

# Kings Mountain Herald

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## It's good for cotton...

Here we are almost at the end of Dog Days with some rain finally falling to give a little juice to the corn crop which certainly has had its tassels and silks hanging out, if not its tongue.

But the type of weather this area has been subjected to this summer is probably good for cotton, if not for other things like camellias and other flowers.

According to Webster's dictionary, dog days are customarily considered to occur in the six hottest most sultry weeks of July and August, during the period when the dog star rises with the sun, and often reckoned from July 3 to August 11. The dog star and the sun must have been running a dead heat this season for we've had plenty of the hot and plenty of the sultry.

At any rate, it has been hot here but not nearly as hot as any in other parts of the country.

Arlene Barrett, just back from a church secretary's conference in Texas, said the thermometer hit 100 last Friday but it didn't appear nearly as hot. Could it have been that she was anticipating a dip in her cousin's swimming pool after the work sessions ended and thinking about the cool water did the trick?

From Sharon Allred Decker, of Duke Power's Corporate Communications Department, comes some tips on how to voluntarily cut back energy usage.

If you were watching television on Thur., July 18th, you may have seen the crisis alert symbol flash on the screen. Mrs. Decker explains that with continual hot and dry conditions, the demand for electricity increases. More energy is needed primarily



## Lib Stewart

ly for increased air conditioning needs and summer peak demands reach their highest points from 1 until 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, according to Mrs. Decker. The reason for the alert is that we set record peak demands during extreme hot weather and often during extreme cold weather conditions as well. When Duke's approaches a certain capacity for generation, Mrs. Decker says that customers are asked to voluntarily cut back energy usage.

Keep these points in mind:

- Minimize cooking during on-peak hours. Off-peak, prepare large quantities to freeze and reheat for later use. If cooking must be done during the peak period, then use only one or two elements of the electric range. Small appliances and microwave ovens are best to use during the on-peak period, or an entire meal could be cooked in the oven.

- Ironing clothes, washing and drying should be done during off-peak hours.

- Use natural ventilation or attic/window fans when practical.

- If several window units are used for air conditioning, diversify usage so all are not on at the same time.

- Close draperies and curtains during hottest part of the day.

- Do not lower cooling thermostat immediately prior to on-peak period (unless it is to be turned "off" before the on-peak period starts).

- Raise air conditioning thermostats during the on-peak period.

- Cut off all unnecessary lights.

## All-Around Perfection? How About Stan Musial?

One of the biggest St. Louis Cardinal fans of all time is a former co-worker of mine, Bob Hallman of The Gazette.

I became a St. Louis Cardinal fan in 1946 when they beat the Boston Red Sox in a memorable World Series.

Stan "The Man" Musial was the first baseman on that team.

I don't know when Bob became a fan of the Cardinals, or why. Bob and I have been pretty frustrated over the years. The Cardinals haven't made many World Series appearances lately.

The last time was when big Bob Gibson was the star pitcher and the Redbirds lost to Detroit.

But Musial. There was a man. There was a player. Bob and I used to look in The Charlotte Observer sports section the next day after "The Man" had done heavy damage to some opposing pitcher or pitchers.

The Observer ran this same picture about 30 times one year. It was a "mug" shot.

"Sure wish they'd get a new picture to run on Musial," said Bob. "Yeah, but he does have a good smile and looks happy, Bob," I replied.

Stanley Frank Musial may well have qualified as the closest embodiment of all-around perfection baseball has ever seen.

That very extreme and all-embracing sentence takes into consideration his actions off the field as well as on.

He was equally as adept in the outfield as he was at first base. I admired the likes of the Mays, the Cobbs, the Ruths, the Williams, the DiMaggios, the Hornsbys, the Aarons, the Terrys - but I loved Musial.

Babe was mostly an overgrown boy almost until his death, and was fined more than once when he strayed from the straight and narrow.

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**TY COBB**, whose home life was never a model, was involved in brawls with teammates and opponents.

Joe DiMaggio was moody, Rog Hornsby irascible, Bill Terry was never known for his sunny disposition and Ted Williams, of course, was known for his lack of it.

Sportswriter Dick Gordon once wrote that Ted made the headlines for his spitting almost as much as for his hitting.

As for Aaron and Mays, they were a credit to baseball just like Musial. I don't know of anything bad Aaron or Mays ever did. They were, like Musial, great individuals, both on and off the field.

Old Stan was one of the most charmingly gracious fellows in any line of work. He was (and still is) a devoted family man to his wife and children, with a sense of humor that appreciated good jokes, including those on himself.

It was Stan himself who told the story about how son Dickie greeted him at the door following his record Sunday output one year of five home runs.

Dickie said, "Gee, Dad, they must have been giving you fat pitches."

Eddie Stanky once said, "When it comes to team value, to playing when hurt, to trying for that extra base, Stan was in a class by himself."

All of his Cardinal managers shared that viewpoint.

Vivian S. Biltcliffe



## GARY STEWART

When it comes to handling basketball, Clayton is number one

If the Harlem Globetrotters were to integrate, you could bet they'd be recruiting white athletes like Cleveland County's Carl Clayton.

