

Hand Postmaster a mop, please

EDITORIAL
OPINION



Why suddenly do we need county police?

Why suddenly is there talk of creating a county police department, which would be operated in addition to the present sheriff's department?

According to Ronald Lynch, assistant director of the Institute of Government, the decision to create a county police department is political in nature.

So, politics must be at the bottom of the suggested move for Cleveland County. But whose politics?

Creating a county police department and operating it in addition to the sheriff's department would be an expensive proposition with the taxpayers bearing the expense. Because of politics and business the taxpayers are already paying through the nose for almost everything.

For its size the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department does an incredible job handling both criminal and civil law enforcement matters. And though there may be many valid reasons for thinking two county law enforcement agencies are needed, we can't come up with any that would warrant this major step in Cleveland County.

Under a county police department the chief would be appointed by the county commissioners, whereas the sheriff here is elected by the people. We have to disagree with Commissioner C. M. Peeler's comment that a sheriff's department is "antiquated" in today's society. If the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department was headed by an incompetent with manpower turning in below par performances, then there would be more than sufficient reason to think about creating another agency. Either that or cleaning house within the sheriff's department. But that is not the case here.

If the people feel the need for increased police activity in the county, then it would be logical, and far less expensive, to increase the sheriff's budget so he can add more manpower and purchase more equipment.

So long, Ron...

Hello, John W. Major

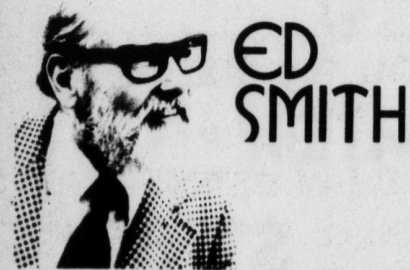
Ron Tompkins left Eaton Corporation's Kings Mountain plant a couple of months ago to head operations at another company plant in France.

Tompkins, who proved to be a man who involved himself in community affairs, helped create the local plant from the ground up. He fought the good fight and saw the last door hung and window placed and the first employees graduate training and begin manufacturing product.

But, Ron is no longer with us here, so a new plant manager was needed. Eaton reached all the way to Caracas, Venezuela to find the new manager. His name is John W. Major and he's already on the job.

Major has already settled his family in a home on Moss Lake and seems to be picking up where Tompkins left off. That's good. Eaton has proven to be a beneficial element within the community and anytime the big brass send someone else along to enhance the good neighbor policy all the better.

So we say (belatedly), so long, Ron, thank you.
And hello, John W. Majors. Welcome to the community.



ED SMITH

It is generally said that William W. Holden was the only governor of this state to be impeached and removed from office (during the turbulent Reconstruction Period). I, too, have made that statement in this column. While this statement is true of the modern state of North Carolina, it is not literally correct.

In early December of 1869, Proprietary Governor Seth Sothel was tried by the Albemarle Assembly, convicted on "Thirteen Counts of Misconduct in Office" and removed from the Governor's chair. Sothel was "banished from the Country for twelve months, and from the Governor forever."

That was a turbulent period also, with a constant clash of self-interest between the colony's strong-willed, land-hungry early settlers and the often-incompetent, always servile administrators, appointed by the colony's distant owners — the Lords Proprietors. This experience led to the fear of placing too much power in the governor's hands which became traditional in the state's politics.

Curtis Hooks Brogden, the third governor of the state during Reconstruction, was born in Wayne County on Dec. 6, 1816.

A farmer and pre-Civil War Jacksonian Democrat, Brogden served in the state legislature for 23 years, and as state comptroller during the war. His career clearly demonstrates the inaccuracy in the often-expressed belief that most of the state's early Republican leaders were carpetbaggers, newly-freed blacks or uneducated local citizens. (His switch in parties enraged many former supporters, however.)

Supported by the state's new Republican party, Brogden was elected lieutenant governor in 1872, with Tod Caldwell as Governor. When Caldwell died in 1874, Brogden succeeded to the top office, the second lieutenant governor in a row to do so. Caldwell himself had taken over for Holden). Because of his long experience in state government Brogden was better able to function in office than his predecessors had been, more open to suggestion and advice, and better-able to work with the opposition-controlled legislature.

Fain Hambricht, Grover's postmaster, was called upon last week to officiate at the swearing-in ceremony for the new Grover Town Council.

After conducting the ceremonies Hambricht said, "If that's all I've gotta get back to the post office and grab a mop."

It seems a new roof is being applied to the post office, but workmen only got to the point where the tar was to be applied when the bottom fell out of the sky last Monday.

"There was water all over the place," Hambricht said. "I keep expecting the ceiling to fall in."

