

THE POSTSCRIPT

New Year Inventory

By CARRIE CLASSON
Columnist

The New Year is when we take stock.

In some cases, like my husband Peter's, this is literal. He keeps an inventory of our canned goods and chastises me if I mess up his inventory. "Did you mark off the black beans?" "Um, no." "You have to mark it off on the list or I won't know how many I have." "Oh. Sorry." I am less concerned about our supply of canned goods in the New Year and more concerned about stockpiles closer to home—on my hips, for example.

I had gotten out of the habit of weighing myself, and I decided this was probably unwise. So I started weighing myself in the mornings. Monitoring my weight is far more disconcerting than losing a can of beans. I cannot see how I can go out to dinner, eat a heavy plate of curry, and lose a pound and a half, only to eat almost nothing the next day and gain it back. My weight rises and falls like a rollercoaster. This morning I noticed that I had inexplicably gained two pounds overnight. I looked at myself in the mirror. I looked fine. In fact, I thought I was looking particularly fit. The mirror and I decided the scale was crazy.

The New Year is also an appropriate time to recognize that not all that is lost will be found. It is tempting to believe that the picture frame mysteriously lost in the move will reappear, or that we will find that kitchen gadget that Peter and I are both convinced we

used to own, but no longer seem to. The New Year is a good time to just give up and get a new frame and a new gadget.

The same is true of socks. Socks are like kidnapping victims. If they are not recovered within 48 hours, the odds of them ever returning to their mate are substantially reduced. After three months, as in all True Crime stories, the trail has gone cold.

But then there will be that one (as there was, just the other day) miraculously recovered from beneath the mattress of the bed who was joyfully reunited with its mate because I had not quite abandoned hope. It's things like this that keep me holding on to single socks far too long.

At any rate, I am trying to keep track of things a little better this year. I even bought a daily planner. I didn't have one last year because I remembered what happened to the one I bought in 2020. It had a flurry of events penned in the first two months, then it sat looking at me accusingly from the corner of my desk, unused for the rest of the year.

"What are we doing today?" "Same as yesterday. Nothing." Remembering to go out on the front stoop to talk to the neighbor and her dog did not require an entry in my planner.

So I held off on buying one last year and got along just fine. This year, I gave in, and I am busily filling my new planner with things I'd like to do and accomplish.

It may all be foolish. Perhaps this year will be as uneventful as the last two. Still, there is hope. And I guess that is the point of taking a New Year inventory.

It's the time of year when I imagine life being a little different and somehow a little better. It's the time of year when I make sure my inventory of hopes and dreams is stocked to capacity.

Till next time,
Carrie

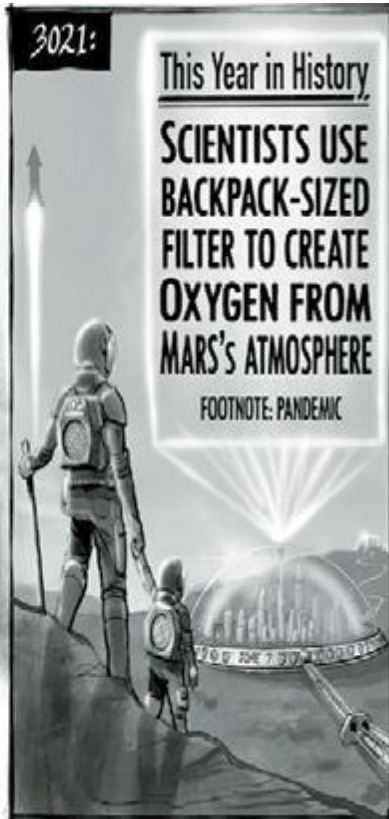
Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

2021:



ARIN LEE
2021 POC by Kim Gentry-Sumner

2021:



Exploring the town of Wrightsville, my hometown

By LORAN SMITH
Columnist

This laid back town of 2,237 is one of the many economically challenged communities across our state (and also the country).

Over the years, it became a familiar stopping place for travelers moving up and down state highway 15, most of them headed to Athens for University of Georgia football games. Or returning home from a sojourn to UGA's famous hedges.

For years, Wrightsville has been a rural outpost which has seen businesses come and go. There have been storefronts boarded up and the textile flight caused the shuttering of an apparel manufacturing plant. That was debilitating, but Wrightsville survived.

Then along came Herschel Walker, the biggest, fastest running back in America. Many football aficionados, including countless college scouts, came to see Herschel run.



