

WINTER 2021-2022

# SALISBURY

the magazine



## man of VISION

*A China Grove staple,  
Bobby Mault has been  
behind several community ventures*

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IS LEADER OF YOUNG MEN

**Temple Israel**  
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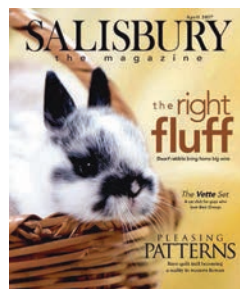
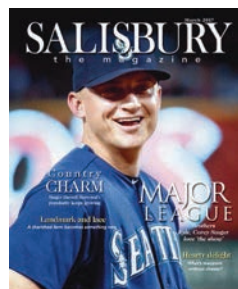
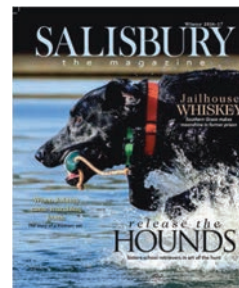
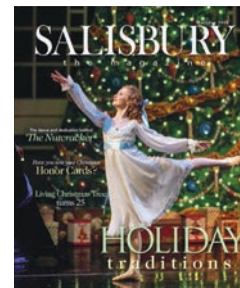
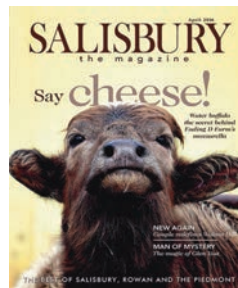
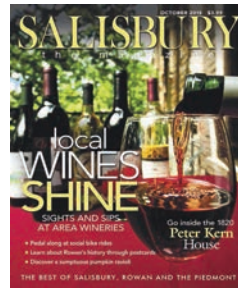
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Bobby Mault has overseen  
several community projects

by DAVID FREEZE

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Temple Israel synagogue finds its new home

by SUSAN SHINN TURNER

*On the cover: Bobby Mault and his wife, Ruby, man the Mault Bros. service station  
at the intersection of highways 152 and 153. (Jon C. Lakey photo)*

*On this page: A menorah is silhouetted at Temple Israel synagogue.  
(Susie Post-Rust photo)*



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# A familiar face taking the reins

**R**oughly six years ago, Mark Wineka, just named editor of Salisbury the Magazine, summed up the purpose of the publication with a simple message: Salisbury's the place.

Salisbury is the place for a magazine that celebrates the people, places and things we take pride in, he wrote. With each issue, Wineka worked to show readers why Salisbury is the place.

In the ensuing six years, Mark, designer Andy Mooney, photographer Jon Lakey, staffers and a cadre of contributors succeeded beyond anyone's wildest dreams in creating the finest local magazine in the state of North Carolina. Time and again, the North Carolina Press Association named the magazine the best of its kind in the Tar Heel State. More often than not, it won first and second or third in its category.

Even after he retired at the end of 2019 from full-time work at the Post, Mark served as editor of the magazine for two years, carrying it through the



Susan Shinn Turner

depths of the pandemic and continuing to tell readers why Salisbury's the place as it became harder than ever to connect with neighbors and friends. It might have seemed simple, asking readers to submit pictures, but the summer 2020 edition was one of the most unique yet — showing the fruits of people's quarantines.

As we sheltered, our creative talents ignored boundaries, Mark wrote in the pandemic edition.

The Holiday 2021 edition of Salisbury the Magazine was the start

of Mark's full-time retirement. A familiar face is taking the reins of the much-loved publication: Susan Shinn Turner.

Turner is a southern Rowan County girl who's written extensively about Salisbury and long ago stopped needing directions to get around town. If there's a story floating around Salisbury or Rowan County, she's heard it.

She's a China Grove native who graduated with honors from South Rowan High School. She went on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, earning a bachelor's degree in journalism. During her career, she's worked for four North Carolina newspapers, including the Post.

Since 2013, Turner has been a full-time freelance writer, with frequent appearances in the Post and Salisbury the Magazine.

She's the daughter of Cora Shinn and the late Ed Shinn, who died Aug. 2. She is the wife of Jim Turner, and her son, Andrew Poe, is a 2019 graduate of Catawba College.

When she's not writing or reading, Turner enjoys spending time with her family and walking Deacon, the white Labrador retriever she gave her hus-

band — a third-generation Wake Forest fan — for his milestone birthday this year. That may or may not have been a wise decision. Time will tell.

We're thrilled to have her take on the editing job and know that she'll hit the ground running, finding stories about the people and places that make Salisbury and Rowan County unique.

Send her your story ideas, introduce yourself or say congratulations to a friend by emailing [susanshinnturner@gmail.com](mailto:susanshinnturner@gmail.com).

*Josh Bergeron is editor of the Salisbury Post.*





THROUGH THE LENS by Andy Mooney

*Water is illuminated  
with colored lights at  
the Water Wall at Bell  
Tower Green Park.*





# Bland Simpson defines NC through photos

**T**he next time somebody asks you to describe North Carolina, pull out and read aloud this quote from the beginning pages of Bland Simpson's new book.

"It is a line of sandbars some nearly thirty miles out into the Atlantic Ocean some less than a mile from the mainland; a set of broad, flat terraces, vast farm lands, and timber stands broken by willow-clad rivers both black water and brown and by their deep gum and cypress swamps, occasional bluffs, and green and golden marshes; a host of hills made of red clay and sand, growing pines called loblolly and longleaf, oaks called white and red and turkey and blackjack, red maples and river birches and hickories with shaggy bark; and then a profusely eruptive land of tall folds upon folds, peaks, ridges and rocky tops, domes, cliffs, grassy balds, and gorges, a host of mile-high mountains, too, with a vast quilt of blue haze laid out over it all."

Then, if you really like this person, guide her to Simpson's new book, "North Carolina: Land of Water, Land of Sky." It is stuffed full of color photographs of sights across North Carolina taken by Simpson's wife, Ann Cary Simpson, professional photographer Scott Taylor, and naturalist Tom Earnhardt.

The lovely photos supplement the book's main attraction, a trip across North Carolina led by a master communicator who is thoroughly familiar with and deeply in love with his subject.

In his first section, "This Wet and Water-Loving Land," Simpson takes readers up and down

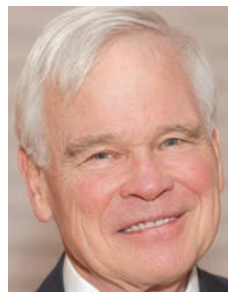
the coast from "sleepy Plymouth," to the British Cemetery on Ocracoke Island, through the swampy land of the Lumbee along the Lumber River, winding up in Southport and its gravesites "beneath the bending and yearning live oaks, the small sassafras, the unmoving Spanish moss."

In his second section, "Short Hills and Sand Hills," he guides us across the Piedmont including poignant stops from his boyhood in Chapel Hill's Battle Woods, Forest Theatre, and Gimghoul Castle.

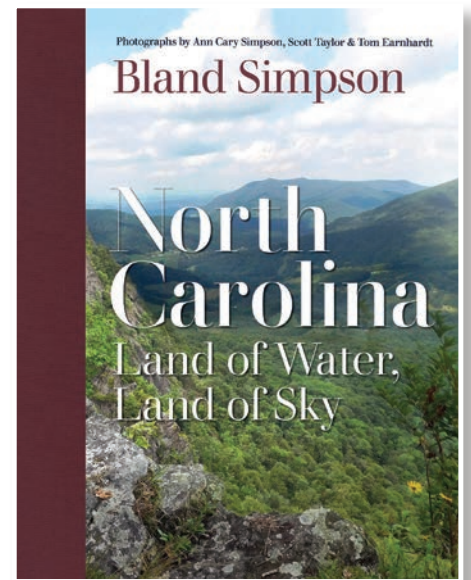
He shows us other underappreciated sites all over the region,

including, for instance, "The Uwharries stand tall and proud high above the same-named river that flows through them, national forest and a mountain range (one of the oldest on earth) comprising the biggest wilderness in the middle of North Carolina, a great wild country scarcely known, if at all, to most of our citizens. South and west of Asheboro, west of Troy and the state zoo and the state pottery center in Seagrove, this 50,000-acre big empty with its almost 1,000-foot peaks lures wild spirits to it, for the Uwharries are full of streams, trails, and ghosts."

Simpson's third section, "Jump-up Country," demonstrates that, while his prior writings have focused on the eastern part of the state, he has not neglected the awesome treasures of the rivers and high mountains in the west. He takes us to some of his favorites. One of them, Max Patch in Madison County near the Tennessee line, "a-top-of-the-world corner" about which he writes, "With a 360-degree view, we looked



by  
D.G.  
MARTIN



down upon a rim of hills all around us and rolling blue hills beyond us in all directions, at crags and haze and clouds already in valleys near and far below, this midafternoon of a summer's day."

The book concludes on a somber note, Simpson's visit with William Friday shortly before he died in 2012. Friday warned that the natural treasures, such as the ones described and illustrated in this book, were in peril. He saw only negative actions from state government regarding the preservation of our rivers and streams.

