

# Tar Heels famous after leaving state

On June 10-12, 1840, the city of Raleigh held a double celebration in honor of the completion that year of the state's new Capitol Building, and the opening of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, connecting the city with the outside world for the first time. Balls, parades, speeches, and the arrival of a special, "first" ceremonial train highlighted the three-day event.

The dedication of the new Capitol was a significant event for the entire state. The original Capitol Building had burned in 1831. A Scots architect and builder named David Paton was hired to rebuild the building, and stonemasons and other artisans were imported from Scotland and other European countries to work on its construction. The work took seven years, and as costs soared, subsequent sessions of the legislature were forced to grant new appropriations. The final figure was an astronomical \$881,574.46, a

figure five times the annual cost of all state government (Few citizens seemed to mind, however, for the building was — and still is — a true classic, constructed with great skill, care and attention to detail. Most Tar Heels of that time regarded it as a fitting symbol for their hopes for the state. After decades of stagnation, North Carolina, "The Rip Van Winkle State" as its neighbors, derisively called it, was waking up.

The new railroad, too, which connected Raleigh to Richmond, was regarded as an engineering miracle, with bridges over four major rivers. The first train to reach Raleigh was called the "Tornado." It burned wood, travelled at speeds up to twelve miles per hour, and ran on wooden rails covered with strips of iron a half-inch thick.

William Hooper, one of North Carolina's three signers of the Declaration of Independence, was born in Boston on June 17, 1742.

Oddly, none of the three men who pledged "Our Lives, our Liberties and our Sacred Honor" for this state on that document was



born here. John Penn was born in Virginia; Joseph Hewes was born in New Jersey. It has often been lamented that many of North Carolina's most famous sons and daughters moved elsewhere before reaching prominence. Less often acknowledged is the fact that the state has been fortunate in having many people of great ability move here.

William Hooper was the son of a famous Boston minister. He was educated at Harvard, and moved to Wilmington in 1863 to establish a law practice. Hooper served as Deputy Attorney General of the colony for the Crown, but quickly became a supporter of America's efforts to resist British repression. (Ironically, he was one of the last to support independence.)

After the Revolution Hooper moved to Hillsboro to practice law, and again served in the House of Commons, and in the Continental Congress. He died in 1791 and is buried in the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park.

One of the worst sea disasters to occur off the coast of North Carolina — the explosion of the steam packet "Pulaski" — took place on June 21, 1838. One hundred and forty of the 199 persons aboard the vessel perished, men, women and children. Many were scalded to death when the boiler exploded. Others drowned when the vessel sank, or died of injuries or exposure while drifting at sea in boats and on rafts made from debris. Others drowned, ironically, when their lifeboats capsized in the rough surf after reaching the North Carolina coast.

The "Pulaski" — out of Charleston bound for Baltimore — was considered one of the safest and most modern passenger ships of its time. The ship exploded and quickly sank in rough seas, however, when a careless engineer filled a red-hot boiler with cold water.

June 24 is the birthday of the newspaper and commercial printing business in this state. On this date in 1749 James Davis of New Bern began operation of the first printing press in the state's history.

Davis was hired by the Colonial Assembly to codify and print the colony's statutes for a "yearly sum of one hundred and sixty pounds, Proclamation Money." He was also required to print the colony's money — including his own salary!

Davis also started the colony's first newspaper and printed its first books. A busy, versatile fellow (as are all newspapermen) he had already become the colony's first postmaster in 1747, having been appointed by the Assembly to "forward public dispatches to all parts of the colony."

Charles W. Chesnut, the first famous Negro writer in American history, was born in Fayetteville on June 20, 1856. His novels and short stories, published in New York between 1899 and 1906, dealt mostly with the lives and problems of blacks living in the Cape Fear area during the difficult Reconstruction Period.

Chesnut, according to literary historian Richard Walsler, "had the distinction of being the first Negro American writer to receive serious attention as a literary artist."

Born and educated in this state, Chesnut was teaching school in Charlotte by the age of 16, and Superintendent of the State Normal School for Blacks in Fayetteville at 22. He later moved to New York City and Cleveland, Ohio, to become a newspaperman. He died in Cleveland in 1932.

