

# New President Takes Oath Of Office



Part Of Inaugural Crowd



President Carter

## Fresh Faith In Old Dream

By REP. L. H. FOUNTAIN

WASHINGTON, D. C. — A fresh new spirit is present in the land in the wake of the inauguration of Jimmy Carter as our 39th President. Based on what I saw and heard on January 20 at the inauguration here at the Capitol, I have a strong feeling that the American people are optimistic about our future and hopeful for success by the Carter Administration.

Extremely cold weather has been pretty much the norm for several weeks now in Washington, as elsewhere. The sky has been dark and overcast and a lot of snow has fallen. But January 20 — while still quite cold — was the sunniest day we have had for some time. And the sun not only created a physical warmth for those of us gathered in front of the Capitol, but also a warming of our national mood — of our spirit.

An excellent turnout from the Second District and the entire state of North Carolina — numbering in the thousands — was present for the occasion. It was a pleasure to see so many Tar Heels congregating on the Capitol grounds. Overflow crowds visited my office. Truly, it was a grand occasion.

I could not help but remember the strong sense of gloom and apprehension that unfortunately marked recent inaugurations of Presidents — of both parties. But, that was not the case this year. The confidence which all could see in President Carter and Vice President Mondale — and the glowing radiance transmitted by their families — rubbed off, I believe, on just about everyone. Good feeling was in the air.

The House of Representatives formally convened in the House chamber about an hour before the inaugural ceremonies began. We queued up according to seniority to proceed to the platform on the East Front of the Capitol. From my vantage point, about ten feet from the President; it was easy to see the reactions of other members of Congress, special guests, and the other people on the platform — as well as an estimated 150,000 watching in person. I quickly got confirmation of my feeling, from those present, that much of the discord

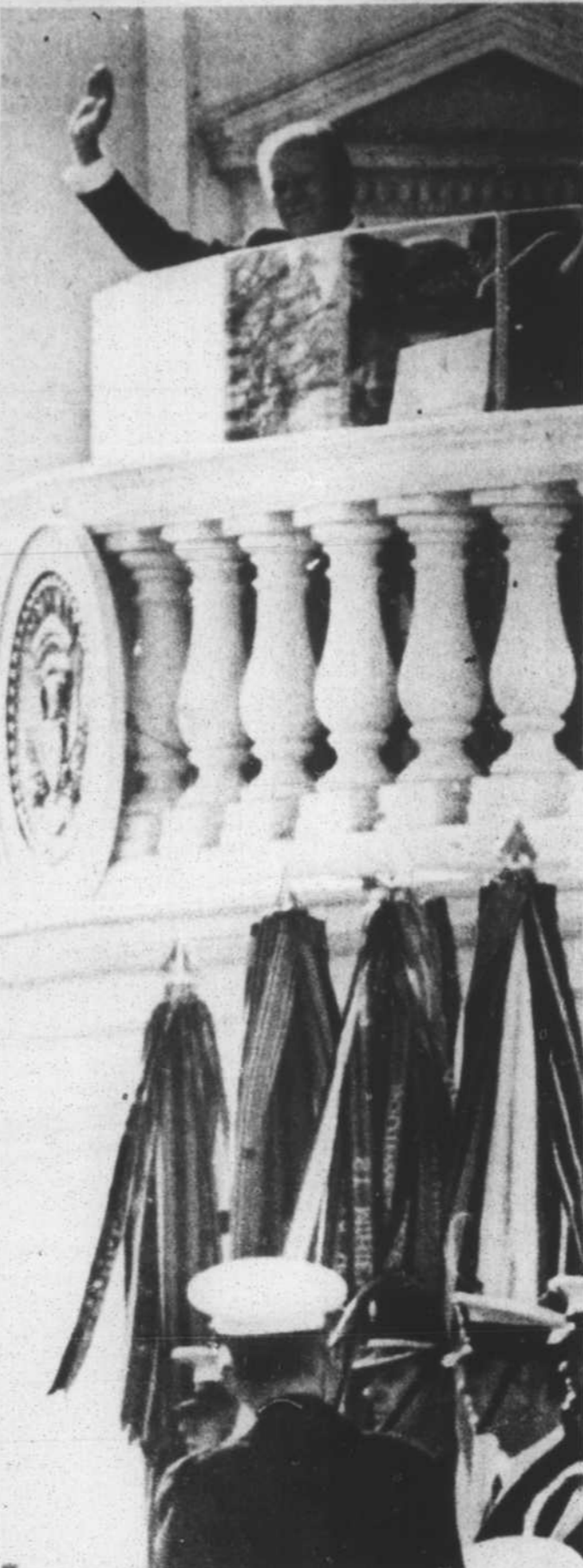
which has been present in America in recent years is — thankfully — behind us. Most of all, I suppose, the friendliness and goodwill shown by the outgoing President and the incoming President — both in public and in private — helped to give me, and the people with whom I spoke, the same feeling.

