAMS, SR. FAMILY

Letters to the editor

KM traffic light city

To the editors,

Being a native of Kings Mountain qualifies me to make criticism of my home town.

KM could now be known as "the traffic light city" instead of "the historical city." We have been bombarded with criticism from out-of-towners about the traffic lights and the congested traffic.

I'm sure everyone concerned is anxiously awaiting the by-pass. But what about after the by-pass goes there. Are we KM citizens still going to have to tolerate all these traffic signals then?

There are still more traffic lights going up in the city. We could become another McAdenville, only the year-round instead of just at Christmas. We won't need ornaments or lights for Christmas if traffic lights keep going up at every intersection.

To me, these traffic lights seem to cause congestion rather than stagger the traffic and keep it moving smoothly.

I think I understand the need for signals at school zones, but after school has let out, especially during summer vacation, there isn't any need for these lights to operate. It's senseless and frustrating to sit at a stop light at night and wait for the light to turn green, when there isn't a car in sight for blocks or miles.

What about it Mayor? What about it city councilmen? Help us citizens keep our sanity.

KEN WILSON

Education

To The Editors,

We hear much about top quality education. Kings Mtn. parents should certainly expect this for their children.

DAPHNE L. STOLL

Revenue sharing

Dear Reader Dialogue,

Should revenue sharing end?

Revenue sharing was originally conceived as a means of sharing the federal surplus with state and local governments. Since enacted in 1972, Federal budget

deficits have totaled \$298.7 billion and the public debt has grown from \$437.3 billion to \$839.2 billion. Just \$47.1 billion has been handed out in the name of revenue sharing to states and cities, most of which enjoy budget surpluses.

This flow of money vanishes without a trace in local operating budgets, violating the fundamental principles that public expenditure should be publicly accounted for and cities become ever more dependent on Washington.

Enactment of revenue sharing was a mistake. Continuing it after it expires would be a catastrophe.

What's your opinion as a reader of the Herald?

Hasn't present conditions told even the citizens of the historical city anything?

EVERETTE PEARSON
Kings Mountain

School spirit

To the editors,

Being a recent graduate of Kings Mountain Senior High, I have seen school spirit displayed in many ways. But upon attending Friday night's football game against East Gaston, I saw one of the true meanings of school spirit.

I would like to publicly congratulate the Kings Mountain cheerleaders for their outstanding devotion. It has to be a great feeling for the players to know that whatever the weather, whatever the score, there is always 12 strong voices backing you all the way. Keep up the good work girls.

JEFF L. MOSS
Kings Mountain

I glanced at mother-in-law



Lib Stewart

Picking up accident reports at the local police station the other day I was reminded again of some of the driver excuses which appear on reports of investigating officers.

As proof that people are the same the world over, I clipped from a column in The Asheville Citizen Times a list compiled in Germany of direct quotes from accident reports submitted to insurance companies by holders of auto liability policies.

I had read some of the same "excuses" here.

"The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."

"I thought my window was down, and found it was up when I put my head through it."

"Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have."

"The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run, so I ran over him."

"The telephone pole was approaching. I was attempting to get out of its way when it struck my front end."

"I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep and had the accident."

"I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."

"To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck the pedestrian."

"I told the police I was not injured, but on removing my hat, I found I had a fractured skull."

"The indirect cause of the accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth."

"My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle."

"I was sure the old fellow would never

make it to the other side of the road when I hit him.

"An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle and vanished."

"I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way."

Best yet!

That was the advance billing on the Bethware Fair and it can serve, too, for the actual report of the event, which, in its 32nd season, topped all others for attendance, tiring out kiddies, people signing tickets for no-strings-attached prize drawings and just about any other phase of this growing community event.

Not being a farm expert, exactly, I am disinclined to compare crop exhibits of prior years, except to say that this season's looked good to me.

Next week, of course, the big, colorful, bigger and older brother of the Bethware Fair, the Cleveland County Fair, comes to Shelby.

But, the Bethware Fair was a good sample, and a tribute to many, many people of the Bethware Community who had a hand in it.

Make sure you're between stakes...

Major Loftin of Kings Mountain has some good advice for any woodcutters who are cutting firewood in the area of the Highway 74 bypass.

"Make sure you're cutting the right wood," said Loftin.

Loftin wasn't cutting in the right place recently when he was ordered off some property near the site of the new Herald Publishing House.

"I asked one of the state inspectors if it was alright to cut wood off the by-pass right of ways," said Major. "And he said it was. There were probably nine people cutting wood there. The inspector said to make sure we stayed between the stakes and we did. But a man who said he'd leased the property there said I was on his property and told me to 'get off or I'll see you in court.'"

Loftin, of course, quit cutting, and hopes he doesn't land a day in court because of it. "I just want to prevent other persons from getting in trouble," he said.

Something that grates me, and probably you too:

It seems every time I go to the trash dump these days, I run into one or more of the following:

One, I can't throw my trash into the dumpster without running the risk of throwing it on top of someone who is inside the dumpster searching through the garbage;

Two, I can't get my car within a decent distance of the dumpster because those doing the searching have theirs blocking the driveway;

Three, the dumpster is full (and probably has been for days), all the trash is spilling over into the drive and I either have to take



GARY STEWART

the garbage back home or add to the problem.

Those of you living inside the city and having regular garbage pickup may not be familiar with what I'm talking about. But others living out in the country are experiencing this same problem.

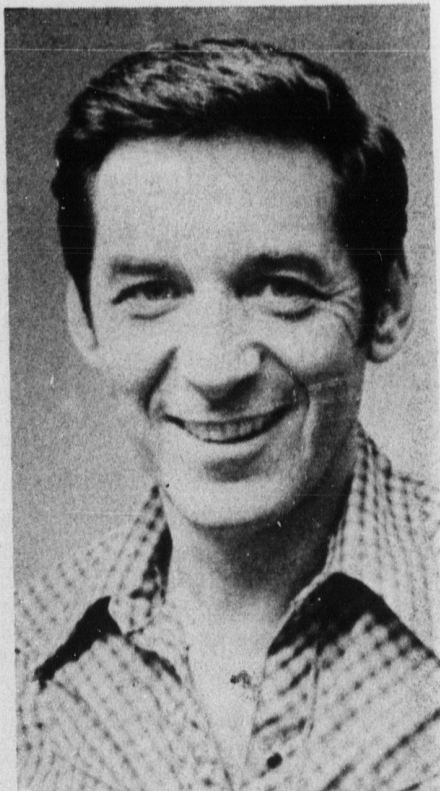
The only dumpster in our end of the county, as far as I know, is on the Margrace Road near Midpines. These problems I mentioned have existed there for years and there is probably no easy solution.

Once as I was dumping my trash, I saw a man sitting in a new pickup truck and talking on a CB radio while his wife and children were searching through the dumpster for old clothes. I believe if the man could afford the truck and CB he could afford to buy his family some clothes.

If the people searching through the dumpsters are really in need, they could seek out the proper authorities and have their needs taken care of.

And, on the other hand, the county could do a little better job of keeping the dumpsters empty, or adding more, if necessary.

As for the people inside the dumpsters: Someday maybe you'll find a fortune. If you don't...someday, somehow, when you least expect it, smile...somebody may throw a ton of garbage on top of your head.



That young fella with the sheepish little grin on the front page (and in the photo above) is Hal England, Kings Mountain native and star of stage and screen. He was in town last week to promote the United Fund.