

the KUCKER FAMILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 32, No. 2, September 2021



Statuette by Thomas Rucker
Metal Worker
From the throne of Emperor
Rudolf II



Detail of the Rucker Chair

Table of Contents

Addison⁶ Clay Rucker
..... p.11-14

Thomas Rucker Metalworker
..... p. 11, 14

Corrections and Additions to
Wood, page 64 p. 15-16

The Bayeux Tapestry ... p. 16

President's Letter p. 16

In Memoriam p. 17-19

Annie Chappellear Rucker's
Sidesaddle p. 19

2022 Rucker Reunion ... p. 20

Addison⁶ Clay Rucker

Compiled by Christopher
"Chris" D. Rucker, M.D.

Addison⁶ Clay Rucker's
Lineage: Father --
William⁵ Ballenger
Rucker, George⁴, John³,
John², Peter¹.
Mother - Mary⁶ Ann
Dawson Rucker,
Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴,
Ambrose³, John², Peter¹.

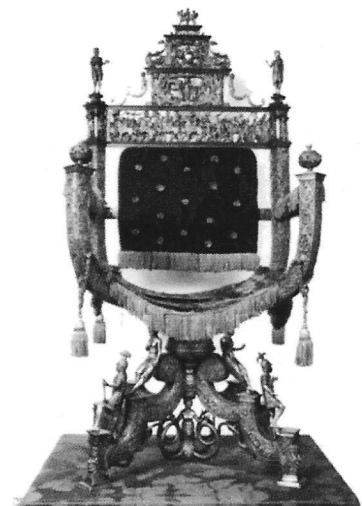
Addison Clay Rucker was
born 19 Feb 1843 in
Amherst County, Virginia,
the youngest of four
surviving¹ children of
William Ballenger Rucker
and Mary Ann Dawson
Rucker². Addison likely
was educated at the farm
school, and attended the
New Prospect Baptist
Continued on p.12

¹ The 1830 Bedford Co., VA
census showed two female
children. We assume that they
and other babies died young,
and were buried in the family
cemetery at Pleasant Vale in
Bedford Co., VA. This is
mentioned in Wood p.48.

² Wood, Sudie Rucker, The
Rucker Family Genealogy,
Richmond, VA, 1932, p.56.

Thomas Rucker - Exquisite Metalworker By Michael "Mike" P. Rucker

Thomas Rucker of
Dresden, Germany (ca.
1532-1606) was a maker
of sword hilts, scientific
instruments and fine metal
artworks. His metal-
working skill was so
renowned that he was
contracted to make a metal
chair, which was
presented to Holy Roman
Emperor Rudolf II (1552-
1612).



Steel Chair
By Thomas Rucker
146 cm high x 67 wide x
51 cm deep
Continued on page 15

***The Rucker Family
Society Newsletter***

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Church at Pleasant View, where his parents had been members since 1844³.

In 1850, seven year-old Addison was living with his parents, older brothers Daniel and William, and sister Susan⁴. By 1860, Daniel and Susan were married and living on farms in the vicinity. Addison and William were still at home, helping to run their father's farm⁵. Their parents no doubt welcomed the help, as the farm was large and successful, and required the labor of at least a score of slaves⁶.

The spring of 1861 was an exciting and uncertain time for the residents of Amherst County, with impending civil war. Virginians voted for secession on May 23⁷, and the men of Amherst responded to their new country's defense by enlisting in the local company of cavalry and

two companies of infantry. It would be surprising if an eighteen year-old was not eager to join his friends and relatives for a chance to "see the elephant⁸" and do his patriotic duty. Daniel H. Rucker, the eldest son, had married in 1856 and moved to another farm and had 3 children by 1861. Second son, William Ambrose promptly enlisted, and Addison apparently stayed home, as he was still there in August when he donated \$150 to help fund one of the local Confederate companies⁹.

In August of 1861, Addison's older brother, William Ambrose Rucker, contracted typhoid fever in the Civil War. He came home to recover. Unfortunately, his father took ill while caring for him and died from the fever on the 28th of December of 1861^{10 11}.

