Around The Old Well

the people who live on the streets, address unknown, all their worldly possessions on their backs or in bags they carry with them.

They are known variously as "street people," "bums," "tramps" and "bag ladies." Some beg; sone don't. You see them in bus station depots in Atlanta, in the lobbies of rundown hotels in Chicago and sleeping on park benches in Washington, D.C. Some, when offered help to change their lives, turn away.

Charles Dickens wrote about them more than a century ago, but as Dr. Laurel Archer Copp, dean of the nursing school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, points out:

"It didn't end with Charles Dickens.

"We tend to think that these people are a phenomenon of the 1800s, that they don't exist anymore," Copp says, "but we still see them today in London and Edinburgh, and we see them here in our own community. As the economy which finances public services erodes, we may see more."

Copp has been curious about the psychology of street people since her employment at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C., when it was the largest federally supported mental hospital in the nation. Today she sees ex-patients in Lafayette Park across from the White House. Some have scraps of food in their bags; others carry heavy loads of old newspapers.

Copp studied these people and eventually came to the same question that many ask, many more avoid and few can answer: Why do they behave the way they do, why do we react to

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A lot of these people, Copp knows, came out of institutions designed to help them. In the 1950s, mental institutions underwent massive reform. largely because the public could no longer accept the practice of physically restraining and locking up mental patients for long periods of time-years, in

But, when emancipation came and large numbers of patients were released, there was little waiting for them on the outside, Copp says. Their family ties had been broken, no shelter was waiting and they were forced to deal with the outside world on their own "The revision of the mental

health laws that unfettered and unlocked patients was an important landmark in medical and psychiatric care that can't be praised enough," Copp says. "But, like many other large movements that come about so abruptly, there was no planning. Many patients literally were dumped on the communities that had no plans or place for them. Twenty years later, we are still dealing with these patients."

Copp acknowledges, however, that though plans for discharging patients have improved immensely, more and younger street people still appear every day. As a group, she believes, they seem to have "slipped through the cracks" between agencies designed to help them. As individuals, she says, they are dealing with a world full of stress to the best of their ability.

'There is a wide variety of abilities that people have to copy with life's difficulties." Copp says. "Some people can cope with a great amount of them as we do and what can be stress, pressure, crisis and

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broken relationships. Others

"I've seen in many of these people a great effort to try and cope. They may not be successful, but they are trying."

That effort may explain why many street people reject offers of assistance or a better life, Copp says. It could explain why the man she once saw sleeping on a grating, steam rising through the iron bars, told those who stopped to leave him alone. He insisted on living and dying on his own terms. He is like many who claim their right not to be treated.

Some of the behaviors I see all the time in these people is that of being non-verbal, uncommunicative and withdrawn," Copp says. "At the same time, they are especially vulnerable to crime and robbery which is the cause of a lot of their injuries."

The real enigma, though, is trying to determine what, if anything, can be done for the street people, Copp says. In that respect, even health professionals often are befuddled because the person on a park bench could be affected by mental illness, drugs, alcohol or a combination of all

Copp says the answer may lie "continuity of care," of, simply, agencies working together to be sure that one picks up where the other leaves off. It means community health centers working with hospitals more closely; housing authorities working with the community health centers; and

Laws could be passed to help the agencies work together on food, shelter and medical needs of their patients and clients, Copp says. Plans for what happens to an individual after he or she leaves an institution can be more specific. This placement has become an obligation of accredited hospitals.

"I'm not suggesting there are easy answers, or, perhaps, anything at all that can be done for the street people of today," Copp says, "but our track record with these people has not been very good. More and more, all of us in today's hightechnology society are going to have our coping resources tested. Many more of us will fail the test of stress on a year after year basis.

'Who's to say that when we look at a newborn baby that we aren't looking at another potential street person?'

Cox Wins Top 4-H Honors

John Cox, age 13, of the President's Challenge." Pembroke 4-H Club won top honors in the Beef-Char-Souper-Burgers and demonstration techniques gained him the State Title and a \$50 Savings Bond. This was John's second year in the Beef-Char-Grill demonstration.

He received a red ribbon in the district contest in 1979. With hard work, determination and lots of practice John improved enough to win the state title at 4-H Congress last week.

To make Souper Burgers you add one package of Lipton Onion and Mushroom Soup and 1/2 cup water to one pound of hamburger. Divide into 8 parts, pat each part into thin patties on wax paper. Place a thin slice of cheese on 4 patties. Top with remaining patties sealing the edges together. Partially pre-cook bacon strips and secure with toothpicks around each burger. Place on grill and cook for approximately 20 minutes or until done.



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COMING NEXT WEEK



MEETS SECRETARY - Sec. of Agriculture Bob Bergland greets Diana Joy Spruill, vice president of the North Carolina FFA Association during the recent Future Farmers of America State Presidents' Conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by General Motors Corporation. Diana Joy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Edward Spruill of Pea

Miss Spruill Attends FFA Conference; Meets With President Carter

WASHINGTON, D.C. - importantly I'm confident Diana Joy Spruill, vice and I know from my perpresident of the N. C. Association of the Future what it takes to win. So if Farmers of America (FFA) was one of 100 state FFA Officers who met Thursday morning with President Jimmy Carter.

The meeting at the White House was a highlight of a week-long State FFA Presidents' Conference in the Nation's Capital. The conference, sponsored by General Motors Corporation through the National FFA Foundation, Inc., is designed to help new state officers lead more effectively by expanding their knowledgeoftheFFA and the

Diana Joy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Edward Spruill of Pea Ridge. She was elected vice president of the N. C. FFA Association at the State FFA Convention on June 13,

nation.