Simpson concludes, "What Mr. Friday saw — and foresaw — was instead a message of carelessness, recklessness, and even defiance of common sense, and this was what had so clearly driven his concerns about water during the last months of his life."

*D.G. Martin hosted "North Carolina Bookwatch," for more than 20 years. **S***





**Left:** Martha Corriher visits with Marquez Rosebure, a native of southern Rowan County and graduate of South Rowan High School, when he was home on leave. Martha is paying his Legion dues while he is stationed in Germany with the Air Force. **Right:** Martha Corriher with two of her grandchildren, Wrigley and Jett Benfield.

# Dedication to service

*Martha Corriher has volunteered with American Legion Auxiliary since 1984*

BY SUSAN SHINN TURNER

**O**n the first Saturday of the month, you can always find Martha Corriher at the Landis American Legion for its hot dog and hamburger and yard sale fundraisers. The legion and auxiliary both have their meetings on this day as well, so it's a good time for all of the activities.

"We do well," Martha says. "It's a monthly gathering

spot for friends to meet and visit and chat."

Money raised keeps the post up and running and helps with programming.

Martha is accounts receivable secretary for Frank Corriher Beef and Sausage, her husband's third-generation family business, but she sets her own schedule. So when she's not with her husband or children or grandchildren, you can likely find her volunteering with the auxiliary.



***How did you come to be so involved with the Landis American Legion Auxiliary in Landis?***

My membership year started in 1984. Sarah Linn Drye was the president of the auxiliary. She wanted Shelley, my oldest daughter, to be poppy queen. Shelley was 7. In order for her to be eligible, a family member had to join. We talked my daddy, Duard Cress, into joining. When he joined, I joined. At that time, we brought in seven new auxiliary members. Daddy was elected commander and was re-elected for probably about 15 years. I got elected into different positions and president of the auxiliary, which I still am. (She has also held leadership positions on the state and national and levels.)

The American Legion was chartered Feb. 3, 1945, and received its permanent charter in 1946. My birthday is Feb. 3. That's part of the connection that tugs on my heart.

***What continues to motivate you as you raise money for the auxiliary?***

The American Legion Auxiliary raises funds for various programs for veterans, community service, children and youth, national security, and the list goes on. We have more than 20 programs.

I want to teach the youth, especially my grandchildren, that you need to be patriotic. You need to be service oriented. You need to do for others without seeking anything in return. What you get back is more than any amount of money you raised.

What motivated me from the beginning was going to the VA with Sarah Drye to play Bingo with veterans. We became their family. They always looked forward to our coming once a month, and we continue to go.

***What person has been the biggest influence in your life and why?***

Sarah Linn Drye got the ball rolling as far as my being involved with the organization. I promised Sarah before she died that I would help keep the Legion going and keep the Auxiliary going as long as I could. I can't break that promise. Then we all jumped in as a family and took part in the local post.



*The auxiliary commissioned this red, white, and blue quilt for a female veteran severely injured during her service.*

***What makes you such a patriotic person?***

After hearing some of the veterans' stories and realizing they don't have family close, it means a lot I can share my passion. Veterans are my heart. My dad instilled it in me. It's just one of those things that I can't stop. It's like I'm obsessed!

***What is something most people don't know about you?***

I was raised on a farm. We weren't dirt poor but we weren't wealthy by any standards. I don't mind getting my hands dirty. I take out all my aggressions by working on the landscaping at the American Legion building. I vent through yard work.

***What are some other passions in your life?***

The other passions are my children and my grandchildren. My husband George and I have three grown daughters and six grandchildren, ages 8 to 19, three boys and three girls. They're all into something: baseball, basketball, video games, cheerleading, softball, horseback riding. They just fill my day. We spend a lot of weekends at the ball fields.

Then during the week it's school ball and rec ball. I make sure I do all my other stuff that's

important to me when they're in school or at night when we're not together so I can cover all my bases.

***What's your pet peeve?***

For someone to tell me they're going to do something and they don't do it, or say they believe in something and do the complete opposite. I don't confront them about it, but I don't forget it.

***If you could recommend one book and one movie to someone, what would they be?***

The book would be the Bible. It is not just a religious reference, but it's an encyclopedia for me.

The movie is "Gone With the Wind." I've always loved the movie because of the historical value of it, and I've been to the mill where it was filmed.

***Five words to describe Landis:***

Supportive, friendly, giving, quiet, quaint.

***Two foods that are always in your fridge or pantry?***

Macaroni and cheese and peanut butter.

***If you could talk to a young Martha Cress Corriher, what's the best advice you could give her in the years ahead?***

Be true to yourself. Don't let someone else feed your brain with your thoughts. Figure it out for yourself. You can't change someone else. They have to be willing to make that change on their own.

***Anything else you'd like to add?***

The Legion is located in Landis at 412 N. Central Ave., and our members come from various communities in the area. Some even live out of state. We're always looking for new members, so if you're looking for a very family oriented post, that's what we are. We meet the first Saturday of the month, in the morning.

For more information about the Landis American Legion Post 146 or the Landis American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146, call Martha Corriher at 704-798-3625. **S**





*Salisbury High football coach  
Brian Hinson during the  
3rd annual Rowan County  
Football Jamboree in August.  
(Jon C. Lakey photo)*

# ‘Great man, great leader of men’

*Salisbury football coach Brian Hinson  
builds his players up, on and off the field*

BY MIKE LONDON





*Hinson celebrates with his team after Salisbury High defeated Randleman to win the 2AA Eastern Regional Championship in 2019. (Jon C. Lakey photo)*

Vance Honeycutt is an athlete good enough to be recruited by the University of North Carolina and special enough to get drafted by Major League Baseball.

But Honeycutt didn't play football as a Salisbury High freshman. So when he reported to summer workouts prior to his sophomore year as a quarterback hopeful, his expectations were low and his confidence was lower.

There were four QBs on hand. Honeycutt figured he had to be No. 4 on the depth chart.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," Honeycutt said. "I really wanted to get to play some, so I asked Coach (Brian) Hinson if I could go run some pass routes with the receivers. He told me to stick with the quarterbacks. He'd heard that I could throw it and he believed in me."

That day in 2018 was the start of a football journey for Honeycutt that peaked in May 2021 with a football state championship for Salisbury. Honeycutt scored four touchdowns that night and threw for a fifth in an emphatic 42-21 victory against St. Pauls. Honeycutt was voted the game's Most Valuable Player.

"I think it all got started because Coach Hinson had faith in me and always expected me to give the very best I had," Honeycutt said. "From that summer workout right through the championship game."

*Hinson grabs a frustrated Vance Honeycutt during a conversation early in the 2AA championship game last season. (Josh Bergeron photo)*





Hinson, 45, has been a transformational figure for Salisbury High's football program and for the school.

Honeycutt's rise is just one example.

"Brian Hinson is a great man and a great leader of men," said Mike Herndon, Salisbury football's defensive coordinator. "The day they decided to hire him was a great day for Salisbury High and the Salisbury community."

When Salisbury High tabbed Hinson as the new head coach in March 2017, then-principal Luke Brown announced, "Hinson stood above and beyond all others after an extensive search with many highly qualified candidates."

That proved to be one of the most accurate scouting reports of all-time.

Hinson grew up in Star, a small town in Montgomery County with a population of about 850.

He didn't grow up poor, exactly, but he learned the value of a hard-earned dollar early in life. Hinson's father preached and worked blue-collar jobs. His mother cleaned houses and buildings before she went to trade school and became a beautician.

Hinson learned football from his father and three older brothers. They played the game rough and hard in the backyard, and Hinson had to get tough or die. He was pancaked frequently by those older siblings.

Hinson knew when he was in middle school he wanted to grow up to be a football coach. He was drawing up plays in his notebook.

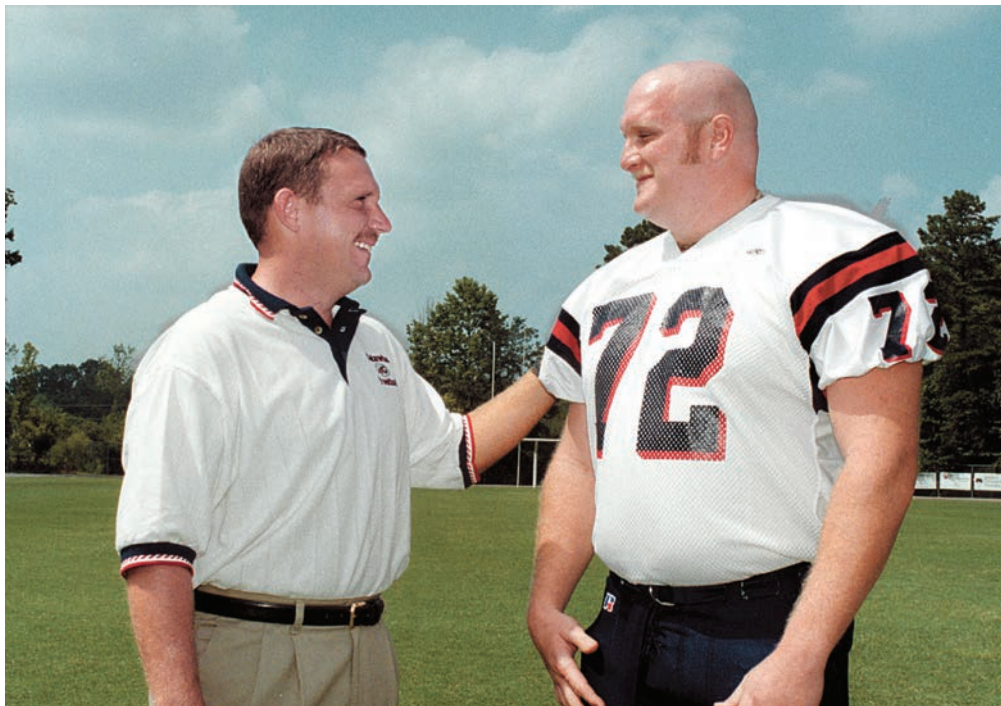
In time, he became a standout in athletics and in the classroom at East Montgomery High. He was president of his senior class, but there was never any sense of entitlement.

