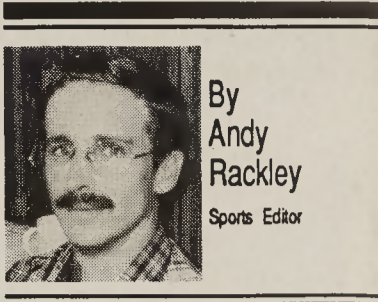


# Winds of March will always be cherished

By Andy Rackley  
Sports Editor

The winds of March are a tradition for people all over the world. They are a sign that old man winter has put away the snow and bone-chilling winds until at least the following November. The winds mark a change in season when parents no longer have to look their children in the house. It's a time when the young and energetic are again allowed to dance in the streets, chase butterflies or fish down by the creek. The warmer weather tells farmers that its time to begin seeding their crops for the next year's harvest. Yes, the winds of March are winds of change...a new and fresh season of spring approaches. It is a time that many baseball fans cherish with anticipation. A time that fans, including I, struggle all

winter long for. However, the spring of 1995 no longer seems to carry that same enthusiastic feeling. In 1994, baseball went on strike. The players and owners short changed fans of the traditional World Series. Though many of us thought it would never happen...it did. October rolled around with no cheers, no crack of the bats...no joy in Mudville for 'Mighty Casey,' (the fans) had struck out without getting a swing at the plate. For this reason, many fans see this spring as an extended winter. Fans see this spring as possibly never returning. For only in America has the traditional game — America's game — like some many other things in the nation, gone by the way side. Greed has come in from the bullpen and we may never be able to get him off the mound.



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Sports Editor

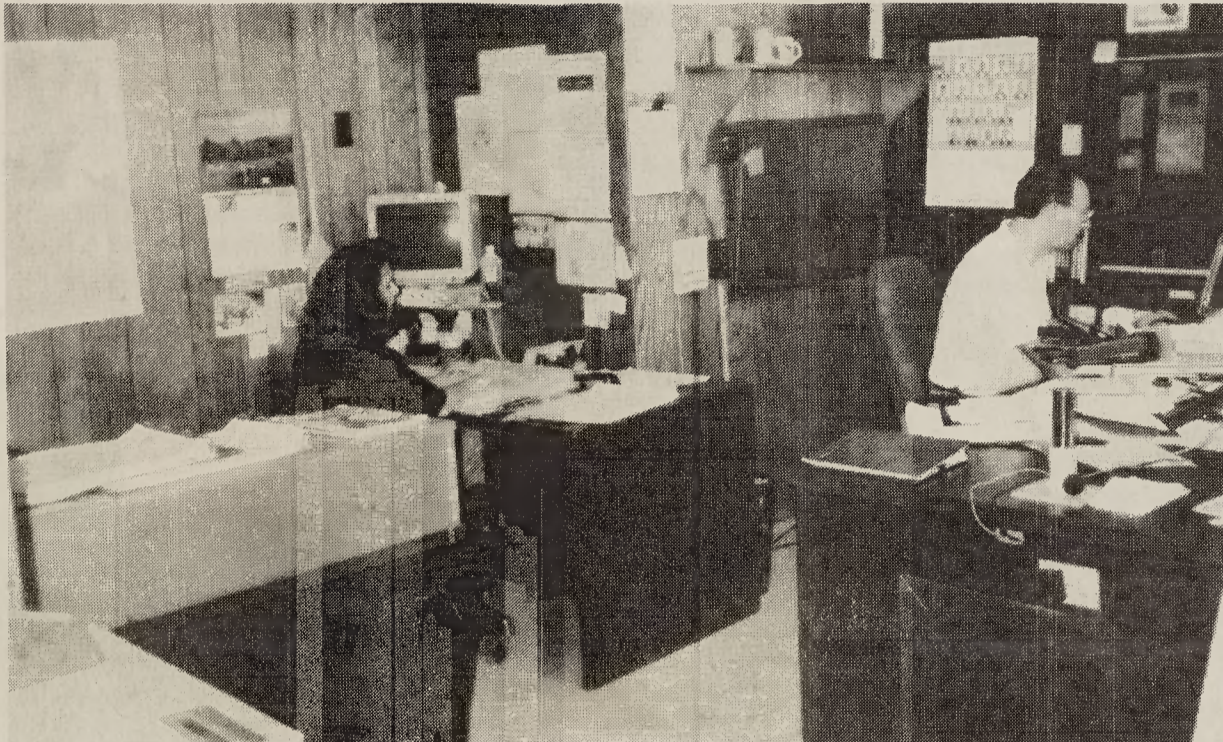
The game that fans love...no longer loves us. Or at least it seems that way. Yes, when late March rolls around or early April, there will still be baseball in America. It may not be the Frank Thomas 'The Big Hurt' crashing home runs, or Atlanta's Greg Maddux throwing a shut out; but baseball will be here. This year, it'll be little eight-year-old Johnnie walking to the plate and facing

