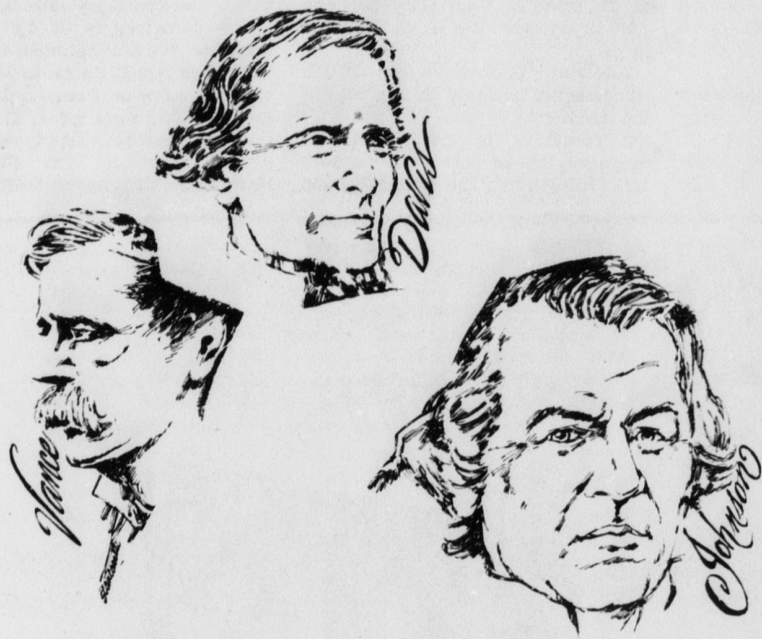


# Tar Heels first to favor independence



Page 4A Thursday, April 14, 1977

April 12, 1776, is one of the most important dates in North Carolina history. It is one of the two dates emblazoned on our State Flag.

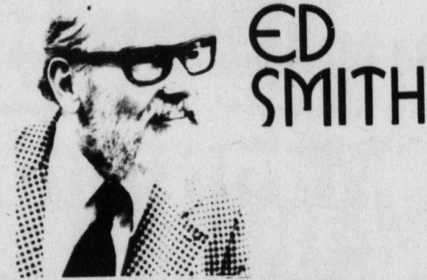
On this date the Provincial Congress of North Carolina adopted the Halifax Resolves. Included was a resolution allowing the state's delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia to vote in favor of "Independency" from Great Britain, should that issue come up before Congress.

North Carolina was thus the first state to go on record in favor of independence. A few weeks later, however, Virginia passed an even stronger resolution, one which not merely "allowed", but instructed its delegates to vote in favor of freedom from the Mother Country.

Zebulon B. Vance, the most famous of all North Carolina governors, died on April 14, 1894, while serving as a U. S. Senator.

Born in a Buncombe County log cabin in 1830, Vance's "unexcelled gifts of wit and stump-speaking oratory forever rendered him to the populace in a way that no other public figure has matched in the state's history.

Vance, a Democrat, served two — split — terms as Governor, but ironically finished



neither. Elected in mid-war in 1862, he was an excellent Civil War governor, but was arrested and jailed with other Southern leaders before the end of his term. His reelection in 1877 signalled the end of Reconstruction in the state, but he was elected U. S. Senator (by the legislature) before finishing that term. Thus, though his abilities are undoubted, Vance's reputation as governor is based more on sentiment than on achievement in office.

On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia to

Union General U. S. Grant. Many people mistakenly believe that the entire Civil War ended at Appomattox Courthouse, but Lee's surrender actually involved his own troops, though in practical terms it spelled the end for the entire South.

On April 12-13, 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his Cabinet, in flight from Richmond after Lee's surrender, held two meetings in a railroad boxcar in Greensboro. Davis also slept and ate in the car. Union General Sherman had threatened to burn the home of anyone giving shelter to the fleeing Confederate leader, and many Tar Heel citizens now feared to assist him. Former Governor John M. Morehead offered the use of his estate, "Blandwood," but Davis refused to jeopardize it. ("Blandwood, now restored, is a tourist attraction near Greensboro.")

