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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE: Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding. Proverbs 3:13.

Not an early shopper...

This would have been a worthy piece about two weeks ago, but I'm not sure whether a person could start today and still get her Christmas shopping done in the "early" category.

It would be sufficient to say, however, that if I started today it would be "early", comparatively speaking. I am usually downtown, along with the other last-minute shoppers, on Christmas Eve finishing up my Christmas list.

Sometimes I have envied the early shopper, who when I'm just beginning to start my list, can blithely say she's "plumb done" with just a little bit of wrapping to do.

Successful Christmas-giving requires forethought and planning, and many people in town do just that, by spending many months before Christmas crocheting afghans and other beautiful handmade gifts for friends and loved ones. For those of us who aren't talented in that line, the Kings Mountain area merchants are well stocked with Christmas goods, and the Herald columns will make a good shopping guide. The merchants spend considerable time and effort in planning their advertising and there is no danger that they will fail to list their best and most desirable holiday merchandise.

There's not much else to say about early shopping, except that all of us should put on our



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list one or two folks who really need a gift. It's better still, if the prospective recipient doesn't expect anything.

Some are prone to bemoan the fact that Christmas annually seems to become more of a merchandising event than a spiritual re-awakening. I have never gone along with that theory. After all, the Bible says "it's better to give than receive," and I believe the people of Kings Mountain can count on the churches to fill the air with the true spirit of Christmas.

Some may think early shopping isn't so good. I heard one lady remark, who could hardly contain her three year old son. Every night he calls for the rendition of "The Night Before Christmas" and his last remark before moving to dreamland is "Mommy, I just don't believe I can wait."

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Schools must be open

Through the years, this newspaper has enjoyed a good working relationship with the Kings Mountain School System. In most cases, we've found the educators to be honest and open with us.

However, we are disappointed with the system because of a decision made Friday allowing an Iranian student to present a program to the 740 students at Central School and then trying to deny this paper its constitutional rights to cover it.

The student presented talks throughout the class day, showed pictures, slides and other displays of his native country. The school called it a "geography" lesson that had no political views whatsoever.

This paper was contacted Thursday by a Central teacher and when we showed up Friday at 1:30 to cover the story, we were told by assistant principal Glenda O'Shields that Principal Richard Green had left instructions that no press coverage be allowed. Green, she said, left those instructions right before he left the campus.

Green later called the paper to say that Mrs. O'Shields had misunderstood him. He said he had left word that "no newspapers planned to cover it."

The reason for no coverage, Mrs. O'Shields said, was that the student opposed the holding of

American hostages in Tehran and feared that having his name and picture published would put his life in danger. This we can understand. But just moments before Mrs. O'Shields came into the auditorium to enforce the principal's misunderstood instructions, the Iranian student had been promised that his name and picture would not be printed, and had agreed to talk.

After a brief meeting in the principal's office with Mrs. O'Shields and the teacher that contacted us, our reporter returned to the auditorium to find the Iranian gone.

We realize this could have been one big misunderstanding. But we have our doubts. We cannot understand why, if this was only a "geography" lesson, anyone would object to it being covered.

We realize that our Uncle Sam is a good uncle and that in his constitution he gives his freedom of speech to Iranians as well as Americans. But we also feel that the American citizens whose tax dollars finance school buildings, textbooks and teachers' salaries have a right to know what's going on inside the walls of those schools.

When an Iranian student, or anyone else, comes into a school, what he says and does affects not only himself, but all students in that school, their parents and families, and the entire community. We remind the superintendent, administration and board of education that it is their responsibility to see that it's not kept inside.

We accept the apologies we've already received from Supt. William Davis and Principal Green. They assure us we're welcome at Central or any other school at anytime. But we hope they can understand that we certainly didn't feel that way Friday.

Job well done by KM firemen

The Kings Mountain Fire Department can well be proud of its 1979 Christmas opening parade. It was a well done job an Co-Chairmen Johnny Caldwell and Pete Peterson and the other hard-working members of the Fire Department can well take satisfaction over the outcome of the project.

Buy a Christmas tree from a Jaycee and support local community projects of this civic organization. The Jaycee Tree Lot is now open until Christmas on South Battleground Avenue.

Lions Club members are vendors of the traditional holiday fruit cake which can be purchased from any member. Proceeds are applied to the Lions projects for the area blind, a most worthy endeavor.

August fogs, persimmon seeds can't be wrong...

For years, folks have been trying to predict the weather. Very little faith can be put in forecasters such as the ones you see on TV. Most of us probably remember the time WBTV's Clyde McClain predicted "partly cloudy skies" and we woke up the next morning with 12 inches of partly cloudy (snow) on the ground.

There's just nothing to compare with the "old folks" way of predicting the weather. You've heard them say you can tell how severe a winter's going to be because of the thickness of husk on the corn, coloring of bark on the trees, the number of fogs in August, etc.

Now, students (and at least one professor) at Appalachian State University claim you can predict the winter's weather by the coloring of the 13 segments of colors on a woolly worm. They have 667 of those boogers predicting the weather.

But, now, those woolly worms and some of the other methods mentioned above are in conflict with each other.

