

# Small Town vs. Large Town

By JONATHAN PHILLIPS  
Special Correspondent

Living in a place like Fort Barnwell or Bridgeton may make it hard to find many art auctions or nightclubs close to home.

You won't see many movie premiers, your town won't be a stop for national political campaigns, and you may have to wait for months—or even years—before becoming a victim of violent crime.

But there's one thing a small town in North Carolina has that the big cities may never have again—a little originality.

Now it is realized that cities like New Orleans, San Francisco and Washington have characters of their own. New York is not like Milwaukee which is not like Baltimore which is not like Memphis which is not like San Antonio which is not like Nashville which is not like Chicago.

But think about the things that characterize these cities, be it the Bourbon Street boisterousness of New Orleans or the funky ethnic taverns of Baltimore.

Those things are associated with the downtowns of the cities. Sadly, the downtowns just ain't what they used to be.

## Suburbanization

Not just the people, but the economic activity of the cities has moved to the suburbs. If you don't believe me, go to Atlanta, where the giant glass corporate offices and busy factories ring the outskirts of the city.

The suburbs of Atlanta is where I met a glassy-eyed, distracted-looking man named Peter O. Muller, with his hair slicked straight back from his forehead and a sheaf of papers resting against his paunch.

While perhaps an unimpressive physical specimen, Muller, an urban geographer at the University of Miami, has nonetheless done some impressive writing. He published an excellent book this year called "the Suburbanization of America."

There are a lot of theories and so forth in the book, and some documentation of how the suburbs have grown in economic importance. But one notion in Muller's book quickly catches the eye.

He maintains that the suburbs are replacing both the large cities and the small towns as the places where America's business is tended to. The trouble is, he says, the suburbs have no "main street," like Vanceboro or New Bern does, to serve as the center of the community.

So what serves those functions in the suburbs?

Muller says the "main street" of the suburbs is the shopping mall.

## Main Street, USA?

In effect, the wild-eyed gentlement from Miami is saying that the suburban shopping mall is now Main Street, USA.

The meeting Muller and I happened to be at in Atlanta was held at a ridiculously expensive suburban motel. The entire business was carried out without poor 'ol me ever getting near Peachtree or anywhere else in downtown Atlanta.

It was while wandering through Perimeter Mall looking for a place to eat lunch that wouldn't cost half a week's paycheck that the full meaning of Muller's ideas hit home.

The fact is, if you were taken into perimeter Mall blindfolded and sleeping, when you woke up you would have no idea where you were.

All big malls look the same. You would wake up and not know if you were in Raleigh, Richmond, Charlotte, Atlanta, Nashville, Phoenix, Portland or Toledo.

The architecture and atmosphere are the same. The layout is the same. The piped-in music is the same. The decor is the same. Even the stores are the same—did you ever yet visit a mall without a Chic-Fil-A, a Record Bar, and a Thom McAn shoe store?

For those who find delight in variety and who see virtue in diversity, it is a sad state of affairs.

Lucky, then, are we poor Carolina clod-kickers.

Main Street Vanceboro is a different animal from the main drag in Cove City. We can drive to New Bern, Washington, Greenville and Kinston knowing that we won't find exactly the same experience in each place.

We can stop in at the store in Caton, with reasonable assurance that it won't be identical to the store at Wilmar or the store at Clarks.

Shopping malls are great places to visit, and a lot of us are doing a lot of visiting this time of year. But if push comes to shove, I'll take an old-fashioned Main Street anytime.



## Receive their License

Three students from Craven Community College received their nursing licenses December 3, 1981. They are Diane Dail, Debbie Stroud, and Carrie Buck. They reside in the Vanceboro area. Mrs. Dail and Mrs. Stroud will practice at Craven County Hospital. Mrs. Buck will be with the Coastal Children's Clinic in New Bern.

## Fort Barnwell Bulletin

By MRS. B.H. MITCHELL  
Correspondent

AFC (Airman First Class) Leroy B. Huggins, son of Mr. Leroy Huggins of Ft. Barnwell and Mrs. Loretta M. Huggins of Jamaica, N.Y. is home on leave from his post of duty in the Air Force. He is stationed at the Airbase in Homestead, Fla. He will be home for about a month to visit friends and relatives. He has two more years to serve on this assignment of duty.

He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Dal W. Mitchell of Ft. Barnwell.

He is a 1979 graduate of West Craven High School.

