

# Another Look At Time

BY BILL FAVER

I'm always fascinated by attempts of some writers to make comparisons of time by using a means of compressing the years into a manageable system. Carl Scan writes of "billions and billions of years" and we get lost with the multitude.



FAVER

Someone compressed time from the beginning into one week and most of the progress we have come to know took place in the last few minutes of that week. Recently another author compared time to his 32-volume set of encyclopedia, with each volume being about 1000 pages in length.

The comparison was made based on the "big bang" theory happening some 15 billion years ago and the earth emerging about 5 billion years ago. If we use the 32 books of the encyclopedia to cover those years, we would find the first seven volumes would describe a lifeless planet. Anaerobic bacteria would appear about halfway in volume 8. Atmosphere with oxygen would not come until volume 19, page

54. The first mollusks would appear on page 834 of volume 28, and the first fishes midway of volume 29. Amphibians and reptiles would be in the early pages of volume 30. The first mammals would begin on page 612 of volume 31 and birds would be on page 939 of the same volume.

The last dinosaurs would appear about page 549 of volume 32. Neanderthal man would be in volume 32, page 931. Stonehenge would be on page 998 of the same volume and the birth of Christ would be on the next to the last page of volume 32. The invention of gunpowder would be covered on the last page of the 32-volume set of encyclopedia and the Atomic Age would be represented by the letter "d" in the phrase "The End."

We can see how much of our history and our progress is crammed into that last few pages. It would be interesting if the same author would speculate on some yearly supplements to his set of books. They would include computers and space travel and global involvements and wars and quests for peace. Maybe a set of encyclopedia can help us put those billions and billions of years into some kind of perspective!

## PAUL CAMPBELL

# Death Claims Former Chief Deputy

BY PEGGE JAYNES

Special To The Beacon

The death of Paul Campbell on April 1 left a void in the world of law enforcement that will be difficult to fill. He was one of the rare breed who went by the book where law was concerned. He believed in the system as it was designed: to protect the people and to apprehend and punish criminals.

Paul Campbell was a unique and rare man whose life was dedicated to serving, and it was his firm belief that, as he once said in an interview with *Beacon* reporter Earl Heffner, "a man owes something to his community. You've got to become involved."

Becoming involved was what Paul Campbell did when he moved to Brunswick County in February, 1980, to become Chief of Detectives under former Sheriff Herman Strong. Just one month after he was hired, he was a major force in solving the Capt. Tom case when that shrimp trawler, laden with a 36,500 pound marijuana cache was seized off Holden Beach. That was just the beginning. It was Campbell's expertise and his ability to get along and cooperate with other law enforcement agencies that helped ensure the success of Operation Gateway, the special grand jury investigation of drug smuggling in Brunswick County in the mid-eighties.

Paul Campbell's penchant for training and his demand for excellence and honesty from those who served under him was his legacy to many young men and women, some of whom still work for the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

It was this demand for honesty that led to what he said was his "forced" resignation on April 12, 1983. At that time, Campbell said in an interview with Mr. Heffner, that he "saw and heard things that were wrong in the sheriff's department and that to turn his back on the situation would be to condone the wrongdoing. An investigation of the department led to the indictment and conviction of Sheriff Strong.

Campbell was one of several men who sought the position as sheriff to replace Strong, but although many felt he was the most qualified for the position, he was rebuffed by the Democratic Executive Committee who selected Strong's lieutenant, John Carr Davis. Sheriff Davis is still serving in that capacity.

Campbell's qualifications were impeccable. He had spent most of his adult life in law enforcement, starting as a North Carolina State Highway Patrolman in 1951. He worked as a policeman in the city of Hickory and later as a special deputy with the Catawba County Sheriff's Department while attending Lenoir-Rhyne College where he received a bachelor's degree in sociology.

Following college, Campbell was employed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms with the U.S. Treasury Department, a job he held until his retirement 20 years later in 1979. Over the years, his duties included investigations of Federal alcohol act, the gun control act and explosives control act. He was assigned to Atlanta, Georgia as a special investigator for conspiracy and corruption cases, and for two

years prior to his retirement, he was assigned to the organized crime department of the agency in Chicago, Illinois.

Following his resignation from the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, Campbell was employed in the Security Division at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington.

Campbell was a veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict. He is survived by Carolyn, his wife of 43 years with whom he resided at 102 Cliffside Dr., Wilmington; three sons, Doug of Wilmington, David of Greensboro, and Donald of Greenville; a daughter, Barbara Fowler of Wilmington; six grandchildren; a brother, John Campbell of Raleigh and two sisters, Louise Crawford of Newton and Ruth Drum of Balls Creek. The Rev. Madison Highfield officiated at a service Wednesday, April 3, in the Coble-Ward-Smith Chapel, Wilmington. A military service followed in Oleander Memorial Gardens where Paul Campbell was laid to rest. He would have been 65 on April 11.

To Paul Campbell, his many friends say, "10-24." Assignment completed.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# We Have Not Learned Our Lessons

To the editor:

Does history repeat itself? As a student of history, my answer is in the affirmative. Does the United States Government learn the lessons of history? As a student of politics, my answer is in the negative. The politicians, in their zeal to maintain control over the military, have continually kept this country in harm's way for the past half century.

Toward the end of World War II in Europe political decisions were made to appease the Russians. General George Patton and the Third Army was ordered to stop the attack to allow the Russians to capture Berlin. The other allied armies were ordered to slow their advance to allow the Red Army to consolidate their lines. These political decisions led to the sacking and subjugation of Eastern Europe for 45 years.

The Pacific war was prosecuted almost entirely by the United States forces. Our great and grand allies, the Russians, would not offer any aid. Throughout the war they resisted declaring war on Japan until after the first atomic bomb was used. Only then did they declare war, and again political appeasement allowed them full participation and most of Asia came under Russian influence.

Lessons were not learned. The Korean War broke out and the United States forces were thrown into the breach. The North Korean assault was stopped and driven back to the Yalu. The politicians stopped the advance and the Chinese were

allowed to cross the river in a mass attack. The allied forces were overwhelmed and many lives were lost before this flood was stopped and driven back. Just when the United Nation forces were taking control of the front lines, politics halted the advance at the 38th parallel.

Lessons were not learned. The politicians involved us in Vietnam. Each time the United States forces were allowed to attack, they were successful. Politicians stopped all attacks, announced intentions to withdraw, and the North Vietnamese were allowed to mass an army to drive out the allied forces. That was a political disgrace heaped upon the shoulders of the military. The political forces of the day apparently wanted, and planned accordingly, to humiliate the military with a frantic retreat and withdrawal

from Saigon.

Have we learned any lessons? Probably not. Desert Storm was stopped in 100 days, allowing the enemy safe haven. I shudder to think what may happen to the troops in the Mideast. They have been stopped by politics. Once more this nation's fighting men and women are in harm's way after being declared victors.

Each time the political forces have made sure that the military forces pay dearly for doing such a great job. To make a point the names of Patton, McArthur and Westmoreland are offered. Look out Stormin' Norman, you are next because, general, your predecessors also took issue with political decisions.

Jess Parker  
Supply

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