Continuing his flight south, Davis and his group spent the night of April 16 in a pine grove near Lexington.

North Carolina swarmed with Union troops. On the 11th, Stoneman's cavalry had captured Salisbury, seizing military supplies and burning the prisoner-of-war camp there. On the 18th, the city commissioners of Raleigh had met with Sherman to surrender the state's capital city to the foe.

And on April 14, in Washington, Vice President Andrew Johnson took the Oath of Office as 17th President of the United States, following the death of Abraham Lincoln. Johnson had been born in Raleigh in 1808, but left the state a runaway tailor's apprentice at the age of 17, fearing arrest for a juvenile prank.

Largely self-educated, Johnson had worked his way up through Tennessee politics to the office of U. S. Senator. During the war, as an anti-slavery Democrat, he had sided with the North. Chosen as Lincoln's running-mate on a fusion ticket in 1864, he found himself President after only 41 days in office.

## Is this trip necessary?

**Fearless Jay Ashley.**  
You all remember fearless Jay Ashley, don't you? The little red-haired, mustachioed ace reporter-photographer who used to work for The Mirror?

Remember how he fearlessly raced through burning buildings to get prize-winning photos, scampered after packs of mad dogs for a series of articles and many other stories involving daredevil stunts?

Last Friday I discovered one thing fearless Jay Ashley is afraid of.

**Flying.**

"I've only been on an airplane once in my life," he said. "I was three years old at the time. Was I scared? Yes!"

Jay left Kings Mountain about three years ago and is now an editor at the Burlington Daily News-Times. We communicate through letters and via phone now and again just to keep the friendship alive. Last week Jay called to say, "Are you going to be home on Friday?"

Jay and his wife, Barbara, were going to England and they wanted a station wagon sitter for the week. Since I am closer to the Charlotte Airport than anyone else the Ashley's know, I was asked to station wagon sit.

Of course, I said yes.

About mid-afternoon last Friday Jay and Barbara (Babs of The Boonies, as Jay calls her) arrived for a visit. Their flight wasn't until 9 p. m., but they had to be at the airport by 7 p. m. to check in since it was an arranged tour.

We settled down for a "catching-up visit" and Jay was in rare form, cracking one joke after another. I joined in with all of the airplane jokes I could think of.

Then it began to surface.

"Let me go out to the car and get my dramamine," Jay said.

When he had gone out Barbara said, "Take it easy on the plane crash jokes. Jay is really shook up about this. Last Tuesday he asked me if any of my friends had passports still in order. He said for me to check and see and if I came up with someone, then that someone could go in his place."

We talked Jay out of taking the mal de mer medicine at least until after he had eaten dinner.

Over dinner at the Ranch House Jay said, "I will remember you for this dinner. Each time I heave my groceries on that airplane, I will remember you."

Sit in the tail of the plane, I advised Jay. "Somebody told me that's where you feel all of the vibration," Jay shot back.

Well, it won't make much difference where you sit, Jay, I said. You'll be flying over water and those big planes sink like rocks once they hit the water.

"Thanks a lot."

About halfway to the airport Jay announced, "I am through joking about this." His knuckles were white on the station wagon steering wheel.

At the airport Jay again began joking, rattling off routines so fast I couldn't keep up with him.

"I thought about locking myself in the bathroom," he said. "I think I kept everyone away from me until the plane was gone."

Then he spotted a birdhouse display in the terminal lobby. "If I was to crawl inside one of those I'll bet no one could pry me out," he

said. "I'm really not to sure about this flying thing."

Jay said he read of the two plane crashes within a few days of each other where over 800 persons were killed. And when he was getting over that he tuned in Who's Who on TV and the first thing he saw was a story on how Ralph Nader says the commercial flights are really not safe.

"I can take a hint, you know," Jay said. "Well, maybe they'll have a movie on the flight to take my mind off this."

I assured him there would be.

"What's the movie?"

"Airport '77."