Clayton is a basketball ballhandling expert who tours the nation each summer lecturing to youngsters in basketball camps, such as the one held last week at the Kings Mountain Community Center.

A former point guard at Crest High, where he played with NBA superstar David Thompson, and Appalachian State, Clayton is not a professional basketball prospect. But, if ballhandling were the only requirement for stardom, he'd be the most highly paid man in the business.

Clayton began developing his skill at the age of 10. "I carried a basketball everywhere I went," he said. "When I walked down the street, I was dribbling it. When I went to bed at night, I had it right there beside me. As I grew older and began to get interested in girls, I'd walk down the street holding my girl in one hand and my basketball in the other."

At Crest, his ballhandling and pin-point passing to the super-talented Thompson helped the Southwest Conference Chargers win the Western N.C. High School Activities Association championship.

After Appalachian, he went into high school coaching for a brief time and then hit the camp circuit.

Clayton urges youngsters to work on special skills such as ballhandling when they're by themselves. "When you have access to a goal and teammates, the best way to learn basketball is to play," he says.

His talent is world-known, and until someone else can come along that's better, he'll be recognized as the best. Last week, he set a new world record for spinning a basketball on his fingertip, spinning it for three hours, 53 minutes and eight seconds to get his name in the Guinness Book of World Records.

But, such things have little to do with learning the complete game of basketball. "Like I said," he noted again, "The best way to learn is to play."

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Former R-S Central High and Gardner-Webb All-American Lewis Young set Scotland afire in European Pro Basketball play last season, averaging 35 points per game for the Murray International and Medals team in Edinborough.

His team won the league championship and the coveted Scotland Cup in the Premiere League, and he also averaged seven rebounds and four assists while playing the guard position.

Young, in town Thursday to lecture at the Kings Mountain Basketball Camp of the Stars, says basketball is an up-and-coming sport in Scotland, but it'll never reach the heights it is in the U.S.

"The players have a lot of talent," he said, "but they don't know the fundamentals of basketball and



CARL CLAYTON

they don't take it as seriously as we do here. They take it as a fun sport."

In most cases, he said, the pro players hold down another job during the day. He's one of the few that plays basketball full-time.

"Soccer and rugby are still the big sports there," he said. "We play in some gyms that will seat 14,000 but we won the league championship last year and our biggest crowd was 2,500."

"It's still a fast-paced game, though," he said. "We play with a 30-second shot. But we take the ball out of bounds on the sidcourt instead of under the basket. I've been caught taking it under the basket a number of times."

The Scotland team is coached by former Elon College Coach Bill Miller, and Young is anxious to improve his statistics this season.

"But," he said, "I'd rather be in the NBA. I tried out for the Detroit Pistons this year but didn't make it. I hope to finish college over there and try the NBA for two more years. If I don't make it by then, I hope to land a job in a nice recreation center so I can still be close to the game."

## Dwight Frady

### Frady's Views



His St. Louis teammates gave him a plaque which said, among other things: "He's a gentleman in every respect, the perfect answer to a manager's prayer."

How many teammates would do that for today's players?

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**STAN WAS** something of a rags-to-riches story, since Stan, one of the first 100-grand men, is the son of a Polish immigrant who toted wire bundles in suburban Pittsburgh and a New York-born Czechoslovakian mother who sorted nails in a lumber mill.

The only difference in Stan from those simple beginnings were two things. His wife, Lillian, said he had more polish than when he was still playing for peanuts in the minor leagues. One of his former teammates, Red Schoendienst, said he "hit the ball farther."

Musial was NEVER ejected by a National League umpire and he once waited two hours in the winter cold of St. Louis to keep an autographing date with an out-of-town high school band.

He diligently answered approximately 15,000 postcards and letters a year.

Lukas Musial was determined his boy should have something better in life than his own lot around smog-filled Donora, Pa. He believed one of several athletic scholarships offered to the football-able Stan provided the best means.

His eldest son had other ideas. He wanted to try professional baseball after once leaving the batboy ranks at 15 to pitch for the Zinc workers town team and fan 13 rival semipros.

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**THE FATHER** remained firm until Stan's actual tears made him relent. He signed with the St. Louis organization for \$65 a month.

That was step number one in the career of one of baseball's all-time hitters. Number two came after Stan, the pitcher, had won 18 games for Daytona Beach in 1940. His throwing arm was injured in a tumble and his future hung in the balance.

But the keen eye of Burt Shotton, the manager of the Cards' Rochester farm team in the International League, took notice of the manner in which Musial crouched at the plate. Ted Lyons used to say, "like a kid peeking around a corner." Lyons got his bat on opposing pitches.

Old Brooklyn Dodger fans, who hated every opposing player, nicknamed Musial "The Man."

Nobody has ever seen fit to change it.



## Poets Corner

### Whatever We Are Will Show

A flower will bud and blossom through the rain of a shower, And share sweet perfume because a flower is a flower.

The songbird sings a song though the view is blurred, The songbird sings because it is the nature of the bird.

No flowers in the garden is as lovely as a rose, A pretty daisy is a daisy wherever it grows.

No-one can twinkle and shine as brightly as a star, It is wise we be the best whatever we are.

It is never wise to pretend to be that which we're not, It is wise to improve on the best that we've got!