



## GARY STEWART Hunter Wells clicks off his 84th birthday

One thing that ticks me off is to see a story written on an old person having a birthday, and it read something like this: Mr. Jones was 84 years young Sunday.

There's a lot to be said for growing old, because in most cases, it means someone has lived a long and healthy life and has blessed others with their long years of wisdom and experiences.

In the case of Hunter Wells, well-known Kings Mountain resident, the 84 years young tag may be the best suited, though. Hunter clicked off his 84th the other day, and as everyone who knows him can clearly see, the longer he lives the younger he gets.

His family gathered at his home a couple of Sundays ago to help him celebrate the event. There were the usual gifts, and a bonus of good, homemade ice cream on a hot and humid day.

Hunter's celebration also included a trip to see Hub Stewart, who'll have his 84th next month. The two of them may sometimes forget the birthdays of their closest of kin, but they'll remember each other's because they're the identical age and grew up together down in the Dixon School community.

Hunter loves life more than anyone I've ever known. I've known him for 34 years, and he looks the same now as he always did.

When I was growing up, he ran a small convenience store for Fred Plonk down on Grover Road, and even then he was nearing retirement age.

He, more than anyone else, knew how to retire. Just quit but keep moving.

His daily routine includes getting up before the chickens, eating breakfast, reading the paper and heading for Kings Mountain. He's always there when the stores open and if the folks down at Phifer Hardware ever opened their doors for business and Hunter wasn't nearby, they'd know something was wrong.

He, and a handful of others, meet on the streets every morning, visit for several hours, go home for lunch and report back in early afternoon.

On the way home, Hunter gets the afternoon paper, has a good supper (it usually includes country ham), and hits the hay early.

Standing on the streets, he gathers more news than all of the county newspapers combined (and long before the papers ever know it), and he makes more friends as each day passes. Hunter and a few of his friends have even witnessed a couple of robberies downtown.

He's been driving for about 75 years and has never had an accident. "Well, nothing you can count, anyway," he said.

"My father (Aaron) taught me how to drive back when I was a kid," he recalled. "I had been driving for years before the state required you to have driver's license."

"Back then," he added, "all of the roads around here were dirt and real curvy. I remember my daddy telling me, 'when you're driving down a road and can't see the road any more because of the curves, always think there's a car coming.'"

So, that's the safe driving philosophy. And it works.

But, I reminded Hunter, that I remembered one time when he hit the ditch to avoid an accident and a young fellow's noggin broke the windshield out of his old white Chevrolet pickup.

"Do you remember who that was, Hunter?", I asked.



Hunter Wells

"Yeah, yeah," he said as he flashed his patented smile. "And you do, too."

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When John W. Gladden Sr. passed away last Wednesday, all of Kings Mountain lost a good friend.

Mr. Gladden will always be remembered by the thousands of young men who played legion baseball in this town.

Through the years and even up until the time a few years back when the sport folded here, Mr. Gladden was one of Post 155's greatest supporters.

He did everything from taking up money at the gate to selling raffle tickets.

But, what he did best was lead the teams in the Legion baseball Code of Sportsmanship prior to every home game at City Stadium.

No other legionnaire did the job as well.

So, one more time, in memory of a great man and a great baseball fan.

I will:  
Keep the rules  
Keep faith in my teammates  
Keep my temper  
Keep myself fit  
Keep a stout heart in defeat  
Keep my pride under in victory  
Keep a sound soul,  
A clean mind,  
And a healthy body.

(And, never forget those famous last words, which got the game rolling and always will: Play ball!)



## Lib Stewart

"It is a platform which can be called a retreat to the past, and it must be difficult for moderate Republicans to swallow. In the flush of excitement which follows the convention the moderates may be pleased that George Bush is on the Regan ticket, but they may be less than happy when cold reality sets in. Ronald Reagan is a trained performer - acting is his profession - but, after all, there is a real world and not just a play world with which a President has to deal."

And Jeane Dixon, in her mid-year predictions which are circulated around the country, has predicted that President Carter will face Ronald Reagan in the November election and Reagan will emerge the winner.

Ah, well, politics makes strange bed fellows, someone has said. We'd be happy to receive President Carter, Governor Reagan or both in Kings Mountain for the 200th celebration Oct. 7th of the Battle of Kings Mountain. And, since the President has not replied to the invitation perhaps the Celebration committee will invite the GOP nominee?

## The only question was choice of running mate...

Kings Mountain Republicans are pleased with the ticket which recently came out of the national GOP convention.

It was really no surprise that actor Ronald Reagan would win the Party's nomination, they said. The only question was the choice of running mate.

The nomination of the Hollywood veteran actor has not been greeted with enthusiasm by everyone. We were interested in some observations by area editors:

"The Charlotte Observer" said: "Mr. Reagan insists that he isn't trigger happy, yet he seems to want voters to see him that way. By picturing himself as the candidate who strikes fear in the hearts of the Soviets, he reinforces the troubling impression that his views of the world is straight out of old comic books. We search in vain for some sign that there is more to the man than the stereotype; for some sign that he realizes he is running for president of the United States, not sheriff of Dodge City."

Said "The Southern Pines Pilot": "Those who are concerned about the progress of America can take no comfort from the Republican platform which the Reagan forces prepared. This is a platform which repudiates long time support for the Equal Rights Amendment, which calls for an anti-abortion constitutional amendment, favors the death penalty, is against gun control but favors more weapons and excessive military spending, wants repeal of the 55 mile per hour speed limit, wants to abolish energy conservation and educational programs and looks with disdain at programs for the poor."