The highlight of the visit came when Carter presented the Alamosa. Colo., FFA Chapter the first place award in "The

"This is one award where the recognition's important Grill Contest. His special but where every person in our country benefits and where the greatest nation on earth becomes even greater because of your efforts."

The chapter organized community workshops, conducted a comprehensive energy audit, and built solar panels, a greenhouse, food dryers and a model distillery for fuel alcohol as part of their energy conservation project.

A breakfast Congressmen preceded the White House visit. More than 100 Senators and Representatives or their assistants attended to visit with the State Presidents about national issues.

Speaking at the breakfast, Secretary of the Department of Education Shirley M. Hufstedler said, "It is always a pleasure to address the future-minded because, after all, the present become the future each and every day."

She said farming is "no longer the kind of 'independence' that it once was. Every single one of us in every city in America absolutely depends upon the products of agriculture for our very survival."

Robert D. Lund, vice president, of General Motors and former chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, spoke at the breakfast and said he had a name for the product FFA members exhibit--"gumption."

"Despite the turmoil, despite the short term ups and downs that we face every day, I'm confident you ladies and you young gentlemen will find a way to conquer the challenges that are facing you because you're not only among the best and the brightest of young America, but more

sonal experience you have you use those God-given talents, if you apply those leadership abilities which you have in such abundance tative Wes and you continue to accept the challenges of the times with the gumption that got you this far, then certainly the best years are still ahead."

Speaking on behalf of the Congressmen, Rep. Tom Foley of Washington, said, "Government has always seen the advancement of agriculture as very basic for the progress of the future of the country. What we've achieved in agriculture is an example of what we can do in any field."

Sec. of Agriculture Bob Bergland held a question and answer session with the state officers Tuesday. They discussed the Soviet grain embargo, crop price sup-ports, livestock health and energy for agriculture.

To fulfill the FFA's purpose of developing citizenship, the state officers placed wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington

Sawyer Joins Tarheel Staff

GATESVILLE - Ronnie L. Sawver of Edenton has joined the staff of Tarheel Bank & Trust Co. as auditor effective July 1, according to a recent announcement by Robert E. Lee, executive vice president and chief executive officer. Lee stated that "coupled

with the excellent growth patterns that the bank has experienced over the past several years, and our own projections for future growth and expansion, the addition of a full-time, in house auditor, is not only highly desirable, but absolutely essential. We are pleased to have someone with Ronnie's expertise in the accounting field join our staff."

Sawyer is a 1964 graduate of John A. Holmes High School in Edenton. He is a graduate of the College of The Albemarle in Elizabeth City, where he received his AAS degree in business administration. He plans to receive his B.S. degree in accounting from Elizabeth City State University in the near future.

Sawyer has had considerable experience in accounting. He started his career as a Cost Department clerk with the Chris-Craft Corporation in Edenton. He then became a cost accountant for Carters Ink Company, also in Edenton. He then advanced to accountant for Edenton Marina, Inc., and most recently was the accountant for Albemarle Family Health Services, Inc.

Sawyer and his wife, the former Harriet Barrow of Edenton, have two children, girls Rhonda, age nine and Bonita, age three.

Democratic Executive Committee adopted a resolution July 28 "gratitude and respect" to the late Lester Copeland. The text, signed by N. J.

Resolution Honoring

George, chairman, follows: Lester Copeland, citizen of Chowan County, died July 14, 1980.

The Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Chowan County meeting in open forum Monday, July 28, 1980, hereby adopts the following resolution:

That whereas Lester Copeland served Chowan County well as County Commissioner, and

Whereas Lester Copeland was renominated without opposition to a second term as county commissioner, Whereas Lester Copeland

possessed high standards of personal integrity and moral courage and exemplified the same in his public life, and Whereas Lester Copeland believed in and worked for

equitable representation of all sectors of the public in government, and Whereas Lester Copeland cared deeply for the

children of Chowan County and actively encouraged the National Cemetery and at consolidation and im-Mount Vernon, attended the provement of public schools. Torchlight Tattoo program, visited the Smithsonian Whereas Lester Copeland Institution, toured the

served this county diligently even to the point of sacrifice

Capitol and met their

Congressmen. Represen-

Oklahoma, and Dr. Lynn

Daft of the White House

Domestic Policy Staff spoke

The state officers were on

hand at the National FFA

Center for the dedication of

the Hall of Achievement

Gallery Exhibits. The

National FFA Staff mem-

bers and program chairmen

explained each of the

The group attended a play

at the Kennedy Center for

Performing Arts, and

concluded the week with the

annual Conference Banquet

held at the Lazy Susan

Dinner Theater in Wood-

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to the group.

Watkins,

Lester Copeland The Chowan County on his personal business,

Whereas Lester Copeland as father and churchman led an exemplary life an welcoming refugees from 511

Vietnam into his employ and fellowship, BE IT HEREBY 11 RESOLVED by the Executive Committee for the Democratic Party of

Chowan County that ARTICLE I: gratitude for Lester 19 Copeland's devotion to public service be spread 19 upon the minutes of this

meeting, and ARTICLE II: Our appreciation for Lester Copeland be extended to his good wife, three fine sons and their families as well as our bereavement over our common loss, and

ARTICLE III: Our determination be hereby set forth to commend to all men and women the outstanding example of public service rendered by Lester Copeland.



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BR. 2 baths, double fireplace. PRICE CUT — Call me. MEXICO RD. — Brick ranch with LR (fireplace), den, 3 BR, garage, half acre lot. \$53.000. MORGAN PARK — Assume attractive interest rate

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