"There were a lot of Fridays when I played in a football game and got up early on Saturday morning to work in a restaurant," Hinson said. "Cutting potato wedges, washing dishes, wiping tables, frying hush puppies. You name it."

While Hinson developed into a stellar high school offensive lineman, he didn't know if he'd get a shot at college football.

Recruiters weren't beating down his door. His mother was his "agent." She made calls to coaches.

Catawba College's former offensive line coach



*Catawba lineman Brian Hinson in 1999 with offensive coordinator Jamie Snider. (Jon C. Lakey photo)*



*From left, East Rowan Head Football Coach Brian Hinson, Salisbury Assistant Coach Piotr Kalinowski and Coastal Carolina University Head Football Coach David Bennett in 2007. (Jon C. Lakey photo)*

Jamie Snider came to scout East Montgomery one night in the 1994 season. Snider had been informed, probably by recruiting rivals, that Hinson was 6-foot-1, 250 pounds.

Snider was in for a pleasant shock. Hinson was more like 6-foot-4, 270. Snider was practically doing backflips.

Hinson wowed Catawba coaches in a tryout. He arrived as a raw Catawba recruit at a fortuitous time, just as new head coach David Bennett was beginning to elevate Catawba's football fortunes.

Bennett was a tough-to-beat recruiter. Once he got in a potential Catawba player's living





*Salisbury High Coach Brian Hinson watches the action during a game against South Rowan in April. (Wayne Hinshaw photo)*

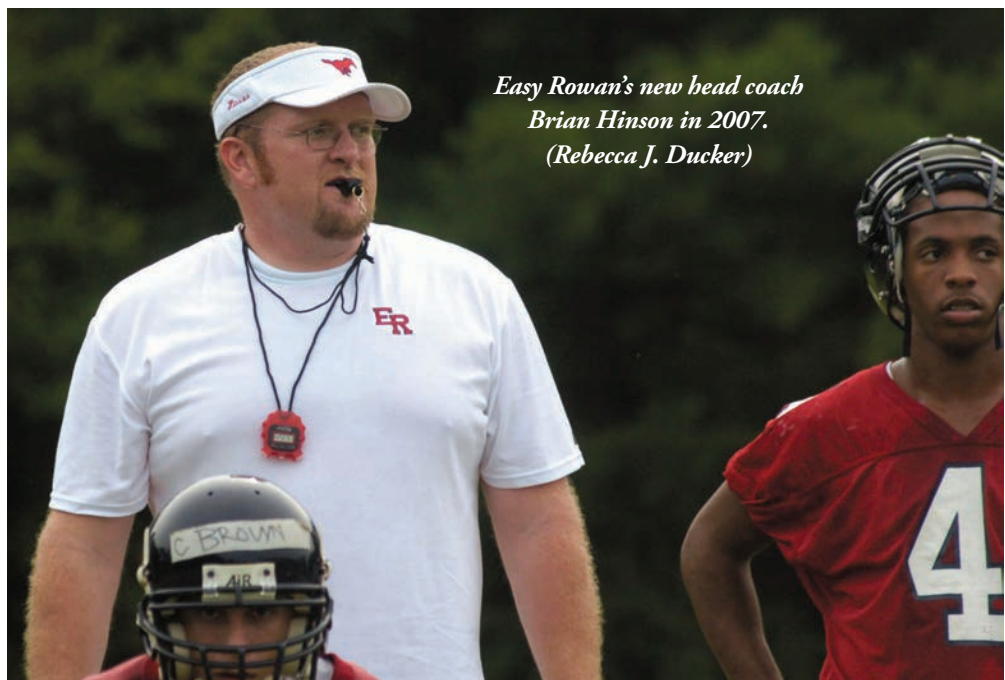
room, it was over because mothers loved him and wanted their sons to play for him. Bennett didn't even talk about football and playing time. He talked about looking after their sons. He talked about their sons going to church in Salisbury and growing up to be college graduates who were good fathers and good husbands.

Who could say "no" to that?

Bennett built quite a program. His influence on Hinson's own priorities can still be seen.

Hinson redshirted at Catawba in 1995, the year Bennett transformed a 2-9 squad into a 7-3 contender.

Redshirt years are a boring grind, but Hinson stuck it out through endless 6 a.m. practices that seemed empty at the time. He knew quitting would mean going to work in a factory back



*Easy Rowan's new head coach Brian Hinson in 2007. (Rebecca J. Ducker)*

home.

Hinson's patience was rewarded. He became a huge part of the joyride that followed. He started at left tackle as a redshirt freshman, made All-

South Atlantic Conference as a sophomore and was named to Division II All-America teams his last two seasons.

"I just kind of got lucky and I got to learn





*Salisbury High Coach Brian Hinson talks with quarterback Mike McLean during a game against Oak Grove High in 2018. (Jon C. Lakey photo)*

from great people,” Hinson said. “The asset I had as an offensive lineman was good feet because I’d always been a basketball player. We never pass-blocked at East Montgomery, but that meant I didn’t have any bad habits to unlearn at Catawba.”

By Hinson’s senior season, 1999, Catawba was a regional powerhouse. The Indians went 11-2 that season, losing to national runner-up Carson-Newman twice, including a 28-25 struggle in Jefferson City, Tenn., in the second round of the playoffs.

Hinson received the Kirkland Award as Catawba’s top senior male athlete and the Jacobs Blocking Trophy as the SAC’s top offensive lineman. He was the first Catawba player to take home the Jacobs award.

He capped his playing career in the Snow Bowl All-Star Game played in Fargo, North Dakota. He graduated in 2000 with a physical education degree.

Hinson’s first two years as a high school coach were spent on coach Roger Secreast’s staff at North Rowan. Secreast was an offensive innovator, a spread advocate long before it came into vogue. He was also a coach who could get kids

to play their hearts out for the coaching staff, for their school and for each other.

Next, Hinson rejoined Bennett, Snider and defensive coordinator Curtis Walker as a graduate assistant at Coastal Carolina University. Bennett left Catawba to get the program started there. Hinson earned a master’s degree in elementary education at Coastal Carolina as well as a Big South Conference championship ring.

In 2005, Hinson returned to Rowan County, his adopted home and the home of his wife, Shanna Benson. He had been hired by East Rowan.

He progressed at East from offensive line coach (2005) to offensive coordinator (2006) to his first head coaching job. He grabbed the reins at East shortly before Christmas in 2006. He was thrilled at the promotion, but that’s a school where football has been a struggle far more often than not.

It was an exciting time for him. He was approaching his 30th birthday. The family’s first child was on the way.

He took on a daunting task. East had gone a discouraging 16-61 the previous seven seasons under four different head coaches.

East’s finest record during that difficult stretch was the 5-7 mark orchestrated by head coach Will Orbin in 2004. East winning five times was regarded as such a remarkable feat that Orbin was named the Salisbury Post’s Coach of the Year.

When Hinson took over, East hadn’t won a playoff game since 1997 and hadn’t beaten a Rowan County opponent since 2001.

But Hinson learned a lot from Bennett and Secreast, and not just the chalkboard stuff. He learned how to handle people and how to inspire them.

East got tougher mentally and physically on his watch.

The Mustangs went 7-5 his first season as head coach and returned to relevance in Rowan County. After an humbling 1-10 in 2008 — Hinson learned from that too — East bounced back with a 9-4 mark in 2009 and even won a playoff game, in overtime, to end a 12-year drought.

East was outscored by opponents overall in 2009, yet won nine of 13 games. That’s almost impossible to do, but East won the close ones, Friday after Friday.



Despite the on-field success in Granite Quarry, Hinson's years at East were spent trying to figure out what he wanted to do next. He still dreamed of being a college head coach. So, when the offer came to coach the offensive line at Catawba, he said "yes" to head coach Chip Hester and the Indians and farewell to East.

At the time, he thought he was saying goodbye to high school coaching.

Hinson served as Catawba's offensive line coach for three seasons under Hester. He stayed on after Walker, his colleague at Coastal Carolina, was hired to replace Hester as head coach in December 2012.

The announcement in March 2017 that Hinson would be taking command at Salisbury was surprising at first, but Hinson explained he'd coached college football as well as high school football, and high school was where he could make the greater impact.

