

PERSPECTIVE

Wesley was founder of American Methodism

American Methodism is celebrating its 200th anniversary. The movement which became the Methodist Church was initiated by the Rev. John Wesley.



John Wesley was born June 17, 1703, in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England, where his father was parish rector. Young John received his formal education at the Charterhouse and at Christ Church, Oxford.

Taking holy orders in the Church of England, John was ordained to the priesthood in 1728. He assisted his father for a short while before becoming a tutor at Lincoln College, Oxford.

About 1729 Wesley joined with other young men, including his hymn-writing younger brother Charles and the energetic George Whitefield, in worshipping and studying methodically. Their group was sometimes called the "Holy

Club" or the "Bible Moths," but the name which stuck was "Methodists."

In 1735 John Wesley went as missionary to the new American colony of Georgia, settling in Savannah. His pastorate was troubled and unhappy. On Christmas Eve 1737 he left the colonies, carrying away a deep interest in the future welfare of the new land.

Wesley's Georgia mission, according to historian Dr. Frank Baker, "founded on the rocks of his ecclesiastical inflexibility, which caused him to antagonize the ruling clique in Savannah." Back in England, Wesley was to undergo a profound spiritual change.

Wesley became quite interested in the Moravians, whom he had first met while voyaging to Georgia. On May 24, 1738 he attended a Moravian meeting in London's Aldersgate Street.

There, as the old Methodist Discipline later declared, Wesley "learned what Paul had discovered, that it is not by rules and laws, nor by our own efforts at self-perfection, but by faith in God's mercy as it comes to us in Christ, that man may enter upon life and peace."

Wesley began to carry that message throughout the British

Isles. His heart-felt preaching, devotion to music, and compassion for the poor touched a chord in the English soul. He would travel more than 250,000 miles and preach more than 40,000 sermons.

By the time of his death in London on March 2, 1791, Wesley had seen the organization of numerous Methodist societies embracing more than 120,000 members on both sides of the Atlantic.

At first he expected his followers to remain members of the Church of England, but eventually a separation occurred and the Methodist Church became an independent body.

Methodism reached America in 1766 and North Carolina in 1772. On September 12 in the latter year Joseph Pilmore preached at Currituck Court House the "first Methodist sermon" in the Old North State.

After the American Revolution, John Wesley sent over Thomas Coke to superintend the Methodist societies in the former colonies. At a conference in Baltimore on Christmas Eve 1784, Coke and some 60 preachers organized the Methodist Episcopal Church, ancestor of today's United Methodist Church.

(Part two next week)

Law enforcement personnel shouldn't use military costume

There is an alarming trend developing in America's law enforcement that deserves our attention. Our police departments have become obsessed with military-type clothing, arms and training.

even blacked their faces with camouflage paint...hardly necessary for daylight operations.

Many officers were armed with high-powered automatic rifles and other military style gear.

Having a special tactical team for hostage and related

During a recent incident in a western state, police responded to a sniper situation in full military manner. Some officers situations has become normal procedure for many police organizations, even at the local

level in small communities.

Most of these special teams are outfitted with military-type gear and are actually trained by members of the military. Such training is often conducted on military establishments.

The need for such special teams for some situations is valid. Hostage situations especially require highly-trained persons, especially ones with sharpshooting skills.

These men also require training in securing a particular location, needing skills in physical and tactical enforcement. The use of special clothing and firearms in such situations is understandable. The appearance of a military commando squad is not.

The desire to appear more and more military-like has filtered down to the local level. A police chief in a nearby town became quite upset with his town council members because they would not approve his request to purchase a sub-machine gun.

Many area police agencies have equipped themselves with camouflage outfits that are worn while conducting reasonably routine investigations.

During a number of recent drug raids, local officers suffered in summer-like heat wearing heavy cotton fatigues and military-style boots.

