

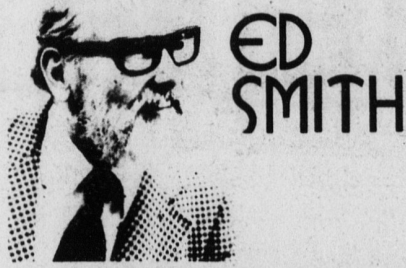
# Tar Heels helped the Yankees...

It is almost forgotten today that North Carolina supplied more than 3,000 volunteers to the Northern side during the Civil War. One of the most outstanding of those Southern Yankees was Major General John Gibbon, whose birthday was April 20, 1827.

Gibbon was born in Pennsylvania, but moved to North Carolina with his family at the age of 12, settling in Mecklenburg County. He left the state in 1842 to attend West Point. A career officer, Gibbon sided with the North, but all three of his brothers served with the Confederacy.

Gibbon fought well, and was twice wounded, at Fredricksburg and Gettysburg. He was a respected leader. After one Southern victory early in the war, a Confederate general reported that the Northern army had "all run like sheep, except for a general Reno and a General Gibbon."

A total of 3,156 Tar Heels served in the Union forces during the war, not counting several regiments of black troops. Only Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee among the Southern states supplied more troops to the North than did North Carolina. They were far out-



weighed by the 125,000 men from this state who served in the Confederate ranks, however.

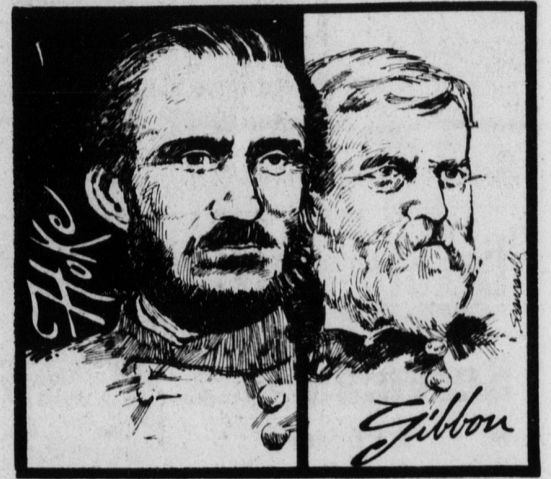
One of North Carolina's most outstanding Confederate generals was Robert F. Hoke, of Lincolnton. On April 17, 1864, Hoke began a three-day battle to recapture the town of Plymouth, N. C. from Northern hands. It was one of the few Confederate successes in

North Carolina that year. As a part of the attack, the steam-powered ram "Albemarle" ran the Union blockade, sank two gunboats and bombarded Northern fortifications.

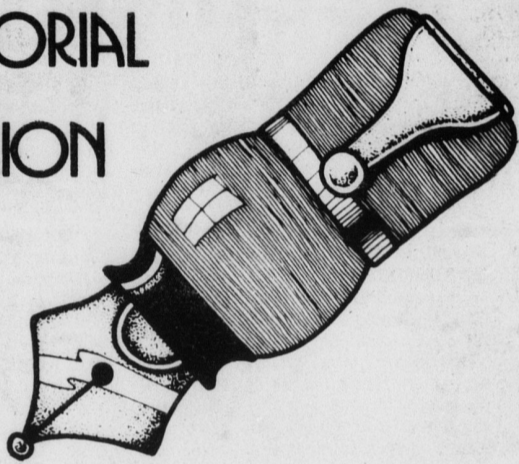
For seven days, April 19-26, 1865, Charlotte became the capitol of the dying Confederacy. It was here that the last effective meetings of the government were held, though historians generally regard its official end as having occurred in Washington, Georgia, on May 4. The last full meeting of the Confederate Cabinet was held in the Phifer home on North Tryon Street in Charlotte, in the bedroom of Treasury Secretary Trenholm, he being too ill to move.

Other sessions were held in the Bank of North Carolina building, stormy sessions at which the surrender of General Joseph Johnston's Southern troops was discussed.

At first President Davis was opposed to surrender, but on April 26 General Grant's terms were agreed upon and Davis and his party left town to continue their flight South. For all practical purposes, the Confederacy had ceased to exist.