⁸ This was a common nineteenth century term used to describe the experience of something strange, terrifying, wonderful and unbelievable.
⁹ Amherst Co., VA court Order book, 1859-1863, p.237.
¹⁰ Story of William Ballenger Rucker's death in Wood op.cit, p.49, end of 1st paragraph.
¹¹ Tombstone behind the house at Pleasant View, Amherst Co., VA, personal visit to cemetery. Wood, p.56

³ New Prospect Baptist Church of Christ Minute Book, 1828-1849, Misc. Reel 994.

⁴ 1850 Amherst Co., VA census, p.102.

⁵ 1860 Amherst Co., VA census, p.351.

⁶ The 1850 Slave Census showed they had 43 slaves.

⁷ Bowman, John S. Bowman, Editor, *The Civil War Almanac*, New York, 1983, p.55.

Wood, p.56, said Addison served under John Mosby¹², but no muster roll records confirm that claim and his name is not found in that unit's history¹³.

William A. Rucker married 28 Nov 1862 and brought his wife home to Pleasant View to protect her from the battles near her home in Fauquier Co., VA. By the end of the war, they had two children. After the war, William and his family moved to be near his wife's family in Fauquier Co., VA leaving Addison to work the farm by himself.

The war must have brought great hardships to the Ruckers and other Southerners, not the least of which was the loss of their slaves¹⁴. Large farms could not be worked

said he died 18 Dec 1861, but the tombstone says 28 Dec 1861.

¹² Wood, op. cit., p.56.

¹³ Keen, Hugh C. and Mewborn, Horace, *43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry Mosby's Command*, Lynchburg, 1993

¹⁴ Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation declared that as of **January 1, 1863**, all enslaved people in the states currently engaged in rebellion against the Union "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

profitably without them, and the post-war years saw many properties divided by sale. Addison persevered for several years in Amherst, and 1 Apr 1868 married Lucy Lyle Snead at her family's residence in Rockbridge County, VA¹⁵. By 1870 they were farming in the Pedlar District of Amherst County¹⁶, employing two workers, and their first child, William, was one year old¹⁷. At least two more children were born in Amherst, Robert Snead and Mary Ann Dawson¹⁸, so that the family was still on the home place 13 Aug 1873 when Mary came¹⁹.

Evidently, Addison saw a better opportunity elsewhere, so that by 1878²⁰ the family was at Nimrod Hall, Millboro Township in Bath County, VA. They were also listed there in the 1880 census²¹.

¹⁵ Marriage Book 2, p.141, Amherst Co., VA.

¹⁶ This was probably his father's farm at Pleasant View that he had inherited.

¹⁷ 1870 Amherst Co., VA, census, Pedlar dist., p.520.

¹⁸ Davis, Bonnie Floyd. Compiler. *Amherst Co., VA Births, 1767-1869*, p.94.

¹⁹ Ibid, p.94.

²⁰ Birth of son, Charles⁷ Manly Rucker, 22 Feb 1878, at Nimrod Hall, Bath Co., VA.

²¹ 1880 census, Bath Co., VA, Millboro Dist., p.1.

Addison's sister, Susan Margaret Rucker and husband Henry Smith also moved to Nimrod Hall by the 1880 census where they farmed.

Addison was listed as a miller in the 1880 census, and the family had grown to include five year-old Henry, three year-old Charles M. and infant Addie, born in April²².

Another move occurred sometime in the next twenty years, for the family was renting at 913 E. Jefferson Street in Charlottesville by 1900²³. Addie C. was still at home, and 17 year-old Edgar P. and 11 year-old Lyle W. were the last two of Mary Ann's eight children. Robert Snead had died 30 Sep 1895, while juggling a daytime job and nighttime studies at the University of Virginia School of Medicine²⁴. Addison was city engineer and street commissioner, and member of the High Street Baptist Church and the Lodge No.60²⁵.

