

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Mike Will Be Missed

There is an old saying that "only the good die young." And this must have been the case in the untimely passing of Mike Ledford at the age of 40.

Michael Theodore Ledford's sudden death of a heart attack last Friday afternoon was a shock to the whole community and will be felt keenly in the business community where he had worked all his life with his parents, Ted and Flora Ledford, and in recent years also with his wife, Sue Jean Wright Ledford, in the operation of Kings Mountain Farm Center. None of the family was any prouder than Mike when the firm moved from 126 E. Gold Street across the street to its spacious new building last year.

A hard-working, friendly and thoughtful young man, Mike was popular, not only with those who

worked in the immediate area but of many in the rural areas, particularly the farmers. Growing up on a farm, he knew the needs of farmers and his store was a favorite spot for farmers to come in and sit a spell and have their gardening tools sharpened while getting fertilizer and other products. He was a family man, a devoted husband, son, brother, friend.

The respect in which Kings Mountain citizens held him was evidenced at his funeral services last Sunday when Central United Methodist Church was filled to capacity with his friends.

Our sympathies to his wife, parents, sister, Margaret Ledford, and his grandmother, Mrs. Clarence Ledford, in their bereavement.

Mike Ledford will be missed.

Cancer Drive On

The 1981 Cancer Fund Campaign is now officially underway in Kings Mountain.

Volunteers will be making their rounds on Heart Sunday to distribute educational materials about this dread disease and to invite your contributions

for cancer research into this dread killer of so many people, from all walks of all life and at all ages of life.

Give to the Cancer Fund when a volunteer calls at your residence.

Commendations

Commendations are due the mayor's committee which is taking the lead to help Vietnam veterans find suitable employment in the Kings Mountain area.

Following closely on the local veterans organization's efforts to help the Vietnam veteran is the news that Congressman James T. Broyhill (R-N.C.) has co-sponsored legislation in the House of

Representatives to commemorate the veterans of the Vietnam War. This legislation will establish April 26, 1981 as a "National Day of Recognition for Veterans of the Vietnam Era."

In addition to setting aside a National Day of Recognition, the legislation will also call for a week of conferences and symposia around the country to highlight the problems facing the Vietnam veterans.

\$10,000 Reward Offered

The Herald received this week what may be an unusual classified ad which we are passing on in these columns instead of by the regular "want ad page."

Jerry Wayne Kilmer, owner of Alternatives, PO Box 691, Hamlet, N.C., has placed a similar classified ad in 19 newspapers and radio stations in Richmond County and area without results. He is placing the ads again on the eve of the anniversary of Judy Boyle's death.

\$10,000 Reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer of Judy Boyle at the Alternatives store on Hwy. 74 between Hamlet and Rockingham, NC on April 2, 1980. (919) 582-0154.

Judy Boyle, 21, was manager of the store and was working alone on April 2, 1980. Someone entered the store, shot this gentle unarmed girl in the back and stole a cashbox containing \$160 - a cashbox she

would have surrendered without a struggle.

Kilmer offered a \$5,000 reward immediately and Governor Hunt matched it a couple of months later with \$5,000 from the Governor's Office. Much valuable information has been available to law enforcement officials because of the reward.

However so far, neither the NC State Bureau of Investigation nor the Richmond County Sheriff's Department has yet been able to make an arrest in the case.

April 2nd will be the anniversary of Judy's brutal murder. Alternatives sits right on Highway 74 and the murder took place the Wednesday before Easter when so many Carolinians were traveling.

Perhaps one of our subscribers was passing the store that afternoon and could provide a bit of information that might solve this senseless killing, Kilmer pleas.

We Applaud G-W Plan

Gardner-Webb College has announced a plan to offset the reductions in student financial aid proposed by President Reagan's budget cuts. The plan is to use the college's own financial resources, which could amount to more than a quarter million dollars, to off-set the student loss in federal financial aid.

At the Boiling Springs school, which also offers an adult education program in this area and whose student body numbers a large number of Kings Mountain area students, 73 percent of the student enrollment participates in federal funding. More than \$3 million in federal funds for tuition purposes are being received during the 1980-81 academic year, according to Mrs. Marie Martin, financial aid director at Gardner-Webb College.

Gardner-Webb College President Craven Williams stated, "We believe that the economic

stability of this country requires a balanced federal budget, but we also believe that the future of this country resides in our young people. Therefore, we are determined to support the President's principle of a balanced budget, but will continue efforts to make student funds a high priority in Reagan's program."

If all of President Reagan's budget cuts are accepted by Congress, federal financial aid to each student will be reduced drastically. But for now, Gardner-Webb is willing to carry the financial burden of filling the gap which will occur this year, and will issue financial aid awards to students immediately.

This is good news for the many students who want to go to college but are financially unable without some help. We applaud our neighbors for their efforts.

Divorce - N.C. Style

There's one subject I've sworn I'd never touch with any length pole. Not because I don't know anything about it; I know too much about it. There are some bad words I don't like to concentrate long enough upon to talk about, much less take pen in hand and try to write down my thoughts.

Right along side death and taxes, cancer, wars, accidents of one kind or another, is that ugly word - Divorce. We read every day how the number of divorces is growing by leaps and bounds all over the country. Just recently it seems our neck of the woods has been hit with an epidemic.

I'm immune, so to speak, because some years ago I was vaccinated with a long blunt needle. It took all right, but left the usual scars; I feel I know and can sympathize with all parties concerned.

To me a bride's picture is pretty, but the picture of a couple celebrating their golden wedding anniversary is beautiful.

