



ED SMITH

# Largest battle on N. C. soil....

The Battle of Bentonville (March 19-21, 1865) was the largest military engagement ever fought on North Carolina soil. Involved were over 90,000 Union and Confederate troops. The battle lasted three days, and cost 4200 casualties in killed, wounded and missing, yet it resulted in a stalemate.

It was the last time in the war in which Confederate forces took the offensive. It also marked the only real effort to oppose General Sherman in his march north from Atlanta. A force of some 80,000 Confederates under General Joseph E. Johnston attacked twice their number of Union troops.

Bentonville occurred too late in the war to have had any real significance, even had the Confederates won the victory there they gambled for. Victory for the North was already secured. Within a few days Lee would surrender in Virginia. Fort Fisher and Wilmington had fallen and eastern North Carolina was already occupied. Atlanta and Columbia had been put to the torch, and western North Carolina was under attack by Union cavalry. The state was surrounded. It is probably that their grave showing at Bentonville helped persuade Grant and Sherman to give better peace terms, however.

On March 22, 1871, North Carolina Governor William W. Holden was removed from office by the General Assembly of this state. He was the first — and to my uncertain knowledge — the only governor ever successfully impeached in this nation's history.

Holden's trial had lasted seven weeks, and involved some of the state's finest legal talent on both sides. It received huge coverage in the nation's

press. Holden, the state's first Republican governor, was voted out of office by a Democrat-controlled General Assembly. The trial caused much bitterness along party lines in a state already divided by the passions of the Reconstruction Period.

The main charge against the Governor was that he had violated the right of habeas corpus in jailing suspected leaders of the Ku Klux Klan and refusing to allow their release on bail. The impeachment proceedings had followed a period of extremely violent activity by the KKK, which Holden had tried to suppress with the cooperation of Federal troops, feeling that he could not depend upon local authorities.

The General Assembly ruled that he had exceeded the powers of his office, with even several Republicans, voting with the majority.

After his removal from office Holden was appointed postmaster of Raleigh and lived to a ripe old age, eventually regaining the esteem of most of the city's population.

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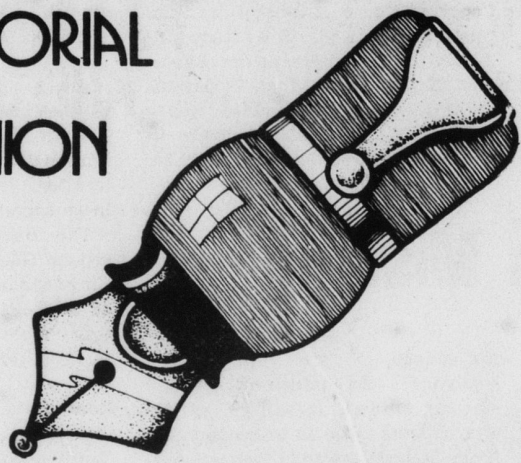
Richard Dobbs Spaight, the only governor of the state to be killed in a duel, was born on March 25, 1758, in New Bern. He was also the first native-born citizen of this state to serve as governor, and he and his son R. D. Spaight, Jr. share with Kerr and Robert Scott the distinction of father and son teams to serve as chief executive.

Spaight served in the Continental Congress, was one of this state's representatives to help write the U. S. Constitution, and then served in Congress itself.

He was mortally wounded in 1802 in a duel with John Stanly, who had succeeded him in Congress.



## EDITORIAL OPINION



## It's difficult to make ends meet....



### Tournament a good idea

A bass fishing tournament at Moss Lake next month is a mighty good idea for a couple of reasons.

First, it creates more use of the lake and a chance for expert anglers to show their stuff. And secondly, it will raise funds for the Kings Mountain Fire Department's Toys For Tots campaign for this year.

Granted Christmas 1978 is a long ways off, but last year the program almost didn't get off the ground in the usual period of time devoted to it. This is a very worthwhile project because we still have youngsters with us not as fortunate as others.

The bass tourney is set up to accommodate 30 boats, 60 anglers working in teams. The \$20 per team permits are available at the Moss Lake office now. The money goes to a worthwhile cause and there will be cash and other prizes on hand for the tourney winners.

### We need an airport

About that airport . . .

Through representatives of Division of Aeronautics, N. C. Department of Transportation, we have learned that getting an airport at Kings Mountain is next to impossible.

That's on the one hand. On the other hand, the same representatives told the airport committee members last week that for every rule there is a way to bend that rule and that planning should go ahead on an airport facility.

Members of the committee will make use of the feasibility study already conducted and paid for by the City of Gastonia through conversations geared to gather facts and figures. A feasibility study is expected to be conducted also in Kings Mountain to glean some solid facts on whether the city really has use or no use at all for an airport.

Locally, the enthusiasm among the rank and file has been less than overwhelming. In fact, the man on the street usually answers the question with a question — "What do we need an airport for? So the weekend flyers around here can have a place to take-off and land?"

That is a natural reaction if you are not acquainted with just how many industries in this country own and fly corporate planes on business. By the same token when these industries are looking for new locations to build, they naturally want to know about airport service. Kings Mountain has lost out on a couple of industries simply because we have no air service facilities.