## EDITORIAL OPINION



### Praise for the unsung heroines...

This is National Secretaries Week and here in Kings Mountain bosses will treat their gal Fridays to a luncheon at Kings Mountain Motor Inn.

Mayor John H. Moss will be there to say a few words of praise for the real unsung heroines of the business world.

There probably won't be any raises in pay, ladies, but for a little while your bosses will express their appreciation for the jobs you do to keep the office functioning.

And as everybody knows it is the secretary who is really the boss. She's busy scheduling appointments, handling irate customers on the phone, sending out the invoices and in general making sure the day to day business wheel continually rolls.

### Get out and vote next Tuesday

Just a reminder that next Tuesday you have the opportunity to exercise your right to vote when the Democratic Primary election is held.

The polls will be open from 6:30 a. m. until 7:30 p. m. and local voters will be handed three separate ballots to consider.

One ballot is in the non-partisan Cleveland County School Board election. Two seats are open and three candidates are offered. In the U. S. Senate race, one seat available, there are eight candidates. Four candidates offer themselves for the two Associate Justice of Supreme Court seats available; and two candidates for the one Judge of Court of Appeals seat.

On the third ballot four candidates run for three seats in the N. C. Senate, 25th Senatorial District and four candidates seeking three seats in the N. C. House of Representatives, 40th District. Two candidates seek the job of Cleveland County Sheriff.

There are two seats available on the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners and five candidates offering their services.

If you are eligible to vote next Tuesday, then we urge you to exercise that right.

## UFO reports are boring...

BOONE — "There's never been a truly scientific study of UFOs in the past 34 years," said UFO believer George D. Fawcett of Lincolnton. Robert Sheaffer, a leading UFO skeptic and critic who was seated beside him on stage, nodded his head.

Yet, countered Sheaffer to remarks by Fawcett about recently-released FBI files on UFOs, "there's nothing in the files that we don't have in abundance already... there's nothing of value, and they're awfully boring."

Believer Fawcett had just said of Sheaffer's 80-minute critique of UFO "evidence," "Most of the ones you showed we threw out ourselves years ago, and most of the stuff you talked about has little to do with UFOs."

"But," countered Sheaffer again, "different groups throw out different ones (UFOs). We go after the big ones, like the National Enquirer's best case of the year."

The debate among the two recognized UFO experts Saturday night was the windup of a UFOlogy weekend at Appalachian State University. Apparently, students at Ap-

palachian lean more toward real-world encounters as Fawcett's three-hour presentation on Friday night drew an audience of only 100 and only 40 UFO faithfuls — mostly non-student believers — attended Saturday night's program.

Still, it was a busy weekend at ASU, as the students were celebrating their own "Anti-Suitcase Weekend" with an outdoor movie (The Summer of '42) on Friday night and a dance on Saturday. Two one-act plays also were presented on Friday and Saturday nights and the Appalachian Chorale performed "St. John's Passion" on Saturday night.

On Friday night, Fawcett, who is state director of MUFON, the Mutual UFO network, warned that "UFOs are increasingly becoming a growing global problem."

During the past five years, he said, North Carolina has ranked fourth in the country in the number of UFO encounters, and 10 UFO occupant encounters have been recorded in the past five years.

"The bonafide UFO phenomenon consists of 20 to 30 per cent of all known reported sightings with 65 per cent of reports occurring at night and 35 per cent broad daylight observations."

Fawcett cautioned the crowd on approaching UFOs too closely, since his files contain more than 150 cases where persons have been blinded, burned, paralyzed, injured or killed in close UFO encounters. UFOs give off tremendous thermal heat, low-pulsed microwave radiation, and ultrasonic and ultraviolet radiation, he said.

Fawcett said that belief has nothing to do with UFOs, rather that what we learn and what we know about UFOs is the important thing. "I am an acceptor of UFOs based on what I know, not what I believe."

UFO reports average 100 per day worldwide and computer studies indicate that UFOs come in waves of every 26 months, 60 months, and 10 years, and all three cycles currently are in effect, he concluded.

Sheaffer, a computer systems analyst from Silver Spring, Md., said Saturday that

scientists are "not hostile to extraterrestrial life, but they do demand more than wishful thinking in terms of evidence."

