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Freedom of the press plays a vital role in our great American heritage. Its aim isn't to provide special privileges for newsmen and the media they represent, but to assure the public of information it is entitled to know.

Granting reporters can be pretty irritating in the pursuit of their calling, it is significant that in every land where liberty is strangled, the press must be destroyed first. All of the world's evil rulers have concurred in this.

Because citizens resent invasion of their privacy, and justly so, mutual understanding and cooperation between newsmen and sources of legitimate public information should be arrived at.

The Mirror heartily endorses a "News Guide" prepared by the North Carolina Hospital Association. It has been developed and approved by the North Carolina Press Association, North Carolina Association of Broadcasters, Medical Society of the State of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Hospital Association.

Cases of public record are defined as those involving persons under arrest or held under police surveillance, persons brought to a hospital by the fire department or any law enforcement agency, and cases such as shooting, stabbing, poisoning, injury by automobile and animal bites, and any other cases which are reportable to civil authorities, regardless of the mode of transportation to a hospital.

Releasable information in these cases includes the name, address, sex, race, age, marital status, occupation and employer, and the name and address of the nearest relative or responsible person.

The condition of such patients can be revealed as good, fair, serious or critical. Hospital employees should give no additional description of the patient or condition. They should make no prognosis, or make a statement of who may be responsible for the accident. It is proper to state briefly the type of accident, but no details should be given.

Extent of injuries may be described briefly, but it should never be stated or implied by a member of the hospital staff that injury was self-inflicted or that the patient was intoxicated. If a patient is unconscious when brought to the hospital, a statement of this fact may be made.

If there is a fracture, it is not to be described in any way except to state the member involved. The word "fracture" should not be used unless definitely determined by a physician.

Death of a patient is a matter of public record and may be reported by the hospital after the next of kin has been notified, or reasonable effort has been made to do so.

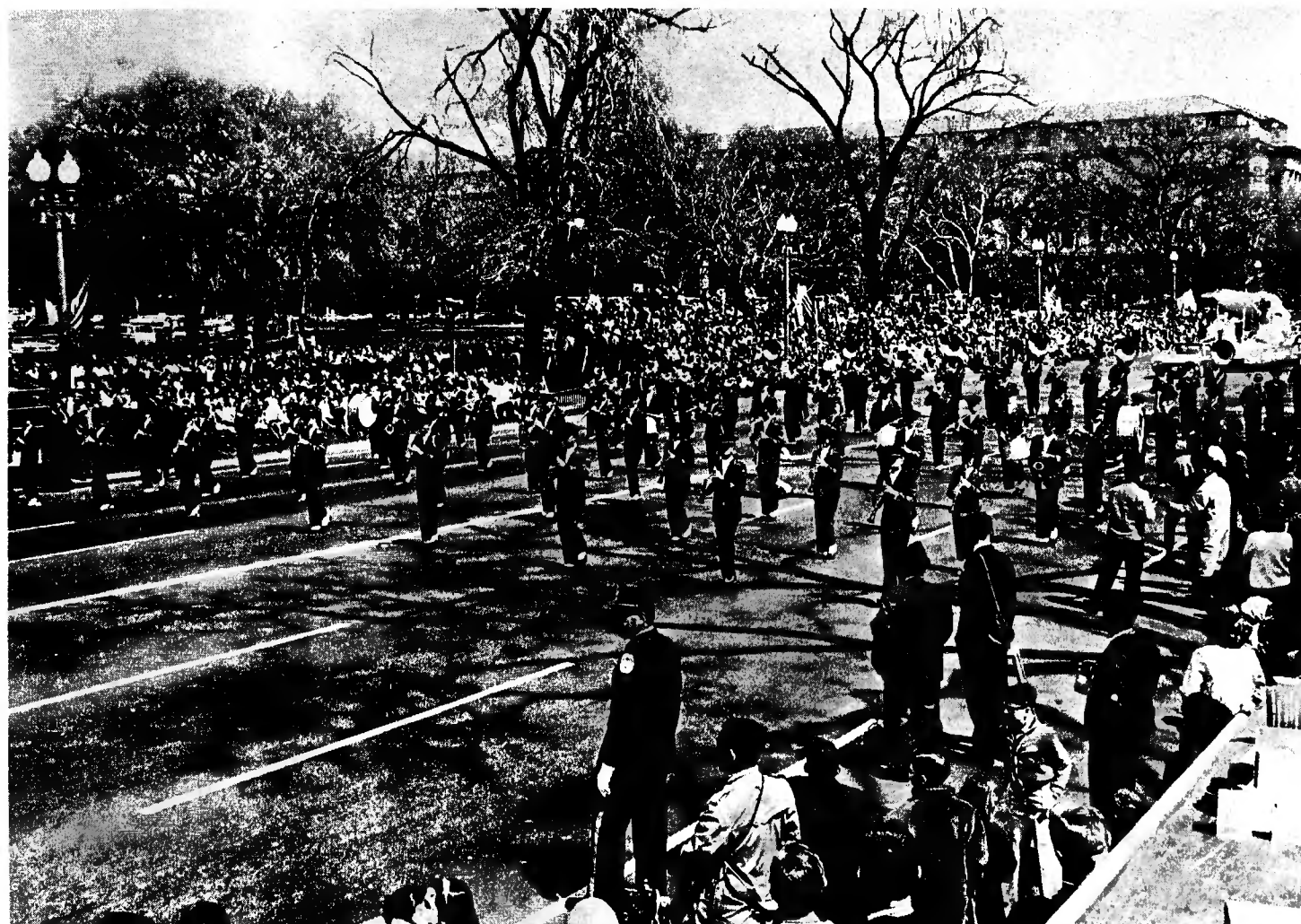
In private (non-accident cases, non-confidential information such as name, address, sex, race, admission and discharge dates, general condition, and other ordinary facts unrelated to treatment may be released on request unless such release might create a problem for the patient, or unless the patient explicitly requests that

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WAY BACK WHEN—Old Salem, proud of its history and capitalizing on relics of the past, doesn't have a restored Tryon Palace. Included among its landmarks, however, is the earliest tobacco shop still standing in America. Here Matthew Miksch lived, in 1773, and

manufactured the snuff, smoking and chewing tobacco he sold to townspeople and visitors. It is quite doubtful that Miksch ever heard of filters, and think of the cigarette commercials he escaped.



WHILE THOUSANDS WATCHED—You didn't think for one minute, did you, that The Mirror would fail to come up with a picture of New Bern High School's 100-member band marching in Washington's Cherry Blossom Festival parade? Here, experiencing the thrill of a lifetime, the local musicians are approaching the

reviewing stand on famed Pennsylvania Avenue, where processions joyful and tragic of world wide interest have passed countless times. The majorettes are out of camera range, but you'll note that a policeman considers it worth his while to take a second look at them as they move on down the Avenue.