

Heroes, Heroines & Headliners

The Legends Of Burke County

THOUGHTFUL SANTA PERSONALIZES GIFTS

Thoughtful Santas personalize their presents with monograms, initials or inscriptions. Many fashion designers are offering jewelry to match their gifts. Costume jewelry, from costume jewelry to costume jewelry, offer opportunities for adding the personal touch. Furs, especially those for protection and prestige.

There are handsome metal initials for leather belts and handbags, while collars, sweaters and blouses take embroidered or appliqued monograms.

Michigan State dropped boxing from its varsity sports program in 1958.

Script Writer Comes To Defense Of Television

By CHARLES MERCER
NEW YORK AP.—A while ago cultural standards of the American people by means of propaganda disguised as social criticism, satire, "worthwhile drama" or other intellectual snobberies. Indeed, the FCC might very properly object to special pleading on TV wave lengths which are the property — by government and court decision — of all the people.

There comes now an eloquent reply to their views in a letter to this department from Frederick Hazlitt Brennan, a fine craftsman of entertaining fiction and the story editor and major script contributor to the TV series *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*. Brennan writes:

"Despite the noble disclaimer of the seven writers that they abhor proselytism for a minority, the cultural taste of 100 million Americans, these things are precisely what they are trying to do."

"Why? TV is a medium of mass entertainment. Sponsors, advertising agencies and TV producers have no obligation to uplift the cultural standards of the American people by means of propaganda disguised as social criticism, satire, 'worthwhile drama' or other intellectual snobberies. Indeed, the FCC might very properly object to special pleading on TV wave lengths which are the property — by government and court decision — of all the people."

TV writers who feel that they can write for a 'message' by way of gift giver who just can't make up his or her mind. There is ways the gift certificate, especially good thought, is lacking as to size and color.

More Korean Vets Using Home Loans

greater percentage of Korean veterans expected to purchase guaranteed

Involved here also are such things as the spreading masculine interest in cookery, especially outdoors; the growth of "sewing among teen age girls in 'their own' and, to veer off in another direction, home gardening. Each of these realms has its need for "tools" that make wonderful gifting to the right people.

The new gifting opportunities in the realm of culture and entertainment, play an important part in this year's Christmas.

Take music for example. Stereophonic sound is now here to add a new dimension of reality to the recorded works. Take entertainment. Television sets in newly elegant and highly decorative cabinets, some with video section conveniently removed from separate "end table" controls are now available.

The potentials are vast, and provision also is made for the gift giver who just can't make up his or her mind. There is ways the gift certificate, especially good thought, is lacking as to size and color.

Santa Brings Fur For Great Thr

If she longs for fur (woman doesn't?) this Christmas to give it to her before have their many new styles, different types of furs, tried fur combinations and colors.

You can go all luxury furs as fisher, sable, mink, fox. Or, if your lower-priced but you have a wide choice in broadtail processed lamb, skunk, mink, pony, even



FOR
SHERIFF G.O.P.

Table Of Contents

6	Waightstill & William Waightstill Avery
10	David Oaks
11	Forrest Fleming
12	Red Gibson
16	Nina Corpening Ross
20	Joe Temple
23	Philo Harbison & John Corpening
26	Frankie Silver
29	Lafayette "Fate" Lane
32	Boger McGimpsey
34	Beatrice Cobb
38	Ralph "Jug" Wilson
47	Samuel McDowell Tate
50	Doug Cline
53	Charles & Joseph McDowell
57	Mildred Largent
59	Sam Ervin Jr.
65	John Carson
67	Edward Phifer Jr.
70	Howell "Doggie" Hatcher
72	Henredon's Founding Fathers

Photo Credits

Pages 23 and 24, courtesy of Picture Burke, contributed by Mae Hamilton Nash. Pages 29, courtesy of the Col. Samuel McDowell Tate Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp No. 836, contributed by Cmdr. Bruce Fleming. Pages 32 and 33, contributed by Edward Phifer III. Pages 42 and 46, courtesy of Catawba College. Pages 72 and 73, courtesy of Henredon.



Copyright 2006 An Advertising Supplement of The News Herald, A Media General Newspaper

● McGimpsey, Erma. "Mildred Largent." *Heroes, Heroines & Headliners: The Legends of Burke County*, 2006, pp. 57-58. Advertising supplement published by The News-Herald of Morganton, NC.

Mildred Largent

By Erma McGimpsey

Whenever I think of Mildred O'Neil Largent, Daisy Bates, the catalyst for the "Little Rock Nine" comes to mind.

I am not certain if it is the resemblance in physical stature or the sheer determination of both women committed to the causes of freedom and equal opportunity for all.

Bates was a pivotal figure in seminal moments of the civil rights movement as publisher and journalist. She was an advocate on a larger scale and like Largent endured many hardships early in life. She worked diligently as the leader of the state conferences of NAACP branches in Arkansas. She became advisor and protector of the "Little Rock Nine," the first black students to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Ark.

Mildred was the first woman president of the Morganton Chapter NAACP, assuming this office in 1992, after serving as secretary for 13 years.

She was the leader of Burke Citizens in a movement for better employment in industry and integration in the local public schools. She, along with a group of neighborhood parents, later became known as the "Big Seven" were instrumental in getting their children enrolled in the schools closer to their homes.

Their children had to walk all the way across the city in order to get to Mountain View Elementary School. The parents were concerned about the safety of their small children walking across town when there were elementary schools closer to them.

The Big Seven parents group made their appeal to the local school board and discussed their concerns. A temporary solution was formulated by providing bus transportation for the students.

Further negotiations with the local school board in 1963 resulted in the area students being enrolled in the Forest Hill Elementary, Morganton Junior High and Morganton High schools.

