

Kings Mountain Herald

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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Praise For Boards

More often than not, public bodies receive criticism for their actions.

But, two local bodies of elected officials should be praised for their recent actions concerning safety at Grover Elementary School.

Since nine-year-old Kelli Harry was critically injured when struck by a pickup truck in front of the school in December, area citizens have become more concerned than ever before for the safety of school children there.

Grover School is located in an area that provides truck drivers a cut-across from Highway 29 to Highway 226. Grover officials tried for years to get the State of North Carolina to ease the problem and

finally succeeded somewhat in getting the speed limit lowered from 35 to 25 miles per hour.

Since December, the Grover Town Council and Kings Mountain Board of Education have cooperated in the hiring of crossing guards and erection of caution lights in the area.

Grover is supplying two crossing guards at a cost of about \$1,100 a year each, and the School System is paying for the cost of erecting two caution lights. That cost will be about \$550 for each light.

No price is too great for the protection of our children.

We applaud both boards for their actions.

No Easy Answer

The Kings Mountain District Schools Board of Education has a problem that won't go away easily. And, no matter what decision its members make, it's not likely to please everyone.

The problem is transferring of students to and from elementary schools within the school district. Many parents living in one school's attendance area, for some reason, feel their children should attend school in another area.

As Supt. Bill Davis has said on numerous occasions, he feels the schools should work with parents when at all possible, and that transfers are granted providing they do not create an overloaded classroom.

The last few years, Kings Mountain has shown a gradual growth, and schools have become overcrowded. In fact, earlier in this school year the board had to re-transfer some students back into their own attendance area because of overcrowded

situations.

Re-transfers, or transfers denied, create disappointment.

Supt. Davis, and some board members, feel students who have already been granted transfers should be allowed to remain, but that it may be necessary to cut off transfers at the kindergarten level.

If that decision is made, it could create situations where one child in a family goes to one school, and a younger child who has not yet started to school, will be assigned to another.

If that decision is not made, the problem of overcrowded classrooms and lenient transfers could go on and on.

There is no easy answer, but, thank goodness, the board is willing to tackle the problem and will, hopefully, come up with some decision that will solve the problem once and for all.

Reader Dialogue

Didn't Sign Statement

To the editor:

The five members of the Advisory Committee at the Aging Program would like to correct a statement in your paper of Thurs., Jan. 22, 1981, that we asked two employees of the city of Kings Mountain to resign. None of the five signed any such statement.

As chairman of the committee, I, Halbert Webb, must respectfully ask that you retract the statement of your paper of Thurs., 22 of Jan., 1981.

Signed,

Alice Hoyle
Hazel Brown
Lydia Mitchell
Thelma Hicks

R.H. Webb, chairman

In Support Of Rev. George

To whom it may concern:

In my opinion, the Program for the Aging under the leadership of Rev. Kenneth George, is the only good and constructive aspect of all of the millions of dollars that the City of Kings Mountain has received in federal grants.

Having worked in only a minor way in this program, I know the true heartfelt communion between our elderly citizens and Rev. and Mrs. George.

The money that has been spent on Governmental buildings, parks and renovation, have not touched the human, every day needs of this community, as this program has.

Under Rev. and Mrs. George, far more than "hot lunches" has been given to these citizens. A call when one is sick, transportation to the doctor, help in getting groceries; indeed, a true love for elder persons and their personal and physical needs have been met by Rev. and Mrs. George.

It is time for us to rise up and keep "government and politics" out of every phase of our lives. Let a program that is truly working continue to work and expand with every cooperation of our town.

Sincerely,
Marilyn B. Neisler

U.S. Rallies Behind Freedom

Dear Editor,

As we look back, well, now let's see. We as Americans have experienced troublesome times within our history as a nation. From its beginning hueing ourselves out of a wilderness of despair into a great nation. Of course, there were many problems, heartaches, with every venture of life, life had its toll as well.