Today, Herschel is still running, this time to become a member of the most exclusive club in America, the United States Senate. Sportswriters are interested in his political venture. Political columnists are being drawn here to research his background and early life. Just like the Florida game in 1980, the outcome is in doubt. Will it take a miracle for him to win the day? Nobody knows.

Herschel brought "on the map" status to the seat of Johnson County forty-plus years ago, but it remains something of a sleepy small town dominated by agribusiness.

In the last fortnight, I spent a midday in Wrightsville and was excited with what I learned about my hometown. The people I knew, principally my classmates, have retired or passed on. That includes Hodges Rowland, an attorney, my best friend growing up. He died during peak COVID times, and I was unable to attend his funeral, which will always be regrettable.

The ties in the community with the University of Georgia—directly or indirectly—have always run deep and that has not changed. Donnie Sweat, a highly regarded accountant, and Allen McMichael, whose firm Electro-Mech, produces scoreboards,

Back in the Day

100 Years ago This Week

Announcement of the acceptance by the war department of Henry Ford's offer of \$150,000,00 for the great Muscle Shoals nitrate project will be made following a conference in Washington D.C.

The National Bank of Wilkes, at its annual meeting, reappointed 11 officers and directors for another year. They are, J.A. Moss, president; Boyce Ficklin, vice-president, F.H. Ficklin, cashier. The board of directors is composed of J.A. Moss, Boyce Ficklin, J.A. Benson, J.M. Pitner, W.T. Johnson, M.A. Pharr and W.L. Sutton. This is the largest of the county's seven banks, with resources and liabilities of \$588,250.55.

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Callaway and baby, and Miss Ionia Latimer spent Tuesday of the past week with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spratlin at their apartment in Washington.

75 Years ago This Week

Frank Jackson announced this week the dissolution of the F. and L. Jackson partnership but continuation of food business as Jackson Grocery Store at the same location. Leslie

Jackson will run the café formerly connected with the old concern.

John Gresham has resigned as manager of the bowling alley and has taken a job with John B. Green Drug Co.

L.D. Faver was re-elected mayor by vote of 314 to 268 over Leo Krumbien. Council members for the next four years will be Tom Nash, Willis Lindsay, Rochford Johnson, Dr. Guy Allen, Dr. A.W. Simpson and >. Pembroke Pope. Pope defeated J.H. Blackmon by only one vote. Will Wynne trailed slightly behind Blackmon.

60 Years ago This Week

The Washington Kiwanis Club installed officers for the new year at its meeting last week. Outgoing president J.H. Blackmon turned over the program to the new president, Ed Pope. Other officers are H.H. Barnett, vice -president; Arthur VanSaun, secretary. Directors are Charles Adair, Tom Boyd, F.D. Brooks, W.T. Callaway, M.A. Guill, R.R. Johnson, DeLeon Reynolds and H.C. Standard.

Mr. and Mrs. S.T. Callaway are oc-

cupying the attractive garage apartment on Alexander Drive recently completed by Ed Leard.

50 Years ago This Week

One of the top names in collegiate football will visit Washington next week as guest speaker for the annual football awards banquet sponsored by the Washington Lions Club. Paul Dietzel, head football coach and athletic director at the University of South Carolina, is the featured attraction for the event. Steve Blackmon, a Washington Tiger honored at last year's banquet, is on athletic scholarship at South Carolina and is expected to play for Coach Dietzel next season.

The Wilkes County Board of Education has instructed its attorney, Wilbur Orr, to advertise the North Wilkes Elementary School for sale. After appropriate advertisements have been run, all bids will be opened at the regular meeting of the board on February 7.

Funeral services for Mrs. Maude Elizabeth Taylor Ginn were held Sunday afternoon at Ebenezer Baptist Church with Rev. J. Harold Rowland officiating.

25 Years ago This Week

A surprise stork shower for Krista Perry (Mrs. Barry) Smith Saturday turned out to be a surprise for the hostess, Peggy West. Krista never arrived for the shower! She was busy at Wills Memorial Hospital bringing Zachery Greer Smith into the world. He was supposed to have been born in Augusta, but mom didn't quite make it to Augusta ... and the little boy was the first baby born at Wills Memorial Hospital.

Alecia Gunter of Washington has made an admirable record as a graduate student at the University of Georgia. She was recently notified that she earned a 4.0 grade point average for her courses in fall quarter, following several other quarters in which she earned the perfect 4.0 GPA.