The Olive Hill High School was closed in 1965. Prior to this, all black high school students in



Burke County attended Olive Hill High School, which was located on the corner of West Concord and New streets.

Largent and her husband Thomas Largent Jr., had seven girls in seven years. She grew up with her girls and became a young grandmother at 36.

When Largent was 35 years old, she realized her life long dream. In 1965 she received her GED, and then attended Western Piedmont Community College. She attended Housing and Property Management at Winston-Salem State University, Shaw University and the University of North Carolina at Asheville and Chapel Hill.

In 1966, Largent became an employee of the Morganton Housing Authority, working her way up through the ranks over the years beginning as relocation officer, site office manager, deputy director, acting director, social service director

and property and housing manager.

She was afforded many opportunities to serve, as she was asked to serve on almost every city and county board in Morganton and Burke County. These include the Burke County Cultural Diversity Task Force, the Advisory Committee for the Aging, the Morganton Human Relations Committee, the Morganton Parent-Teacher Association Board, the Burke County Voter's Right Committee, the American Red Cross Blood Services Advisory Committee, the Repay Committee of Morganton, Hickory and Lenoir.

Largent also served as a delegate to the North Carolina White House Conference of the Aging in Raleigh. In May 1996, she was a delegate to the 11th National Conference on Preventing Crime in the Black Community, held in Orlando, Fla. at the office of Attorney General Bob Butterworth.

Largent also was an active member of Slades Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. She served as chairperson of the Trustee Board and Building Committee. She was on the Christian Board of Education and a member of the Twenty Century Club. She was a life member of the Missionary Department.

Her longtime neighbor and niece, Rosetta Ferguson says, "Aunt Mildred was truly one of the strongest women I've had the pleasure of knowing. She was my spiritual mother as well as my friend. Often times, you would see her sitting on the porch, reading the Bible."

Rosetta along with other family members had the opportunity to travel with Largent across country for two weeks, touring the United States from North Carolina to California. While in California, the group auditioned for the television show "Family Feud" and won defeating a family from Alabama.

When they were called back to appear, one person could not afford to make the trip and thus they missed their 30 minutes of national television

McGimpsey, Erma. "Mildred Largent." *Heroes, Heroines & Headliners: The Legends of Burke County*, 2006, pp. 57-58. Advertising supplement published by *The News-Herald of Morganton, NC*.

fame. The stipulation was all must return unless a member had died.

Largent had many hobbies and enjoyed all of them. There was fishing, gardening, reading, working puzzles, playing the piano for relaxation, sports of all kinds and cooking. She owned a catering service for five years in the 1980s. She enjoyed traveling immensely and had hoped to visit Australia.

Her daughter Patricia L. Boyd lives in Cincinnati, Ohio; Mildred L. Conley lives in Lenoir; Sarah Largent lives in Los Angeles, Calif.; Sandra L. Bristol and Wanda L. Forney live in Morganton. Tommie Lou is deceased. Kelly, the granddaughter raised by Largent, lives in Morganton.

When Kelly was in grade school, she interviewed her grandmother. Mildred gave her the following advice: "Work hard in school and be the best in whatever you do. Accept and practice self-discipline and stay close to God. I believe that he will

never place more on you than you can bear.

"Learn to accept disappointment and change the things that you can change and accept those things you can not change.

"Never let your friends persuade you to do those things that you know in your heart is wrong.

"Never do drugs of any sort.

"Love life and tell others that you don't need drugs that you are high on life. Love God first, self second and others as you want to be loved.

"Do not let anyone or anything take your self-esteem. Please remember that beauty comes from your soul, not from make-up and always be true to yourself."

On Sunday, Feb. 9, 1997, Largent was suddenly stricken with a brain aneurism while preparing to perform a program at her church. She died on Friday, Feb. 14, 1997.

Despite life's hurdles, Largent preserved and left a lasting legacy for generations yet unborn.

On Your Side in North Carolina for 75 Years.

For seventy-five years Nationwide® has been proudly serving North Carolina. From expert advice to superior claim service, we are the single source for all of your insurance needs.

•Auto •Home •Business •Life

Nationwide®
Insurance &
Financial Services

Nationwide is on your side®



Paul Mears
Owner



Bill Abec
Associate Agent



Nationwide®
On Your Side™

Paul D. Mears Insurance Agency

302 Rodoret Street SW, Valdese • 874-2186

Fax: 828-874-3063 • mearsp@nationwide.com

Life Insurance underwritten by Nationwide Life Insurance Company
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and affiliated companies
Home Office: Columbus, OH 43215-2220



Richard C. Avery
Attorney
Member of
North Carolina Bar
since 1993

Starla Hoke
Paralegal
8+ years of Real Estate
experience



Located Beside Bank of America

LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD C. AVERY

ATTORNEY AT LAW

203 E. UNION ST. • MORGANTON • (828) 433-0365

FAX: (828) 433-0391 • EMAIL: AVERY@HCI.NET

• Residential and Commercial Real Estate
Transactions & Closings • Land Purchase and Construction
Loans and Refinancing • Land Title Examinations
• Deeds, Leases & Contracts • Easements

"My practice concentrates in real estate transactions and I love helping people buy and sell real estate. Being a "dirt lawyer" gives me a great amount of satisfaction and we strive hard to please our clients. After all, for most people, buying a home is the biggest investment of their life. Please give me the opportunity to serve you with your real estate needs."

Richard C. Avery

LET US HELP YOU WITH THE FINE DETAILS!

● McGimpsey, Erma. "Mildred Largent." *Heroes, Heroines & Headliners: The Legends of Burke County*, 2006, pp. 57-58. Advertising supplement published by The News-Herald of Morganton, NC.