The possibility of having an airport here could mean economic growth for this community and with this in mind then we feel all efforts should be made to see if the city can go into the air service facility business.

The other afternoon Lib Stewart and I decided to partake of luncheon goodies at Kings Mountain Motor Inn restaurant.

I made the decision, actually, because Elizabeth said, "I don't have any money with me."

"That's okay, maybe we'll find someone in here to pay for both of us," I said. I really was kidding because it was going to be my treat.

As we stood gazing at the menu Buford deFore came in.

"Let's have lunch," he said.

We did and when the check was brought Buford, good man that he is, grabbed it up and said, "I haven't bought your lunch, lately. It's my treat."

I swear to you, Buford, it wasn't planned that way. I really was kidding. Really. Honest.

It was a nice leisurely lunch and liberally sprinkled with good conversation (mostly from Buford and Lib, 'cause I was too busy devouring my Reuben sandwich.)

Buford made one comment concerning peace and war that gives food for thought. He said it seems strange to him that now, with peace reigning practically all over the world, Americans seem to be into harder times than ever before.

"I am really concerned about the everyday working man," he said. "It is really difficult for him to make ends meet. The price of everything is sky-high. Interest rates on loans for homes is out the roof and it goes on and on."

I got the impression that Buford, deep-down in his heart, could understand why some ordinary working stiff takes a long look at the income and the outgo, then ask themselves why they're beating their brains out day in and out. And why some people who ordinarily would rather die than accept something for nothing are checking out of the race and are signing up for unemployment.



TOM MCINTYRE

And it's true. A person almost has to be a financial wizard trying to keep body, soul and family together with the price of all the essentials continually going up.

I guess it was really brought home to me, personally, after taking a tour of Bryant Grier's home at Lake Montonia and listening to how inexpensively he manages to live while having more electricity-using gadgets than I ever heard of. I saw what he operates and heard about how much it costs him, then I look at my own monthly bills for power and I have to swallow hard.

Oh, to be a genius of the first water in things economic. And to have contacts where you can get it wholesale. And to have professional friends in many areas willing to pitch in and help.

That would be Heaven. Of course none of us have been promised anything like that until after we check out for the last time.

Oh, well. I guess the majority of us just have to keep plugging away and telling the take-back man when he calls, "the check's in the mail! The check's in the mail!"

### SUNSHINE OR SHOWERS

What do I do for another's life  
What does my nature reveal,  
Am I conscientious and positive  
Do I picture God as real?

I cannot bud flowers to blossom as spring  
Or sing as the birds sing  
But what do I do for another's life  
How much joy do I bring?

Am I the reason for laughter  
Do I contribute to a smile,  
Do I have time for others  
Am I happy to linger a while?

Do I help another face tomorrow  
Without fear or remorse,  
Is it worthwhile that I am here  
For peace am I a willing source?

Perhaps I cannot turn winter into spring  
Or ring as a bell can ring,  
But what do I do for another's life  
How much joy do I bring?

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

### READER DIALOGUE

## Thank you from Danny Thomas....

Dear Mr. McIntyre,

It is just plain wonderful to hear about the tremendous support you and Jonas Bridges are giving to Robert Dodge. Our chairmen are seldom so fortunate as to have a newspaper editor and a radio general manager serving as publicity committee chairmen. I know you can really get the message across. In this case, that message is the most important thing in my life next to my own family. It's the message of hope being brought to suffering children everywhere by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

A lot of people in different parts of the country have asked me, "Why should I give to a hospital in Memphis, Tennessee?" You know what I tell them? Because St. Jude

Children's Research Hospital is everywhere! They say, "But you don't have any children from our area there." And I say check the standard texts on pediatrics and see who developed the sections about acute lymphocytic leukemia. Who was it that refused to quit when most doctors were telling the parents of leukemic children that nothing could be done? Who gave knowledge to doctors everywhere that made them stop giving up hope and start saving kids? It was St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, that's who.

We've got 27 patients from North Carolina, but who knows how many more children are there whose lives have been saved because St. Jude has been finding answers to help

their doctors conquer deadly diseases.

I tell my friends that it doesn't matter where this terribly important research center is located because it is the export of knowledge all over the world that counts.

I also point out that because this research is so invaluable, we never charge for treatment. We want to insure that none of our patients is dropped from a research study because his parents couldn't afford what the treatment would cost. In my mind, that would be criminal.

All of this is possible because people like you and the citizens of Kings Mountain care about saving children everywhere and want to help. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital exists only because of the money raised in events such as the Wheels For Life

Bike Ride April 15. Without the dollars given by just plain folks all over the country, our work would be curtailed or possibly stopped.

It takes a lot of money to carry on this vital research, but someday it will pay off when we can write "Finis" to childhood cancer and the other catastrophic diseases our doctors and scientists are studying.

So I am deeply appreciative of the efforts you are making and give you my heartfelt best wishes for success, not only for the Bike-a-thon, but for impressing the life-saving story of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on everyone you can.

God bless you, and good luck.  
DANNY THOMAS  
Culver City, Calif.

**KINGS MOUNTAIN  
MIRROR-HERALD**

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