High school coaching was his calling, he believed, and he was a different person in 2017 than when he'd left East in 2010.

"One of the first questions I was asked in my interview at Salisbury was, 'Was it a mistake to leave East Rowan?'" Hinson said. "My answer was that, no, it wasn't a mistake. I was in my early 30s then and I had goals and dreams as far as coaching college football. If I hadn't taken the O-line job at Catawba when it was offered, I might have regretted that decision the rest of my life, always wondering what might have been. You learn as you go. Now I'm sure the most positive impact that I can have, the biggest difference that I can make, is with the high school kids. That's what I want to do. Now I know where I want to be."

There's an assumption it's routine to win in football at Salisbury because there's no shortage of athletes, but history says that's not the case.

In the 1990s, the Hornets had one winning season in football.

In the four seasons prior to Hinson's arrival, the Hornets had no winning records.

Hinson turned things around quickly, building a coaching staff, building up players in the weight room and building confidence and toughness.

"He brought in good coaches and he lets his coaches coach," Herndon said. "He doesn't try to do it all himself."

*Salisbury Coach Brian Hinson talks with the officials about a call in 2019. (Jon C. Lakey photo)*



He used the same formula that had paid dividends at East, but at Salisbury, where the talent pool was broader, the Hornets quickly surged to become a statewide factor in 2A.

Salisbury was a respectable 7-4 and 7-5 in Hinson's first two seasons, before erupting to 13-3, an Eastern Regional championship and a state runner-up trophy in his third year.

His fourth season (9-2) included a Western Regional title before Honeycutt's magical game in Raleigh and a dominating defensive effort, sparked by Georgia recruit Jalon Walker, gave the Hornets their first state championship since the Joe Pinyan-coached team of 2010.

Hinson's fifth season at the helm concluded in November. While the Hornets fell in the third round, they were 11-1 and broke a stack of school and county defensive and offensive records. They shut out eight opponents. Their two-year winning streak reached 18 games, a school record. Hinson is 47-15 in five seasons.

Hinson is also Salisbury's athletic director now, and the father of two girls continues to make a life-changing impact on his players, the reserves as well as the stars. They've all benefited from being part of his program.

"At the end of every practice, he always told us he loved us, no matter what," Honeycutt said. "At the end of the day, you always knew how much he cared, how much the coaching

staff cared, about every single one of us."

Added Herndon, "The kids that play football for Salisbury are some of the best kids in our school, and I think that's a direct reflection on Brian Hinson. He's not just a great football coach. He's a great husband, a great father, a great friend. He's a great example for these players."

When Hinson, who was inducted into the Catawba Sports Hall of Fame during the 2021 season, was hired at Salisbury he promised no miracles, just blood, sweat and tears.

There was work to do to make Salisbury a factor again. He rolled up his sleeves and did it.

While Hinson seems to be a magnet for miracles, there's nothing supernatural about his success. He simply combines an exceptional work ethic with compassion and integrity.

A football program, a school, and a community will be forever grateful for his commitment.

"I remember one of my East Rowan players telling me, 'Coach, thanks for making me a better person,'" Hinson said. "That's always stuck with me, and that's what I try to do at Salisbury. Some of these kids have the ability to play in college, and that's great. But almost all of them will be fathers and husbands. The No. 1 goal for me is helping make them better ones." **S**





*Coach Brian Hinson gets a hug from his daughter Elinor after Salisbury High won the 2AA Eastern Regional Championship in 2019. (Jon C. Lakey photo)*



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*The arches frame  
the Water Wall  
and Bell Tower.*

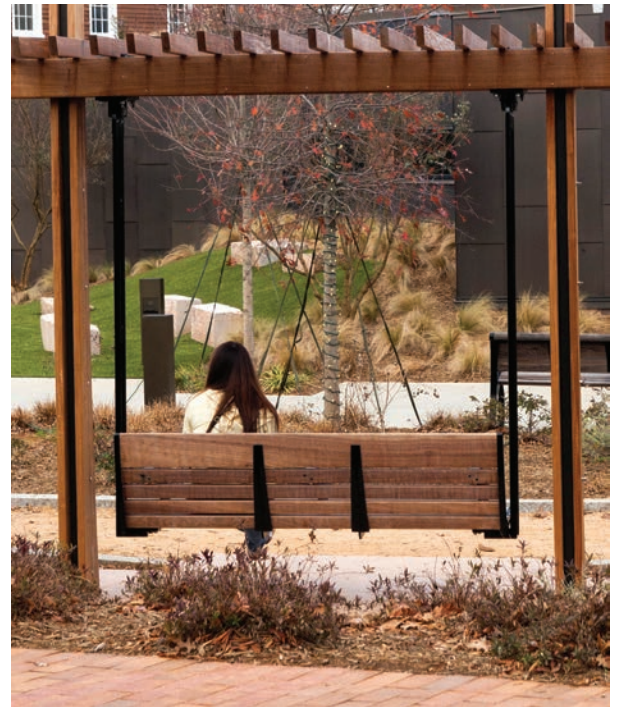
# A walk in Bell Tower Green





*New park frames moments in time,  
draws connections of old and new*

WRITTEN BY ALYSSA NELSON  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDY MOONEY



*A woman enjoys the swing in the Leisure Garden.*

**T**ake a walk with me, I'll share five favorite features and some urban design references along the way. Let's meet at Jimmy's Corner, located at the intersection of West Fisher and South Church streets, and start under the arched trellis.

## **STOP ONE** **MOMENTS FRAMED**

Notice how the arches capture the water wall and Bell Tower, framing them between their metal curves, which will someday be covered in green. To the right, the leaves of the jasmine, jessamine, armandii and honeysuckle are popping out of petite frames within the arch's lattice grid. These pictures will only become broader, bolder as the attached vines fill in the frames. For now, the axes spanning the park resonate with words from Lyndon and Moore's book, "Chambers for a Memory Palace:" "In some of the most interesting places, axes and paths interweave, with the axis allowing the mind to do the connecting, and the path allowing the feet to wander, explore, make choices, and put things in sequence."

At the end of the trellises, find your way to the center tree.





*The center tree was the only tree within the main circle to be saved.*

## STOP TWO WHERE OLD MEETS NEW

The center tree, to my knowledge unnamed, was the only tree within the Main Green circle to be saved. The ginkgo trees along South Church Street and crape myrtles in the Bell Tower corner were also saved, but the center tree offers a shaded picnic

space, where the old tree meets the new main lawn of the park. From here, wander your way to the gazebo and Bosque Garden, which affords a view of the new granite steps of the Bell Tower to the right, the old brick of the Wrenn House to the left, the Wrenn House waiting in anticipation of the aromas that will someday fill the park. When at the gazebo, see the new granite steps leading toward the Bell Tower. Let the juxtaposition of the old and new trees, structures, materials and textures invigorate you. Max Ernest's notion of creativity as "the marvelous capacity to grasp mutually distinct realities and draw a spark from their juxtaposition" is embodied in many combinations all over the park.



*New granite steps at the Bell Tower.*

Follow the paths to the new Bell Tower steps. If you have yet to visit Michael's Garden or the Session House, please feel free to loop to the other side of the Bell Tower first.



*Above: Michael's Garden near the Bell Tower.*



*Left: Fallen leaves from the ginkgo trees along South Church, which were saved during the construction of the park.*



## RECREATION



*Water trickles down the Water Wall.*



*A man enjoys a quiet moment by the band stage.*



*The granite on the pathway traces the outline of the old First Presbyterian Church.*

### **STOP THREE** **HOMAGE TO THE FIRST** **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

From the new steps on the south side of the Bell Tower, allow your eyes to trace the border of the open green in front of you. Feel free to walk down and follow the granite with your footsteps. The border crosses one of the park's main paths and continues in a curve, reaching a point near the stage. This granite outline gives a gentle nod to Salisbury's history; the granite is referencing the footprint of the First Presbyterian Church, circa 1892, which was once attached to the Bell Tower. Standing within the church consider a poignant passage from Jane Jacob's "The Death and Life of Great American Cities:" "Old ideas can sometimes use new buildings. New ideas must use old buildings." Salisbury is great at using old buildings.

From here, feel free to take the long or the short path; loop through the Promenade Garden, or make haste toward the water wall: we're heading behind it to a large sphere.





*Children play on the equipment at the creative play space.*

## STOP FOUR MOMENTS FOR PLAY

There are so many moments for play within the park; spaces for musicians to plug in and gather, water wall jets, the creative play space for the young or young at heart. But I must say, when designing the park, the globe was a huge favorite. Unique and fun, the globe is a structure for all ages, an unexpected place to spark the conversation sociologist William H. Whyte described in “The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces” when he wrote, “Triangulation is the process by which some external stimulus provides a linkage between people and prompts strangers to talk to other strangers as if they knew each other.”

When you’re ready, let’s cross the path perpendicular to the library and wind through the Leisure Garden.