Yet in the midst of our many problems such as taxation, frustrations and in some instances starvation our human desire was to build for a greater future with greater determination.

In the midst of it all we've adapted ourselves with the bitter and sweet and perhaps that's one of the envies of other nations that we've been able to pick ourselves up by the boot straps in any given situation and having continued with great stride and pride as America has proven its willingness to survive under whatever odds, conditions and circumstances, and we're a long way from being beaten into submission.

And this within itself is enough for every American to rally behind the cause of freedom. If we should ever forget this, we will no longer be the glue which binds freedom together. Don't ever lose sight of the present, freedom, of the greatest nation on this God-given earth, should we ever do such we will be faced with the greatest loss mankind has ever known or experienced. Freedom is precious, without it we become slaves.

EVERETTE PEARSON
Kings Mountain

LOOKING BACK

From The Thurs., Jan. 28, 1960 Edition Of The Kings Mountain Herald

The Kings Mountain Herald was awarded first place in news coverage among weekly newspapers of the state by the judges of the 1959 North Carolina Press Association contests.

Rev. Thomas Droppers, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, will serve as chairman of the 1960 appeal for funds for the Heart Fund.

Social and Personal

Mr. and Mrs. F.O. Morris announce the engagement of their daughter, Linda, to Miles Sumner Davis. No date has been set for the wedding.

The Junior Woman's Club is planning a fashion show Feb. 6. Local chairmen are Mrs. John H. Gamble Jr., Mrs. Bill Bates and Mrs. Charles Alexander.

Ingram To Speak Here

From Page 1

insurance reform for the consumer.

Commissioner Ingram made North Carolina the leader in the nation in insurance reform by: Being first in the United States to abolish age and sex discrimination in auto insurance with a safe driver plan; Being first in the United States to abolish the discriminatory Assigned Risk with a Reinsurance Facility, ending unfair cancellations of auto liability; Reducing insurance rates for mobile bulk tobacco curing barns by 50%, tobacco sales warehouses by 33%, crop hail insurance by 10%, auto medical payments insurance by 16.4%, recreational motor home insurance by 50%, uninsured motorists insurance by 66.7% - saving the people millions of dollars; Increasing fire and rescue squad line-of-duty death benefits from \$5,000 to \$25,000; Abolishing discrimination because of sickle cell trait in life and health insurance - First in the United States; Requiring smoke detectors in all new homes, saving lives and property - First in the United States; Making North Carolina one of the first three states in the United States to respond to the oil em-

bargo with new building code insulation requirements saving money and energy; Creating a Consumer Insurance Information Division that has helped over 125,000 North Carolinians with their insurance problems; Providing immediate insurance coverage for newborn infants in family health insurance policies - First in the United States; and Establishing a Special Office for the Handicapped to remove architectural barriers - First in the United States.

He is a member of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and has served in a host of capacities including Chairman of the North Carolina region.

Commissioner Ingram has testified before numerous United States Senate and Congressional Committees on discrimination in insurance, monopolistic practices and the need to abolish price-fixing anti-trust exemptions for insurance companies.

He advocates repeal of the federal law which exempts the insurance industry from our nation's anti-trust laws.

Commissioner Ingram saved the state's tobacco farmers from

almost certain economic disaster in 1979, when the farmers were faced with losses of about \$25 million dollars, that resulted from their use of a contaminated fertilizer.

He attended high school in Asheboro and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received a B.S. Degree in Business Administration and a Doctorate of Law. He was president of his law graduating class, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Eta Sigma, Beta Gamma Sigma, Sigma Chi Fraternity and Phi Delta Legal Fraternity.

He was a 1st Lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General Corps, U.S. Army.

He is a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner. He is a certified Lay Speaker and a Sunday School Teacher in the Methodist Church.

He is a family man of almost 26 years, married to the former Virginia (Gini) Brown. The Ingram's have four children: Gini Linn, John Randolph II (Randy), Beverly Brown (BB) and the youngest, Michelle Palmer. The Ingram's reside at 120 Bruce Drive, Cary, N.C.; however, they continue to vote in Asheboro and Randolph County is their permanent residence.



