

Something Personal

Dear Jack:

This will have to be brief because of the keen competition for space in this popular column. However, I would be less than a good Grandfather if I didn't welcome you to Tar Heelia and say that while you may be new, you are extra special.

I was pleased to learn Tuesday that you made your appearance at Wilson Memorial Hospital at around 11:45 A.M. (the time differs a few minutes from person to person) without giving your mother, Melissa, and daddy, John, too tough a time. Since business kept me from dashing right over (and I promise here and now this will not always be the case) I am sure your Grandmother was foolish enough for the both of us.

And at eight pounds, 10 ounces and just over 20 inches long you should not waste any time in getting down to make application for Social Security. (Oh, how I hope there will be more security—social or otherwise—when you reach the magic age of 62.)

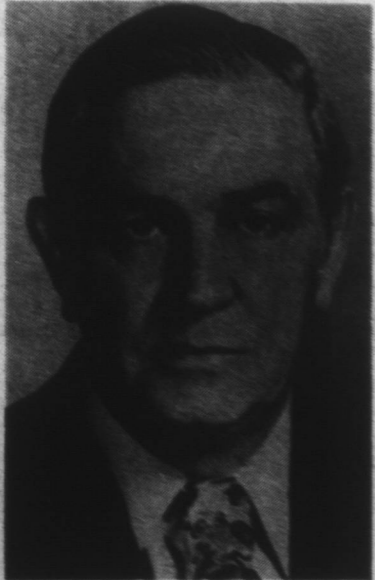
I dreamed the other night that you would be a boy. Ever since then I wondered what handle they would put on you. If there is any comfort to you, John Remond Smith, Jr., try Luther Franklin Amburn, Jr., for size. Anyway, "Jack" will be almost as easy to remember as "Bud".

There is a lot I have on my mind but you wouldn't understand—no one ever does. But you will grow up and find out things are not as funny as when someone tickles your feet. Furthermore, I hope you learn to cope with frustrations such as having a kid graduate from college, a married daughter (which always seems to include a son-in-law), a talented son trying to find his niche in life, a second son who grows up in 30 days away at school, and another daughter who is an aspiring ballet dancer.

You see, Jack, I got through that without even mentioning the middle aged spread, bifocals, etc. Also, I could tell you about sleeping with a Grandma if this wasn't a family newspaper.

A couple of years ago your father was the first Smith admitted to the Amburn clan. If he hadn't paid his dues before, you did it for him. If you grow tired of hearing it said that you are something special don't complain. I like the sound of it all.

Lovingly,
Granddaddy



Rep. Walter B. Jones

Mr. Chairman

Historians will have plenty to write about the 96th Congress of the United States. One of the bright spots will be the wisdom displayed in selecting Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District to head a permanent committee.

The selection of Rep. Jones to head the Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee is just another example of the confidence and respect which he enjoys among his colleagues. Furthermore, it is a tribute to the people along the Public Parade and throughout Northeastern North Carolina and the vast First Congressional District.

Rep. Jones has been one of the runningest politicians in Tar Heel annals, always coming up on top. And if not for his age, he could go on to be a great Speaker of the U. S. House of Represent-

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NEW ARMORY CONSTRUCTION — Real progress is now being made on construction of a new National Guard Armory on Base Road, at Edenton Municipal Airport. Welco of Washington is general contractor on the job which includes county, municipal, state and federal cooperation. When the new facility is completed the armory on North Broad Street will be released to the Town of Edenton. Plans are to make the old facility into headquarters for an expanded Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department program. (Staff Photo by Luke Amburn.)



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Unemployment Insurance Fraud Cases Are Heard

One unemployment insurance fraud case was reopened and another heard Tuesday morning in Chowan County District Court. The cases are unrelated.

William H. Holley, 128 East Albemarle Street, admitted in

Production Up

Cotton production in North Carolina is forecast at 55,000 bales, according to the N. C. Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This is 4 per cent more than forecast a month earlier and 28 per cent more than last year's production of 43,000 bales.