*Left: The band stage is the perfect spot for concerts.*

*Right: The globe, where all ages can climb the ropes.*








## STOP FIVE MOMENTS TO MEANDER

Purposely located near the library, the Leisure Garden offer what Lyndon and Moore call “pockets of choice.” Though there are many nooks and rooms throughout the Bell Tower Green, the meandering path of the Leisure Garden offers a variety of furnishings in its intimate spaces. Heed the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson and “adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience;” the gardens in the park have only just been planted. The final nook on this part of the tour is Jimmy’s Corner, where our walk began. Jimmy’s Corner is a node in itself, a place worthy of contemplation, a place with history, a unique moment in the park that welcomes gathering, and a special spot to meet.

Thank you for joining me. 

*Alyssa Nelson is an urban design planner for the City of Salisbury and served on the Bell Tower Green Master Plan and Marketing committees.*



***Above:** The Leisure Garden is a perfect place to reflect, relax or socialize.*

***Left:** The garden in front of the gazebo.*



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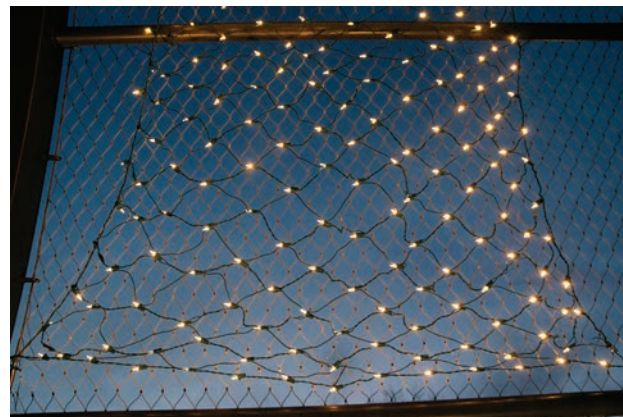




*A view of the Bell Tower through the Promenade Garden.*



*The gardens in the park have an abundance of colorful plants.*



*Lights adorn the wire trellis on the arches.*

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*Hayden Simmerson stands at the gate to his house that he built from a log cabin.*



*Left: Hayden Simmerson has a brick over the walk-in fireplace that he inscribed. Right: Hayden Simmerson's wall with his portrait in military uniform and other veteran awards he received.*





*The hallway from the front door features a photo of Robert E. Lee hanging over the wooden wainscoting.*

# Brick-by-brick, log-by-log

*Hayden Simmerson pieced together  
his Colonial Williamsburg-era home*

WRITTEN BY NATALIE ANDERSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY WAYNE HINSHAW

**S**alisbury native and veteran Hayden Simmerson pieced together his Colonial Williamsburg-era home brick-by-brick and log-by-log from historic buildings throughout the region.

And all it took was “a good back and a weak mind,” he says — along with 30,000 bricks and 29 loads of logs.

When Simmerson’s father bought the 10 acres where

his house now sits, White Farm Road was just a dirt road in the country. Simmerson built his 3,790-square-foot home in 1980. It’s nestled in a wooded, rural setting just off Jake Alexander Boulevard. His endeavor began after retiring from the Army as a captain and after fighting during the Vietnam War.

Since his divorce more than 30 years ago, Simmerson said his home has unofficially become a home for battered husbands, veteran friends and



## AT HOME



those who are divorced, financially and emotionally stressed. With three bedrooms located upstairs and his own downstairs, he's sheltered six people over the years, with his only request being that tenants pay for half of the beer and groceries.

*Simmerson's kitchen cabinets with grandchildren's photos on the refrigerator.*

The entire home is constructed with 30,000 handmade bricks salvaged from the old Mount Hope Church on Old Concord Road, with a date of 1876 inscribed on them. He spent 10 cents per brick and more than a week hauling each one before rubbing them together to remove the mortar, sand and lime. The bricks feature Flemish bond masonry, which is no longer used in modern-day masonry.

Attached to Simmerson's home is an 18-by-20-square-foot log cabin from the Purvis Home on No Creek Road outside of Coolemeec. The cabin dates back to the 1860s,



*Hayden Simmerson has a walk-in fireplace in his kitchen-den area with a wood stove insert for heat.*



*Above: Hayden Simmerson's giant chimney has 30,000 bricks from the old Mt. Hope Church used to build it.  
Below: Hayden Simmerson's hunting buddies that he had over for a meal at his house.*



and Simmerson paid \$40 for it. He tore it down and reconstructed it log-by-log to be his den. Simmerson said his inspiration for the log cabin comes from many builders in the 1970s who wanted to honor the nation's bicentennial by incorporating log houses into their home designs.

The walls and ceilings of Simmerson's home anchor remnants of a career in the military and a chronological narrative of his life with his children, along with his mother's artwork. Mary Hartley Simmerson was a member of the Rowan Art Guild, and Simmerson said he found her paintings following her death.

Along the ceiling beams in the den of the attached

*Simmerson's collection of Native American projectile points that has gathered over the years on the wall in the log cabin room that he started the house with.*







*The sitting room.*



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log cabin are dozens of ball caps that symbolize pieces of Simmerson's life with his children.

"The caps are a chronology of my life with my kids," Simmerson said. "There's baseball, there's hunting stuff, there's horses."

Simmerson is the father of three and a grandfather of five. He stays busy with baseball and softball games. His granddaughter, Liza, is a Carson High School graduate who committed to USC Upstate's softball program in 2020. His grandson, Hayden, is currently a pitcher on Carson High's baseball team.

Hanging on an upstairs wall near the stairs is a formal recognition from former President Richard Nixon. When Simmerson was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, he was tasked with keeping anti-war protesters from crashing Nixon's inauguration parade. Simmerson recalls lining up along Pennsylvania Avenue with shields.

Simmerson's favorite room is his kitchen, which features a walk-in, Colonial-style cooking fireplace with a wooden stove. The heart pine paneling showcased in the kitchen was salvaged from a log house on Foster Road. His kitchen table makes for an ideal layout for a fish fry and seafood boil after each annual fishing trip. And the wood stove he added is used each holiday season to whip up collards, sweet potatoes, baked chicken, wild duck or goose, venison and oyster dressing.

"We don't have a sit-down meal where everybody shows up at noon," Simmerson said. "I have everything sitting on the wood stove just kind of perking along. And people show up as they are. Come as you are. Come when you can."



***Clockwise from top left:** The oversized front door and the stairway leading to the bedrooms upstairs; Simmerson converted his back porch into a sunroom with a pretty view of his barn and firewood stacks; a wall with Simmerson's portrait in military uniform and other veteran awards he received.*





*Kitchen pots and pans hang overhead.*



*Above: Hayden Simmerson's certificate from the 1969 President Nixon's inauguration committee for helping. Left: The upstairs master bedroom is over the original log cabin.*





*Clockwise from top left: Simmerson's daughter's gymnastic awards when she was in high school; the front room of the house has a fireplace; the oversized front door with antique knob and lock; Simmerson salvaged this piece of furniture for \$20; the stairway from the log cabin below leads to this room with part of the logs showing; the upstairs bedroom, which was once Simmerson's son's bedroom. All the bedrooms have antique beds.*





## AT HOME

The wood stove doubles as the home's primary heating system. Simmerson said he's split enough firewood to last him a lifetime. He hasn't turned on his heating system in more than 20 years. He even cut a hole into the floor of the upper story of the log cabin so that the heat could make its way upstairs.

Simmerson's home features two additional fireplaces with antique mantles dating back to the 1810s. Wainscoting throughout the home comes from the home place of General Thomas Clingman, a former North Carolina Congress and Senate member who also fought with the Confederate States Army. Simmerson said when he was gathering wood from the home, which was in Yadkin County, he found musket balls lodged into the wood, indicating a battle had been fought



*Hayden Simmerson's upstairs bedroom.*

nearby at some point.

Also on the property is a rustic red barn local Boy Scouts built in 1933, which serves as a workshop for Simmerson today.

All of the doors come from old farmhouses built in the 1850s and feature wooden pegs. The floors of the home comprise wide-planked pine milled from large heart pine beams that were salvaged from the old Shaw Transfer Shed in Salisbury and DH Griffin Wrecking Company in Greensboro.

"I like wood that looks like wood," Simmerson said.

To this day, Simmerson can still recite some basic Vietnamese. Simmerson said a Vietnamese woman during the war who lived in a thatched-roof fishing house near his compound would provide him and other soldiers with intelligence.

