

Kings Mountain Herald

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So Senseless And Sad

After our initial shock and utter dismay over the attempted assassination of our President, Ronald Reagan, the most loveable and I am sure admired man in America today, one begins to try as best we can to understand how such a terrible thing was allowed to come about.

It would seem impossible with so much protection from Secret Service and other channels. Yet time and time again it has. In fact 6 Presidents since 1900 have been gunmen's targets.

As one person I talked to said, "If anything happens as an aftermath, God forbid, from this dastardly act on black Monday, March 30, 1981, the United States might as well close up shop."

There is only one act that can change the continuation of senseless shooting and that is a very strict gun control law. It should be passed as soon as possible and be a law with some real meaning, one with no loopholes. It is said laws were made to be broken. Sure they will be, but at least such laws would be bound to slow down the easy access of guns. As things stand today, most anybody can buy as many guns as he wants and use them for any reason whatsoever.

The people who use them in an uncontrollable manner are usually insane at the time anyway. It is also insane to allow people to have them in their possession so when their bad mood takes over they have a dangerous weapon to harm themselves and others. After it's over and they sober up, calm down, and look back in retrospect they may be totally alarmed as to what they have done when they were not in complete control of their emotions. It's then too late to be sorry. The deed is done and many lives are damaged forever by one moment of madness.

None of us can truthfully say we are absolutely sure how we would act and do in any given circumstance. I think I am level headed to a certain extent, yet I have never thought of having a gun for protection. I have every safety gadget I can get to guard myself and my home, but I don't want or need a gun.

Here this young man, John Hinckley, in his early twenties had been given free rein to buy and possess five handguns that we know of for no earthly reason. He could have had no good intentions in mind when he purchased them.

Of course he was unbalanced at time of the shooting and must have been for some time. He was when he bought the guns.

No law can control human emotions but laws can and should control guns that give persons who are not thinking clearly to have a weapon to hurt others.

The Reagan family is receiving sympathy from all over the world. Life can't be the same for them again ever. This terrible experience will be lurking in their thoughts for as long as they live.

Reagan seemed so happy in his life and in his work. It was a pleasure just to watch him smiling and waving to everyone. Yet it was when his arm was in a friendly wave



that he was shot. It is reported that he is doing exceptionally well. We can all thank God for this. He has even remained in his usual good humor. Let us hope he won't change. We love him like he is. He's an inspiration to everyone.

You can't help but feel all's right with the world with Reagan at the helm.

All day, a thought kept going through my mind was how very sorry I felt for the family of young John Hinckley. They must be going through pain and sorrow too great to fathom. To have given birth and reared a son who would shoot the President, and have a bullet aimed by him penetrate Reagan's body, must be a burden beyond description. Not only our president, but three other brave and true men were shot and wounded gravely. It's all just too horrible - seems like a bad nightmare from which we will wake up and find out nothing like this could happen in "America, the Beautiful."

There's no use in criticizing the parents. All of us who are parents ourselves well know there is just so much any parent can do to control the lives and actions of their offspring. They can go so far and that's it. So I pray for this family along with the Reagans.

Please fellow countrymen, let's all rise up and demand strong gun laws. Those who have stood by sorrowfully and helplessly as we watched President Kennedy and now President Reagan shot down in cold blood know it is our only hope. Nothing else has and will work.

Feature Idea?

Call 739-7496

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Sad Day In History

The assassination attempt of President Reagan in Washington, D.C. last Monday angered all Americans and as many people all over the United States have commented it is a sad point in our history when our President can't go outside the White House in the nation's capital without fear of violence.

But presidents are not the only targets for the "sick" people who are among us. The victims, in recent months, have also been the black children in Atlanta and every time it happens, the American people respond in anger and ask, what can we do? Some are declaring that stopping the sale of hand

guns would be a beginning. There seems to be no immediate solutions.

Congressman James T. Broyhill (R-N.C.) summed up our thoughts when he said that this is "a grave time in our nation. The tragedy may be that our President will no longer be able to travel freely in our nation." Calling for prayer, Broyhill said, "I am sure that I speak for everyone when I say that our prayers are with the President and his family, Press Secretary Jim Brady and his family; and the two law enforcement officers and their families hurt during this tragedy."

Amen.

Nicest Smile

Spring is nature's nicest smile and Piedmont Carolina has been enjoying Mother Nature's example during the past few days.

As Spring steps to the fore in April across North Carolina several events mark that occasion.