I know, I mean I really know, that the best two ways of predicting the winter weather are, one, counting the number of fogs in August; and two, cutting open a persimmon seed to see what's inside of it. The number of fogs in August represent the number of snows you'll see during the winter. There are three signs that can be found inside a persimmon seed. If you cut open a



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persimmon seed and find a spoon inside, it means you're going to shovel a lot of snow. A fork means there will be mild weather and a knife means there'll be cutting winds.

These two methods this year seem to jive. I cut open three persimmon seeds and there was a spoon inside all three of them. That means a lot of snow. I counted the fogs in August and came up with nine. Herman Blalock counted 13 but he can count better than I.

Now, here's the problem. Those 667 woolly worms up at Appalachian are calling for a mild winter. They say it'll be comparable to last winter and much milder than 1977 and '78.

If those worms are so smart, tell me one thing? Why is it we are seeing so many of them crawling down out of the mountains?



Poets Corner

I HEARD MY LITTLE GIRL PRAY

I went into her bedroom
To kiss my little girl goodnight
She was kneeling by her bedside
And I tried to be so quiet.
I heard her say "Dear, Lord I thank you
For keeping me throughout the day."
Then she said, "I'm glad, dear Jesus,
To know you hear me when I pray,
But it made me tremble when I heard her say,
"Dear Lord, please save my daddy
Help him turn from sin away."
Then without hesitation, right there by her
side I knelt
I cried, "Dear Lord Jesus please save me"
And the sweetest peace I felt.
We turned our face toward Heaven
It made me watn to shout
Just because it was so real
I can never doubt.
Then she said in voice so tender,
"Dear Lord, help us to be true,
I know we have no ought to fear
While we are trusting you.
Now as I think about that night
I thank God from day to day
When I think where I could have been
Had I not heard her pray.

CALVIN WRIGHT
Kings Mountain

A PRAYER

In the darkness of the midnight
At the breaking of the day
Dear Lord, be ever near me
With your hand, please lead the way.
Help me Lord to follow
Wherever it may be
Please give me strength and courage
That I may follow thee.
Be thou near me when I am tempted
Hear me when on thee I call
When I am weak and weary
Lord, uphold me lest I fall
When the way is dark and dreary
The path I cannot see
I could not make it by myself
I'm depending, Lord, on thee.
Please give me grace to follow
Lest from thee I roam,
Because when this life is over
Lord, I want to make it home.

CALVIN WRIGHT
Kings Mountain

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, Kings Mountain 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.

THE PERFECT CHURCH

I think that I shall never see
A church that's all it ought to be
A church whose members never stray;
Beyond the strait and narrow way;
A church that has no empty pews
Whose pastor never has the blues,
A church whose deacons always seek
And none is proud, and all are meek
Where gossipers never peddle lies
Or make complaints or criticize
Where all are always sweet and kind
And all to others faults are blind
Such perfect churches there may be
But none of them are known to me.
But still, we'll work, and pray, and plan
To make our own the best we can.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN
Submitted by Myrtle Goforth

WHAT THIS WORLD NEEDS

A little more kindness
Is what this world needs,
A little more loving
In words and in deeds;
A little more helping
Of brother along
A little more smiling
A little more song
A little more lifting
Of somebody's cares
A little more giving,
A little more prayer.
A little more thinking on things
That are true
A little more patience and tenderness, too
A little more brushing
Of worries away
A little more thanking
For blessings each day.
A little more courage
In paths still untrod
A little more trusting
In mankind and God!

AUTHOR UNKNOWN
Submitted by Myrtle Goforth

corner

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

When things go wrong,
And they sometimes will
When the road you're traveling
Seems all uphill
When the funds are low
And the debts are high
And you want to smile
But you have to sigh.
When care is pressing you down a bit
Rest, if you must, but don't quit!
Life is odd with its twists and turns
As everyone of us will sometimes learn
And many a Failure turns about
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out.
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow
You may succeed with another blow.
Your temper may flare and your brow be lit
But don't let the devil tell you to quit.
Often the goal is nearer than it seems
To a faltering man who is faint.
But remember the man who decided to quit
Gave up when he said, "I can't."
Why, he might have had the victor's cup
And have captured the golden crown
Just one more hill would have been it
But the flesh won the battle or the spirit of God
And he decided to quit.
You never can tell how close you are
It may be nearer than you think
You wouldn't want them to say you quit.
God wants you to be the missing link.
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
It's when things seem worse that you mustn't quit.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN
Submitted by Myrtle Goforth

LOOKING BACK

From the Fri., Dec. 2, 1949 edition
of The Kings Mountain Herald

The city board of commissioners, in special session at City Hall Monday, voted to purchase the water and sewer lines of Crescent Hill Development Co. and the sewer lines on Landing St.

Ollie Harris, Kings Mountain mortician, has been nominated for ninth district governor of the N.C. Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association for 1950-51.

1950 auto license plates for the City of Kings Mountain went on sale yesterday at City Hall.

Social and Personal

The living room of the home of Mrs. O.W. Myers was lovely with bronze chrysanthemums on Tuesday night when she was hostess to members of the Twin Table Bridge Club.

Little Ann Falls, who is recovering from a severe case of measles, said the devotion of her friend, Polly Page, did much to cheer and help her pass the time while she was confined to her room. Polly spent much of her holidays trying to help and bring cheer to her playmate.