GARY STEWART

Rev. George Served Beyond Call Of Duty

The first time I met Rev. Kenneth George was at a public meeting for citizens' input into how the City of Kings Mountain could best spend Community Development Block Grant money which was to be issued by the federal government.

Rev. George, a Kings Mountain native, then was pastor of First Wesleyan Church in Lincolnton.

George took the floor to express his opinion on how some of the funds could best be used. And that was for the city to establish a program for senior citizens.

The city liked the idea, and several months later, in 1975, the Kings Mountain Program for the Aging was reality.

Rev. George, who in the meantime had volunteered his services and, often times, expense, was named as Director of the Program.

Since that time the Kings Mountain program has grown into one of, if not the best, senior citizen programs in the state.

Rev. George, as any good minister will, went far beyond the duties of a program director. He not only supervised the usual programs of hot lunches, and coordinating transporting of the elderly to and from doctors offices and on special trips, but also performed services most of the community probably did not realize.

I'm sure some of the services I've heard of Rev. George performing above the call of duty were only samplings of many others. But, here are just a few:

- Planned funerals for elderly people who had no family, and on most occasions, conducted those funerals.

- Acquired clothing, food, fans in the hot summertime, and heaters in the cold winter time, for persons who had fallen on hard times and had no means of supplying those necessities for themselves.

- Learned of one man who was in such poor shape he was sleeping in a junked car. Rev. George, through the proper agencies, got him a place to live and saw to it that he got a hot noontime meal through the Senior Citizens program during the week. On weekends, Rev. and Mrs. George prepared food at their own home and took it to the man.

A woman once called me here at the Herald and told of a family whose father had lost his job and had no heat in its home. She wanted a story written in the paper, but I felt like they needed help quicker than that.

So, we called Rev. George, he investigated on his own time and saw to it that the family's needs were taken care of.

To make a long story short, Rev. George did what had to be done for needy persons, and much of that work occurred after the usual eight-hour work day.

Rev. George resigned his position last week because of what he termed "interference" by outsiders.

Those charges should be looked into by the City Board of Commissioners, but that is not the intent of this column. It's intent is to give credit and a public thanks to a man who has performed a great service to the people of the Kings Mountain area.



Lib Stewart

Flu Bug Big News

Major news in Kings Mountain during the past week or two has been the "flu."

It was more news that a person thus far escaped the ailment than that he hadn't.

School officials and druggists guessed that the illness had been near epidemic stages but school officials were happily reporting at a recent school board meeting that the ravaging influenza seems to be abating somewhat and not as many vacant desks were reported by some of the schools. Grover seemed to be the hardest hit by the bug.

The city's medical contingent was being kept very busy with a parade of office visitors. Symptoms of the ailment varied but usually included one or more of the following: colds, headaches, vomiting, sore throat, etc.

About This N That

East School children were wearing yellow ribbons in their hair Thursday to celebrate the good news that America's 52 hostages were safely home ... Griffin Drug Store pharmacist-owner Wilson Griffin was displaying California "peanuts" on Inauguration Day. The "peanuts" were actually jelly beans ...



Poet's Corner

GOD UNCHAINS THE CAPTIVES
Let freedom ring and mortals sing
Of the wondrous works of God,
Who set free the weary hostages
Again familiar steps to trod.

Let heaven and earth sing His praises
Who set the captives free,
To join their families once again
Loose the yellow ribbon from every tree.

We see the result of compassionate prayer
Of families and friends concern,
The time has now been fulfilled
The heart can cease to yearn.

The waiting has been tasteless
With uncertainty in every step,
God was intervening every moment
While the enemy slept.

There's rejoicing now in freedom's song
In many a home and town,
May long the flag of freedom wave
Never to be cast down.
Vivian S. Biltcliffe