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We hope you enjoy revisiting this Remembering column



## First Class - 3¢ Postage?

Do you remember the 3¢ postage stamp? Well, not only do I remember that, but I remember some of the rural carriers - none of whom had the privilege of driving their routes on paved roads!

Of course the "old timers" are now deceased, such as John Watson, Fred Eason, George Burns, Sr...and the list goes on and on. There were so very many more!

This actually happened - some of the folks wanting to send a pound of butter, 1/2 dozen eggs or whatever to one of their neighbors on the same mail route would set the package on the mailbox and the carrier took care of it. I heard Lucy's mother tell many stories about the "mailman" years gone by. Sometimes the mailman would be surprised to get fried chicken, pie, cake or some other "goodie" for him and his family's supper.

All this serves to remind you that all the roads are paved now - but the 3¢ first class postage stamp "just ain't no more!" The powers that be "up in Washington" have tried to sell many items to help the postal system - in fact I have collected some!

Any how, we can and do have some great memories of days gone by - paved roads or not. And, we give thanks to so many dedicated carriers through the years!!  
 Ed

### Letter to the Editor

#### Writer Trying to Find Lilesville Soldier Who Helped Him in 1962

Dear Editor,

I believe it was near Christmas 1962. I was in the US Navy, stationed in Norfolk, VA. On a Friday evening I was hitchhiking home for the weekend to Monroe, NC, 300 miles away from Norfolk, which I did on occasion.

I had made it to Raleigh, and needed to catch another ride. I caught another ride with a person who was in the military, also stationed in Norfolk. I believe he said he was in the Air Force or Army, but I can't remember for sure. I was 22 years old, and I believe he said he was 21 years old. I do not remember his name, but he said he was from Lilesville. He was about 5'9" and weighed about 160 pounds, seemed to be a very nice person. As we were nearing Lilesville he said he would take me home (another 1 hour drive each way for him).

We stopped at his home in Lilesville so he could tell his parents he was taking me home. He invited me in to meet his parents, and they were very nice to me. After that we continued on to my home in Union County, arriving there about 11:00 p.m. This was very accommodating for him to do this for me, a total stranger.

I have had no contact with him since. On November 3, 1995 I met a single lady who lived in Lilesville, and on June 1, 1996 we were married in Lilesville Baptist Church. We now reside in Union County. Since then I have told my story to a number of people in Lilesville hoping someone would know who that person was, but with no luck yet.

I hope someone can help identify and locate this person. I would like very much to meet him again. Thanks for any help someone may can offer. My name is Norman Whitley and I can be reached at 704-764-3192 or by email at [norman.whitley@yahoo.com](mailto:norman.whitley@yahoo.com). Thank you, Norman Allen Whitley

### State Leaders Meet to Strengthen Fire Service

#### NC fire service and government leaders meet to discuss solutions for the decline in volunteerism

NC Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin met with fire service leaders from across North Carolina as part of the Volunteerism Steering Committee at Elon University in Burlington, NC on Sept. 29, 2016.

In the recent State Legislative session through NC House Bill 287, Commissioner Goodwin requested and subsequently received authorization and endorsement to research and develop a report focused on firefighter volunteerism. North Carolina has experienced dynamic shifts that have negatively impacted and are continuing to impact volunteerism in the fire and rescue service throughout the country.

"The declining number of volunteer firefighters in North Carolina and across the country is extremely concerning but I know this group will be up to the task," said Goodwin. "We accomplished a lot of good work today and we will continue to explore viable alternatives and potential opportunities to strengthen fire service across North Carolina."

Fire Service and Government leaders from across North Carolina gathered to help address growing concerns about the volunteer firefighter shortage. State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin met with representatives from the NC State Firefighters Association, NC Association of Fire Chiefs, NC Association of Rescue and EMS, NC League of Municipalities, NC Association of County Commissioners, National Volunteer Fire Council, NC School of Government, NC Community Colleges and the National Fire Protection Association.

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