²² Ibid.

²³ 1900 Albemarle Co., VA Charlottesville, census. Address: #913 East Jefferson St.

²⁴ *Lynchburg, Virginian*, 2 Oct 1895, p.5, col. 2.

²⁵ Charlottesville, *VA Daily Progress*, 12 Oct 1906, p.1.

Wg Lyle

True to his peripatetic nature, Addison moved from Charlottesville in 1901²⁶. His son, William H., had moved to Newport News by 1898, where he lived until his death at age fifty-eight²⁷. If Addison joined his son at some point, he was not listed in the city directory²⁸.

However, in 1906 he is listed in Roanoke as a surveyor and engineer²⁹. Sons Charles M., Edgar P. and Lyle W. were clerks for the railroad in Roanoke the following year, but do not appear any later in Roanoke³⁰. Addison's obituary, 1906, said he was living in Charlottesville, but had visited his son, W. B. Rucker, in Newport News where he took ill and died. The body was shipped back to Charlottesville for burial.

Addison died of "La Grippe" 10 Sep 1906 in Newport News, his occupation listed as food inspector³¹. He was buried in the northeast of Charlottesville's Oakwood

²⁶ Ibid, 11 Oct 1906, p.1.

²⁷ Newport News, VA City Directory, 1898-1899.

²⁸ Ibid through 1905.

²⁹ Roanoke City Directory, 1906, p.424.

³⁰ Ibid, 1907 ff.

³¹ Death Certificate, Commonwealth of Virginia.

Cemetery, the third row, with his wife, Lucy Lyle Snead Rucker (died 7 July 1911), son Robert Snead Rucker (died 30 Sep 1895), son Charles ^{SORRY} Manley Rucker (died 22 Feb 1878), and Charles' wife Charlotte Goodwin Rucker (died 26 Jun 1965)³². Seven children survived Addison and Lucy Lyle Snead³³. Studie Wood states that daughter Mary wed A. R. McNeil in 1899³⁴; both of her parent's obituaries list Mary's last name as Owen, which may represent a second marriage, not noted by Wood.

Note: Chris Rucker wrote this article August 15, 1998. Addison was the uncle of Studie Rucker Wood. A man who stayed home with his parents during the Civil War, whose life was greatly affected by the effects of that War. After the war was over and eventually selling the farm, Addison moved around ending up in Charlottesville, Virginia where he was buried at Oakwood Cemetery.

* * * * *

³² July 1998, personal visit to the cemetery.

³³ *Lynchburg News*, 8 Jul 1911, obituary of Lucy Rucker.

³⁴ Wood, op. cit., p.56.

Continued from page 10
Thomas Rücker
Exquisite Metalworker

The chair dates to between 1574 and 1580. It is one of the most fully documented pieces of sixteenth-century furniture. It was presented to Emperor Rudolph in 1580 by the City of Augsburg when he visited there in 1582.

The chair is of Damascus steel into which Rucker chiseled remarkably intricate designs. The priceless chair is now in Longford Castle that stands on the banks of the River Avon south of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

The emperor was so pleased with the chair that Rücker was contracted to create statuettes for his throne

Renew your membership

Now is the time to renew your membership in the Rucker Family Society. You will be receiving a dues notice very soon. Send gift memberships to family and local libraries. Dues are \$15.00, send to Nell Cordick, Registrar 6624McCambell Cluster Centreville, VA 20120 lecnrc@aol.com

Corrections and Additions to Wood, page 64
By Jeannie Brydon

1st Top of p.64, William⁵ Rucker (Wm⁴, John³, John², Peter¹) and Mary Jane Pillow -- eight children are listed, but there were eleven children

Issue (names from census and cemetery records -- complete birthdates from Find A Grave):

