

# EDITORIALS

## In Search of Honesty

We're only about half as honest as we used to be. Recently, the editors of a national magazine conducted a test similar to one run by their counterparts nearly a half-century ago. The results were quite illuminating—and embarrassing for the current generation. Back in 1924, the magazine sent out 100 letters to people selected at random across the country, explaining that a dollar bill enclosed was sent "in adjustment of the error you complained of in your account," which of course, did not exist. Of the 100 people contacted, 27 returned the dollar, announcing that a mistake had been made which was in marked contrast to the results in 1971. In this year's test, only 13 of the 100 people returned the money. In each instance, followup research to the random selections broke down the 100 people into job categories. In both the 1924 and 1971 groups, clergymen ranked highest in percentage of return. However, the earlier clergy returned 66 percent of the money, while the latter group had a 30 percent response. Physicians and scientists remained fairly consistent in their responses, according to the tests, with 22 percent of the earlier group of physicians and 25 percent of the latter returning the money, while scientists recorded a perfect score each test with none sending back the dollar. So what does it all prove? As one many said, "I guess it shows that you can still find an honest man today, but you just have to look twice as hard."

—Tidewater News

## Disturbers of the Peace

In all circumstances, undue noise is antagonizing. The person who reads jokes aloud in the library or who carries on a conversation as though he is in the wide open spaces is a nuisance to all within earshot that are trying to study. The noise that gives pleasure to the maker often causes acute distress to the hearer. For it is in the library that many students do their studies, not necessarily because they can't study in their rooms, but because of the availability of reference books needed in writing term papers and the like. One should remember that the general scheme of the college implies a high ideal of conduct and manners for all of its faculty and staff members and the student body alike. "All students should be frank and courteous toward their fellow students, yet always dignified and ever mindful of all things. All students should expect nothing less of their fellow students than even the littlest acts of courtesy characteristic of good family upbringing. Students should show high spirit in all that they do and rejoice in the success of their fellow hard working students. In view of this, the students should stand together and have those who disturb the peace in the library removed by reporting them to the Librarian or to his aids. In so doing, these antagonizers can be dealt with by someone who is supposed to do something about it."

—Jim Hunter

## Quotes Old and New

What keeps 90 per cent of the population out of jail is the fact that the Ten Commandments are not equipped with enforcement provisions.—Boston Globe.

"I don't want you people to be afraid of me," said the boss to his employees. "If you have a complaint, speak up, even if it costs you your job."—Quote.

"I'm in a tough spot," the small boy said to his mother. "The teacher said I must write more legibly, and if I do she's going to find out I can't spell."—Tulsa World.

Nothing can confound a wise man more than laughter from a dunce.—Lord Byron.

Half of the little education people have is usually wrong.—E. W. Howe

One way to get people to report to work on time would be to have 95 parking spaces for each 100 employees.—Pen Magazine.

Living on a budget is the same as living beyond your means except you have a record of it.—Sunshine Magazine.

## As One

By EDWARD CANADA

As a lone pawn,  
On the board of life.  
One in a number  
Shading only a point in time.  
Standing sacrificial to many  
With no great loss.  
The king is a king and yet a pawn,  
A pawn, a king and back again.  
All different and yet as one  
... alone ... people.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:  
The members of the Chowan College Circle K Club wish to thank all the faculty and staff of Chowan College, WWDR Radio Station, local citizens and participating merchants for their interest and cooperation in helping to make this Thanksgiving a happy one for some of our needy neighbors who reside in Murfreesboro. On Friday, November 19, and Saturday, November 20, a container was placed in the faculty lounge at Chowan College. Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, Jr., Dean of the College, encouraged all faculty and staff members to place in this container food items, particularly canned items. On Saturday, November 20, members of the Circle K set up containers and signs at the following food stores: Chef's Open Air Market, Murfree Foods, Inc., Rich's Supermarket, Ruffin Brothers I and S Supermarket, Vann's Red and White Supermarket, and Wise's IGA Foodliner. In the afternoon, we gathered all that had been contributed by concerned citizens and took it to Mr. George Hazelton's residence, where we found that we had collected approximately 80 pounds of food and \$38 in monies. The food was then divided equally for four needy families in Murfreesboro who were selected at random by the Hertford County Department of Social Services. Monday afternoon, November 22, members of Circle K took the monies that was contributed to this worthy cause and bought four turkeys and four fruitcakes to go with the other food contribution. The food was then delivered to the needy families and it was a delight indeed to feel that we had done our part in helping to make someone's Thanksgiving a little better. We also realize that none of this would have been possible if it had not been for the kindhearted, warm people who reside here in Murfreesboro. Respectfully yours,  
Jim Hunter,  
Chowan College  
Circle K President

## Business Mirror

By JOHN CUNIFF  
AP Business Analyst  
NEW YORK (AP) — Some property and liability insurers are reporting solid profits in recent months and so the prospects are growing that rates may soon be coming down. While this is good news for homeowners, businessmen, drivers and others, it is almost too much to believe for some of the insurers, who year after year lost money even though they raised rates.

