

The Times-News bids farewell to its photographer of 43 years, Mr. Jack Sink

VISION WAS OURS

Story by Nate DeGraff / Layout by Abby Horton

HE EMPLOYER A PAPER NAPKIN on these occasions, when the pulverizing summer heat draws sweat from his furrowed brow.

He shaves, but not today. He keeps his hair short, his collar clean. The grooves in his right hand say he spends little time in an office. He is not Jack Sink, but because of Jack Sink, we know much about him.

Jack Sink you see, took his picture. For 46 years, Jack Sink has taken pictures — and delivered newspapers — for the Times-News. It's the only place he's ever worked. In an age when journalists hop like jack rabbits from one job to the next, Sink is a refreshing anomaly.

On July 1, he will retire from the newspaper. "Jack knows everyone in Alamance County and I think everyone in Alamance County knows Jack," said Steve Buckley, publisher of the Times-News. "When you lose that, I mean, that's so much institutional knowledge."

Sink has photographed riots and births, wins and losses. He's shot Arnold Palmer and Elvis Presley. His photographs have appeared on wire services and newspapers worldwide.

Sink, 62, is modest about his accomplishments, but the record speaks for itself. Though he didn't enter a photography contest until 1980, Sink has won dozens of awards, including at least seven from the North Carolina Press Association.

"Sometimes people settle for less-than-quality work," said Don Bolden, a former editor who spent 51 years with the newspaper. "Not Jack."

Sink is a delightful interview, though he's clearly uncomfortable with the recent attention. When a reporter asks him about the high points of his career, he brushes the question aside and instead begins to pick through the pile of photographs spread on the conference table before him.

But when he starts talking, the eyes dance, the right index finger pokes the reporter's knee ("I'll tell you something else, too ...") and a half-century of memories rush out.

"It's just awesome to look back and see the time and see how you did," he said.

JACKIE WARREN SINK WAS BORN in a Burlington doctor's office May 8, 1941. But he wasn't Jackie Sink for long. When he was in middle school, he heard some children talking about how "Jackie" was a girl's name. This troubled the little boy so much, he marched with his mother down to the Graham courthouse and changed his name right there on the spot.

From then on, he was Jack Sink, but everyone called him Jack. His father was a carpenter and his mother, like almost everyone else in Burlington, worked in a mill. Neither parent was educated past the sixth grade, but it was a steady household. Religion always came first in the Sink family.

Jack's childhood was typical of those around him. He played baseball. He went to church. He fished, often with his dad.

It took a tragedy for him to find the newspaper. In 1957, Jack's father came down with a blood clot in his left eye. When the doctors couldn't fix it, they removed the eye, and Jack's father couldn't work for a year. If the family was going to survive, Jack needed a job.

LATER THAT YEAR, AN INDEPENDENT CARRIER for The Daily Times-News offered to pay Jack to help him deliver the paper. In those days, the paper arrived on doorsteps at 5 p.m., so every afternoon Jack would leave his 10th-grade classes early and ride around with the carrier, folding the papers and tossing them onto lawns and driveways in rural Alamance County.

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Jack Sink, 1988

OPEN HOUSE FOR JACK

The Times-News will have an open house honoring Jack Sink this Thursday evening from 5:30 until 7.

You're invited to stop by and give Jack a hand time. And you're welcome to turn the tables on him and take his picture.

We've included some samples of Jack's photography through the years in a special picture page on the back of today's Accent section, Page B10.

Former governor to return for 30th 'Sword of Peace'

With a veteran staff and new lighting, the Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre expects a promising summer of historic drama. See page B1.

By Tom Dillon
Times-News

SNOW CAMP — The trees will be taller and the hair a good bit grayer when "The Sword of Peace," Alamance County's signature outdoor drama, opens its 30th year Wednesday night at the Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre.

But some of the performers

will be the same, including former North Carolina Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr.

Holshouser, who gave the keynote speech at the opening of both the theater and "The Sword of Peace" 30 years ago, has agreed to reprise his visit Wednesday.

The former governor, the only sitting governor ever to attend the play, is to talk at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday before the show opens at 8. The talk and a brief 30th anniversary celebration will precede the usual pre-show entertainment.

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Professor dishes out family advice



Larry Basirico, a sociology professor at Elon University, has written a book on how to survive family reunions without avoiding them.

By Bill Crescenzo
Times-News

Are you dreading this summer's family reunion?

Are you worried Aunt Sarah will drink too much — again — and lecture herself in the bedroom, sobbing that the family never understood her?

Does your big brother still make you cry, even though you are 48, have a law degree, a medical license, three kids and a big old house?

Then maybe Larry Basirico can help. The Elon University sociology professor has published a book called, appropriately, "The Family Reunion Survival Guide: How to Avoid Problems with Your Family without Avoiding Your Family."

It's a slim guide — just 82 pages, including a bibliography. Basirico made it short on purpose, so it would be accessible to everyone.

But aside are information-filled chapters such as "Great Expectations: Anticipating the Family Reunion" and "The Ins, Outs and In-Between: In-Law Dilemmas."

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Odds rising for diabetes, CD warnings

By Janet McConaghey
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — One in three U.S. children born in 2000 will become diabetic unless many more people start eating less and exercising more, a scientist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns.

The odds are worse for black and Hispanic children: Nearly half of them are likely to develop the disease, said Dr. K.M. Venkat Narayan, a diabetes epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"I think the fact that the diabetes epidemic has been rag-

ing has been well known to us for several years. But looking at the risk in these terms was very shocking to us," Narayan said.

The 33 percent lifetime risk is about triple the American Diabetes Association's current estimate.

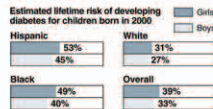
The implications are frightening, because diabetes is a host of problems, including blindness, kidney failure, amputation and heart disease, and diabetics are getting younger and younger.

Including undiagnosed cases, authorities believe about 17 million Americans, nearly 6

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U.S. children likely to develop diabetes

About 17 million Americans have diabetes — the fifth-leading cause of death in the United States. A new report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests that unless health habits change for the better, one in three U.S. children will develop the disease.



NOTE: Estimates were made using data from the annual National Health Interview Survey, which interviewed about 350,000 people between 1984 and 2000; the U.S. Census Bureau and a previous study on diabetes as cause of death.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Isolation period ends for man who had SARS

By Gary D. Robertson
The Associated Press

RALEIGH — The first confirmed SARS patient in North Carolina got some good news Saturday, with health officials ending the isolation order that kept him at home.

The Orange County man, who apparently contracted the respiratory virus while visiting Canada, has shown no symptoms of severe acute respiratory syndrome for 10 days, a prerequisite to ending the order. Two family members, also no longer need to be isolated, since they have remained healthy.

"He and his family are free to move about," said Carol Schreiber of the state Department of Health and Human Services.

The SARS patient works at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He won't return to work until he is assessed by university health officials, Schreiber said. Two UNC-CH workers who worked in the same building as the SARS patient contracted pneumonia. One of them died Friday, a 45-year-old Wake County man. The victim, who was not identified by pub-

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