1. Capt. William⁶ Pillow Rucker, b. 11 Nov 1828.
2. Mary Elizabeth⁶ "Betsy" Rucker, b. ca 1830 (census).
3. Alonzo⁶ De Alvarado "A.D.A." Rucker, b. 7 Jan 1833.
4. Sarah⁶ "Sally" Melinda Rucker, b. ca 1834 (census).
5. Juan⁶ Ovander "J. O." Rucker, b. 10 Oct 1835.
6. John S. Rucker, b. ca 1837 (census).
7. Lucy⁶ Jane Rucker, b. 22 Sep 1840.
8. Frances⁶ Caledonia Rucker, b. 16 Oct 1842, d. 27 Mar 1845, age 2.
9. Frances⁶ "Fannie" Susan Rucker, b. 17 Dec 1844.
10. Laura⁶ James Rucker, b. 26 Jan 1847.
11. James⁶ Abner Rucker, b. 16 Jul 1854.

2nd 3. John⁶ Rucker (Wm⁵, Wm⁴, John³, -----), m. _____ Thomas.
 Change to

6. John⁶ S. Rucker (William⁵, William⁴, John³, John², Peter¹), b. ca 1838, d. 25 Mar 1900 (Find A Grave), Williamson Co., TN; m. 1st 28 Oct 1869 (Georgia Marriage Records, 1828-1978), Catoosa, GA, Julia Allbright, b. 20 Feb 1843, Rome, Floyd Co., GA, d. 8 Sep 1884 (Find A Grave), Williamson Co., TN; m. 2nd 1 Apr 1887 (TN Marriage Records, 1780-2002), Williamson Co., TN, Anna Hawkins. He was in Company D, 20th Tennessee Infantry, Confederate Army and fought under Forest. Rucker was wounded at Chickamauga, and never fully recovered. He was buried at Rucker Cemetery, Arno, Williamson Co., TN. He had no surviving children.

3rd Under John is

1. Sarah⁷ Rucker, m. _____ Manier. This is not John's daughter, but actually his sister, daughter of William Rucker and Mary Jane Pillow. She is omitted from the list of children on p.64.

Change to

4. Sarah⁶ "Sally" Melinda Rucker (William⁵, William⁴, John³, John², Peter¹), b. ca 1834 (census), d. 12 Apr 1924; m. 30 Jan 1856, James Wyche Manier. They lived in Davidson Co., TN and are buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, TN.

4th 7. Betty⁴ Rucker (John³, John², Peter¹), m. David North, son of Abraham A. North of Bedford.

Change to

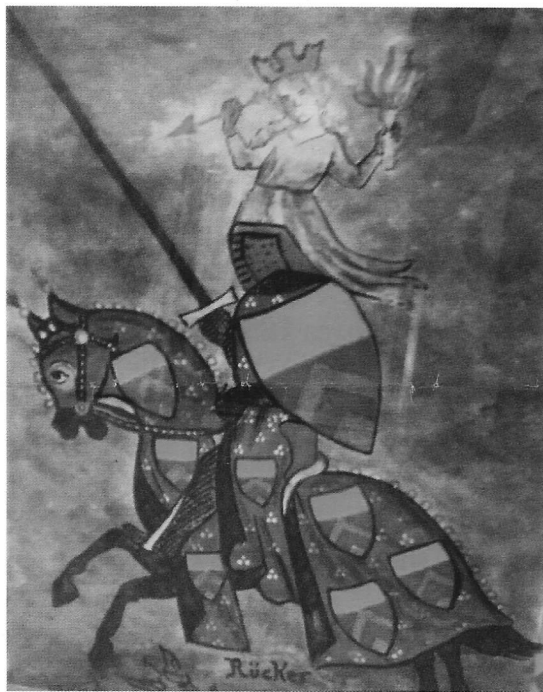
8. Elizabeth⁴ "Betty" Rucker (John³, John², Peter¹), b. ca 1759, d. ca 1829; m. 6 Jan 1785 (Marriage Bond, Bedford Co., VA), Bedford Co., VA, to David North, son of Abraham A. North, surety. David was the brother of Sarah who married Betty's brother William Rucker. Census showed at least four children. Only one child is listed on Ancestry.com.