What brought this subject to mind at this particular time is what I've been reading about the laws concerning the distribution of property after a couple has separated here in our own state.

My very strong advice to any couple, especially those getting married for the second time around is to make sure you sign a pre-nuptial agreement before the ceremony. It will save a lot of grief and hassle if indeed this marriage goes sour later on.

I was literally forced to do this by a lawyer who had my best interest at heart. I doubt if I thanked him then, but later on there was no way I could have expressed my true feelings of gratitude for having so much forethought and interest in my well being.

The hurt, the confusion, the hard feelings, and yes the humiliation, are bad enough without the fight over property rights. There will be one you can be sure of that no matter how little or how much is involved - that is unless you have your name and your spouse's name on an agreement that will stand up in the court of law anywhere. Some separated couples even move to another state where the laws may be more in their favor.

All this sounds so very cold hearted and mercenary. Romances seem to take second fiddle to common sense and perhaps even greed.

I remember at the time I signed such an agreement I was very reluctant to do so. I was afraid to even mention it to the man I planned to marry soon. I thought this will surely be the end of wedding bells for me for sure. Much to my surprise he thought it a good idea. Boy was it ever a good idea. So I hope some of you at least give it a lot of thought and what's more do something concrete about it. You won't be sorry no matter how things turn out.

Enter April ...



Lib Stewart

Anyone who brings up the subject of income tax returns generally falls into one or another of the categories which embrace 1) people who remind you about your dental appointment tomorrow; 2) wrong numbers at 2 a.m. and 3) individuals who say "I told you so."

But that time is upon us. Tomorrow is the first day of April.

Time flies. While trying to do some spring cleaning of my filing cabinet at home, and sorting out what belonged to the Legion Auxiliary and clippings that I had assembled over the years, I came across a humorous item I should have included in last Tuesday's column on mention of the rumor of an election sometime this year on the legal sale of beer and wine for off-premises consumption and establishment of an ABC store.

A Congressman, asked by a constituent his stand on whiskey, did not know whether the questioner was "wet" or "dry." This was his reply.

"I had not intended to discuss this controversial subject at this time; however, I want you to know that I do not shun a controversy. On the contrary, I will take a stand on any issue at any time regardless how fraught with controversy it may be. You asked me how I feel about whiskey. Here is how I stand on this question. If when you say whiskey you mean the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, destroys the home, creates misery and poverty - yes, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children - if you mean the evil drink

that topples the Christian man and woman from the pinnacle of righteous, gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation and despair, helplessness, then certainly I am against it with all my power. But, if when you say whiskey, you mean the oil of conversation, the philosophic wine; the ale that is consumed when good fellows get together that puts a song in their hearts and laughter on their lips and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes; if you mean Christmas cheer; if you mean the stimulating drink that puts the spring in old gentleman's step on a frosty morning; if you mean the drink that enables a man to magnify his joy and his happiness and to forget for a little while life's great tragedies and heartbreaks and sorrows; if you mean that drink the sale of which pours into our treasury untold millions of dollars which are used to provide tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf, our pitiful, aged and infirmed, to build highways, hospitals and schools, then certainly I am in favor of it. This is my stand and I will not compromise."



SPRING SCENE - Warmer weather gets man and fowl thinking of how nice a dip in the water would be. This duck enjoys the early spring days, as the boats in the background

await a busy season as spring turns into summer.

Photo by Gary Stewart

(From the March 31, 1950 edition of The Kings Mountain Herald)

A large crowd was present to cheer favorites at the Third Annual Lions Talent Show last Friday night at the high school auditorium.

The Kings Mountain National Guard will leave for annual summer encampment at Fort Jackson, S.C. on July 2, according to Captain Humes Houston, Commander.

Harold England, 12th grade student, and Jean Cash won honors in the annual declamation and reading contests held at Central School last week.

Social and Personal

Miss Geraldine Cobb became the bride of Ralph W. Hullender Sunday in a high noon wedding in Grace Methodist Church.

LOOKING BACK

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Simmons have issued wedding invitations to the April 9th wedding of their daughter, Barbara Jean, and Walter Durham Harmon. The wedding will take place at First Baptist Church.

Miss Marion Arthur entertained members of the Tally Ho Bridge Club at her home Thursday night.

Kings Mountain Herald

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY GARLAND ATKINS Publisher GARY STEWART Co-Editor LIB STEWART Co-Editor

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 Street. Phone 739-7496. Second class postage paid at Kings Mountain, N.C. Single copy 20 cents. Subscription rates: \$12.48 yearly in-state, \$6.24 six months, \$13.52 yearly out of state, \$6.76 six months. Student rates for nine months, \$8.50. USPS 931-040.



I really don't know whether this property agreement is necessary or advisable the first time but I don't see how it could hurt anything and it could be a big help. I think it's a must later on in life especially if there are children involved and there usually are on one side or both.

I'm not going to try to explain how our state's laws involving property settlements at the time of divorce are set up now nor how they plan to change them. I'm sure you've read about this and are wondering as I am as to whether North Carolina should follow the lead of other states and revise their present laws.

What it boils down to it depends on what side of the fence you're on as to what you think is right and fair. Just about everything in the world usually comes down to dollars and cents.

It just makes good sense to use your head where your cents are concerned. The marriage of a couple is usually such a happy occasion. The divorce of a couple is usually so very, very sad. More thought should be given to both times but our hearts rule our heads and that is it should be sometimes.

Love should rule the world and every aspect of our lives, but we know this is wistful thinking - thus divorce.