A Rayle man died a violent death Sunday, January 5, when he lost control of his car in a curve and wrecked about three miles north of Washington Ga. Hwy. 17 (Tignall Road.) Raleigh Turner III, 20, of 533 Glenn Road, Rayle, died when the southbound car left the roadway, skidded back across the road, struck a tree, and burst into flames.



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Telephone: 706-678-2636.
email: editor@news-reporter.com

editor and publisher:

Michael Bowen

managing editor and
advertising manager:

Joan Bowen

Circulation manager:

George Bowen

Office Assistant:

Margaret Griggs

Staff Reporter:

Morris Branson

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equipped for work like this." Jeri's story is based on circumstantial evidence backed up by extensive research and interviews, and although compelling, is far from conclusive. She files an official complaint which requires Lacy to initiate an investigation for at least 45 days. She reluctantly pursues the accusation with some help from a dying office sleuth, a second investigator and her ambivalent boyfriend.

We learn that Judge Bannick is seeking revenge on all those he feels have wronged him, starting over 20 years ago with the murder of a Boy Scout leader by whom he had been sexually abused. It is only a matter of time until he turns his murderous eyes on Jeri or Lacy.

I had a hard time putting this novel down. The characters are very well written and their backstories compelling. In order to enjoy a novel like this you have to suspend logic at times. That being said I did feel that it dragged in places and some of the situations are laughable. For example: I found it hard to believe that the FBI would ignore the fact that murders, even if they were not in the same state, with the same modius operandi and with ties to the same person, would be ignored. In the end that is a small price to pay for the entertainment provided.

Since 1991 and his debut novel "The Firm" John Grisham has been writing legal thrillers that are perpetual best-sellers. When an author is prolific, as Grisham is, there may be a tendency to dismiss their works as trivial or mundane. This would discount the gifts that made them favorites. The book "The Judges List", his 37th novel, is a first-rate crime novel.

The lead character, Lacy Stoltz,

is an investigator for the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct as readers may remember from the 2016 best-seller "The Whistler." In this novel Lacy reluctantly agrees to meet with Jeri Crosby, whose father was murdered 20 years ago. She has been obsessively stalking a man that she has become convinced is her father's killer as well as being responsible for the deaths of several other victims. All had been strangled with the same kind of rope tied around their neck using a distinctive double clove hitch knot; they had also had been bludgeoned with a blunt object prior to their death. She believes that the killer is a Florida judge named Ross Bannick.

Lacy is not convinced either by Jeri's story or, whether her under-funded department is the appropriate agency to investigate. She tells her "We're just not

are seasoned Bulldog fans and have always had Georgia on their minds.

There are three women in Wrightsville's mainstream who made my day and make me believe that there will be economic sunshine in Wrightsville if more young people follow in their footsteps.

Janibeth Outlaw, a graphic artist, is the mayor, the town's first female official. She goes through her day thinking of ways to make things better for the town and community. She gave me one of her sketches of the water tank which offers a welcome to those passing through, proclaiming that Wrightsville is the "friendliest town in Georgia." Can't wait to get it framed for my office wall.

One of the projects she has in mind is a Herschel Walker Museum. She has had conversations with the principal, the man who wore No. 34 between the hedges, and while he can't give it priority at the moment, he is appreciative of her objective and will support the project.

Then Janibeth introduced me to sisters Stephenie Reagan and Allie Lee—pharmacists, who grew up here and were graduated from Georgia Southern and subsequently South University School of Pharmacy in Savannah. From

the outset, they planned to return home and take up residency here and raise their children in the environment with which they are passionately familiar.

They both hold the view that their hometown offered a pleasant experience for them when they were coming along, and they want the same for their kids. With their winsome smiles and ebullient personalities, they are doing their part to confirm that Wrightsville is, indeed, the friendliest town in Georgia.

Their story is such a beautiful one. They worked part time through their high school years at Sumner's Pharmacy, owned by Joe and Jean Sumner which influenced them to become pharmacists professionally. They came home and purchased the business as their former employer was segueing into retirement.

There is a buzz in the atmosphere with their customer friendly manner. They are all about teamwork, helping hands, pride in hometown and being good neighbors.

Serendipity lashed me repeatedly on my most recent visit to my hometown. The next time I need a bottle of aspirin, I may drive home and ask Stephenie and Allie to take care of my pharmaceutical needs.