

Kings Mountain Herald

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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Age Brings Challenge

Average American life expectancy has increased dramatically.

A child born today can expect to live 73 years—this is about 26 years longer than a child born in 1900, and about 45 years longer than in colonial times.

For those of us who have already clocked a certain number of years, future prospects are also brightening. Today at age 65, life expectancy is 16 years—14 for men and 18 for women.

The years added to most people's lives are significantly broadening American society. A whole new living generation has been added to our families. A new kind of multi-generational family—four living generations aren't exceptional at all anymore—is expanding family life and community life. No earlier society has ever experienced this or enjoyed this.

Like every major social advance, longer life brings new challenges.

Longer life can mean greater personal happiness, and greater fulfillment. But greater longevity enhances our national wealth and welfare as well, if only we know how to put the added years to good use for society.

We are just beginning to see what older people can do in the community, in our political and social institutions. A good example of the work that older

citizens render to this community is the Kings Mountain Aging Program.

Senior citizens are becoming a significant political power—they exercise their power not just for themselves but for society as a whole, in their roles of elders of the tribe.

We see greater involvement of older people in the community, helping to solve community problems, bringing a sense of service, a sense of continuity to the society in which families are all too often fragmented and need to have their generational ties reinforced.

During Older Americans Month, we ought to reexamine our neighborhood and our community, asking ourselves: What opportunities do older people have here—for involvement in civic life, for active social and cultural life, for further education to keep up with a changing world. What are the opportunities for employment? What can of life can older people expect to have here?

These are vital questions for us to ask and to act on as we celebrate Older Americans Month this month.

Everyone can find much to do to make our community a place where older people have the best possible chances of living at their highest potential.

Support the Kings Mountain Aging Program at the Kings Mountain Depot Center.

Reader Dialogue

City Manager Needed

Dear Editor,
I view our present Board of Commissioners with amazement. They have excelled themselves in the art of disregard for a person's dignity and professional career. The public firing of Mike Nappi was a slap in the face to every responsible citizen of Kings Mountain.

I am not familiar with personnel policy for the City. However, I am sure the process followed in this matter could not be correct. If it is, it is certainly time for change. A person should not be subjected to such an ordeal no matter what his work record.

If we check our past records, we find other city employees who were also treated with disregard. A case in point is our lack of a Chief of Police.

Professional people play roulette with their careers when they accept positions with the City.

The City has grown to such a degree that we should seriously consider the hiring of a full-time City Manager. A person who could delegate authority to department heads and allow them to do their jobs and uphold their decisions.

Presently we have a very limited number of people who try to administer, either directly or indirectly, all city programs. It can not and should not be done. Such authority is not in our best interest.

There are many changes needed in our present administration besides the handling of personnel. Everyone who is dissatisfied should make themselves known to commissioners and Mayor. After all, it is our tax that pays their salary.

DONNA P. BUTLER

Disappointed

To the editors:
This little town has been buzzing since the City Board fired Mike Nappi. Everywhere I have gone this week, I have heard people discussing this matter.

I, for one, am very disappointed to know that Mr. Nappi was fired in the matter that it has been reported. From what I gather, this is a very wide spread opinion around this town.

He appeared to be a young man with a lot of energy and good ideas to bring to his job and I feel this community will suffer by not having him filling the job as head of the Parks and Recreation Department. I should think we should want to keep young men like Mr. Nappi here instead of running them away.

Elaine Wade
Kings Mountain

Many Qualities

To the editors:
The things I will always remember about my mother, who is Mrs. W.R. Millen of 315 East Parker Street in Kings Mountain:

She is everything her children need in a mother. She is the mother of 12 children, nine of which are still living.

She will be 83 years old May 19. She has many outstanding qualities; patience, gentleness, kindness, trust and wisdom. She gives her family spiritual inspiration and teaches us that time is not measured so much by the years we live, as it is by the human touch to make others happy.

She has respect for herself and others, making her family feel important, needed and wanted. Her love is unselfish and forgiving. Her price is far above rubies.

The memory our our laughter, love and tears through the years are cherished memories that keep our family together. The world is a brighter place just because she is in it. I feel very rich having her as my mother.

Neil Mayhue



GARY STEWART City Claims First Scout Troop

Steve Brown brought by a copy of the 1940 centennial edition of the Shelby Daily Star the other day. I've glanced through part of it and found a couple of interesting "firsts" that happened in Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain, which still today has a strong Boy Scout program through the efforts of people like Tommy King and Wayne Putnam, and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, lays claim to the first Boy Scout Troop ever chartered in North Carolina.