"Oh, God! I can see it all now," Jay said, imitating the pilot. "Hello. This is your pilot."

I'd rather not give my name. Welcome aboard tragic airlines flight to London. We'll be flying at some 600 feet all the way, so you folks with Brownies; here's your chance for some great pictures. I don't know how to tell you this, but one of the wings has fallen off and both engines have conked out. If you will look out your windows you will see two white dots below. These are parachutes carrying your crew to safety. This is a recording."

My wife and I waved good-bye to the Ashley's as they passed through the X-ray checkpoint heading for the embarkation gate.

Jay was saying, as he was dragged out of sight, "But I forgot to make out my will!"



**TOM McINTYRE**

Could you wait a minute so I can get more flight insurance? Heeelllppppp!"

## County economy is boosted

The economy of Cleveland County received a boost of \$1,196,614.00 in federal dollars coming into the county during 1976 as a result of 7510 persons participating in the Food Stamp program.

A letter was sent to Jack Palmer, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners from Robert Ward, director of the N. C. Division of Social Services stating that the county would have received \$2,708,600 in federal dollars had all of the estimated 14,815 county residents who are eligible for the program participated.

Ward said that during 1976, the state averaged 427,856 persons participating in the Food Stamp program with an estimated 1,245,397 eligible. He said that actual participation in 1976 realized \$154,022,800 in

federal dollars for the state. Full participation would have realized \$448,314,920.

Food stamp recipients pay a certain amount based on their income and receive bonus stamps. The bonus stamps represent all federal funds.

Ward said that the state and the counties are working to inform the people who need assistance in the program. He said also that they are working hard to reduce the rolls of recipients of those not in need and to increase the rolls of those who are.

The letter urges county commissioners across the state to budget adequate funds for improved food stamp services by local social services departments who administer the program.

"You are aware of course of the

humanitarian side of the Food Stamp Program. Better diets can be reflected in improved health, attitudes and capabilities of children and adults. Almost half a million North Carolinians are receiving these benefits. At least 500,000 more individuals live under the poverty level and are considered a high risk population nutritionally," Ward said in his letter.

"There is a potential for additional funds in the economy of your county. The dollar figures shown represent the food stamp dollars first spent at the grocers. They do not represent the multiplier effect on the dollars as they float on the economy, as economists tell us, at least three times before coming to a temporary rest in our banks and churches," Ward also indicated.

## Violent crimes decreased

Serious reported crime showed no increase in 1976 when compared with 1975, Attorney General Griffin B. Bell announced today. He pointed out that, according to preliminary annual figures of the FBI's Crime Index, violent crimes decreased.

Mr. Bell noted that 1976 was the first year since 1972 that the Crime Index did not rise.

Violent crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault, as a group, decreased five per cent during the year. Murder and robbery each declined 10 per cent, and aggravated assault dropped one per cent. The incidence of forcible rape showed no change.

Larceny-theft was the only Crime Index offense to increase in 1976. The rise was five per cent. Motor vehicle thefts were down six per cent, and burglaries decreased five per cent. As a group, these crimes were up one per cent.

"This report is an encouraging sign for the criminal justice system and for the public," Mr. Bell said. "But we must not ease our efforts in this struggle because the incidence of crime still remains far too high."

The preliminary figures were contained in

the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports released today by FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley.

Mr. Kelley, noting that the overall crime picture was influenced by the large volume of larceny-thefts, said stolen automobile parts and accessories, and thefts of property from automobiles, accounted for approximately 42 percent of all larcenies reported to law enforcement.

"There is firm ground for hope in the easing of nationwide crime during the past year," he said. "I firmly believe that, while our data are only preliminary at this point, the more thoughtful approaches that are being applied to crime and the more positive public attitude toward this grave social problem are now joining to deter the criminality that has flourished for too long in our society."

The crime figures released today are based on the numbers of Crime Index offenses reported by city, county and state law enforcement agencies. These offenses are

murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Cities with 100,000 or more inhabitants reported no change in the volume of Crime Index offenses during 1976. Law enforcement agencies serving the rural areas reported a one per cent increase in the Crime Index.

