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checked his music and trumpet, and declared that he was ready.

As I drove him to where the band members would meet the activity bus, I could feel the enormous emotion bubbling inside what looked like a perfectly calm exterior. It would be three hours before the President arrived, but I knew the excitement of the children would be contained as they entertained the waiting crowds with a well-prepared program of music.

At 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, 1976, the great moment arrived. Marine 1 settled on the baseball field of West High, the first President to visit Wilkes County stepped to the ground, "Hail to the Chief" rolled across the valley, and President Gerald R. Ford gave a group of American children a pride that will live with them forever because, they had the honor of greeting the President of the United States to Wilkes County for the first time in its history.

## WILKES COUNTY HISTORY (briefly)

J. Jay Anderson

Prior to 1777 Wilkes was but a part of Surry - no fringe on top - merely mountains to the West. Preceding the Surry episode, Wilkes had been a part of Rowan and the now famous Salisbury cemetery (which did not exist at that time).

With the coming of county-hood, Wilkes needed a name, so someone (maybe the first sheriff) suggested the area be named for the John Wilkes of some repute and more ill-repute in "jolly ole England". Seems that John (Wilkes) believed in, stood for, and wrote about representation in government, and it was assumed that he further was in favor of exporting some representation to the Colonies. Of course George III believed in exporting also - mainly Wilkes (who went to live in France until he found his indebtedness there became the same problem for him that D. Boone had found such deficits to be for him in Davie County - at about the same point in time).

Two of Wilkes County's most illustrious inhabitants were but transients before the county became Wilkes - Christopher Gist and Daniel Boone. And later, after the death of Wilkes County's most prolific writer (he didn't want anyone to forget anything about him); two years following the death of William Lenoir, had he peeked from the ground he would have found that he was buried, not in Wilkes, but in Caldwell. Not to mention the fact that Ben Cleveland, who settled in Rowan County, without moving his place of abode, found himself - while living in Roundabout in Ronda - a

citizen of Surry and some seven or eight years later a citizen of Wilkes.

Wilkes County has been blessed with diversity - in geography, in agriculture, and in ideals. As Caesar's Gaul politically, Wilkes has been divided ideologically into three parts - those "fer", those "ag'in", and the third part of its people not giving a Continental - especially noticeable during the Revolutionary and Civil War periods.

From earliest days would-be natives of this "Happy Valley" have attempted to facilitate ways of leaving the County. A couple of examples suffice to make the point if not the transportation. In the year 1820 stock was sold at \$100 per share in the Yadkin Navigation Company - intent: dredge the Mighty Yadkin and help it be more useful in its "eternal search" for the sea. Needless to say, the venture was that - a venture.

Then, in the 1850's the General Assembly of North Carolina chartered at least four attempts for the building of plank roads to Wilkesboro from Winston, Statesville, Taylorsville, Mocksville. The idea was good, but again - no success, not even a splinter.

However, with the puffing and snorting of a fire-eater, in the year 1890 the iron horse pranced into Wilkes - one mile from the Courthouse, and slightly west of the post office of Gordon. And there, on the northward rising land there grew up the bustling town of North Wilkesboro. A town of new houses, new downtown, new opera house, new churches, new school, and a new tannery. (The newness was necessary because there was no old.)

Moonlighting has become a way of life for many in order that they may provide a livelihood for their families; in the "Great State of Wilkes" moonshining came before moonlighting - a necessary way of earning folding money.

Today Wilkes has its third college; the Wilkesboros have grown; moonshining is no longer the way of life; we have become somewhat chicken, and once again we expect to be damned.



## AUTO DEFECT PROBLEMS? CALL THE TOLL-FREE U.S. AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 800-424-0123

Washington, D.C. — Automobile owners in the 10-state area surrounding Washington, D.C. can now dial directly into the federal highway safety agency for a quick read-out on auto defect problems or to report auto safety problems "Uncle" should know about. The federal toll-free Hotline number is 800-424-0123 for residents of the areas listed below, and 426-0123 for residents of metropolitan Washington, D.C.

"If you have a vehicle problem which threatens your safety or the safety of others," said a recent federal announcement to auto owners in this area, "or if you know of such a problem which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) should look into, the Auto Safety Hotline Office wants that information and your call."

According to Gilbert L. Watson, Chief of the Consumer Services Office which operates the Hotline facility for NHTSA, the new consumer telephone service began on October 15 as an aid for auto owners who need help in solving safety-related vehicle problems or who have defect-related information to report. NHTSA is the U.S. Department of Transportation's enforcement "arm" which sets auto performance standards for the industry

and enforces the recall and repair of defective autos when necessary.

Watson says the Hotline keeps four trained operators busy from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm every workday. Automatic telephones are utilized in "off" hours to record caller's names and telephone numbers so that owners will receive a prompt operator call-back when business hours resume. "Calls which identify possible defects," Watson explains, "are relayed directly to NHTSA's investigative office by the Hotline staff. But defect-related or not, we will apply whatever powers the agency can lawfully apply, to help owners solve the problems reported to us."

The Hotline's toll-free service is available to callers from Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. In New York the service is available to residents of New York City, Long Island, Buffalo and Rochester. The free-call area also extends into southern Ohio for residents in the telephone area-code 513 and 614.

Auto owners in the 10-state area are urged, if they have problems or information concerning safety-related automobile defects, to call the Auto Safety Hotline in Washington!

## RELIGION IN THE KITCHEN

by Eileen Lowe

2 tbsp. I Samuel 14:25

... and there was honey upon the ground.

Pinch of Leviticus 2:13

And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt ...

6 Jeremiah 17:11

As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not ...

1 1/4 cups Judges 4:19

... And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him a drink, and covered him.

2 tsp. Amos 4:5

And offer a sacrifice of Thanksgiving with leaven ... (soda)

II Chronicles 9:9 to taste

... and of spices great abundance ...

Mix these ingredients as for a fruit cake. Bake at 375° for 1 hour. Frost as desired, or sprinkle with powdered sugar.

This cake is a great favorite for children. I like to use it for birthday parties, and other special occasions.

Have you ever used the Bible as a cookbook? Well, I thought this was a tasty recipe. I enjoyed hunting through the Bible for all the passages in order to decide what the ingredients were. I hope you will try this tasty dessert, and I know you will enjoy finding each verse and reading it in its entirety.

4 1/2 cups I Kings 4:22

And Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of flour ...

1 cup Judges 5:25

... she brought forth butter in a lordly dish.

2 cups I Samuel 30:12

... and two clusters of raisins ...

2 cups Nahum 3:12

All thy strongholds shall be like fig trees with the firstripe figs ...

2 cups Numbers 17:8

... and behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.