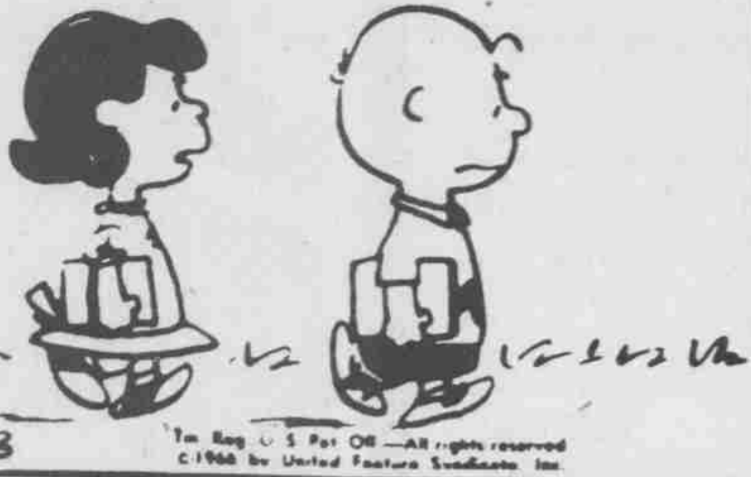


'COURSE I HATE TO REMIND YOU, CHARLIE BROWN, BUT YOU'VE GOT ONLY 11 MORE SHOPPING DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS!



DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- City in Georgia
- River to North Sea: Ger.
- Evade
- Sheeplike tube
- Pneumatic
- French money
- Ever: poet.
- Waterproof cloth
- Scuffed: abbr.
- Continent: abbr.
- Rebuffs
- Exchange: abbr.
- Soldiers: abbr.
- Exclamation of disgust
- Packing box
- South Sea paradise
- Part of "to be"
- Fragile
- To go back
- Drag
- Mission
- Brier
- Setting
- More independent
- Searches for
- An Antarctica explorer and an English composer

DOWN

- Allots tributary
- Foreigners
- Swift parts of streams
- Poem
- Compass point
- The earth
- Namesakes of a Gabor sister
- Submerge
- Live oaks
- Take a picture again
- Interjections
- Spheres
- Seine tributary
- Seasoning
- "The Quaker"
- Foot
- Lure
- Pat
- Punish by fine
- Nail
- Former Czech president
- Cantered
- Pitchers
- Myrtle or oak
- Class
- Lever
- Teammate of QB and HB

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

1. BARKER 2. SODA 3. CERES 4. PROVE 5. ATTA 6. CRAVED 7. RU 8. BOA 9. ENO 10. PROVENY 11. GIE 12. INNO 13. SERIE 14. CIAPROS 15. ACADIA 16. ILES 17. DO 18. ABILLENE 19. EK 20. VID 21. PI 22. PONGEE 23. OVEN 24. TREES 25. ADORE 26. SERE 27. LAWS

12-13

Sorry To Disappoint You, But... Chapel Hill Is Not On Triassic Sea Coast

By BILL SMITH
UNC News Bureau

One of the town's oldest, most cherished myths — that Chapel Hill was once on the coast of a Triassic sea — has been kicked in the head.

The beautiful theory was murdered by a brutal gang of geological facts collected by Dr. Daniel Textoris, a geology professor.

The pseudo-sea took its name from the Triassic period of geological time. Geologists estimate the period ended some 180 million years ago.

Had it remained unpublished except by word of mouth, the myth would have been safe.

Unfortunately for true believers it got nationwide publicity in print in the form of Frances Gray Patton's story about Chapel Hill in the August issue of Holiday magazine.

Mrs. Patton wrote: "Chapel Hill occupies a ridge or small plateau that was once a rocky promontory overhanging an arm of the great Triassic sea. (This shard of lore is precious to devout Chapel Hillians, who like to reflect upon the immemorial distinction of their eminence and think it a shame that the waters were ever allowed to recede.)"

liation years ago.

Portions of Eastern N. C. were flooded again during the Cretaceous period, about 70 million years later. This inundation did not reach Chapel Hill.

Triassic basins span the length of North America's east coast, and similar structures are found in the western U. S., Dr. Textoris said.

The N. C. basin was caused by a fault or a slippage in the earth's crust. It caused a 15 mile-wide area just west of the fault to sink about 10,000 feet.

The sinkage was gradual, Dr. Textoris pointed out. It took place over many millions of years, and geological forces such as erosion were at work filling the basin at the same time it was being formed.

Water action in all the basins was caused by fresh water.

"Also, geologists have found lake limestones and branchopods (fossilized animals which only lived in fresh water) in the Chapel Hill Triassic Basin."

FRESH WATER

Dr. Textoris explained that the petrified trees and coal he mentioned in his letter are the work of fresh water.

"The trees probably fell into rivers or were torn from the place where they stood by floods," he said. "When they finally sank or ran aground the rivers covered them with sediment and through the years they silicified, or became petrified."

Coal deposits, one of which was laid down in the Sanford area during the Triassic period, are products only of freshwater swamps, he pointed out.

Finally, vertebrate land fossils have been found in the basins, while marine fossils have not.

Dr. Textoris felt the mistaken belief that Triassic basins were covered by seas probably got its start from an incorrectly identified fossil.

The fossil was unearthed in one of the New England basins and was first identified as a bone from a marine fish. This led geologists to believe all the basins along the eastern coast had been covered by a salt sea.

Later the fossil was identified correctly as a bone of a dinosaur which could only live on land.

By that time, however, the myth of the Triassic sea had become firmly entrenched. Mrs. Patton's article will bear witness to that.

TAIN'T SO

Tain't so, says Dr. Textoris. The waters of the Triassic sea could not recede from Chapel Hill because they were never here in the first place.

In a letter to the editors of Holiday, Dr. Textoris said "the presence of coal, silicified trees, branchopods, terrestrial fossil vertebrates, . . . and lack of any marine fossils are a few of the proofs offered."

When these multisyllable words are boiled down, they mean the geological activity which went on in Chapel Hill's Triassic basin was caused by fresh water: streams, lakes and rivers, not by a sea.

Later, talking about the letter, Dr. Textoris fleshed his bare-boned facts.

"North Carolina was covered by a sea," he said, "but it was 300 million years ago, during the Paleozoic era, when much of the North American continent was also covered."

The Triassic period occurred much later, a mere 190 mil-



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