The first troop was chartered in 1910 by Lord Baden Powell of London, England. The troop was also one of the first chartered in the South.

Senator Ralph Gardner of Shelby was in charge of scouting in the county in 1940 and the county had 20 units with a total membership of 358. Shelby and Kings Mountain had eight troops each.

The Cleveland County District committee for scouting in 1940 was composed of Senator Gardner, district vice-president; Robert Gidney, commissioner; Willis McMurry, finance; Rev. J. Frank Davis, cubbing; J.W. Osborne, secretary; H.C. Wilson, rural scouting; Aubrey Mauney, training; D.M. Bridges, ten year program; G.A. Bridges, camping; E.H. Kemper, advancement; Rev. H.N. McDiarmid, church relations; Will Arey, publicity; B.N. Barnes, program; P.D. Herndon, civic service; Carl Davidson, Scoutmasters; Dr. Ben Gold and Dr. T.B. Mitchell, health and safety; and Rev. H.L. Reaves, reading.

Kings Mountain also laid claim to the county's first grist and saw mill, which was built by Thomas Preston McGill on Persimmons Creek about six miles from town.

In 1870, William Oates Ware, son of Alexander and Martha Oates Ware, and great grandson of Captain John Ware (spelled Weer) of Revolutionary War fame, purchased the mill from McGill, his father-in-law, and operated it until it was burned in 1880 by Calvin Neal, a war veteran, who worked for Ware. After the fire, Neal moved to Texas and on his death bed confessed to Ted Allen, another worker of the Ware mill, that he set fire to the mill and on three attempts prior to that had endeavored to kill Ware.

In 1882, the Ware family moved to Kings Mountain and established the first industry in the community—a grist and saw mill operated by steam. The mill was known as the Merchant Mills and operated by W.O. Ware and his son, William Alexander. W.A. Ware was the first operator of the steam plant and William (Bill) Oates was the miller. The mill burned in 1895 and was rebuilt in 1898 with a cotton gin added. The cotton gin was partially burned in 1923 and rebuilt the following year.

When electricity came to the area, the Ware Mills and the old Enterprise cotton mills were the first to be operated by electricity in Kings Mountain.

William Alexander Ware became the active head of the business in 1898, and his son, Moffat Alexander Ware, joined him at the close of World War I in 1918.

W.O. Ware died in 1918, having been run over by the Southern Railway train on his way home from the cotton oil mill.

Kings Mountain also claims the oldest Lutheran Church in the county, St. Matthew's, which held its first service in 1875.

There were 10 charter members, including Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Mauney, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Mauney, M.M. Carpenter, A.P. Carpenter, P.S. Baker, L.A. McAllister and wife and Mrs. Mag S. Mauney. The last charter member to die was J.S. Mauney, who died on November 13, 1936.

The oldest church in the county is Shiloh Presbyterian Church in Grover, which was organized before the Battle of Kings Mountain in October of 1780.

The exact date of its organization is not known but it is believed to have been in existence in 1770.

Eight-year-old Bobby Martin and his six-year-old sister, Sherry, who live in the Oak Grove Community, have a special reason to try to win the \$500 in the Pepsi Cola promotion.

If you don't know by now, you can peel off the rubber inside of a Pepsi bottle cap, where you will find a single letter and a message telling you that if you can spell Pepsi Spirit you can win \$500.

Bobby and Sherry need only the letter R to complete Pepsi Spirit, and when and if they get it, they intend to use the money to purchase a stone for their mother's grave.

Their mother, Martha, died two years ago at the age of 22, the victim of cancer. She is buried in a cemetery in Bessemer City, but the family could not afford to purchase a stone to mark her grave.

Bobby and Sherry live with their grandmother, Molly Webb, near the Crossroads Music Park. Mrs. Webb helps clean a mill in Kings Mountain and while performing her duties the other day, Bobby and Sherry got out a pile of bottle caps and began to tear out the rubber linings and look for the elusive R.

Mrs. Webb knew nothing of their intentions until she overheard their conversation. "Maybe this one will be the R," said Bobby. "If it is, we're going to by a tombstone for mother's grave," answered Sherry.

The scene touched Mrs. Webb deeply. "They can't get over their mother not having a stone on her grave," Mrs. Webb said. "We visit there often to place flowers on the grave, and they have a hard time finding it. They can't understand why other graves are marked, and hers is not."

