

## Serious crime is declining

According to reports there is
some good news these days-we some good news these days-we
should stress and appreciate it.
Serious crime-a U.S. scandal for many years--declined $7 \%$ in 1983 the FBI reports.
Not only is the decline good the biggest decline in serious crime ever, the only time serious crime has ever declined for two suc cessive years since records have een kept. North Carolina Statecis...The anmuabereport for- $1983-84$ has -jas been published. In it is a doublepage article on "Forest Products. We quote from the article:


People and Issues
Jack Jordan was one of the first notic
cle:
Jat cle: Jack. Jordon says. "When my brother and I started out here in Mt. Gilead in the early $1960^{\circ} \mathrm{s}$, we had a small planning mill and chipping operation. Today, the
business had evolved into the largest sawmilu in North Carolina. say that we did it all alone. But North Carolina State's School of Forest Resources has been with us
every every step of the way..."'
Jack's brother, Bob, is State Jack's brother, Bob, is State
Senator from his district, and is Senator from his district, and is
now the Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina.
TRAINS...For those who think trains have lost their appeal, it might come as a surprise to Iearn
that Pan American's 1985 Club Universe tours include three new tours-all partly by rail, by a news report.

## Symphony was delightful

The North Carolina Symphony came to town Thursday night. The delight that the performance were thrills in anticipation, in recognition, in the music and in the feelings of accomplishment.
The local Symphony Chapter worked so hard in organizing the drive and in the details of the perfamilies, businesses, and industries helped raise the money. Hospitality - food, drink, and smiles -- were readied to welcome the musicians. Then, there they were. How nice
to recognize some violinists, to recognize some violinists, a
trumpeter, two percussionists! How wonderful to have these
munity of fine music and love of the arts is enhanced each year when members of the Symphony isit her. These musicians are cordially welcomed, fed and applauded. They then brag all year on Raeford's excellent Symphony cellent taste.
As the encore swelled with "Climb Every Mountain" in a medley of Sound of Music an that people in Raeford do follow their dreams.
I appreciate every effort that was necessary to bring Strauss,

## Steffens had right idea about reading the Bible

Lincoln Steffens, the famous muckraking American journalist of the early 1900's, was not exactly what you would call a religious
man. But, at one point in his man. But, at one point in his
career, he became curious about the Bible.
"What did the Christians believe, exactly?", he worte in his autobiography. "I decided ... to read the New Testament the next
time I was at home and had time not myself to believe, but to see what the good church-going Christians believed.
"The experience was an adven-
ture so startling that ture so startling that 1 wanted everybody else to have it; I still
recommend people to read the New Testament as I read it, without reverence,-with-feet-propped up on a desk and a pipe in the
"It is news. It made the stuff I


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Things That Matter
was writing in the magazine old stuff. All my stories of all the cities and states were one story $\ldots$ and
these were all in that old story of Christ in the New Testament." The Bible was, indeed, written to be read with feet propped up on a desk. It is a book to be lived, not a sacred artifact to be revered. It
was intended for the mas intended for the common
man, not just-the well schooled theologian.
in the classical Greek of philosophers and scholars. The writers was "Koine" Greek, the lingo of the market-place. Those who really take time to
read the Bible will find its words remarkably up-to-date. What could be more in touch with contemporary human nature, for example, than this advice from the
book of Proverbs: "Book of Proverbs: ding who works for himself than one who plays the great man but lacks bread.'
Or, consider this:
Wealth hastily gotton will y inde, but he who gathers' little the mncient.writer know about in-
come taxes?

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