The average yield per acre at 419 pounds is down 36 pounds from the average in 1979. Acreage for harvest at 63,000 acres is 40 per cent higher than a year ago.

Harvest is nearing completion, well ahead of normal progress.

U.S. cotton production is forecast at 10.9-million bales, down 3 per cent from the November 1 forecast and 25 per cent below the 1979 production. The average yield per acre is 401 pounds, down 147 pounds from the national average in 1979.

Fewer Jobless

Chowan County's unemployment rate dropped in October, falling to 7 per cent from 7.5 per cent the previous month. The county's total is still higher than the state figure of 6.3 per cent.

Employment Security Commission figures show the county with a labor force of 4,890 with 340 people on the unemployment rolls.

In the Albemarle Area of Northeastern North Carolina a total of 3,300 workers are listed as unemployed. Tyrrell County had the highest percentage of unemployment — 9.3 out of a labor force of 1,510.

During October, the seasonal loss of more than 19,000 agricultural jobs across the state was offset by small gains in most manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors. Government was the only employer to show a sizeable increase in employment during the month with 5,900 workers joining its labor force. This gain was due largely to increases in education-related jobs.

In county-by-county analysis of unemployment in October, Richmond County had the highest unemployment rate at 12.1 per cent, up from 9.5 per cent in September and 6.5 per cent in October, 1979.

Alleghany County had the lowest unemployment rate in October at 3.3 per cent, up slightly from September's 3 per cent rate and the 2.9 per cent rate of October a year ago.

court that he had not made certain payments which were ordered earlier when he was convicted of nine counts of unemployment insurance fraud. Judge Grafton G. Beaman ordered the suspended sentence revoked and Holley committed. The defendant gave notice of appeal.

In the other case, James D. Noell, Route 3, Edenton, entered guilty pleas to nine counts of unemployment insurance fraud. The amount involved was \$549. Judge Beaman sentenced Noell to six months. The sentence was suspended and the defendant placed on probation for 12 months upon payment of \$180 fine and costs and make restitution to the Employment Security Commission.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Frank Parrish of Elizabeth City prosecuted the docket and the following other action was taken:

Faye Rankins, larceny, 90 days, suspended and placed on probation for 12 months upon payment of \$125 fine and costs.

Barbara White, shoplifting, 60 days, suspended and placed on probation for 12 months upon payment of \$100 fine and costs.

Leon Roulac, Jr., drunk driving, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs. Notice of appeal entered.

Stacy Moore and Thomas Leary, larceny, identical sentences of 120 days, suspended and placed on probation upon payment of \$200 fine and costs. Notice of appeal entered.

Jackie Lee Leary, assault on a female, 90 days, suspended upon payment of costs.

Jimmie E. Creekmore, worthless check, dismissed.



EARLY MORNING FIRE — Extensive damage was caused to the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Smith in Rocky Hock early Sunday morning. Smith is shown pointing to the main switch box in the kitchen portion of the house. It is believed that the fire was caused by the electrical circuit in the house. In the other picture, some of the furnishings removed from the dwelling are shown in the foreground with the damaged portion of the rear of the house also shown. Twenty-six men from Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, about four miles away, responded to the 3:40 A.M. alarm and quickly brought the blaze under control. (Staff Photos by Luke Amburn.)

Dense Smoke Delays Traffic

For the second time in recent weeks, Chowan County Sheriff's Department has had to block roads in the Rocky Hock area because of dense smoke. The longest delay in traffic, especially school buses, was experienced Friday morning.

Sheriff Troy Toppin reported that the roads were closed to avoid serious accidents. Minor accidents were investigated but there was no serious mishap.