If you have that R, and don't really need to win \$500, you could make Bobby and Sherry happy. Call Mrs. Webb at 739-5511.

Life's Best Things Planted By Mother

The Herald likes to receive news of church activities via their bulletins which come to us in the mail on a regular basis. We encourage all churches in the area to send us copies of their communications with members.

We are indebted to David Baptist Church for providing us a copy of what J. Emmett Henderson had to say on Mother's Day in May 1981 and reprinted in 'Pulpit Helps'. I think it is appropriate at this Mother's Day season also and every day.

'Mother, the poet applauds her, the historian lauds her. But who is Mother? Mother is the one who rises up from sleep to soothe the cries from the crib, who sits beside the bed with cool hand upon small feverish brow. Mother is the one who sews, scrubs, cooks, irons, patches, mops, but somehow still has time for your every problem, no matter how great, no matter how small.

Mother is the one who sings that forever remembered lullaby. Mother is the one who bandages skinned knees and stubbed toes, who can kiss the pain away and say just the right words that make everything all right. Mother is the one who, as grandmother, will spoil your children because she loves them so deeply and because in them she sees another you. Mother is the one who will do the most for you and in return ask the least. Her love never fades. No matter how far away you are, no matter how often you have neglected her, she is always there to do what ever you ask in the same way she has always done: her best for you.

Mother is the one for whom you must finally pluck the white rose and tenderly pin it to your heart. Life is never the same without her. You never become accustomed to the absence of her presence. She should call or write, but she does not. That which you took for granted for so long is no longer granted you.

But you are not alone without her. Look inside you. Count the best things in your life: character, love, unselfishness, forgiveness, kindness, gentleness. They were all planted by that tender hand so long ago, the hand of that wonderful woman who cuddled you and held you and said, 'This is my child.' The Bible teaches us to call God



Lib Stewart

'Father' but God cannot be limited by gender. So much of what God is can only be described by the word 'Mother'.

LOOKING BACK

From the May 15, 1952 edition of The Kings Mountain Herald

Graduation exercises for 21 seniors at Bethware High School will begin on Sunday evening with the baccalaureate service, followed by the commencement exercises on Monday evening.

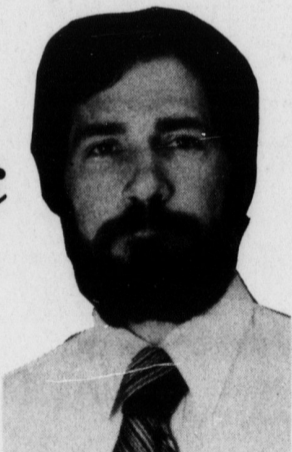
Twenty Kings Mountain women will serve as models for Fashion Frolic, the summer apparel fashion show scheduled by the Woman's Club on May 23.

The City of Kings Mountain will show an operating profit rather than a loss for the coming year, M. K. Fuller, city administrator, told the city board of commissioners Monday night.

Lois and Barbara Gamble won first and second place in the 4-H Dress Revue held May 3. Lois Gamble was county winner and will represent the county in the state revue in Raleigh in July.

Mrs. Charles A. Goforth and Mrs. Edith Goforth entertained members of the La Fete Rook Club Tuesday evening at the home of the former.

Look Up



By Tom Franks

Although the week begins on a Sunday, many people seem to believe that their week begins on Monday and if they can make it to Wednesday, they can begin the slide down to do the things they really want to do on Friday night, the beginning of the "weekend."

I quote weekend because in all respect half of that weekend is the beginning of the week—Sunday. Our Sundays are described as a rest day, a day to spend with relatives and friends or a day for special outings such as a trip to the zoo, or maybe that special picnic in the woods.

As we look at our calendars, the next day is Monday and to some people the word "Monday" makes them shutter. To the same people Monday seems to be tremendous—a day spent trying to get started. I'm sure that as you read this you can probably quote your own sayings about Mondays. "I hate Mondays", "It'll be alright when I wake up", or "I've got a feeling this is going to be a terrible week—it's already starting wrong". Well, cheer up, there could be a way to deal with Mondays in a challenging way. Perhaps you ask, "are you kidding?". No, I'm quite serious. We can make Mondays very stimulating.

How can we make Mondays challenging and exciting? Simple, we need to have it planned so that it can be an exciting day for you, your co-worker, acquaintances and friends. When do we plan it? I

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