On the charge that the CIA has suppressed real evidence of UFOs, Sheaffer said, "our government has been totally incapable of keeping any of its secrets. How are all these people supposed to be 100 per cent successful in keeping the lids on UFOs for more than 80 years when a Congressional committee chairman cannot even be successful in having a secret little swim in the Tidal Basin?"

UFO seem to select very carefully where and to whom they appear, he said. "Very seldom do we receive notification from someone that 'I saw a UFO and think I got a picture, usually they wait until they get the pictures back before announcing the encounter.'"

Both Sheaffer and Fawcett seemed to accept Fawcett's premise that "every light in the sky is not a space ship and blind doubt (of UFOs) is not the answer."

And the debate will go on.

## Holocaust gets press

The recent NBC-TV mini-series, "Holocaust," has generated almost as much press as did "Roots."

Gerald Green's epic-size script dealt with the struggles of the Jews under The Third Reich. Over four evenings viewers saw the systematic extermination of thousands of Jewish men, women and children. They were machine gunned, beaten and gassed to death.

It was a story that needed telling, but one that should be told fully. The viewer saw the numerous unidentified men, women and children murdered, but it was only when the story dealt with the cruelties to those characters we were allowed to become familiar with did we respond properly.

As far as story-telling goes the horrors that befell the Kansas Family in Truman Capote's book, "In Cold Blood," were far more effective to the viewer.

But you have to remember that the extermination of more than six million members of an entire race actually happened from the late 1930's until the mid-1940's under the Nazi regime.

I had often wondered how this happened. High school history does not (or did not) go into such fine detail as to explain the makeup of the Jews. Why so many allowed themselves to be herded like so many cattle to their deaths. "Holocaust" did give the viewer more insight into that aspect. But at the same time the show never fully gave us the true reasoning behind such Nazi policy. There were hints that in order to bring Germany back to its feet a single focal point was needed. Hatred, fear and extermination of an entire race of people became that focal point.

Aside from the historical aspects of the show, I was also struck by several other impressions. The strongest impression was that the Nazi Party did a sales job on the Jews and the Germans and that they used the same tactics that modern-day advertising uses — a promise of one thing while you actually get something else.

Another impression was the numbering of the Jewish people placed in extermination camps was a harbinger of things to come.



TOM MCINTYRE

To understand what I mean, just check your wallet and see how many numbers have been placed on you. There are Social Security numbers, drivers license numbers, insurance policy numbers, bank account numbers, book club numbers, etc.

Don Kistler, who runs a world wide ministry from offices in Kings Mountain and who says his heritage is German Jew, says that within the next three years money will be obsolete. That people will have numbers issued which will show their financial worth to do business.

Another strong impression is that there really are double standards in television.

If you portray something as historical you can get away with all sorts of usually taboo themes. In "Holocaust" there was rear and frontal nudity — men and women. There was also violence of an explicit nature. One German soldier was shot right between the eyes on camera.

However, if you try to depict the same things in a show designed strictly for entertainment the national PTA will come down on you with all four feet.

Another impression is that the acting in a broad historical program need not be up the par. There were any number of performers in "Holocaust" who relayed nothing to this viewer by their pregnant pauses and reflective looks. The main offender was Michael Moriarity who portrayed Erik Dorf, the SS officer. Even when he cried his expression never changed.

So, maybe the show was worthwhile, as Kistler suggests, because it was meant to show the world that something like the Holocaust should never be allowed to happen again.



Poet's Corner

SPRING RAIN (c) 1978

The sunshine takes an interlude  
To spring little drops of rain,  
To turn the earth April green  
And bud flowers along the lane.

Pitter-patter little rain drops  
There is pleasure for you to do,  
Before you spring the sunshine  
On the dashing new.

Flowers limbs with azalea blossom  
Freshen lilac in the breeze,  
Leave droplets in the center  
To pamper the desire of the bees.

Bud the leafy rose bushes  
Stirring the desire to grow,  
Making them ready to hear  
Causing the roses to show.

The sunshine takes an interlude  
To spring little drops of rain,  
To dress mother earth in April green  
To ordain her for her reign.

VIVIAN S. BILTCLIFFE

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