

FEATURES

Your County Commissioner

[Editor's Note: This is the second of a series of articles this newspaper is running to acquaint you with your federal, state, county, and local government officials.]

"When you've asked the people to elect you, you owe it to them to do your very best to serve them," said Mr. Grover C. Lancaster, Jr., Chairman of the Craven County Board of Commissioners, as he explained why he is always so busy. The 58 year old Lancaster has served the citizens of Craven County for sixteen years on the board, eight of those as its chairman.

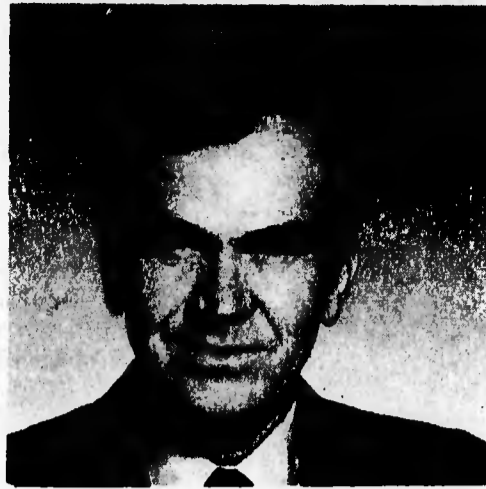
Born and raised in Vanceboro, Mr. Lancaster graduated from Farm Life High School. World War II cut short his studies at N. C. State. He served in the U. S. Army from January 1942 — October 1945 in both the Pacific and European Theatres as a Staff Sergeant. While in England he met and married the former Peggy Hill of Eastly near Southampton, England. They have two daughters, Cathy and Jenny, and two grandchildren.

One major goal, Mr. Lancaster has pushed for during his tenure and is just beginning to realize is the development of a balanced agricultural-industrial base in Craven County. When he first joined the board in 1962, the Cherry Point Marine Air Station was the only real industry in the county. Since then, the Board of Commissioners have started the Industrial Development Commission, a group of specialists whose purpose is to develop plans for the promotion of more industry for the county. Their efforts have resulted in the creation of an industrial park in the Clarks area. One of the first to locate in the new park will be Mid-American Metal Corporation. Mr. Lancaster emphasized that the development of industry in Craven County is vital since it serves to help keep young people in the county by providing good jobs and thus, continuing the county's progress.

Another goal that has been very important to Mr. Lancaster, is the development of the County Recreation Department. The purpose of such a department is to provide good facilities and recreational activities for the people in the county. The Board of Commissioners secured permission to use the school facilities at Ft. Barnwell, Brinson Memorial, Havelock, Craven Community College, and Farm Life when not being used by the schools. The result was the upgrading of the facilities creating five complete outdoor recreation fields.

Mr. Lancaster is pleased to report that during the eight years that he has served as chairman, the Craven County Board of Commissioners has maintained the same tax levy. This feat, unusual for most governments at any level, was accomplished by careful planning, growth in population, and growth in industry. Mr. Lancaster emphasized that despite the growth in the tax base, the same tax levy could not have continued to produce the progress Craven County has seen without many hours of planning how to use the tax money best.

After being elected to the Craven County Board of Commissioners for the first time, Mr. Lancaster began immediately to try to upgrade the county's Rural Fire Department System. Sixteen years ago only four rural departments were in operation. Now the county enjoys practically complete coverage and almost every section gets reduced rates on fire insurance.



Mr. Grover C. Lancaster, Jr.

The next high priority item the Board is concerned with is the consolidation of County offices and the building of a larger and more modern jail. The building of a new office building for the county would take away space and personnel problems for the rest of the century. Again planning is the secret for reaching this goal. Eight years ago, board members saw the need for such a facility and set aside funds from the Federal Revenue Sharing Program for capital projects. The Building Fund has accumulated in excess of two and one-half million dollars without a bond issue. Mr. Lancaster is proud of the progress that has been made during his tenure, but is quick to point out that this progress is due mainly to the efforts of the entire board and the people of Craven County.

Letters To The Counselor

Dear Counselor:

What is autism? My next door neighbor has an autistic child. I think I heard once that this condition is the result of not being loved enough as a baby. Jane has been our neighbor for six years and I know she has given all her children plenty of love. What's the answer?

J. H. Epworth

Dear J. H.:

Autism is a severe disturbance of mental and emotional development in young children. Autistic kids are extremely withdrawn. They show little or no interest in other people or in the normal activities of childhood. They are often described as being "in a shell" or "living in a world all their own".

No one really knows what causes autism. While it is true that a lack of touching and maternal affection was once believed to be an important factor in the development of autism, this idea has been dismissed as totally off base. Fortunately, it is a very uncommon disability occurring only four times in Jones County according to the last count.

In this column will be printed the questions and answers concerning any facet of mental health such as alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, parenting skills, marriage enrichment, growing old, etc. We encourage you to send your questions to The Counselor, P.O. Box 2535, New Bern, N.C. 28560. Your question will be answered in a succeeding issue.

CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

Please write to us about someone you feel is a good citizen in your area. In your letter tell something about the person, their background, education, where they're from, etc. Please tell why you consider them a good citizen. Each week we will choose a Citizen of the Week from the letters we receive. If possible include a black and white photograph and your name, address, and phone number.

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BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Feb:4 | Reba Mitchell | 10 | John F. Kite |
| | Tammy Kay Morris | | Sharon Morris |
| | Larry Mike Wilson | | Allie Blanche Gilbert |
| 5 | Ray Von Wiggins | | |
| | Wallace Smith | | |
| | John Wilson | | |
| | Gloria Kay Ipock | | |
| | James Mitchell Oliver | Feb. 6 | Mr. & Mrs. Ersell Nobles |
| | Maggie Gaskins | | |
| | Pauline McCandless | 7 | Mr. and Mrs. Frankie Whitford |
| 6 | Jan White | | Mr. & Mrs. Levi Morris |
| | Alma Drake | | |
| | Linda Gaskins | | |
| 7 | Jim Jacaruso | | |
| | Manley Edwards | | |
| 8 | Teresa Johnson | 8 | Mr. & Mrs. Billy Whitford |
| | Cindy Morris | | |
| | Bobby Gaskins | | |
| | Clara Lou Ipock | | |
| 9 | Lena Nobles | | |
| | George Wilson, Jr. | | |
| | Curtis Broadway | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

On January 27, 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua A. Toler celebrated their eighteenth wedding anniversary.

Our list of birthdays and anniversaries is far from complete. If you would like your birthday or anniversary to appear in this column, please send it to the WCH, P. O. Box 404, Vanceboro, N. C. 28586.

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