

Opinions



Gary Stewart

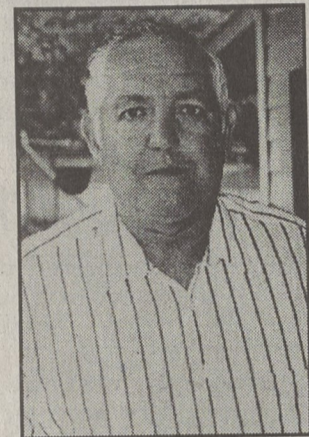
Editor

Pressley's corner was always spic and span

As I came to work each morning for the past several years, there was always one thing I could count on seeing.

Pressley Anderson.

Pressley was always on the job at a local self-service gas station, walking around the parking lot and clearing it of any piece of trash, cigarette butt, or anything else that might spoil its appearance. Pressley's "corner" was by far the cleanest in town, one that any business would be proud of.



PRESSLEY ANDERSON

A couple of weeks ago I began noticing Pressley wasn't out there anymore. I wondered what was wrong. Maybe he was having health problems. I would have to check it out.

A call told me Pressley's not having health problems. He's as big and strong as ever. But you might say he is suffering from a broken heart.

After almost 18 years on the job, he was recently stunned by those awful words no one wants to hear: "We don't need you anymore."

It's hard for him to understand, because he feels he was always a dedicated worker. He says he not only did the duties he was hired to do such as keeping the place clean and stocked, but made a special effort to be friendly to all the customers and even perform some duties which weren't in his job description such as pumping gas and changing tires for the elderly and handicapped. I don't think I ever stopped at that station that Pressley didn't greet me with a big smile, give me one of his strong handshakes and ask me how my family was doing or how I thought the Mountaineers would do this season. And, he almost always told me how much he enjoyed the paper.

He took a lot of pride in his job - just as he does as an umpire in the local youth baseball leagues. He may make a wrong call now and then, but everyone who knows Pressley knows his heart's as big as Texas and he always wants to do what's right.

He was loyal. Although he was considered part-time, he said he would sometimes spend 10 hours a day at the station and then go back at night or on the weekends if he was needed.

Because he was so dedicated, his termination was as devastating a blow as he has had in his almost 50 years. He said it was totally unexpected.

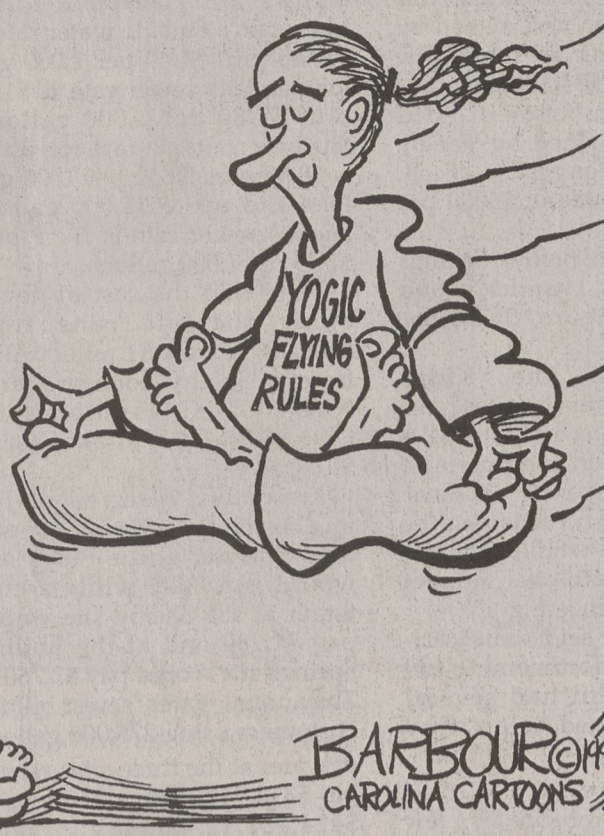
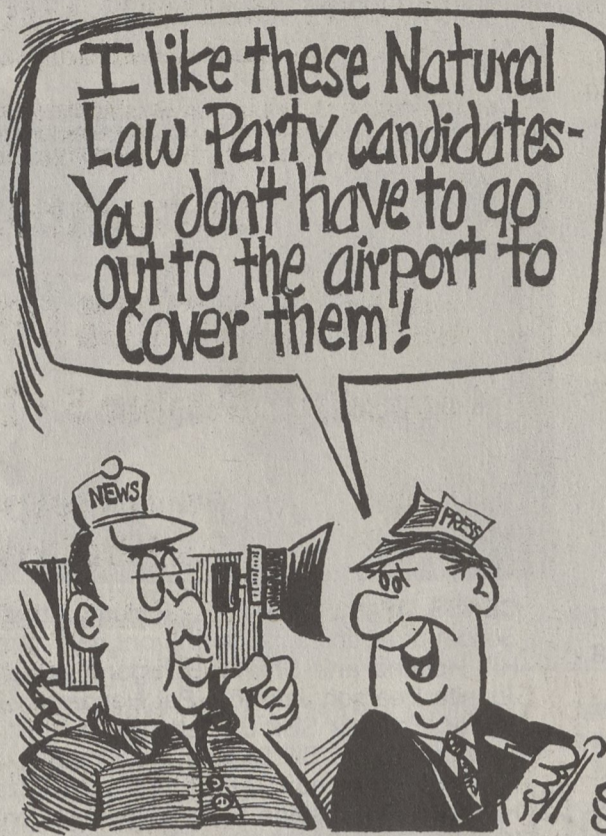
Businesses sometimes have to downsize or make tough decisions, and even though we sometimes don't understand why, it is a fact of life that sometimes bad things happen to good people.