Simmerson has considered selling the home at least a couple times now. But for now, he's decided to stay put. **S**

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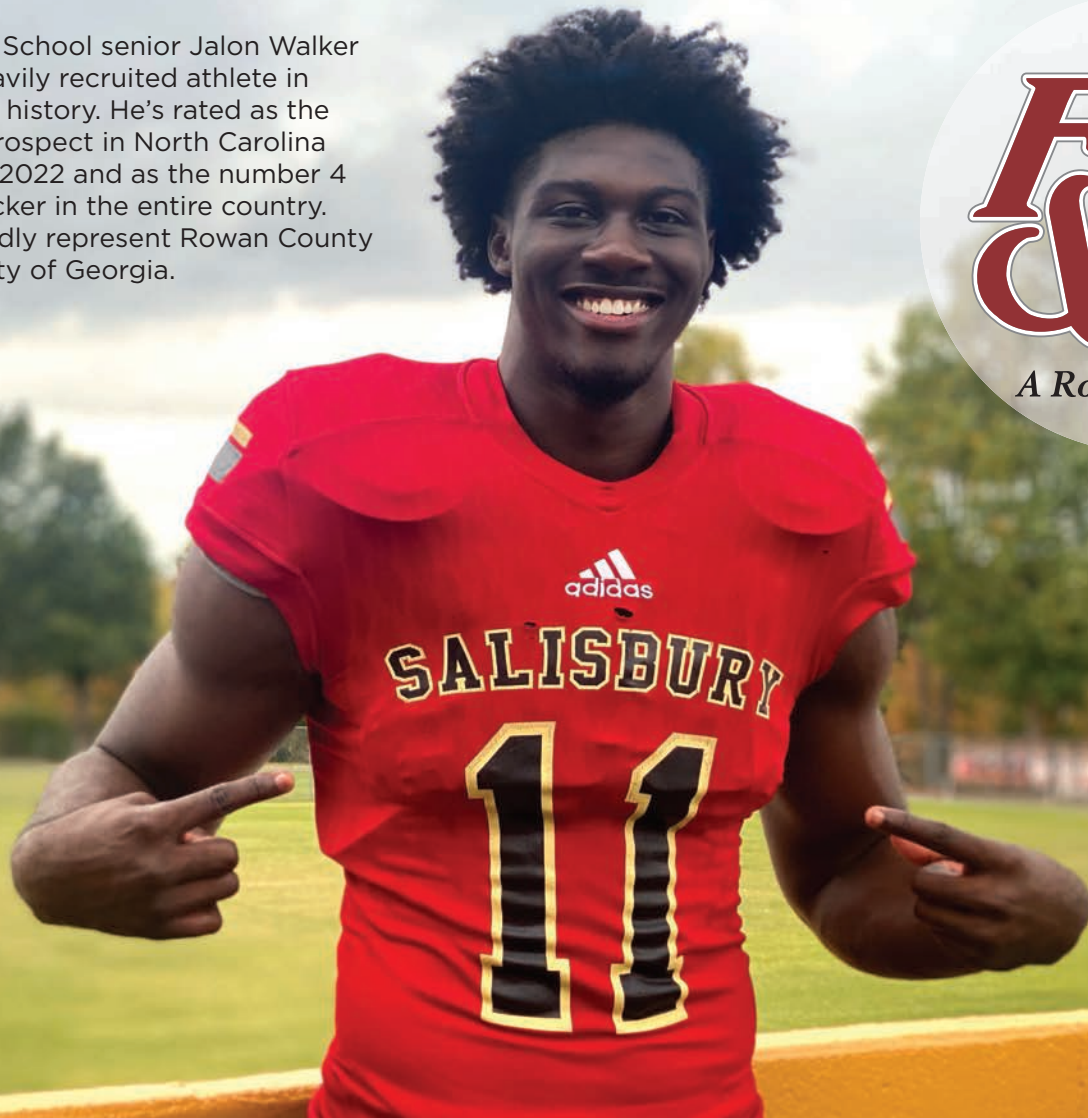


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Always ready to help,  
Bobby Mault has love  
of community, veterans

WRITTEN BY DAVID FREEZE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON C. LAKEY



*Above: Bobby Mault fills up the tank for customers that want full service at the pumps. Below: Mault is well known in the community for his appreciation for the local veterans and worked for years to bring his vision of a military museum for Rowan County.*







**T**ears come to Bob Mault's eyes often when others talk of his many successes — nearly every time after he describes how others around him made them happen.

Mault is now 87 years old, but that isn't an important number to him. He prefers to talk about "67," the number of years he's been married to Ruby and the number of years he's been in the service station business.

Mault cares deeply about his community and its people, young and old. Nora Patterson comes in to buy gas and brought the news that her mom was in hospice care. "You know where Ruby and I are," Mault told Patterson. "Just let us know what you need."

Mault has filled a need many times, but even better is his vision for the future, often looking past what others might

see. Time and again, he sees what others don't.

The Price of Freedom Museum, using the old Patterson School on Weaver Road, represents one of his more recent dreams. But there have been many others. His service station, Fellowship Park and the "Journey to Bethlehem" production would have worn out most men, but Mault's eyes light up at the memories.

His Texaco service station, at the junction of highways 152 and 153 between China Grove and Mooresville, actually is his second. The first, at the end of Millbridge Road, was opened by Mault and his brother, Ed, in 1959. The two men worked seven days a week, from 6 a.m. to midnight.

"This is where it all started," Mault says. "I was 19 when we opened that station. I often had to get up early and go out to fix truck tires with a specialized 1947 Dodge service truck. Ed and I ran what should have been a five-man op-





*David Freeze and Mark Beaver flip over the granite marker that was laying in the grass at the concession stand at the former Fellowship Park in southern Rowan County.*



*Above: The Mault family. At left is Bobby, and to the right is brother Ed, with whom he co-owned the service station. Above right: A little red paint remains on the metal car lift that has seen years of service at the station. Right: An old photo of the truck that Bobby used for road service when they were at the old station.*





eration.”

The two brothers made a success of that business when the daily traffic past the station was about 55 vehicles. But Bob Mault saw the future. He wanted to expand and modernize the station. The best place was at the N.C. 152/153 intersection.

“Most of it was a 6-foot hole, and we used fill dirt from across the road to level it out,” Mault says. “I drew up the plans for the station, complete with wings, tinted windows and a drive-thru car wash station. The folks at Texaco said we were 20 years ahead of our time.”

Ed did the mechanical work; Bobby did the bookwork and most of everything else.

“Ed, a Korean War veteran and former railroad detective, and I had an unusual partnership,” Mault says. “We were partners in the day, but not overnight. Ed was responsible for locking one door, and I was responsible for the other one. He liked to stay and visit with the neighbors.”

Car washes were big business at the new station.

“We washed 20-30 cars a day for \$1 each,” Mault says. “That included washing, vacuuming and wipe down, and his specialty of blacking the tires and mats. And often as not, a pickup and delivery were included.”

So how did Bobby Mault learn to work this hard? As a 10-year-old, Mault and his dad, Robert, delivered cases

*Mault enjoys interacting with the customers who stop by the station.*



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of Cheerwine. Their company-owned truck held 100 cases, purchased for 80 cents a case, \$80 a load. "There were 24 bottles in a case," Mault says, "and we sold them for 5 cents each."

As a teenager, Mault ran the projector at the China Grove movie house, just across from the roller mill. He also worked for Herman Weant's service station, where he washed cars from age 16 to 18.

In 1971, Mault says, "The Lord laid it on my heart to start Fellowship Park, a gathering place for the community to play softball. Incoming Immanuel Presbyterian Church Minister David Gullett asked me to take the lead. We had from eight to 11 local churches."

Fellowship Park thrived from 1972 to 1982, offering recreation for Little League, youth, women's and men's leagues. The large parking lot often overflowed to the Immanuel Presby-

terian lot across the road, with games each night except Wednesday and Sunday. Saturday was for make-up games.

Gullett and Mault helped establish New Hope Presbyterian Church in China Grove. Mault took on the leadership of "Journey to Bethlehem," an annual four-night living production where the church grounds were transformed into the village of Bethlehem at Jesus' birth.

As many as 115 volunteers, plus horses and other animals, magically showcased the production as over 14,000 cars and 68,000 people drove past during its 10-year run. Mault recruited the volunteers, designed and built the sets and handled other production details such as lighting, music and props.



Born in Salisbury on Council Street, Mault moved with his family to China Grove in 1939, to the site of the current Porky's Restaurant.

"I was the baby, the youngest of five surviving brothers and two sisters," Mault says. He looked just like Robert and Irene Mault's first born, also named Robert, who died at about a year old. With that, Mault's dad proclaimed, "You can name him anything you want, but he's going to be called 'Bobby.'"

And now at 87 years old, it's still "Bobby," though his real name is Charles Lewis Mault.

Long before any thought of the Price of Freedom Museum, 8-year-old Mault used to wait for the mailman for news of his three brothers, Jim, Ray and Claude, all serving overseas in World War II.

All three brothers were listed as missing at times and had close calls. Jim's B-24 crashed on



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*The spacious three-bay garage at the station is kept neatly organized.*



*Above: A picture of the young Bobby standing on the running boards of the family car. Right: A granite marker at the concession stand at the former Fellowship Park.*





*Bobby Mault and his wife, Ruby, man the Mault Bros. service station at the intersection of highways 152 and 153.*



an island landing strip when its tires were shot out by a Japanese sniper. One day, the mailman delivered that sniper's rifle to the Mault home in a wooden box. It is displayed in an honored place at the museum today.

Ray's destroyer was hit by enemy fire in the Mediterranean, and Claude's tanker and ammunition ships took hits, too. All three brothers made it home safely.

One of Mault's best memories came on an August day in 1945.

"I was headed over to the garden to gather sweet potatoes," Mault says. "Mom called after me that the war was over!" The worry of his family and their joy when all the boys were finally together again mattered to Mault, even at such an early age.