For the decade ending Dec. 31, 1969, for example, the underwriting losses for 148 capital stock liability companies were \$1.2 billion. And as recently as last year the property-liability losses totaled \$275 million.

Insurers credit many factors for their improving situation: rate increases, or "relief" as they call it, a slowing of inflation that helped them bring costs under control, and the economic slowdown.

The latter factor has the effect of reducing risks. Fewer cargoes are in transit during a slowdown, for example, and fewer factories are on over-time.

But is there more to this story? Could it be that the insurers themselves rather than events beyond their control could have had something to do with their huge losses, which occurred during widespread prosperity?

Seldom did the insurers even permit this possibility to be discussed. The fault was not theirs, they proclaimed, but society's; the resolution of the problem must come from without rather than from within.

One wonders about the credibility of that argument after reviewing the procedures through which one giant, Continental Casualty, worked its way from a \$34-million loss in 1965 to the break-even point last year.

The remedy was sought within the company.

More emphasis was placed on commercial business rather than on expenses. "We had to clamp down hard on expenses, painfully hard," an executive said.

Regional and branch offices were given more authority and responsibility.

Management personnel were upgraded through an evaluation system, a series of schools and seminars, transfers and promotions.



Christmas is more than the fun of exchanging gifts and the happiness of family reunions . . . it is the commemoration of a birth that occurred almost 2,000 years ago . . . a birth that brought new hope to men. That hope is renewed each year with the celebration of Christ's birth. In the spirit of that hope let us come together in joyful worship and praise of God's love and mercy toward men.

# Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas

## Light of History

# Milton Is Drowsy Town Filled With History

By H. G. Jones, Director  
N.C. Dept. of Archives  
and History

Written for Associated Press  
RALEIGH (AP) — The little town of Milton, hugging the Virginia border in Caswell County, was incorporated 175 years ago this month. Actually, the village already has celebrated its anniversary with an all-day affair featuring dinner on the ground and a speech by Governor Bob Scott in October.

Milton today is a drowsy community of 19th-century houses squeezed on three sides by the Dan River, County Line Creek, and the Virginia line. Travelers on N.C. 57 and 62 slow down, creep up the tree-line streets, note the quaintness of the buildings, and then drive on, little realizing that this was once the most thriving town in the north Piedmont. Over a century ago, it had more than 1,000 busy inhabitants. Today, its population is below 250.

The great days of Milton came only 20 years after its incorporation. Archibald D. Murphy, who was born not far from Milton, stimulated great interest in the opening of North Carolina's rivers and streams for water transportation.

Among the companies formed to push a system of "internal improvements" was the Roanoke Navigation Co. which sought to open the Dan River to larger boats. Milton was advantageously located, and the company's plans set off speculation that raised prices of lots along Main Street to \$100 per front foot. This boom, however, tapered off, and Milton's growth was steady but moderate until the Civil War.

Several tobacco houses and at least six tobacco factories made the town an important economic center. An early textile mill was burned prior to the Civil War. Other businesses thrived; eight newspapers were published in Milton at one time or another after 1818.

One of Milton's most famous residents was Tom Day, a black free man whose cabinet shop supplied furniture for the homes of the affluent. His handiwork is much sought after today by antique collectors whose tastes lean to the heaviness of mid-19th century styles.

Day made the pews for the Presbyterian Church in the town — but only on condition that he be permitted to sit with his white neighbors. Gov. Scott

has praised him as a man "who rose above his handicap of color in the days of slavery." Another well-known Miltonian was Romulus M. Saunders, who served in Congress as minister to Spain during Polk's administration. He also was a state legislator, judge, and attorney general. In 1844 he was chairman of the Democratic National Convention.

Milton's legacy today is one of a quiet, charming village retaining a large number of historic buildings. Among these are the row of business buildings along Main Street, the Spotswood or Yellow Tavern, the State Bank Building, "Fairview," and the vacant Irvine House, Hurdle House, and the Romulus Saunders House. I his anniversary address, Gov. Scott urged Miltonians to organize a preservation association which, he said, could lead to a "revitalization of this historic town, not in terms of luring belching factories but in terms of attracting families seeking a quiet, attractive place of residence where the "air is pure and the neighbors are hospitable." Unlike other 19th-century towns which have been trans-

formed into 20th-century business communities, Milton has reverted to a residential village. In doing so, some of its early structures have been allowed to deteriorate beyond repair. On the other hand, it retains a unique air of bygone

days and maintains much of its physical heritage which exemplifies small-town life of a century ago.

The nation's smallest coin, the half-cent piece, was first issued in 1793 and last struck in 1857.

## SMOKE SIGNALS

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EDITOR ..... Teresa Shoulders  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ..... Carol Denton  
SPORTS EDITOR ..... Richard Jackson

### STAFF MEMBERS

Mary Townsend  
Arthur Riddle  
Joseph Stinson  
Nancy Long  
Cheryl Whitehead  
Melody Matthews  
Jay Sidner  
Jim Hunter

Cricket Strawderman

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Eddie Beach  
Greg Kenan  
Frank Dunton