PFC Keith Koonce, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Koonce, of Ft. Barnwell is home on leave from his post of duty. He is stationed at the U.S. Army base in Frankfurt, Germany. He plans to be home until January and visit his friends and relatives in the surrounding area. PFC Koonce graduated from West Craven High School in 1980. Koonce says, "theres not place like home" so he was willing to finance his trip home for the holiday season.

Mr. Pauline Cobert of Baltimore, Md, has returned home after spending two weeks home with family and friends after the loss of a sister Mrs. Eula H. McRae of Troy, N.C.

The Floral Club of St. Edwards F.W.B. Church will hold it's Annual Anniversary at the Church on Sunday night, Dec. 13, 1981 at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Stanley and Choir will render service. Elder W. Waters is Pastor and Mrs. Lela Howard is president.

## Hypothermia Is Danger To Elderly

Hypothermia simply means below-normal body temperature and it is a real danger to older people during the cold winter months.

"In the cold weather some older people can develop accidental hypothermia that can be fatal if not detected and treated properly," says Isabell Buckley, extension aging specialist at North Carolina State University.

Accidental hypothermia may occur in anyone who is exposed to severe cold without enough protection, Miss Buckley explains. But some older people can develop this problem with only an exposure to mild cold.

"Elderly persons most susceptible to accidental hypothermia are the chronically ill; the poor, who cannot afford heating fuel and those who do not take the normal steps to keep warm," she says.

There are a small number of aged persons whose temperature regulation is defective and do not feel cold or

shiver. They cannot produce body heat when they need it and are the greatest risk of hypothermia.

It is those people who have "felt cold" for many years who actually have a lower risk of accidental hypothermia, Miss Buckley notes.

The only sure way to detect hypothermia is to use a special low-reading thermometer, available in most hospitals. A regular home thermometer, shaken down well, will do. If the temperature falls below 95 degrees F. or does not register, get emergency help.

Other symptoms of hypothermia include an unusual change in appearance or behavior during cold weather; slow and sometimes irregular heartbeat; slurred speech; shallow, slow breathing; sluggishness and confusion. Treatment consists of warming the patient, under a doctor's supervision, if possible in the hospital.

## People Talk

By MRS. B.H. MITCHELL  
Correspondent

We listen to people talk in all walks of life and we have been taught that we learn from listening.

One of the most interesting things that I heard on the street was a discussion between a taxi driver who was talking to an acquaintance at the washerette.

It went something like this: "When we finished high school a few years ago, we went to New York and got a good job. We were making good money, but I was foolish and did not think at all. You know I spent \$35.00 or \$40.00 on reefers, \$50.00 per week for a hotel room and a few dollars for other things. I did not care then, but now that I've quit that and continued," and counted up what I was spending. I averaged about a hundred dollars a week which was \$5200.00 a year.

Well, I did that for five or six years before I realized what a "Nut" I was.

Well, I am back home to stay now and I have a job. I have realized that my life style has been turned around. I never want to go back to the city. Yes, I'll try to save some of my pay and see if I can get something for myself in life. I hope that I'll never waste \$5200.00 dollars per year again."

Generally speaking one might say we can hear this any day but this young man had learned a great lesson from experience and he knew that his harvest was nothing in his early adult life.

The young man had made a decision to work for the things that lead to a good life.

There is a lesson for the most of us, if we take a closer look at the times we did not use our resources wisely.

The good life is what all of us want, so it pays to count up the cost and many times change some of our ways of living.

## Talking Book For Handicapped

A Social Security talking book is available free to blind and handicapped people who cannot read braille or print at the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Department of Cultural Resources, 1811 North Boulevard, Raleigh, NC 27635.

The talking book is a 9-inch, 8RPM, flexible disc recording of three Social Security publications. The publications are **Your Social Security, Supplemental Security Income for Aged, Disabled, and Blind People, and Your Medicare Handbook.**

The talking book does not explain recent legislative changes in the Social Security and Medicare programs

because it was produced before the changes were enacted.

Special phonographs capable of playing the talking book are supplied by the library of Congress and made available free by regional libraries to eligible blind and physically handicapped readers.

People can get information about borrowing the talking book by calling the library at 919/733-4376 or the New Bern Social Security Office at 637-4101.

People also should call the New Bern Social Security Office for information about the recent legislative changes in Social Security and Medicare.

West Craven

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