-00-

Harold Herndon, the newest commissioner on the Grover Town Council, came up with a newspaper clipping from an issue in 1928.

"My mother passed away recently," he said, "and I found this when when we were inventorying her home. She always did clip out interesting news items and save them."

The yellowed clipping is pasted to what looks like a piece of ledger sheet. The story has a bold caps heading:

GROVER GETS GOING

The article read:
"If the Town of Grover, in southern Cleveland, does not get to be a real city one of these days it will not be because the town has not had its share of publicity. Here of late Grover seems able to get in the unusual headlines with any large city. One or two killings in a row, one of which remains something of a mystery, then an eyeball carving, and now a baby abandoned on a front porch.

At the present rate Grover may consider it an off-day when the town is not able to break the front page with its latest news story."

Herndon said he doesn't remember what killings the article refers to, nor whose

TOM McINTYRE



eyeball was carved on, but he does know about the abandoned baby.

"It was a boy and he was left on Mr. Ed Hambricht's doorstep," Herndon said. "Mr. Ed was Fain Hambricht's father."

Herndon said the boy was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Byers and raised as their own. That abandoned baby boy is now D. E. Byers, who resides in Ellenboro.

But judging by the size of Grover today it is obvious that a couple of mysterious killings, an eyeball carving or two and abandoned babies do not a metropolis make.

-00-

Tommy Barnette, who operates a gas-up, grocery-up spot on Hwy. 74 west, has been known to do a lot of things to liven up a party when the going is dull.

He almost went too far last Thursday.

Tommy said he was talking with a couple of friends when he saw Red Ware drive up to his gas pumps in a hearse. About the same time Tommy said he saw this young man get out of his car and walk toward the store entrance.

"It's time to have some fun," Tommy told his two friends.

Tommy stretched out on the floor and rolled his eyes back in his head. The young man entered the store and stopped cold when he saw the figure on the floor.

"He looked at me, then he looked at the hearse," Tommy said. "He thought sure he had walked in on a tragedy. One of my friends said, 'well, Tommy's gone.' At that point I jumped up and let out a roar."

Instead of laughing off the joke, Tommy said, the young man screamed and ran all over the candy display rack in the aisle headed for the backdoor. Only there is no backdoor and the fellow had to come back to the front.

"I wouldn't have done it if I'd known the feller was so nervous. He wanted to buy some milk and dropped change all over the place," Tommy said. "Tell you what. Take me, a hearse and that young feller and we could open up Canaler Street way ahead of schedule," Tommy said.

I told him he was a nut and hung up the phone. A few minutes later Tommy called back and asked, "Do you know anything that will get black marks off tile? This lighter fluid doesn't work."

"What black marks?" I asked.

"The ones that young feller made when he scratched off getting outta here."

"They're coming to get you, Barnette," I said and hung up again.



Poet's Corner

THANKS

I thank you each and all!
Instead of writing thank-you notes
I've decided just to say
With all my heart I appreciate
All lovely, useful, beautiful and helpful things
That ninety years brought my way.
On such a happy occasion,
The best I have ever known,
I can always be thankful
And grateful to friends
And leave all to God, my dearest Friend,
Who is watching me from His throne
And I hope He will keep me
From feeling sad and alone.

Emma C. Austelle

HERE WE ARE
(c) 1977

Wrapped in the festivity of the holidays
Draped in the flowing cheer
Charmed with the joy of the season
The blessed event of the year.

Kissed by the breath of expectancy
Caught up in a sheer delight
Held in growing suspense
Dreaming of a Christmas white.

Responding to others with love
Each in his special way
Love is the only reason
We have a Christmas day.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

Governor Seth Sothel was banished from state forever

Brogden was defeated for reelection by the return of Zebulon B. Vance, probably the state's most popular governor in history. It is indicative of the politics of that time, however, that during the eighteen-year period between 1862 and 1880, not a single governor of the state served a full four-year term.

-00-

Former Governor Abner Nash died in New York City on Dec. 5, 1786, while serving in the Continental Congress. He had been governor during another of the state's most difficult periods (1780-81) while the area was faced with British invasion.

Born in Virginia, the son of a prominent family, Nash moved to North Carolina in 1763 and became an early participant in the fight against British rule. Elected Governor in 1780, he faced Lord Cornwallis' invasion on one hand, and a state badly divided between Whigs and Tories on the other. Even on the side of independence there was little agreement. East opposed West, liberals opposed conservatives, and almost no one was willing to vote for the taxes necessary to support the war effort. Two years in office were enough to ruin Nash's health and he never fully recovered.



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 732, 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, \$5.50 six months; Student rate for nine months \$4.24