# Kings Mountain Herald

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

GARLAND ATKINS  
Publisher

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MEMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Herald is published by Herald Publishing House, P.O. Box 752, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Business and editorial offices are located at Canterbury Road-East, King St. Phone 739-7196. 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 931-010.

## EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

### John W. Gladden Sr.

The death of John W. Gladden Sr. at the age of 84 removed from the community a citizen of rare quality and stature - a gentleman who was respected by young and old alike.

Mr. Gladden worked hard all his life and reared a family of a dozen children.

He was one of our few remaining veterans of World War I and he had a deep love for his country and for his fellowman.

"Mr. John" was rightly dubbed, "Mr. Legionnaire" by members of Post 155 of Kings Mountain because he epitomized that title and served three

terms as Post Commander and on the state level as a district commander. He was a salesman par excellence and volunteered to help out good causes to help others for both the Legion and Auxiliary on many occasions.

He was a familiar personality who will be missed, not only by his Legion associates, but by the church folks he loved at Second Baptist, his companion of 60 years, his beloved wife Millie, and their large family, and a host of friends.

Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to his loved ones in their bereavement.

### Buford DeFore

Buford DeFore adopted Kings Mountain seven years ago when he came to Spectrum, Inc. as vice president of manufacturing and the community soon grew on him, he said to The Herald staff on many occasions.

He contributed much to this community during

his brief tenure here and he will be missed, not only in the industrial community where he was a giant, but in other areas of the city which felt his leadership. Our sincere sympathies are extended his wife and family.

## Letters to the editors

### Injured policeman says thanks.

To the editors:

I would like to express my appreciation to Mrs. Linda Hamm, and officers Billy Benton and Gary Sale for their courageous act of bravery during the line of duty the night of July 6.

A special thanks to Commissioner Jim Dickey, Mayor John Moss, and many friends and relatives for their concern and other expressions of sympathy during this time, and to Dr. Robinson, nurses and staff of Kings Mountain Hospital for all your hospitality during my hospital stay.

And, to other area police departments, thank you for all your concern and help at the Chesterfield Apartments.

Sincerely,  
Sgt. Johnny Belk

### Your blood needed

To The Public:

We are all needed to meet the blood needs of patients in the 102 hospitals in our region, supplied through the Red Cross Blood Services. An average of 992 pints a day must be donated to meet these needs—and each pint is important!

Summer is the traditional time for lightening up on some of our routine responsibilities. Due to this, many people don't make the effort to give blood like they normally would the rest of the year. The result? If there are not enough blood donors, there could be a shortage.

The Cleveland County Chapter of the Red Cross doesn't want this to happen. But they need our help. Every single blood donation counts and helps to save lives.

The Kings Mountain City Employees are sponsoring a bloodmobile visit on Monday, August 4 from 12:00 noon until 5:30 p.m. This is a community visit and I would appreciate your support on this very important day—Kings Mountain Bloodmobile Day!

We can make our valuable blood donation by signing up to give blood. Call 739-8136 for more information.

Mayor Pro Tem  
James A. Childers

### Thank you

Dear Editors,

Without publicity we could never have reached the \$80,000 goal so that Crestwood Hall can reopen this fall. Thank you! You and others in your profession were able to arouse our citizens to our need. We had operated for six years and most of the population just assumed we were receiving government aid! Now our community can feel proud that Crestwood Hall is truly a community school, for the people saved it.

In addition to helping us raise money for Crestwood Hall, the publicity alerted some parents to the service we provide, for we have had calls since our drive began.

Because we cannot write personal thank you letters to everyone, the parents, directors, and teachers will have a drop in party at the Tommy Feemster home, (Old Brookwood Section), 1201 Crescent Avenue, Sunday afternoon, July 27, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Please come so we can say thank you. All of us will count it a privilege to see you then.

E. Graham Bell  
Cecilia Feemster

### Thanks for coverage

Dear editors:

I'm writing to say thanks for the excellent coverage your newspaper gave to the Kings Mountain High School superdance held to benefit the muscular dystrophy campaign.

The photo that accompanied the story was terrific. We're always looking for good photographs such as this which can be used in our printed materials.

Again, thanks for running this very informative story.

Sincerely,  
Joyce E. Jesionowski, Production Assistant  
Dept. of Public Health Education

### How far is far?

To the editors:

How far is far? How far can some politicians be trusted?

Some, about as far as a man can throw a greasy pig with a short tail.

As for making a quick buck, each has a touch of larceny.

As far as political parties, after both have been shaken up in a shake and bake way, they both weigh out about the same as both parties are out to cheat, steal and rob the little man.

In short, this is a crooked and perverse generation and it reaches into every aspect of political and business life.

Yours truly,  
Everette Pearson  
Kings Mountain

## LOOKING BACK

Looking Back From The July 31, 1952 edition of The Kings Mountain Herald

John L. McGill, elder of Boyce Memorial ARP Church, was elected chairman of elders of First Presbytery at annual meeting of the group at Ebenezer ARP Church near Charlotte last Thursday.

The recent hot weather has caused Kings Mountain citizens to increase their consumption of water to what might be record consumption. George Moss, manager of the city's water plant, said the plant operated at capacity on July 21-22-23 pumping 3,240,000 gallons more than the plant's rated capacity of a million gallons per day.

Social and Personal

Mary Elizabeth Logan and William Richard Cree were married at the Central Presbyterian Church in Sweetwater, Texas on Saturday. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. J.J. Logan of Kings Mountain.