

### The Wonders Of Human Signs

By: Father Robert Valenza  
If we could brush away the veil of familiarity which blurs our reading of the historical accounts of the man called Jesus, we would, I believe, be struck by His determined avoidance of the spectacular. As He prepared to begin His public ministry, the devil suggested that He cast Himself down from the top of the temple and miraculously save Himself so that men would believe in Him. Jesus sent Satan scurrying. Another time some of the apostles urged Him to call down fire from heaven to consume those who refused to believe. Our Lord told them that they knew not of what spirit they were. Toward the end of His life on earth, Jesus' relatives insisted that he must let His power be manifested to people in great numbers if He hoped to be a successful leader of men. Jesus scorned their suggestions and the acclaim of the crowds.  
Throughout the gospels it is evident that Jesus did not perform His miracles in order to astound men. He had an entirely different motive behind His miraculous actions. He wanted to show that God could and would exercise His power through men. No one

could doubt that it was the power of God which healed the man born blind. But God exerted His power through the human nature of His Son, Jesus, and the homely bit of matter made up of spittle and clay. There was nothing unusual about the hem of Christ's garment; it was common cloth. But God used it as the material instrument in healing the woman with the issue of blood. There can be little doubt that the paralytic whom Jesus cured had at least some kind of sorrow for his sins. But it was not until the fleshly tongue of Christ spoke the words, "Your sins are forgiven you," that God granted a complete pardon. Jesus demanded faith of those He healed, but simple faith was not enough. God's action was also necessary, and this action He accomplished through the humanity of Jesus, and simple signs, like the clay, the cloth, and the spoken word.  
All through His life Jesus used these simple human signs as the instruments of divine power, and He used His own humanity — His voice, His touch — as the means of bringing God's gifts to men.  
Shortly after His resurrection, Christ appeared to the apostles and told them that now they were to become the human instruments of God's power. "As the Father sent Me, so I send you." In order to make His meaning clear

He went on to say, "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven..." After they had received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the apostles went out to fulfill the command of Christ, to be the human instruments through which God would continue to exercise His power. As they established new Christian communities, Peter and Paul and the other apostles chose other men to become instruments in the hand of God, so it continued through the centuries.  
Today God works as powerfully and as effectively as he worked through the humanity of Jesus. He still uses simple things like water, bread and wine, and oil as signs of His powerful action; He still uses the touch of the human hand and the sound of the human voice as the means of bringing His gifts to men.



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### HIGHER INSURANCE RATES REQUESTED

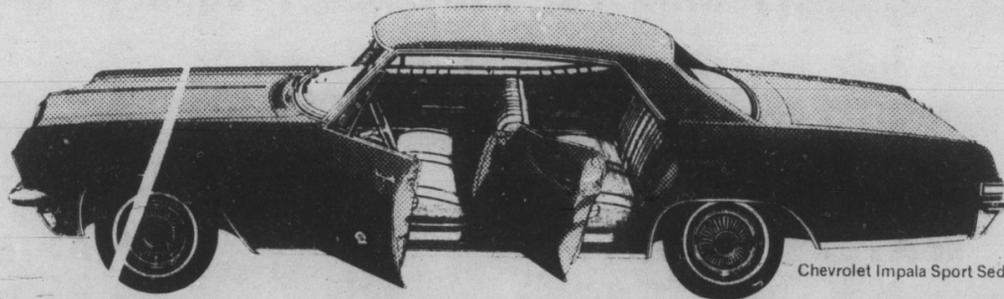
RALEIGH, July 8, 1965 — Higher liability insurance rates for private passenger cars were requested last week in a filing submitted to the Commissioner of Insurance by the North Carolina Automobile Rate Administrative Office.  
The over-all statewide rate level increases proposed average 11.6%. The rate changes, however, vary by classification. For the minimum limits of coverage required by the financial responsibility law, the requested rate increase for most drivers is \$500 per year. For other drivers, requested rate changes range from a reduction of \$100 per year to an increase of \$16.00 or more per year.  
Quoting from official records, of the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, the filing cites these statistics:  
— The number of highway accidents in North Carolina jumped from 59,734 in 1960 to 82,070 in 1964, an increase of 37.4%.  
— During the same period motor vehicle registrations in the State increased only 18.3%.  
W. F. Laughlin, general manager of the Rate Administrative Office, said these figures discredit any theory that

accidents in North Carolina are increasing solely because the number of autos is increasing.  
"The real significance of the figures," Mr. Laughlin said, "is that the source of insurance premium income (cars insured) has not increased nearly as rapidly as the source of insurance losses (auto accidents)."  
"The alarming rise in accident frequency is only one of the reasons why insurance companies need more premium income," Mr. Laughlin said.  
"The other reason is that claim costs are going up," he said. The filing cites examples of increasing prices affecting automobile liability insurance claims such as:  
— Increase in cost of medical care, up 10.5% in 1964 over 1960.  
— Increase in the cost of automobile parts. For a popular 1960 model car a fender that cost \$37.00 in 1960 cost \$45.25 in 1965.  
— Increase in automobile repair labor rates. The filing lists eight repair shops in various North Carolina cities making charges ranging from \$4.00 to \$5.00 in 1960 and from \$4.50 to \$6.00 in 1965.  
Mr. Laughlin said that because existing auto liability rates are not adequate to pay claims and expenses, insurance companies are reluctant to voluntarily insure those risks which are more likely to incur claims than the average risk. As a result, he pointed out, the number of applications assigned through the Assigned Risk Plan has been increasing tremendously. "A consistently adequate rate level would reverse that trend," he said.  
Mr. Laughlin stated that the present average auto liability rate in North Carolina is the lowest of any of the Eastern states. "If the proposed increase is granted", he said, "North Carolina's average rate would still be among the lowest in the East and would be 20% below the countrywide average."



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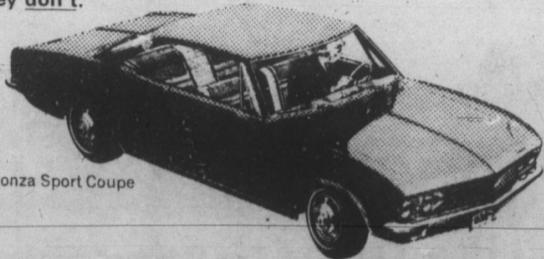
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### Yancey 4-H Health Queen & King Chosen

Yancey County 4-H Club has chosen its Health Kings and Queens for 1965. Junior Health Queen is Deborah Anne Griffith of the Burnsville Club. Junior Health King is Billy Joe Bartlett of Arbuckle Club. These two 4-H'ers will get a free trip to 4-H camp.  
The Senior Health Queen is Ramona Bowditch from Busick and the Senior Health King is Gary Bennett of Burnsville. These will receive a trip to Raleigh to 4-H Club Week and will compete for state honors.

#### MONTHLY REPORT

The following vouchers were issued:  
From General Fund \$10,472.04  
From Debt Fund .. \$4,704.70  
I, Grace M. Ayers, Register of Deeds in and for Yancey County, and State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners as of July 6, 1965.  
Witness my hand and official seal this, the 6th day of July, 1965.  
Grace M. Ayers, Register of Deeds