With brother Ed already in Korea in early 1951, Mault's opportunity soon came. He signed up for the draft and got his own notice with about 74 others in the China Grove area. Mault took his physical and went home for the call to report. When it didn't come, Mault was told that all of his paperwork, including the

original draft notice, was gone. He was reclassified and was never drafted.

"I think to this day that I was left behind to do the museum," Mault says.

The first uniform displayed in the Texaco station belonged to the late Dan Ritchie, a friend who Mault looked after when he became sick. Others followed, scores of them, usually hanging proudly in dry cleaning bags. The available space was consumed quickly, among the pictures of family, friends and customers from the station. The station continued as a gathering place, but the display needed its own space.

Not sure exactly when it first happened, Mault had an idea to find a proper place to display those uniforms and much more. Mault's signature project, the Price of Freedom Museum, was born. After years of trying, Mault acquired the rights for the old Patterson School building on Weaver Road in 2004. The first displays were done in the old school cafeteria, then Mault led the volunteers through the original building, repairing the facility and especially stabilizing floors. The entire facility has now been opened

to honor veterans with a designated room for each branch of service. Mault's group set up a "three-room house," filled with furnishings from the World War II era. These rooms are the centerpiece for the museum's annual Christmas celebration.

Especially happy that the school auditorium has been reopened and back in use, Mault says, "I always envisioned the auditorium to serve as a community gathering place. We've had musical entertainment in the fall and around Christmas and more is being scheduled."

Just completed and opened was a brick addition donated by former Food Lion executive Tom Smith to house an extensive military vehicle display. Most of the vehicles are ready to hit the road and posted information describes each one's specific use.

Next, Mault thinks the museum might need a coffee shop, but for now, he's happy with the museum's path. "I'm so pleased with what is here now," he says. "The Lord has blessed us. We always leave with prayers of thanks."

Bobby Harrison, Mault's right-hand man at





*Bobby Mault (second from right) welcomes visiting World War II veterans from the 737th Tank Battalion to the Price of Freedom Museum in 2017. At right in red shirt is Bobby Harrison, who has been instrumental in helping Mault with the museum.*



the museum, says “Bobby Mault’s legacy will be his never-ending quest to do for other’s enjoyment, to promote fellowship, teach respect for others, teach the price of freedom and to give thanks to God. Working with him for the past 15 years has furthered my belief in the power of prayer and patience, for without both the museum or his other projects would not have been possible.”



Back at the station, Mault told of two special relationships. One was with past service station neighbor Harold Sechler, the man Mault says had the greatest influence on his life.

“Harold was four years older than me and when Ed had to be away, Harold came over and asked how he could help,” Mault says. “He made such a difference.”

Mault’s station has always been a gathering




place for law enforcement. “They stop in to check on us and they have keys to the bathrooms,” Mault says. “We love having them around.”

You’ll find Bob and Ruby at their service station that still has its place, now with 18,000 vehicles passing daily.

Mault pumps gas for those who can’t or would rather not, and he’s quick about it. He would be quicker if most of the regular customers didn’t linger to talk, then they often go inside to see Ruby.

Andy Manus stops in for a tomato. Rusty Osbourne picks up some snacks, and just about everyone else feels better after they have visited the Maults for a few minutes.

“I just feel happy for all we’ve done,” Mault says when asked to reflect on his legacy. “It is a joy to see the community come together, not too much different than it did back in the ’30s and ’40s.” 

*David Freeze is a runner and writer living in China Grove.*




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*next chapter,*

# NEXT DOOR

Temple Israel synagogue find its new home

WRITTEN BY SUSAN SHINN TURNER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSIE POST-RUST





Have you ever gotten together for a family reunion and everyone talks at the same time?

Members of the Temple Israel Sunday school class did just that when they gathered over the summer via Zoom. One story triggered another. Stories about how the temple was a home base for them, and a part of who they were.

“I’m hoping you’re getting all this down for your article,” Aaron Nurick said.

(Doing the best I can.)

Let’s see. There’s David Post, who lives in Salisbury but still keeps a house in Washington, D.C. Michele Lobl from Los Angeles, whose siblings are Jeff Hyman in Florida, Carol Ben-Moshe in New York City, and Sandy Bennett in Florida and Colorado. Lynda Hartnig in Florida was representing her family, which includes her sister Maxine and brother Jeff. Charles Goldman, who’s in Salisbury. Lee Goldman in western Maryland. Norm Goldman in Richmond. Steffi Zerden in



**Top:** Sacred Jewish books and ritual items that contain the name of God cannot be simply thrown away. They are instead buried, like this book at the Mt. Sinai Cemetery in Winston-Salem was several years ago. Additional items from Temple Israel were buried there in September. **Above:** David Post congratulates his daughter Sasha at her bat mitzvah, a coming-of-age ritual in the Jewish faith. There have been more than 40 bar and bat mitzvahs in the history of Temple Israel. Years earlier, David celebrated his bar mitzvah on the same bimah.





*Abraham Post carries the Torah through the congregation during his bar mitzvah. On the day of his bar mitzvah, a boy reads from the Torah for the first time.*

Savannah.

And it really was a family reunion.

“The thing that impressed me the most — everybody was an aunt and uncle,” Carol said. “You weren’t really related, but you were one big family. And everybody helped everybody else out. Growing up, I thought they were really my aunts and uncles.”

Sometimes they felt uncomfortable going to school. There were morning prayers at Boyden High School.

The prayer: Let’s all pray for the Jews who killed our Savior Jesus Christ that they may be redeemed.

“I felt like everyone was just turning and staring,” Carol said. “I felt so uncomfortable. I told my parents, who told Ben Shapiro. They decided not to make a big deal of it. They decided that would be the better solution.”

“You become the spokesperson in some ways when you are the only representative of your religion,” Aaron said.

There were lots of good times in Sunday school.

“I remember selling chocolate-covered almonds to raise money when we were building the social hall,” Susie Post-Rust said. “I know the money was mostly donated for that, but at the time, in my 10-year-old mind, I thought that



*Rabbi Andrew Ettin has served the congregation for 32 years.*





*Seth Labovitz, a longtime member and leader of the congregation, attends the book burial. His twin daughters had their b'not mitzvah at Temple Israel in 2009.*



*A member looks over memorial boards of deceased loved ones. They're lit on the anniversary of their deaths, and go back many generations. This board was disassembled when the building closed.*



*Temple Emanuel from Winston-Salem joined Temple Israel in September to bury their sacred texts and ritual items in Mt. Sinai Cemetery.*





*Rabbi Andrew Ettin gives Emma Post the final blessing at the end of her bat mitzvah.*



*Charles Goldman (front) and Raymond Keasler walk back from John Calvin Presbyterian Church, where synagogue members will be holding services beginning in 2022.*

Steven Wolf, Scott Schwartzbach, Dina Lerner, and I were really helping!”

The older kids recalled being bullied because of their religion. And there were other pressures.

“My parents would say, ‘People will judge all Jewish people on you. Do your best,’” Phyllis Post said.

She was valedictorian.

“I did feel pressure because I was Jewish.”

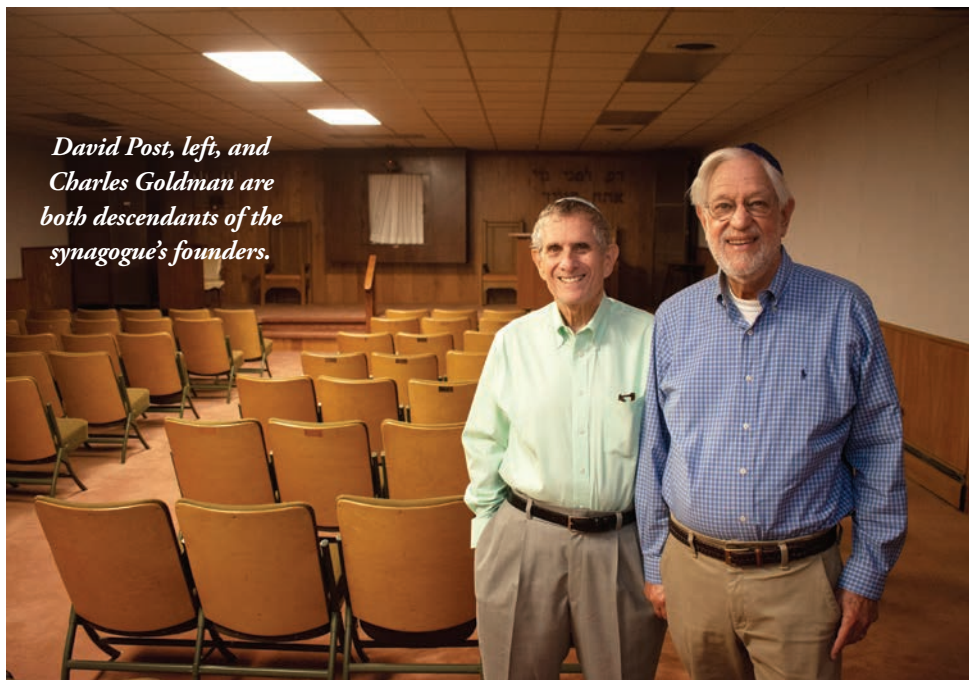
All the kids grew up in their parents’ stores.