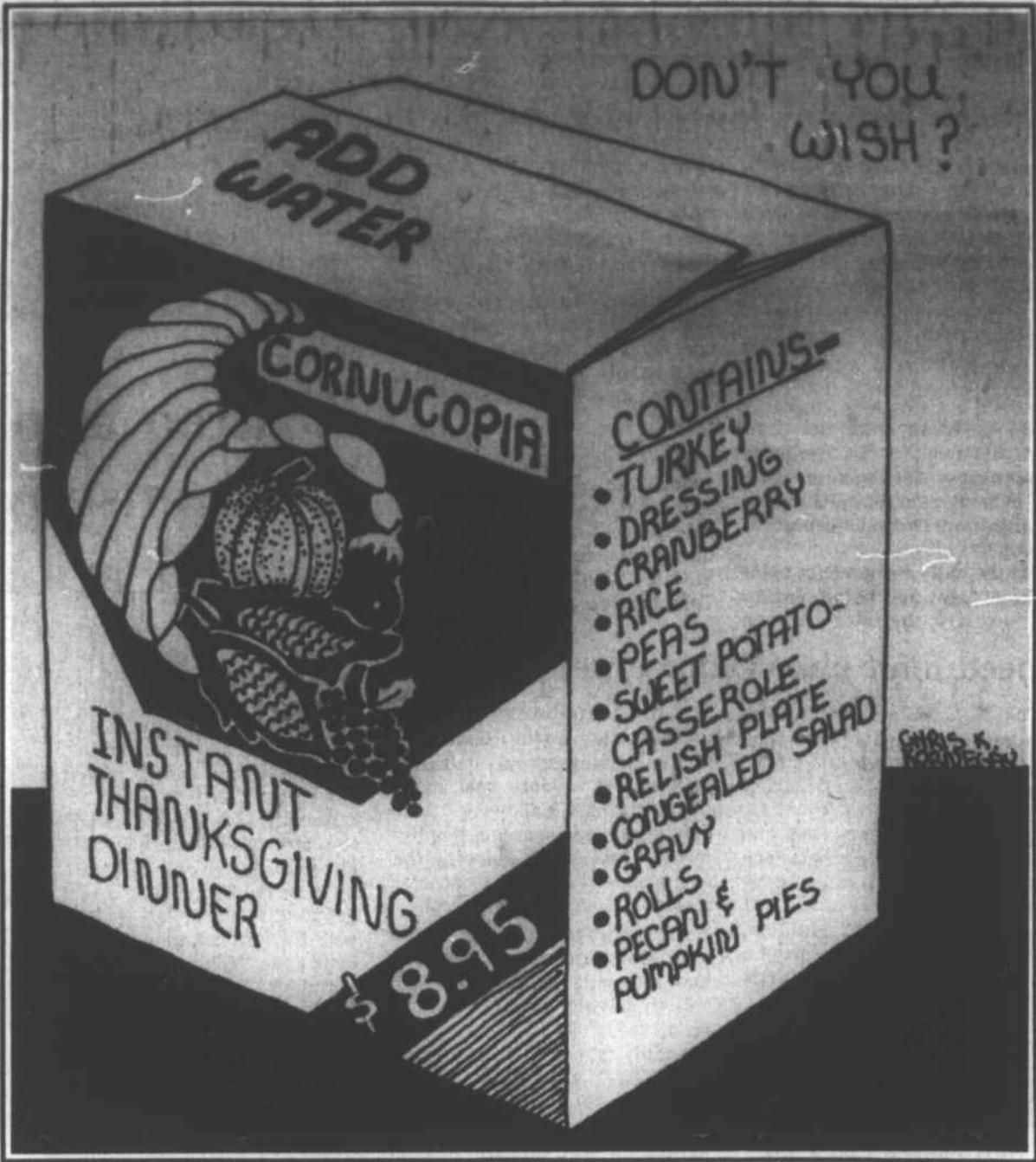
There is no opposition to police officers having special gear for certain situations. We can't expect them to wear full-dress uniforms when tracking down criminals in the wild, but it is hard to understand the need of camouflage clothing in the middle of the city.

There are too many countries in this world ruled by military force. There are too many towns and cities where military-types police the streets. America must not allow the slightest implication of military rule. That includes outfitting and training our police like members of the military special forces.

I've always been an avid supporter of those men and women who have dedicated themselves to protecting the rights and freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Without a dedicated and highly trained police establishment, many of the freedoms we enjoy would not be.

I don't believe we should inhibit the efforts of our police officials to combat the criminal element in our society.

Wanting a distinction between our police agencies and our military establishment will not harm those efforts.



Outstanding showmanship deserves public praise

Last Friday night marked the end of the season for two outstanding organizations in our local school, the football team and the band.



Each of these groups deserves our praise for their fantastic achievements during the year. The dedication and work that each participating student has demonstrated is admirable.

To these young people who give all of themselves to their respective "teams," it is more than "just a game." Their talents have been developed through hours, days, months and even years of hard practice, enabling them to achieve the precision that we as spectators have admired.

To have the opportunity to watch their performances has been a joy. Their dedication and pride in themselves and their organization is shown each and every time that they take the field.

I honestly could not have been any prouder of our varsity football team if they had won the state championship. They worked hard each week, as their winning season shows, and they never lost sight of good sportsman-like behavior.

Our band also had a winning season. They placed high and well in almost every competition that they entered. Their half-time performances both at home games and away games won the applause of the crowds, and even brought the crowds to their feet on Friday night during the final game of the year.

I would be terribly negligent if I didn't applaud the efforts of those individuals who gave of themselves to direct and lead these young people: Pat Morgan, Coach; Assistant Coaches - Bill Flippen, Anthony Downing, Harold Thach and Sid Eley; and David Ziemba, Band Director. Their unselfish dedication to the youth of this community is unsurpassed by none.