Geographically, the Northeastern States reported a five per cent increase in crime. The Western States were up one per cent, and the Southern Bell States declined one per cent. Crime in the North Central States decreased three per cent.

Ninety-seven of the cities with populations in excess of 100,000 reported decreases in the Crime Index in 1976.

A copy of the preliminary annual figures for 1976 is attached. Final crime figures and crime rates per unit of population will be available in the detailed Uniform Crime Reporting publication, "Crime in the United States," later this year.

## Tech students to stay

RALEIGH — The majority of credit students in technical institutes and community colleges plan to remain and be employed in North Carolina upon completion of their education.

Data obtained from a sample of 10,074 credit and non-credit students enrolled in 16 community colleges and technical institutes, reveals that nearly 69 percent of the credit students surveyed were relatively certain that they would remain and be employed in the state upon completion of their educational program.

This information was obtained from a report, "Profile of Students in North Carolina Community Colleges and Technical Institutes," made by the Department of

Community Colleges and the Department of Adult and Community College Education at North Carolina State University.

Among credit students, 89 percent in college transfer, 82 percent in technical and 16 percent in vocational programs reported plans to work toward a baccalaureate degree.

One-third of both technical and vocational students were undecided with regard to their plans to pursue a baccalaureate degree, presumably due in part to the limited opportunities for them to transfer to a four-year program.

More than one-third of all noncredit students plan to enter a credit program in the future.



**The Poet's Corner**

THOUGHTS THAT FOLLOW AFTER EASTER

Can Jesus say, "This is my beloved,"  
When He speaks to the Father about you,  
With pride does He claim you a follower of His  
Can He count on you to be true?  
Can you say there is a love affair  
The angels whisper about,  
Do you walk with Him daily  
In the beauty of His love,  
And trust Him without a doubt?

Do you thrill at the sound  
Of His wonderful name  
And know to trust Him is to win,  
Are you guilty of opening the portal of the heart  
Inviting Him to abide within?  
Can Jesus say, "This is my beloved,"  
When He speaks to the Father about you,  
Can the world declare you've been with Jesus  
And every word be true!

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

SPRINGTIME

The robins are all over —  
Our backyard is full today  
According to the old saying  
Spring is on its way.

After all the cold and snow  
Spring will be so nice  
The temperature will be higher  
There will be no need for fire.

Our wood pile is sinking low  
Our gas bill is going higher  
The wind is blowing so cold  
We put another log on the fire.

Maybe winter will be over  
Someday real soon  
I'm ready to plant a garden  
And have flowers all a bloom.

MYRTLE GOFORTH

"FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

Ever gotten that feeling,  
And have expressed it in uncertain terms?  
Every one has at one time or another.  
It gnaws on us when we are least expecting it.

Want a good antidote for it?  
Just grin and bare it.  
I've heard it takes more mussel  
To frown than it does to grin.  
So just let go with a great big grin and let  
Those tired muscles relax.  
And began thinking good thoughts.  
I'll bet you this neighbor, when you do, even  
Though the day may begin a cloudy one, suddenly  
That beautiful sunshine will come bursting through.  
And will give you new perspective to your life.  
Try it, neighbor, it will do you a world of good.

EVERETTE PEARSON

**KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD**

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

GARLAND ATKINS  
Publisher

TOM McINTYRE, Editor

ELIZABETH STEWART  
Women's Editor

GARY STEWART  
Sports Editor

DARRELL AUSTIN  
General Manager

CLYDE HILL  
Advertising Director

MEMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Mirror-Herald is published by General Publishing Company, P. O. Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N. C. 28086. Business and editorial offices are located at 204 South Piedmont Ave. Phone 739-7496. Second Class postage paid at Kings Mountain, N. C. Single copy 15 cents. Subscription rates: \$8.50 yearly in-state, \$4.25 six months; \$9.50 yearly out-of-state, \$5 six months; Student rate for nine months \$6.24