But Pressley's not the type to mope around and hold grudges. He's a devout Christian and says he is certain that God will open another door for him. Maybe even a bigger door!

That's why he has been walking the streets a lot lately, checking with local businesses to see if they have anything he can do. He has some prospects, but nothing definite.

Anyone out there who desires to have a business that is spic and span inside and out should give him a call.

Cartoonitorial



BARBOUR CAROLINA CARTOONS

Your Right To Say It

Village helped raise Bob Dole too

To the editor:

The legions of Hillary-bashers who resent the First Lady for being an intelligent woman who isn't afraid to speak her mind should turn their heads to the right and look at Elizabeth Dole. Liddy is, as everyone knows, from Salisbury and is indeed a charming lady, but behind that Southern facade lie an intelligence and drive that enabled her to graduate with honors from Harvard Law School. Furthermore, anyone who saw the Doles a few weeks ago when they appeared on Larry King's TV interview show could not have failed to notice how Liddy answered questions put to Bob before he scarcely had a chance to open his mouth.

As for Bill Clinton's telling bare-faced lies, let's look at some Bob Dole continues to spread about Bill Clinton:

- Bob Dole claimed President Clinton had given America the largest tax increase in American history. But according to the Tax Foundation (USA Today, Aug. 15, 1996): The largest tax increase, adjusted for inflation, 1995 dollars, was the World War II tax increase under FDR - \$800 billion. Second was the 1982 tax increase under Reagan that was authored by Bob Dole - \$269 billion. Third was President Clinton's 1993 deficit reduction plan - \$226 billion. Now, Dole could do have kept his integrity and said it was one of the largest. But he didn't. He lied.

- Bob Dole is running an ad that claims that taxation on Americans is the highest ever, and he blames President Clinton, ignoring the 400-plus tax increases Bob Dole voted for in his 30-something years in Washington. The facts: The average federal rate for a family of four, including Social Security and Medicare withholding, declined from 16.83% in 1992 to 16.81% in 1995, according to the Department of Commerce. Dole could have said the rate of decline was negligible. But he didn't. He lied.

- Speaking of draft-dodging, has anyone wondered why Jack Kemp did not serve in Viet Nam, as Vice President Gore did? Although Kemp was in good enough shape to play in the NFL - 15 years - he was exempted from Duty in Viet Nam because of an "injured" shoulder. The Army form actually listed Kemp as disabled. Hmmm. Wonder if he's been drawing benefits all of these years?

- As for campaign promises, Knight-Ridder recently reported that they had studied President Clinton's, and they said he clearly accomplished just over 70% of them. They showed how he would have kept another 12% if not for the Republican partisanship.

- President Clinton has been much more faithful to the voters than the two previous presidents were. Here are just a few of the many promises President Clinton has kept:

- He has dramatically reduced the number of federal employees.

- He has worked toward a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban treaty, and has signed treaties with components of the old Soviet Union.

- He reduced the deficit through tax increases on those families earning over \$140,000 in taxable income, spending cuts and program eliminations, and tax credits for the working poor.

- He signed a crime bill that was tough on criminals, paid for more prison space, and provided money for

preventative programs.

- He has worked to help sell American goods in competition with foreign subsidized goods. For example: The Saudis purchased billions of dollars' worth of Boeing jets after Clinton interceded personally with King Fahd.

- He proposed welfare reform that would require welfare recipients to train for and then work at a job instead of collecting checks forever.