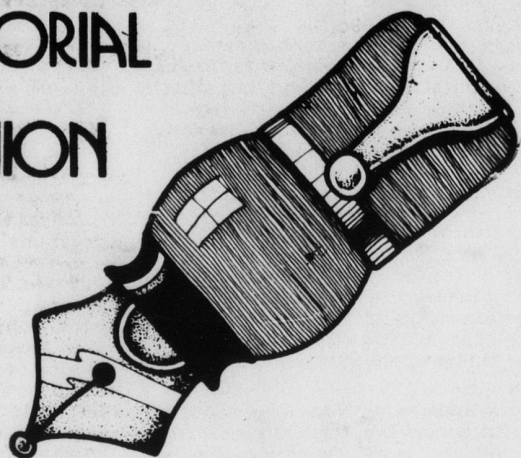
William Richardson Davie is called "The Father of the University of North Carolina," and many a student at Chapel Hill remembers the giant Davie Poplar tree in front of South Building, even if unaware of Davie's many other accomplishments.

Ironically, though he was one of this state's outstanding early statesmen, Davie was neither born nor died here. He was born in Egremont, England, on June 30, 1856, (the last English-born Governors of this state) and died in South Carolina in 1890.

Davie was an outstanding soldier from this state during the Revolution, served as Governor in 1788-89, and signed the U. S. Constitution as a delegate from North Carolina.



## EDITORIAL OPINION



## Adoption of school age children sought

### Adoption.

Its a word that conjures images of the childless couple sweating out the final red tape in order to take home a foundling infant to raise as their very own.

This image has been built over the years to the point that it is almost indestructible. But permit us to build another image concerning adoption for your consideration.

Picture a five-year-old girl who has lived in so many foster homes that she is afraid to give her love to anyone.

Picture an eight-year old with a slight limp who, though without parents, still has undimmed and boundless energy.

Picture a 12-year old girl who has been living in a childcare institution since she was eight and still longs for a permanent home.

We're talking about school-age children available for adoption. Too often these children are forgotten when a couple goes looking for an agency to seek adoption of a child. The other image is too strong and the public's knowledge concerning adoption too sketchy.

With this in mind The Children's Home Society of North Carolina is currently developing a public education program with community meetings and films depicting the problems of adoption. The CHS, in cooperation with other public and private agencies in North Carolina is seeking to find permanent homes for children who are waiting.

The problem is not so bad as far as white children are concerned, but the CHS states that there are hundreds of children beyond toddler age, especially black children from infancy to early teen-age, growing up in foster or institutional care, waiting for families who can give them love and the security of an adoptive home.

The requirements for adoptive applicants are not all that difficult. The CHS is looking for families who love children and truly want a child; are healthy, have a stable marriage or are well-adjusted (single) individuals who could provide mature parenting; have patience and understanding essential to helping a child develop the best that is in him; have an income sufficient for the child's care (and you don't have to be wealthy or even own your own home); are ages appropriate to the age of the child you wish to adopt; are residents of North Carolina.

For more information, you may contact the Charlotte office of The Children's Home Society, 301 S. Brevard St., or call 782-7170.

## We're in the middle of National Dairy Month

June is Dairy Month, and throughout the Southeast, the celebration will take place under the theme "Milk — A Natural Choice."

For over 40 years consumers have paid special tribute to dairy farm families during June for their unique contributions to our nation's health. Although milk production and promotion take place all year long, June has been designated as a special month-long salute to the people, and industry who provide consumers with their daily needs of high quality, nutritious milk and milk products.

Modern milking methods vary considerably from those used during the first June Dairy Month in 1937. Just during the past 10 years, U. S. dairymen have been able to produce nearly the same quantity of milk as they did a decade ago despite around 30 percent fewer cows and 60 percent less labor. This is attributed to improved methods and industrial ingenuity.

Projections for the next 10 years include a

doubling in milk output per manhour because of even more efficient dairy systems and milking equipment, larger herd sizes and a higher milk production per cow. These developments will hopefully help dairy farmers maintain a reasonable return on their investment, management, and labor while continuing to provide consumers with a high quality product at reasonable prices.

Today's successful dairy requires teamwork and close attention to all phases of the dairy operation. While the modern dairyman doesn't have to be an expert in all areas of the operation, he does need general knowledge of the various professions having a direct bearing on his business. He must be a skilled businessman in every sense of the word if he is to be able to stay in the business of producing "nature's most nearly perfect" food.

June Dairy Month seems to be a natural time to thank our dairy farmers for providing the finest milk and dairy products in the world.

# What's happening to the American family?

Family life in America is strong and well and withstanding many of modern day society's changing values, according to a new survey of 302,000 people. The attitude is apparent in answers to a survey conducted by Better Homes and Gardens magazine titled "What's Happening to the American Family?"

