

THE TAR HEEL SPOTLIGHT

Restoration work currently underway on North Carolina's historic capitol building to mind the circumstances that led to its construction.

The old "State House," as the capitol was once called, had been built in 1774, and its wood-shingled roof had long been considered a fire hazard. On two previous occasions cinders from the many nearby chimneys had set the roof on fire, but without serious damage resulting.

The first occurred in 1816 and the second on January 6, 1831. The General Assembly was in session when the alarm rang out at about 5 P. M., and, as a local newspaper reported, the delegates did not wait for a formal motion of adjournment to make their exit.

Soon afterward a decision was to prevent any such near catastrophe in the future by covering the capitol roof with zinc. Ironically, it was while this "fire-proofing" was being soldered in place during the summer of 1831 that workmen apparently dropped a hot coal between the roof and the ceiling and burned the building to the ground within two hours.

A newspaper account two days later under the headline "Awful Conflagration" read: "Scarcely has the eye witnessed so awful a spectacle as this vast building in one concentrated blaze steam-

ing from every window, and a vast column from the roof forming altogether a scene not adequately to be described." Destroyed with building was the original Canova statue of George Washington, of which a duplicate was placed in the rotunda of our present capitol on Memorial Day, 1970.

Temporary quarters for the General Assembly were offered by the "congregation and pew-holders" of the First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh, but the offer was declined, and the assembly from 1831 to 1838 met in the "Government House," the governor's home at the south end of Fayetteville Street. The displayed governor moved into temporary rented quarters.

Our present capitol was completed in 1840 on the same site as the old "State House" at a total cost of just over \$530,000, and it then housed all departments of state government. Though it no longer is home to the legislature, it is one of the most popular spots for visitors to the capitol. The sturdy old structure which has served the state well for over a hundred and thirty years is now undergoing extensive restoration, including the replacement of its leaky, but impressive copper dome.

ACCENT ON AGRICULTURE

When you're driving in the country this summer, you'll notice something fairly new has been added to the rear of many farm vehicles as well as other slow-moving machinery.

What you'll notice is a device designed to protect you, your family and the farmer. It is a visual warning to you as a motorist that the vehicle you are approaching is traveling at less than customary road speed. And, it can be a lifesaver.

The triangular yellow-orange, red bordered, slow-moving vehicle emblem (SMV) is now visible on more and more vehicles traveling our state's highways. Slow-moving vehicles, by definition, includes those permitted to use the highway but designed to travel no faster than 25 mph. The SMV emblem has been in use in many states for some time these vehicles has been required only recently by a provision of the federal government's Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. At the present time, the Act applies only to those farmers who permit employees to drive moving vehicles on the road.

Studies by the National Safety Council show that not sighting the slow-moving vehicle is a secondary factor in accidents. Rather, it is that motorists are often unaware that the vehicle they are approaching is moving so slowly which results in their inability to react to the situation quickly enough. Surprisingly, the Council reports, the overwhelming number of rear-end

collisions between slow-moving and conventional vehicles occur during daylight hours and on dry open, level highway.

By being aware of its purpose, and slowing down, the triangular reflective device could very well not only prevent a serious collision, it could save your life.

Payne Rites Are Conducted

Funeral services for Miss Ivy Bright Payne, 55, of 200 Thornburg Drive, were conducted Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock from Harris Funeral Home Chapel.

Rev. Ansel Center, Jr. and Rev. Leonard Huffstetler officiated at the final rites and interment was in Bethel ARP cemetery.

Miss Payne died Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. in the Kings Mountain hospital following several weeks illness. She was daughter of the late Dorus and Cora Reynolds Payne of Kings Mountain.

A sister, Mrs. Catherine Blanton, of Kings Mountain, survives.

Methodist Youth Take Beach Retreat

A group of 38 young people from Grace United Methodist church will leave Friday for a weekend retreat at Myrtle Beach, S. C.

Rev. and Mrs. N. C. Bush and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Riddle will accompany the group, along with other adult leaders.



You Can Read About It In The HERALD

Our Silver



Anniversary

On Tuesday, August 15th, Harris Funeral Home observed its 25th Anniversary of service to citizens of the Kings Mountain - Grover area.

We are proud to have served during this quarter century more than 2,000 families.

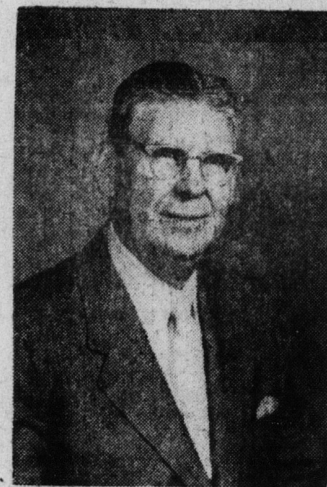
We have also maintained for 25 years an efficient ambulance service, with trained attendants who know the importance of care & first aid in answering these calls, and we hope to continue this service in the face of a growing trend of government-maintained ambulance service.

We are proud of our Home improvements providing a modern Chapel.

Kings Mountain - Grover area citizens have complimented us on our service through a quarter century and our pledge is to continue to provide the high type of service in the future.

Harris Funeral Home

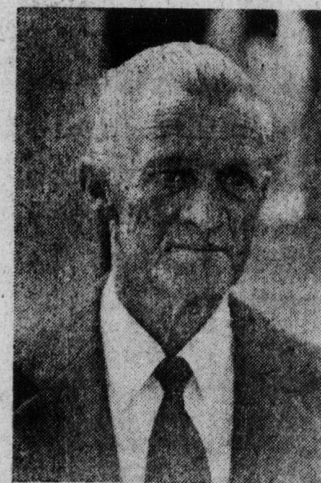
AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO SERVE SINCE 1947.



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Beautician