When Bob Dole made his GOP nominee speech, he took issue with the First Lady and her book "It Takes a Village." He said, "I am here to tell you, it does not take a village to raise a child. It takes a family."

This from the same Bob Dole who told of his grandparents receiving federal welfare checks - checks he himself signed while collecting a taxpayer supported salary. This from the same Bob Dole that accepted donations from his "village" of Russell, Kansas to pay for his doctor bills. This from the same Bob Dole that might not be here to tell us anything if not for the help he and his family received from his "village."

Did any of the Hillary-bashers actually read the First Lady's explanation of her choice of titles for her best-selling book before they dismissed it as "junk?"

"I chose that old American proverb to title this book," she said, "because it offers a timeless reminder that children will thrive only if their families thrive, and if the whole of society cares enough to provide for them." She clearly advocates a strong family. She also knows, as we all do, that sometimes it does take more than an individual family to survive.

It's true in Bob Dole's case, even if he won't admit it. The two medics who died trying to reach Bob Dole when he was wounded were not family members, nor were the numerous doctors and nurses who worked for hours saving and rebuilding his body.

It has clearly taken a large "village" to "raise" Bob Dole.

Cerese Blanton

Thanks for supporting benefit

To the editor:

The Kings Mountain Senior Center would like to express its sincere appreciation for the outstanding response from the community in supporting our recent fund raiser on Saturday, September 14. Approximately \$685.00 was raised to be used to purchase a much needed lighted marquee sign for the front of the Senior Center.

We could not have done it without the many volunteers including those who sang, prepared hot dogs and baked goods, worked at the yard sale, gift shop and gospel singing and helped to clean up after the event.

Our new sign will help provide greater visibility to the community and help advertise special events at the center. Thanks again for supporting this project.

Monty Thornburg
Director of Aging

BOB McRAE



Superintendent
Kings Mountain Schools

Bond's passage vital to North Carolina schools

This year's session of the North Carolina General Assembly approved legislation which places a bond issue for public facilities on the ballot for the November 5 general elections.

The results of this vote will in large part determine how much work school systems across the state will be able to do in the near future to improve their facilities, Kings Mountain included. In today's column I want to give you some specifics about the bond vote and encourage eligible voters to go to the polls and vote "yes" on November 5.

During last year we conducted a thorough review of our facilities in order to provide a legislative study commission with an accurate estimate of our funding needs in regards to buildings, grounds, and technology. We specified \$12,919,070 of needs at current prices. When the amount was adjusted for inflation in the years the project would be needed, it became \$15,508,322. Obviously, this is a very substantial amount, one we would not be able to reduce significantly through our normal capital outlay funding.

It is only fair to point out that these figures can be adjusted downward a bit. There is some construction included on elementary school campuses that would not be needed if the Board of Education decides to construct an additional elementary school to serve the area between Bethware and Grover. If it is decided that the best course of action is to abandon the thought of an additional school and do all of the expansion work that would then be needed at our elementary schools, the cost of the new school could be deleted, and that is over \$5 million.

Even if the bond is approved, the share of the funds available to Kings Mountain from the total package of \$1.8 billion would be \$6,142,100, an amount not nearly large enough to do everything we have included in our needs list. Additionally, our funds would come to us over a period of 4-5 years, not all at the front end. Aside from an additional elementary school, our needs include a wide variety of capital projects. Many of the larger projects involve additional classrooms on several of our campuses. We have been telling you about the growth we are experiencing in our system. This year's 10th day enrollment of 4,202 (not including Head Start's four classes and one Smart Start class) is the largest we have experienced in some time. It is 115 more students than we had on the 10th day of 1995-96. Our larger classes tend to be in the early years of school, thus indicating that we will continue to grow, at least slightly, in the next few years. Add to this fact the state's emphasis on reducing class size in the early grades, and our elementary facilities are becoming quite crowded.

Space is already needed on several campuses. It appears that such a need will arise at most of our schools before our growth disappears. When we completed our most recent building program a few years ago, predictions were that it would handle our needs for quite some time. How quickly things change!

Other projects included in our plan cover the gamut of school facilities needs. Consider the list: paving, painting, heating and air conditioning upgrades, floor treatments, door and hardware replacements, roof replacements, asbestos abatement in areas which are currently maintained within government regulations, athletic field improvements, handicapped accessibility, and window renovations. There is a lengthy listing of project which range from a few thousand to several hundred thousand dollars in cost. Work would be done on each of our eight school campuses.

A school system cannot afford to allow its facilities to deteriorate. Our system has been fortunate over the years to be able to keep its holdings in good condition. We cannot stop now. Our goal will be to keep each of our campuses in good repair, thus allowing our students and employees to attend school in a clean, comfortable, safe environment. Our chances of accomplishing this goal will diminish considerably if the bond issue for facilities does not pass.