James A. Kinion, assistant superintendent, Edenton-Chowan Schools, said he didn't recall when so many buses had been late. There was up to a two and one-half

hour delay in some instances. The Chowan Herald received a complaint that large organic soil depressions were burning as well as logs and pushed up roots. The location, in the vicinity of Rocky Hock Baptist Church, smolders continuously all the time, it was stated.

The "Carolina Bogs" includes soil which burns along with the wood particles. The smolderings are located within 25 to 35 feet of the residence of Sherlon Layton's home.

While there have been many instances here, the greatest trouble appears to be in Pasquotank, Camden and Hyde counties. The smoke in Pasquotank and Camden counties has continued for several weeks and many serious automobile mishaps have been investigated.

Natural Resources and Community Development Deputy Secretary E. Walton Jones traveled to Hyde County Tuesday to discuss problems caused by heavy smoke from land-clearing activities in eastern North

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Foodtown Store To Open Here

P&G Development Company has announced that Foodtown Food Stores will be occupying 21,000 square feet of space in Edenton Village Shopping Center. Ed Goodwin of P&G Associates stated that Foodtown is one of the leading supermarket chains in North Carolina and is expected to open sometime in February.

Remodeling of the previous Harris Supermarket will begin immediately.

Edenton Village Shopping Center will contain a total of 77,000 square feet, and all but 4,000 square feet which will be or local tenants has been leased.

The facility will feature, in addition to Foodtown, a 40,000 square foot TG&Y Family Center, Revco Drug Store and Shoe Show. Other negotiation with tenants for out-parcels is underway.

With these national tenants, Edenton Village should draw from a wide trade area and help stimulate trade for the entire downtown area, it was predicted.

All stores are expected to be in operation in March.

Checks Stolen

Area businesses have been alerted to be on the lookout for four checks stolen in a recent breaking and entering at C.A. Perry & Sons, Route 1, Tyner.

Sheriff Troy Toppin said checks number 3416, 3425, 3563 and 3564 were stolen. The checks were blank and printed on Bank of North Carolina, N.A., Hobbsville.

Sheriff Toppin added that the firm's checks are normally printed by machine. The stolen checks will probably be handwritten.

Anyone with information about these checks are asked to contact the Chowan County's Sheriff's Department at 482-8484.

Smith Residence Damaged By Blaze

The W.E. Smith home in Rocky Hock was severely damaged by fire early Sunday morning. The fire originated in the kitchen area where the main electric switching was located.

Chief Frank White, of Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, answered the alarm at 3:40 A.M. He said Smith's phone was not working and he had gone to a neighbor's home to report the fire.

The residence is located some four miles from the fire station. White estimated that the fire had been burning for only a matter of minutes, but the blaze was coming out windows. Once the firefighters were on the scene the blaze was quickly knocked down and brought under control.

Firemen stayed on the scene for approximately two hours.

"It was bad but it could have been much worse," the chief said. Two rooms were extensively damaged with smoke and water damage experienced in other

sections of the home.

Two fire trucks and a water carrier were on the scene shortly after the alarm was answered. Twenty-six volunteer firemen participated in bringing the fire under control and keeping damage to a minimum in other areas of the home.

Chief White said all indications pointed to the cause being electrical. When the fire was first discovered it was coming from an area of the kitchen where the switch box was located. An electrician told the chief there was a big hole in the area which indicated the location of the fire.

Bid-Rigging Results In Fine

Dickerson Group, Inc., of Monroe, was among six North Carolina paving companies pleading guilty to highway bid-rigging charges in U. S. District Court in Charlotte Wednesday of last week.

Dickerson was fined \$700,000 for bid-rigging on three projects. One of the projects was the \$2.5-million contract for the U. S. 17 bypass of Edenton in 1976. The other

projects involved bids in Union, Dare, Currituck and Pasquotank counties in 1978.

The action stemmed from a six-month investigation by a federal grand jury into bid-rigging, a violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

A U. S. Justice Department prosecutor said the investigation now moves to Raleigh where other indictments are anticipated.