As everyone in person and on television could see, the program itself was awesome and inspiring. The patriotic music selected was extremely appropriate for the occasion. Eloquent prayers directed our nation's thoughts toward its rightful commitment to God.

The actual oath-taking — as required by the Constitution — was simple, but a very significant milestone in the history of our nation's government. Immediately after the oath, a 21-gun salute thundered across the Capitol area and I had the impression that this salute was being felt throughout our country — bringing with it a healthy new spirit. President Carter, in his inaugural speech, called it "fresh faith in the old dream." And that seems to hit it on the mark — we need to continue our allegiance to our old values — love of God and freedom and productive work — and renew the traditional virtues which made our nation great.

It was fitting for President Carter to include a Biblical reference in his address. Quoting from the book of Micah, the sixth chapter and eighth verse, he repeated the basic rules for human conduct which the prophet laid down so long ago. They have strong meaning for the new President — and for all of us — and bear repeating here: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

Each new Administration begins with a sort of "honeymoon" with Congress and the American people. This one will be no different. How long that "honeymoon" lasts remains to be seen, especially in view of his action — to me, unwise and ill-advised — to pardon Vietnam draft resisters. But the Carter Administration is off to a good start and I know the American people wish him good luck and God speed.



President Ford Waves Goodbye

Photos By Don Stith



Vice President And Mrs. Walter Mondale Wave To Crowd

## Norlina Couple Views Events

By BARBARA COOKE

January 20, 1977. It was 14 degrees with a wind factor that made the gusts feel like 10 degrees. It was dawn.

Dawn in Washington, D. C., our Nation's Capital, and the rising sun glistened over the frozen surface of the Potomac River. At the Lincoln Memorial a crowd gathered. Coming briskly across the ice crusted six inch layer of snow, people came to stand and to wait.

In the bitter blasts of the wind there were smiles and laughs and a cheerful air of friendship. The people had come to pray. And we were there.

With frozen fingers and unfeeling feet we stood with others, young and old, from many states and many countries to participate in a service of prayer for our land and our President.

We heard the Rev. Bruce Edwards, pastor of Plains Baptist Church, Georgia invite us to pray, evangelist Ruth Carter Stapleton, Jimmie Carter's sister, read scripture from Kings and a hundred voice choir joined by the Atlanta Boys Choir (directed by Fletcher Wolfe of Norlina) sing "God of Our Fathers."

In the shadow of the great Lincoln figure, we heard Martin Luther King, Sr., preach about "the least of these" and Leontyne Price sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." As we witnessed this symbolic reminder of struggle, progress and promise, the chill didn't come from the weather.

We prayed together "for strength from the Lord," and we sang together "Amazing Grace" and very few referred to the printed words provided us.

This people's prayer service set the mood for all the Inaugural Day.