The survey is one of the largest public outpourings ever elicited on middle class family life in America and a self-portrait of this segment of American family living that is largely ignored by government and sociologists' studies.

In spite of the high divorce figures in America today, 85 percent of the survey respondents indicate their expectations of happiness in marriage are being fulfilled. Seven out of every ten married readers say they share enough interests and activities with their spouse and 63 percent say they talk often enough with their spouse.

However, that doesn't mean these spouses are marching strictly two-by-two through life. Many seem to be trending toward diversified activities. 92 percent give at least some importance to a husband and wife having separate activities and interests.

The two-part questionnaire was published last fall. A statistical profile of the respondents shows 66 percent attended college, 89 percent are married, 82 percent own their own home, 60 percent have children under age 18 and the median family income is \$20,125.

While respondents perceive their own marriages and families as sound, the survey indicates they take a different view of overall family life in America.

Seventy-six percent of the survey respondents note they feel family life in America is in trouble. Many see the changing values of society reflecting on the basic unit of American culture.

Inattentive parents are cited by 37 percent as the greatest threat to the American family, while 38 percent say the absence of religious and spiritual foundation is leading to the decay of the family. Materialism is viewed as a family threat by 21 percent of the respondents and 18 percent say divorce and financial pressure menace the stability of family life.

In their comments, many readers seem especially distressed by the "me first" attitude they observe all around them. "People don't care enough," was a common lament. "They aren't willing to extend themselves for one another."

Six of every ten respondents believe America is a worse place to rear children than it was 10 or 15 years ago. Two-thirds of the respondents say parents put too much pressure on their kids to achieve, particularly in extra-curricular activities, and 87 percent think parents are too permissive with their children.

Lack of communication with children is a widely felt concern. Forty-two percent of the respondents believe teenagers do not share their personal problems with either parent. Only 10 percent say problems are shared with both parents, and 44 percent say mostly with the mother. Just 1 percent say mostly with the father.

A social worker who answered the survey wrote, "Kids who come to see me say there

is no guidance in their lives and they're making decisions they're fearful of making alone. Parents, in turn, tell me they're afraid to offer advice, fearful that it will be wrong or turn their kids off. It's a dilemma of one generation seeking advice, the other afraid and unwilling to give it."

A comparison with the results of Better Homes and Gardens first survey, which was published in 1972, shows that attitudes towards sex have relaxed since that time. Six years ago, only 26 percent of the respondents said they approved of two people living together for a while before making a marriage commitment. Today the figure has risen to 41 percent.

Premarital sex also gained some acceptance. Six years ago 32 percent approved. In the 1978 report 42 percent say it's all right for young people in love to have premarital sex. Although a majority of readers 57 percent disapprove of premarital intercourse, 80 percent feel that birth control methods and information should be available to anyone, including unmarried teenagers. Only 34 percent of the respondents say they would consider abortion for an unplanned pregnancy.

The survey also pinpointed present day attitudes on a number of other subjects including education, energy, the elderly and health care.

Widespread concern was voiced on the status of education in America. Bemoaning the fact that so many youngsters can't write three consecutive sentences without committing gross grammatical errors or do a single sum without an electronic calculator, a resounding 94 percent of the respondents

think schools should pay more heed to teaching basic skills. In spite of this criticism, 60 percent of the readers still rank the quality of education being offered in their individual school district as good or very good.

Nowhere did respondents show more guilt than when describing what they saw as the neglect of America's elderly and their underutilization as a vital human resource.

The elderly are generally forgotten by their families, according to 72 percent of the respondents. A common observation was nicely phrased as, "The elderly are not forgotten in thought, but the time actually spent with them is short."

Respondents are split on half on the best place for aging parents to reside. Half say retirement or nursing homes and the other half say with their children.

Health care for the elderly was controversial and so was the cost of health care in general. Respondents express concern over the spiraling costs and focus rapidly on money. "I have trouble paying dental and medical bills and find myself dreading illness and reluctant to send even my kids to the doctor or dentist because of the expense. This is not right." Rising costs of other necessities have forced 33 percent of the respondents to put off some regular dental and medical care over the last five years.

Better Homes and Gardens magazine readers also show grave concern for the economy, and as forecasters the majority are pessimistic about the future of America's financial status. Forty-nine percent consider it likely the country will have a major economic depression in the next decade; only 2 percent believe social

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