“It was a time when so much of Salisbury life centered on Main Street,” Aaron said. “There were some really nice shops in town.”

“I started working in our store (Zimmerman’s) when I was 12,” Phyllis said. “When you work in your family store, you have to work harder than anybody else. It felt like family on Main Street and family in our store.”

They talked about the streets they were born on, the fact that many of their parents owned businesses in the downtown district, the fact that their beloved synagogue building would soon be sold.

Several years ago, David said, the congregation started talking about what to do with the building. The membership was dwindling, the property too expensive to maintain. A Unitarian congregation was leasing the building on Sundays and Wednesdays, but the pandemic put an end to that.



*David Post, left, and Charles Goldman are both descendants of the synagogue’s founders.*



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*The Temple Israel community comes together to make final decisions about packing up the building and completing maintenance details.*







*Above left:* Alan Lebowitz tries to catch candy thrown at him by the congregation to celebrate at the end of his bar mitzvah. **Right:** Members visit the new space at John Calvin where they will meet for future services. Looking around, they decided where to put the Torah and the lectern. **Below:** Members and friends of Temple Israel move the lectern on which the Torah is spread during the service. It is the one piece of furniture from the bimah that is going to the new worship space next door at John Calvin Presbyterian Church.







*The Star of David comes off the building.*



*The Sunday school class from 1961. From left, bottom row: Richard Hartnig, Paul Weisler, Sam Post, Jon Post. Behind Sam Post: Jeff Hyman; Behind Jon Post: unidentified. Middle row: Phyllis Post, Ann Weisler, unidentified, Linda Hartnig, Aaron Nurick. Back row: Michael Freedman, Richard Weisler, Steffi Stein, David Post*

“We decided it was time to sell the building,” David said.



In the beginning, Charles Goldman’s family bought three lots on Brenner Avenue to build a temple.

The temple opened in 1952, and Charles’ was the first bar mitzvah there in 1954.

“I am very sad about the sale of the temple building,” Charles said, echoing the comments of all the members. “It is the only synagogue that I have ever belonged to. But, with a shrinking membership and no prospects of a resurgence of Jews in Salisbury, coupled with several serious maintenance problems in the building, we had no choice but to sell it. This will not mean the end of our congregation. We will find a place to meet and carry on our traditions.”

They are going to do that — right next door. John Calvin Presbyterian Church has offered the use of its small



*David Post locks the doors to Temple Israel.*





*The gathering for the final service in September before selling the synagogue. The bittersweet day included a celebration of Sukkot, or the harvest, which includes a hut. The John Calvin Church, where the congregation will begin meeting, is visible in the background.*

chapel at no charge. Even though the congregation is still meeting for now via Zoom, they look forward to gathering there in the new year.

One member is crafting an ark so that the torahs may be stored in their new location.



In the late 1800s, the first Jews to settle in Salisbury were Victor Wallace and his family, according to the Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities. His two sons later developed a retail store that became one of the largest operations in the Southeast. Later, they'd close the stores to focus to real estate and found Wallace Realty, still in operation today.

Ironically, Lane Wallace, a member of that family, bought the temple building in August. Many of her family, she said, are still Jewish.

"We're kind of the only branch of the family that was not Jewish," she said.

At the time of closing, Lane had not decided the plans for the property, although she likes the fact it is so close to the VA.

She does know one thing. She wants there to be some sort of tribute to the fact that the property was once a synagogue.

At the closing, Charles, who serves as the temple's vice president, signed

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the papers.

“I just thought there was a real symmetry to that,” David said. “Charles is the only one who’s been here from the beginning to the end.”



In conjunction with Sukkot, a commemoration of the fall harvest, the congregation held one final service on the temple grounds on a gorgeous day in September.

The deconsecration service was bittersweet for all, said Rabbi Andrew Ettin. “But we have a responsibility to be a practical and thoughtful and prudent and wise people in looking ahead to the future. What makes a building holy is a congregation praying.”

Before the service, the 16 attendees gathered for a group picture.

“It is a sad day but the weather is beautiful,” Lea Silverburg said.

“*We have a community who cares about one another and the continuation of a Jewish presence in Rowan County.*”

“Let’s go,” her husband, Sandy, said, ready to begin the service.

David passed out yarmulkes from a large, clear plastic bag.

The rabbi began singing in a rich, baritone voice.

During his opening remarks, he said, “We acknowledge there is something special about a place we have gathered in prayer.”

Generations have prayed together at Temple

Israel, he said.

He talked about the very first temple being built, destroyed, then later rebuilt.

“Things do not last forever,” he said. But God does command us to build a sanctuary, not that he may dwell in it, but in us.

“We have a community who cares about one another and the continuation of a Jewish presence in Rowan County,” he continued.

The congregation must go through the process of rethinking how to hold services the same way in a different location — right next door.

“We will have lovely services there,” he said. “If we move someplace else, we can make it work.”

The congregation sang hymns together and read Psalms together and prayed together, and talked for a long time together afterward under those sunny blue skies.

A lot like a family reunion. **S**



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*Jacob Post carries the Torah out of the synagogue for the last time.*

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*Daniel King, Destiny Stone-King and Prince King.*



*From left: Grayson Absber, Haley Mastranunzio, Lindsay Mullis and Matt Greene with dogs Lily and Paisley.*



*Bryan Wymbys and his dogs Dodger and Herbie.*

## Bell Tower Green concert

Salisbury Parks and Recreation in November hosted Bell Tower Green Park's first outdoor concert with performers Destiny Stone, the Kruger Brothers and Sydney Lett.

— Photos by Carl Blankenship



*Anthony Smith and Betty Jo Hardy.*



*Left: Misty and Hampton Ratcliff.  
Right: Amie Baudoin and Kim Bartleson.*







*Linda McElroy, left, and Kaisha Brown*



*From left, Terry Osborne, Orlando Lewis, Pete Teague, Harry Warren and Jason Walser.*



*From left, Kristen Trexler, Betsy Mowery and Kelly Alexander*

# Chamber Business After Hours

The Rowan County Chamber of Commerce held one of its signature networking events, Business After Hours, at the Bell Tower Green Park shortly after the facility opened to the public.

— Photos by Josh Bergeron



*Clockwise from above left: Chamber of Commerce President Elaine Spalding welcomes attendees to the organization's Business After Hours at Bell Tower Green; From left, Megan Hedrick, Mollie Ruf and Nicky Black; Gus was among the attendees of the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours; Karen Hurst, left, says hello to Tamara Sheffield's dog.*







*Dottie Hoy and Dr. Mitch Siegel*



*From left: Cathy Teat, Nicholas Black and Lisa Black*



*Dr. Susan Muth*

# Community Care Clinic

Each fall, the Community Care Clinic typically has a Community Thanks program to honor the many volunteers and donors who keep the clinic performing at such a high level. Every dollar donated to the clinic provides \$9 in services to uninsured and underinsured adults in Rowan County. After having to cancel the event last year, the staff thought outside the box for 2021 and invited participants for a drive-through event in October. Sixty people drove through to receive a cutting board, healthy recipes, and other accessories from 10 volunteers. Board members delivered an additional 125 gifts.

— Submitted photos by Nancy Shirley



*Cathy Teat and Jennifer Flynn*



*Dr. Brett Leslie and Pat Roos*



*Debbie Hill and Joy King*



*Dr. Erin Grey greets a CCC supporter*



*Cathy Teat and Deborah Bailey*





Members of the board of the Robertson Family Foundation, a strong supporter of Smart Start Rowan over the years. From left, Matt Barr, Margaret Klutz, Jason Walser, chair Bret Busby, and Mary Heather Steinman.



Greg Archer, shown with his mom, Alice, came all the way from Canada for the event. His sister, Amy Brown, is Smart Start Rowan's executive director.



Amy Brown, Smart Start Rowan's executive director, with Dana Winters, executive director of the Fred Rogers Center, the evening's speaker.

Mark Ritchie and his sister, Celia Jarrett, the children of the late Shirley Peeler Ritchie, for whom the event and award are named.



## Smart Start Rowan

Smart Start Rowan had to miss its 25th anniversary milestone last year, but the Shirley P. Ritchie Champion for Young Children Event was back in October. Jason Walser was named this year's Champion for Young Children, the agency's highest honor. He also happened to serve as the evening's emcee. Dana Winters, executive director of the Fred Rogers Center, was keynote speaker. She'd also visited in 2018. "We thought people could use a little more Mister Rogers in their lives right now," said Amy Brown, Smart Start Rowan's executive director. "We sure can." Smart Start Rowan serves children ages 0-5 throughout Rowan County.

— Photos by Susan Shinn Turner



Barbara Mallett, East Spencer's mayor, with husband Gary.



Sue Reibich, left, board chair, and Carol Cranford, executive director of the Family Support Network, a group that gets funding from Smart Start Rowan.



Above: Jeff Hall, longtime board member, with his wife, Anne. Left: Jeff Street and his wife Kelly, who works with the county's 18 elementary schools in Early Learning and Literacy.





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By Gerry Webster — Watercolor

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