Later we walked Washington over to reach Pennsylvania Avenue and a place near the White House to watch the Presidential Entourage and the National Parade. For five hours we stood in a now warmer 22 degrees temperature. We stood

in huddled groups and each was grateful for being nudged or crowded because that increased the warmth. There were tons of peanuts, thousands of small American flags; there were buttons and banners and special newspapers proclaiming the beginning of a new administration and a new spirit.

That spirit was alive among the cross-section of people who shared the excitement in Washington, D. C. The crowds were very friendly, happy, helpful, excited and hopeful.

The Red Cross manned dozens of warming stations for those who suffered in the cold and the Baptist Women of Washington gave out limitless cups of free hot chocolate, tea and coffee with homemade cookies. There was such a sweet spirit everywhere, it could have been Norlina, but it was the United States Capital. The Washington of Watergate, anxious for the new attitudes coming from a man who puts Christ first. It was that Christian influence that made the difference in every activity of the day and in the reactions of the people.

We heard, with the rest of the world, Jimmie Carter take the oath of office. We heard him ask the nation "to learn together, work together, laugh together, and pray together."

And we were there wearing two sets of everything, when our new President and his family stopped directly in front of us to have Amy join them and get buttoned up. Just a man, from a town smaller than Norlina, who loves his Lord and his country and challenges us to do the same.

We were part of it and it was thrilling. But we are still part of it. We all are. Politics had nothing to do with the spirit of hope among the people for something better. From Plains through Washington, to Norlina, "the best" will come from the people, if it comes at all. Carter has said, "why not the best?"

And why not? But that will be up to us.



Principal Terry And Governor Hunt



Senator Ted Kennedy



These Students Made Trip To Washington

## Bus From Warren Rolls To Inauguration

Some 35 students from John Graham and Norlina High Schools boarded a chartered Trailways bus early Thursday morning for a trip to Washington, D. C. where they attended the inaugural ceremonies and parade of President Jimmy Carter.

The trip was sponsored by the Warren County Chapter of the Young Democrats of N. C. Floyd McKissick, Jr., serves as county YDC president.

While in Washington, the students witnessed the swearing-in of President Carter and Vice-President Walter Mondale and attended a reception hosted by U. S. Sen. Robert Morgan, held at 9:30 a. m.

The group was accompanied by JGHS principal and Mrs. William Terry and McKissick, planner of the trip. McKissick said that the trip was made possible by merchants in

Warren County as well as individuals. He also added that a few of the students that could afford to do so paid a small fee.

"The purpose of the trip was to get more young people in Warren County politically active and aware," McKissick said.

Terry said that he felt like the trip was a huge success and that he was more than happy that some of his students were able to go and meet important

political leaders, including Gov. and Mrs. Jim Hunt, Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green and Sen. Edward Kennedy. "My students see these people on TV all the time and never dream of actually meeting them," Terry said. "This day shall be remembered for a long time."

Sen. and Mrs. Morgan and Gov. and Mrs. Hunt greeted all those attending the reception as they entered.

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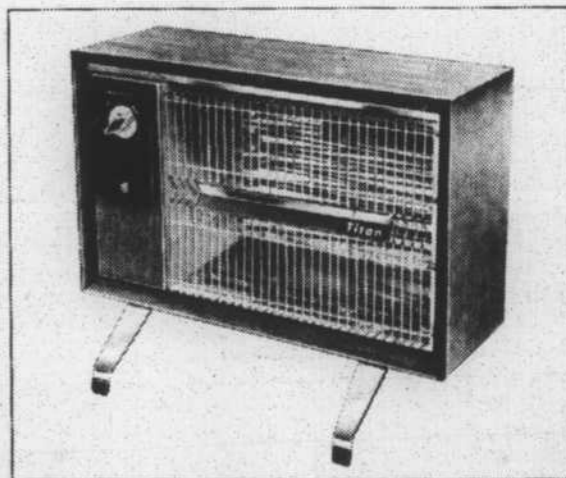
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