Bob Hope, Minnie Pearl, "The Spinners," and a host of other noted guests will highlight the 1981 Azalea Festival at Wilmington April 9-12, as spring's beauty blooms along the Cape Fear River. Wilmington traditionally rolls out the red carpet for visitors at this springtime event which I attended as state president of the American Legion Auxiliary in April 1977. Arlene (Mrs. J.D.) Barrett and I rode in the parade, along with the other royalty, and we always remember the event because we almost ran out of gas on the parade route. We both shuddered to think how embarrassed we would have been if my old Buick had stopped dead in front of the reviewing stand with all those thousands of people looking on.

There will be more golf in the limelight during April too. The American Defender-WRAL Golf Classic will be played over the North Ridge Country Club courses in Raleigh April 7-12. And the

third annual South Brunswick Islands Open Golf Tournament will be played April 11-13 at Shallotte.

In Halifax, history will come to life April 12 with a reenactment of a Revolutionary War battle during the celebration of the signing of the Halifax Resolves which occurred April 12, 1776. The events will be staged at the Historic Halifax State Historic Site.

During the month there will be races of all sorts. The 34th annual Stoneybrook Steeplechase will be run at Southern Pines on April 11. The Tanglewood Steeplechase is scheduled for April 18 at Clemmons.

The bicycle will be the center of attention April 25 in Southern Pines during the annual 100-mile Tour de Moore Bicycle Race. Sports cars take to the hills at Chimney Rock on April 25 and 26 in the annual sports car hill climb. On April 11 and 12 the North Carolina Open Canoe Championships will be decided on the Tuckasegee River at Sylva and a 10,000 meter foot race will be run in the Great Smoky Mountains setting.

Statesville celebrates its 13th annual Carolina Dogwood Festival April 22-26.

Cancer

A large number of Kings Mountain citizen-volunteers began work this week on a task in which they should have full cooperation in accomplishing.

It is the annual local appeal for funds for the American Cancer Society, an organization which devotes its work to research to determine 1) means of discovering cancer in time to save the patient; 2) means of discovering improved methods of treatment and 3) to provide service to the cancer patient.

Cancer is a dread word. Some families are still reluctant to report that a death among the kin was caused by cancer.

But the real dread is because cancer, in its latter stages, is a killer. Once upon a time, all cancer was a killer, but research is now paying off.

It is still a sneaky killer. Persons who appear outwardly well and personally unaware of any discomfort can find themselves victims of the disease a short time later, and cancer is listed by the figuring experts as the No. 2 killer among diseases.

The Cleveland County goal is \$40,000, not a large amount to ask to aid the work of the American Cancer Society.

whelmed and deeply appreciate everything.

Thanks you for caring.