veteran nine-year-old Charlie on the mound. Fans are guaranteed no home runs and no shut out. But they will be guaranteed players who are playing for the fun of it. And maybe...just maybe the strike is the key to the future of baseball. Maybe little Johnnie and Charlie will always be disgusted with the World Series they weren't allowed to share with their fathers in 1994. And maybe...just maybe when they reach the big league they'll keep that in mind when the thought of 'baseball strike' rears its ugly head in the 21st Century. Maybe then and only then will the struggles of this century's fans be cashed in by our children. And then there will be joy in Mudville again...for Casey will get another bat and this time he will cherish his swings as much as we used to cherish the winds of March.

# Ezzell providing good, old-fashioned service

By Jeanne Schoninger  
Staff Intern

Ezzell Trucking was founded on "good old-fashioned service" and that tradition has kept the business prospering since 1951. Founded by James A. Ezzell in 1951, Ezzell Trucking started hauling live turkeys and other farm-related commodities.



Marsha Sumner and Ricky Kaleel, trucking dispatch specialists at Ezzell Trucking, see to it that trucks get to and from their destinations each and every day. The two are working from Ezzell's dispatching center.

*"Our goals must continue to exceed our customers' needs. We cannot fall behind our competition or let new technology pass us by."*  
— David Parks.

In 1969, the refrigerated division of Ezzell Trucking came into being and the company began to haul processed turkey products and produce. Ezzell Trucking expanded in 1982 with the purchase of the Wilmington Express. This expansion included dry van hauling. Another company, Wood chips Division, came on line in 1989 hauling federal paperboard's wood chips from Snow Hill, N.C. to Riegelewood, N.C. Most recently, Ezzell Trucking acquired Young Transfer Company out of Charlotte in 1991. This expansion enhanced the dry van operation. "Ezzell Trucking is built on good old

fashion service," Dave Parks said. "We have good work ethics and high values." According to Parks, Ezzell trucking changed to stay abreast of modern technology, strong regulations and sharp competition. Parks said the business is successful

because they are a strong and growing service company. Ezzell Trucking employs 240 people in three locations, Harrells (corporate headquarters), Wilmington, Charlotte and an opening soon in Camden, S.C. Ezzell possesses 150 power units and

500 trailers to meet hauling needs. "Our goals must continue to exceed our customer's needs," Parks said. "We cannot fall behind our competition or let new technology pass us by." "Our employees are our strongest assets and we appreciate what they do for Ezzell Trucking."

# Steel Buildings built on hard work

By Jeanne Schoninger  
Staff Intern

Through the years, Steel Buildings general contracting company may have changed locations, but the company's traditions of quality products and hard work have stayed as they always were. Owner Don Cole started Steel Buildings in 1971 with the first facility on Elizabeth Street. In 1984, Steel Buildings relocated to U.S. 701 where the business remained for 10 years. In 1994, the business moved to its current office location at 629 Northwest Boulevard. The last move enabled Cole to own the building the office was operating from instead of renting. According to Cole, Steel Buildings was built upon hard work, fair practices and good products.

*Steel Buildings, which has been open in Clinton for 24 years, has built a reputation of providing quality products to its customers. "We pride ourselves on that very fact," said owner Don Cole.*

"Like all businesses, we have progressed with changing times," Cole said. "Service is what we sell." Steel Buildings concentrates its business in North Carolina, mainly Sampson and Duplin counties, but has stretched as far south as Florida and gone as far northwest as West Virginia. Because the business works with sub-contractors, Steel Buildings employment numbers vary each week. "We could have 20 people working one week and 50 working the next," Cole said. The general contracting company specializes in steel buildings and meets customer specifications. "Business is great," Cole said. "1994 was one of the best years we've had because of repeat business. We haven't had any major changes and we are continuing business in the same way."

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