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**CLIFF BLUE ...**  
**People & Issues**



**POLICEMEN** - With the FBI reporting a nationwide increase in crime during the first nine months of the year, municipalities throughout the nation are finding it hard to sustain competent law enforcement officers. Like Washington, D. C., the Kentucky State Police is turning to the ranks of military servicemen in an attempt to bring its force up to full strength. Kentucky police headquarters are getting the names and records of men being discharged from service and contacting those who seem to meet physical and educational requirements for troopers.

The FBI reported that violent crimes increased by 15 percent during the first nine months of the year. The report, based on information from local and state police agencies, indicated the highest percentage increase--17 percent--to be in suburban communities. Big cities registered an over-all 15 percent crime rise and rural areas, 12 percent.

In North Carolina the pay for policemen and law enforcement officers in many areas is very poor and it is the feeling of many that to keep and to bring into law enforcement the type men the state and nation needs will require considerably more money. The average truck driver can make far more money than the average policeman -- and in many instances double the amount a policeman receives!

**LIQUOR** - While Dallas in Gaston County was defeating the legalized sale of beer, wine and liquor by a vote of approximately two to one last week, for the past 30 years, inch by inch and year by year the state has been getting wetter and wetter.

From the time the Federal prohibition amendment was adopted almost 40 years ago until about 1950 the wet-dry issue was just about the hottest issue in Tarheel politics, but now like the old gray mare--it is far from what it used to be--although liquor-by-the-drink was a hot issue in the 1967 General Assembly. We doubt that you will find

any of the gubernatorial candidates advocating legalized liquor-by-the-drink in their campaigns for governor in 1968.

**CLARENCE STONE** - We were glad to read in the newspapers last week that our old friend--T. Clarence Stone, of Stoneville in Rockingham County, who served as president of the State Senate during the 1963 regular and special sessions of the General Assembly was being honored by the State HIGHWAY Commission which has named a seven-mile stretch of N. C. Highway 770 the T. Clarence Stone Highway.

Clarence Stone has never been a man to stay mum when some issue was up for consideration in which he was interested--particularly when it came to the institutions for the mentally ill and highway safety.

Stone served seven terms in the House -- from 1935 through 1947, and three terms in the Senate--in 1957, 1961 and again in 1963 when he was elected President of the Senate following the death of Lieut. Governor Cloyd Philpott in 1963.

When some bill would come before the lawmakers which had been up and killed in a previous session, Stone would often exclaim: "It's the same old coon with another ring around its tail!" And this word from Clarence was often enough to kill it again!

While Clarence Stone was often times involved in controversial pieces of legislation he was a strong man wielding great influence. During his seven terms in the House he and John W. Umstead Jr., longtime representative from Orange County were very close friends and often worked hand-in-hand for the good of North Carolina.

**SENATOR PERCY** - Drew Pearson says that you can cross one Republican hopeful for president off the list--namely Senator Chuck Percy of Illinois. Percy appears to have cooked his own presidential goose by accepting \$100,000 from private individuals to carry on his

work as United States Senator. Pearson points out that the Washington office "allow-ance for an Illinois senator is \$260,100 a year for hiring stenographers and assistants, which ain't hay; plus another \$2,400 for an office in Illinois, plus 900 long-distance phone calls a month; plus \$3,000 for stationery; plus various other items such as radio and television tapes at cost."

When a United States Senator finds it impossible to carry on his duties on a budget like this, it is high time for the people to look elsewhere for a lawmaker to say nothing about a president!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** - To our readers of this column from Murphy to Mantee--a very sincere Merry Christmas!




**Christmas is here!**  
 We're sending our warmest wishes to you and your family for a very, merry Christmas!  
 Thank you for your patronage.

**The Children's Shop**  
 Murphy, N.C.

**Car Tag Applications To Be Mailed Wednesday**

RALEIGH --Immediately after Christmas, December 27th to be exact, the Department of Motor Vehicles will place 2,700,000 license plate applications in the mail. The cards are in two parts instead of the usual five. This reduction is made possible because of the Department's new computer which allows for storage of registration information on magnetic tape, eliminating the necessity of maintaining card files.

**Greetings**



Our thanks are but a small token of our appreciation for your loyalty and friendship. It's always our pleasure to serve you.

Miss Foy Ingram, who heads the Department of Motor Vehicle's Registration Division, says the applications are being mailed under First Class postage rather than bulk rate, and that all cards, therefore, should reach their destination by January 2, the date issuance of new plates begins. She points out that "to renew a license plate you must have a renewal card" and cautions against the misplacing of it when received. Obtaining a duplicate takes time and can be costly if application is made late in the renewal period.


If by the end of the first week in January you have not received your renewal application card you should, according to Miss Ingram, send a request for another to the Department of Motor Vehicles, Raleigh. We will need the make of vehicle, its identification number and the 1967 tag number. If possible, send the title number.

Ingram urge that you "open your application cards and complete them in accordance with instructions before presenting for a new plate. They say this will greatly expedite the issuance and keep long lines from forming.

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**At Christmas**

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**Tuesday, December 26**  
**Wednesday, December 27**

The Management And Staff Of The Above Banks Wish For Each Of You A

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**