To the members of the Perquimans County High School Pirates and Marching Pirates, along with their leaders, we say thank-you for a job well done.

The theme of Christmas has been exploited in many ways

through the years, but one motion picture company has gone out of its way this year to remove any sacredness from the season with one of their latest releases.

The film, "Silent Night, Deadly Night," which was recently released by Tri Star Films has desecrated the name of one of the most cherished Christian caroles, not to mention the image that it has projected to the world of Santa Claus.

I'm not one of those people who subject myself to horror films, nor do I allow my children to view them, and I was appalled when watching the morning news recently a commercial was aired for this film.

The commercial showed a man dressed up in a Santa outfit with an axe coming through someone's door, it then went on to show various people screaming in terror as "Santa" approached, and a mitted hand firing a gun.

My children were in the room to hear the announcer state that "he only looks like Santa Claus."

My information on the film itself comes from television and newspaper reviews which have repeatedly stated that the movie is "outright gore." It is about a young man who's parents were brutally murdered by a man, dressed in a Santa Claus suit on Christmas Eve. The boy is then placed in a Catholic school and tutored by a sadistic nun.

After reaching adulthood he is forced to work as a department store Santa, which sends him off the deep end, and he becomes a mass murderer, wearing a Santa Claus suit.

The movie gained an R-rating after being edited four times. The end of the movie loses any

plot there may have been, and becomes one brutal murder after another.

It is frightening that somebody could actually sit down and put thoughts like this on paper; but then we have to realize that a major motion picture company thought the material would sell, and it has. The first week-end out the film grossed \$1.4-million in 398 theatres across the nation, making it the eighth largest movie moneymaker.

Protests and picket lines in many cities have stopped theatres from scheduling the film, and those protests have gotten the commercial for the film off of television.

Having the film out at all was bad enough; but the commercial, which was aired during morning viewing hours as well as during prime time, was asking too much tolerance by decent people.

Has our society become so depraved that our entertainment must come from seeing your youthful heroes turned into obsessed maniacs?

The thought of anybody spending their money or their time to view something of this nature is disturbing. When you think about the meaning of Christmas, and realize how this special day has been used to promote something so desecrating it makes you fill with anger.

A film reviewer in a major daily paper summed up my feelings on this film well: "Intelligent adults, will of course, avoid this mind-wasting and mind-warping material. But since it's rated R, the film can be seen by children if they are accompanied by adults. I can't imagine any parent allowing a child to see this."

Point of View by: BILL NIXON

Other Views

The cost of Congress

By JOHN SLEDGE
N. C. Farm Bureau Federation

Some wag has said that we're lucky we don't get as much federal government as we pay for; and that certainly would be true with regards to the Congress, which costs us \$4.5 million a day to operate, according to the Tax Foundation.

The privately-supported research group calculated that Congress was expected to spend about \$1.7 billion on itself and its agencies in fiscal '84. The bill to the taxpayers for the Senate comes to \$2.6 million per senator. A million per member is the cost in the House.

It should be pointed out, however, that these figures include the operation of such agencies as the Library of Congress and the Government Printing Office, which serve

more than the Congress.

However, direct spending on the Congress itself was expected to be more than a billion dollars this year and that's 16 percent higher than last year. The total number of people being employed by the Congress is approaching 40,000, about half of whom work directly for the members.

Congressional reformers have all kinds of ideas on what should be done to make our legislative branch more effective and perhaps even less costly, ranging all the way from limiting the number of years anyone could serve, shorter sessions, and two-year budgeting.

A lot of us get frustrated with the operation of the Congress. No doubt some things could be done to make it more effective, but we suspect that we are getting about as much government as we can stand.

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Looking back

20 Years Ago
By VIRGINIA WHITE
TRANSEAU

JOHNSON GIVES UNIFORMS-HATS TO MARCHING UNIT: Members of the Perquimans County Marching Unit were presented red, white and blue uniforms and hats by President Lyndon Johnson in Raleigh on Tuesday night, where they performed for the President and "The Lady Bird Special" group in the Coliseum before a capacity crowd.

The unit was one of two marching units in the state invited by the North Carolina Young Democrats to perform for

the President. The area for their performance was limited to about 26 X 36 feet, but Mrs. Sid Harmon, faculty advisor, said they performed beautifully and received a big ovation.

The Marching Unit, which was organized last year by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, is composed of 34 Perquimans High School girls dressed as Indians. The group is sponsored by the high school with donations made by local organizations, especially the Jaycees.

Directors of the Marching Unit are Mrs. Eugene Boyce, Mrs. Tom Brown and Mrs. Joe Rogerson Jr.