Sincerely,

Phil and Maria Harry
Litza, Tina, Nancy and Kelli
Mrs. Bessie

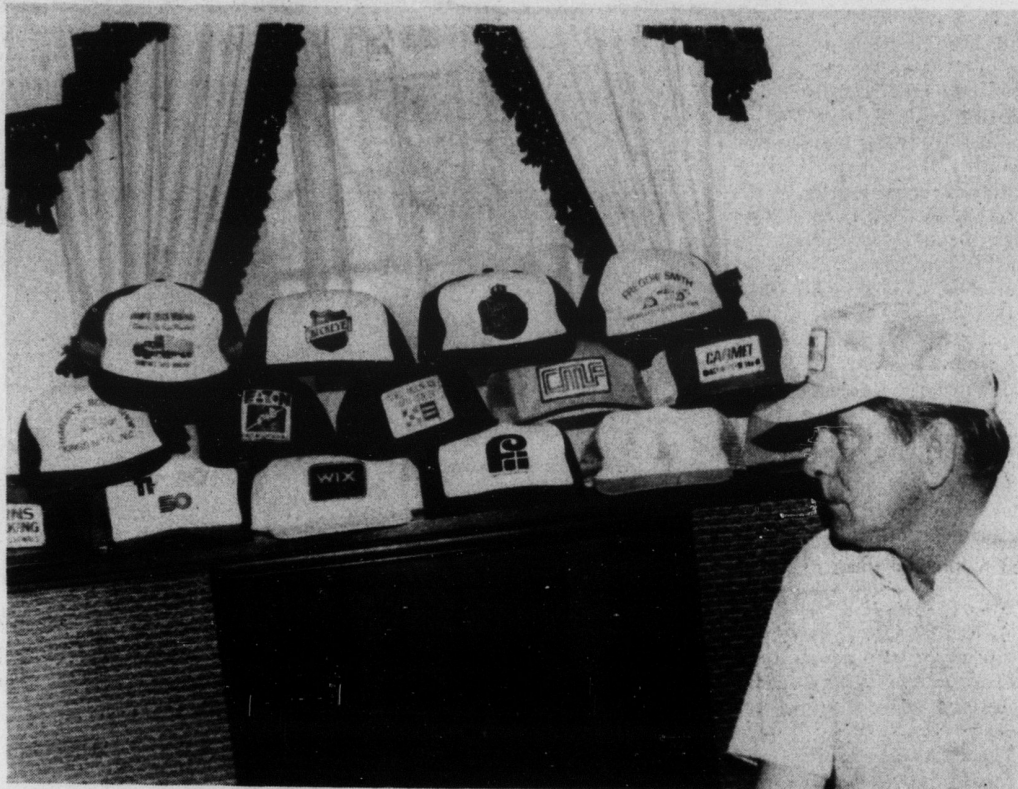


Photo by LIB STEWART

UNIQUE HOBBY—Bud Medlin collects caps. The popular Kings Mountain postal clerk is pictured with some of his growing collection, gifts from 128 friends.

KM's Bud Medlin

The Hat Man

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Co-Editor

Bud Medlin's goal is to collect 365 caps, one for each day of the year.

And the personable Kings Mountain postal clerk will probably attain his goal. He has already received 126 caps from his friends from all over the country.

The Kings Mountain man's hobby is unique because he doesn't purchase caps for his collection nor does he trade for them. His friends come into the postoffice and quite often give Bud the cap off their heads.

Word got around the neighborhood the Bud wanted a cap collection and his cap hobby grew rapidly - from one he received during a tractor pull at the county fair two years ago.

"I had my old Stetson hat on and was selling tickets outside the gates to the tractor pull when a representative from the tractor pull association noticed that I wasn't wearing one of their caps. She promptly brought me one", said Bud.

Each cap has a story to tell, according to Bud, who recalled that the late Mike Ledford gave him a Kings Mountain Farm Center cap a couple weeks ago and returned to the store to tell his mother, Flora Ledford, about the unusual hobby. Mrs. Ledford cleaned out her husband, Ted's, closets and brought Bud a sackful of caps which had come to him from various sources.

Most of Bud's caps are from other local companies, including Eaton, Spectrum, Fiber, Buckeye, Frederickson,

Spangler's Western Carolina, Carmet and others and they are displayed proudly on three closet doors, an antique hall tree and stored in bags at the spacious Medlin home on Cherryville Road. He cleans them, using spray starch, and some of them, which have been used, appear new.

His newest caps were mailed to him the other day from a friend at Piedmont Chlorinators. Another citizen willed him a cap, a beautiful rep felt.

"Taking a man's cap is like taking the shirt off his back," said Medlin, who says its a personal triumph for him to realize he has so many friends.

The monogrammed caps are of every color of the rainbow and advertise various products, from fertilizer to washing machines. There is also a Bourbon Street cap which was a gift

from his sister-in-law.

Mr. Medlin, a Kings Mountain native, has been employed by the Kings Mountain Postoffice for 18 years. He is married to the former Dot Cothran of Inman, S.C. and they are parents of two daughters, Barbara Lassiter, a Greensboro Pharmacist, and Cindy Medlin, a senior student at Western Carolina University.

His family enjoys his hobby as much as he does, but his wife prefers cups and saucers and her beautiful collection includes treasures from their visits in 15 countries. Bud says the difference in their hobbies is that he and Dot purchased many of the cups and saucers but that the caps were personal gifts to him from Kings Mountain area friends which he will always treasure.

THE RESURRECTION

They came unto the sepulchre their hearts were filled with care.

To anoint the Saviour's body but found it was not there. There was a mighty earthquake before the break of day.

And angels came from Heaven and rolled the stone away. The keepers were so fearful they fell down as if dead.

But unto the women "Fear not" the angel said; "I know that ye seek Jesus" they heard the angel say.

"He is not here for he is risen Come see the place he lay." Today this message carries hope for you and me.

That we too shall rise again this is our guarantee.
Calvin Wright

LOOKING BACK

(From the April 10, 1952 Edition of The Kings Mountain Herald)

Kings Mountain High School Mixed Chorus will hold its annual spring concert on April 17th at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Kings Mountain's quota in the annual Cancer Fund Campaign is \$750, according to Mrs. George Allen, chairman.

"The Campbells Are Coming," the next production of the KM Little Theatre, will be held on April 21 and 22 under direction of I.B. Goforth Jr.

Social and Personal

Linda Faye Pruitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.O. Pruitt, celebrated her seventh birthday Saturday.

Dr. and Mrs. N.H. Reed entertained members of the King of Hearts at their home last week.

Reader Dialogue

Thanks For Kindness

To our many friends, We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all the acts of kindness shown to our family during Kelli's illness. Your concern has made a very difficult time much easier to bear. We are all over-