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Paid political advertising is a necessity for every candidate who seriously runs for public office. Not just because of the money involved, but because it is more valuable, an aspirant would much prefer free publicity of a favorable nature.

This isn't always easy to come by. For our part, and this applies to friend and foe alike, we make it a habit to steer clear of this sort of thing when an election looms on the horizon.

So, in the case of Ken Morris, who has no idea what this column is going to deal with, he can thank his eight year old son, Kenny, and the family's German shepherd dog, Shepy, for making The Mirror's front page this week. Most of all, he can thank Shepy, who obviously hasn't read about the population explosion.

Ken's mother, Evelyn Scott, knows less than nothing about the inner workings of politics. She is, however, a very proud grandmother. As a lifelong friend of ours, she showed us the following literary masterpiece the other day, and was surprised when we insisted on publishing it.

A NINE HOUR JOURNEY
BY KENNY MORRIS

It started one day at 1:00 June 22, a friend of my sister was at my house and she was by the hammock and a puppy was under it. She yelled to my mamma at the clothes line. My mother ran over there and the puppy was covered with flies. So mamma took it into the house and mamma didn't know whether it was one of Shepy's puppies, so mamma called my father and my father told my mother to call the vet and the vet told mamma to put the puppy and Shepy in the garage together. The next time mamma looked there were four. Then my father came home. From 3:00 to 6:00 Shepy didn't have another puppy. My father had to go to a meeting at 7:00 and by the time he left there were 7. When daddy came home mamma said you won't believe this but there are ten, so daddy went to look and he said theres not ten theres eleven, while daddy was counting she had the twelfth one. When they open there eyes and start walking I'm going to have a time. THE END.

The free publicity that Ken is getting from his young son's dog and her offspring puts him in the same class with Joe L. Bright, who won Democratic nomination for a seat in the State Legislature in the last Primary. Ken, seeking similar office, is a Republican.

We say they're in the same fortunate position because Joe also fell heir to free publicity on the Mirror's front page not too long ago as the result of his own young son. It was a windfall that money couldn't buy, and came at an opportune time.

Florence Hanff, a New Bern photographer, had shown us a portrait of a boy that won her a coveted State award, and we welcomed the opportunity to publish it in our next issue. Naturally, we mentioned the child's parents in the cutline beneath the photo.

The father's name, J. L.

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Scenes at Seafarer