In my next column I will look further at the upcoming bond issue and point out what I think are some additional good reasons for voting yes. By the way, this bond vote will be on the ballot with a vote on a \$950 million bond vote for roads. However, you will be casting your vote separately in each issue. I plan to vote yes for both issues as good roads are important to schools just as are good facilities, however a person wishing to vote yes on one issue and no on another could do so.

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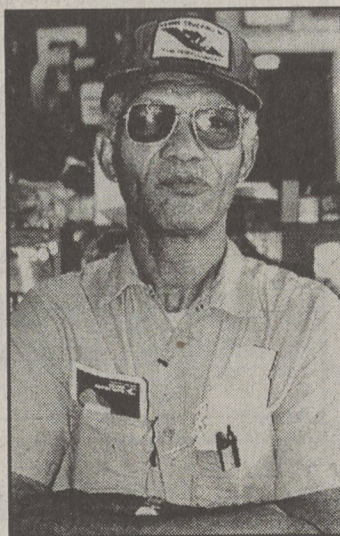
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	1 Year	6 Months
Gaston & Cleveland Co.	\$17.00	\$10.00
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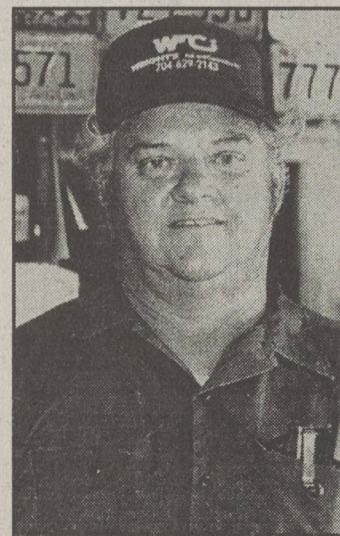
Sidewalk Survey

• By Elizabeth Stewart

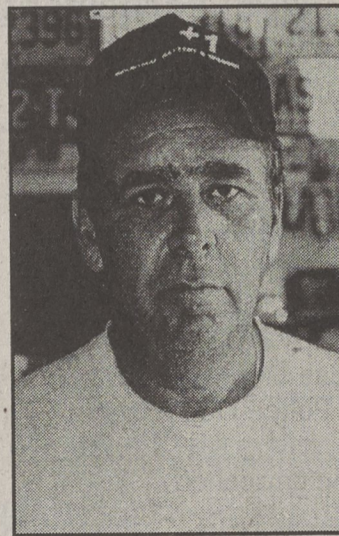
Would you say your household was better or worse off today than you were four years ago?



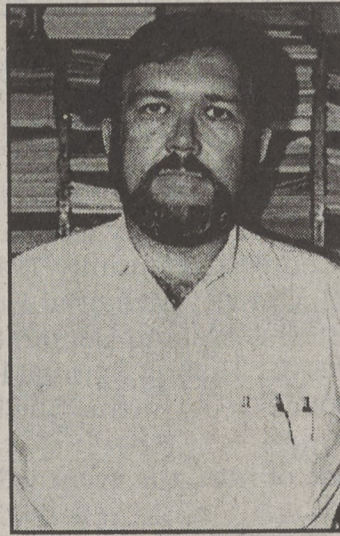
JOHN MITCHELL
Auto parts salesman
Times are better for me personally right now. Four years ago things were going downhill.



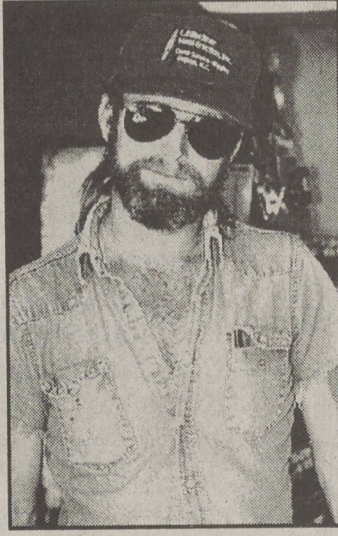
JAMES HAGLER
Plant worker
No. I don't think times are better. The job situation is bad and people are out of work.



TERRY GERMAN
Disabled veteran
I can't see any difference really from now and four years ago when the national leaders were elected.



EDDIE BRIDGES
Auto parts salesman
Yes. I think business has picked up over the past four years in this area.



CHRIS PATTERSON
Concrete products
Yes. I think that overall everything has improved over the past four years in this area.