1. Sarah "Sally" North, b. ca 1791; m. 25 Nov 1808 (Virginia Marriages, 1740-1850), Bedford Co., VA, to William Furbush, Jr., b. 1779, d. 1854.

* * * * *

The Bayeux Tapestry

By Jeannie Brydon



The Bayeux Tapestry is actually crewel (wool yarn) embroidery on Linen. It depicts the Norman conquest of England. It was created shortly after William the Conqueror defeated King Harold in 1066 and became King of England. It is located at the Museum of the Bayeux Tapestry in Bayeux, Normandy, France. It is 231 feet long and 19.5 inches wide.

If you Google the tapestry, you will find the complete story and animated history of the battle. It is one of the most important pieces of art of the period.

Sudie Wood Mann, daughter of Sudie Rucker Wood, author of *The Rucker Family Genealogy*, did the painting of a Rucker on horseback from the tapestry.

* * * * *

Letter from the President, Chris Rucker

With heavy hearts, we say goodbye to our resigning Editor, Mr. Bill Smith. Bill has volunteered many years of service to the RFS, as a reporter, writer, editor, and friend. His talents and commitment to our interests have been invaluable. We will miss his contributions and wish him well in his future endeavors.

For the newsletter, we welcome your stories of home and family, obituaries, and anniversaries. Please submit them to Jeannie Brydon contact information on p.12. Short stories about a special person or a special item that you have inherited such as the one that Jeannie had written about her great-grandmother's sidesaddle on page 19.

In Memoriam

Sharon Bridges Wood

Age 72, of Richmond, Va., passed away peacefully July 31, 2021. She was the former wife of W. Price Wood and mother of his children. Sharon was born in Arlington, Va., to the late Helen Bridges and Robert O. Bridges. She was preceded in death by her son, William Erin Wood. Sharon is survived by her son, Taylor Fielding



Sharon Bridges Wood

Wood (Kristen), of Wantagh, N.Y.; and her grandson, Austin, former husband, W. Price Wood, of Richmond; and Sharon's three sisters, Donna B. Harris (Robert), of Richmond, Brenda B. Cox (Frank), of Charlottesville, Pam B. Roberts (Mitch), of Darien, Conn.

Sharon spent her childhood in Chantilly,

Manassas and Warrenton, Va. and graduated from Osbourn High School in 1967. She received a B.A. in retail and marketing from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1971. After college, she traveled extensively around Europe, South America and lived in the Middle East and England [see last newsletter for her life in Iran, Vol. 31, no. 1, p.1].

Sharon was a devoted member of Eternity Church and served faithfully as a Trustee and Elder for the past 20 years. As a board member of Alpha and Oaks Ministries of Eternity Church, she used her gifts of hospitality and teaching. The Lord was the source of her contagious joy. Sharon also enjoyed gardening, cooking, reading, politics, Bible studies, but most of all, spending time with her family.

Sharon was a third-generation real estate agent with a 43-year career serving the Richmond area. She received top awards for her accomplishments and most recently, was an agent with Joyner Fine Properties. Sharon served on the Richmond

Historical Foundation and the first Board of the Richmond Children's Museum. She was known for her extensive knowledge and love of the City of Richmond and enjoyed helping families move to the area, sharing with them the area's rich history.

A Celebration of Life will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 14 at Eternity Church, 1200 Wilmington Ave., Richmond, Va. 23227. Interment will follow in Hollywood Cemetery. The family offers special thanks to the doctors and nurses at Bon Secour Hospital.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, August 7, 2021.

Price Wood's Rucker lineage: William⁹ Price Wood III (William⁸ P., Jr., Sudie⁷ S. Rucker, William⁶ A. William⁵ B., George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹ and Wm. B.'s wife Mary⁶ A. D. Rucker, Ambrose⁵, Reuben⁴, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹). Price is a grandson of Sudie Rucker Wood, author of *the Rucker Family Genealogy*.

Marvin Pierce Rucker

Died February 11, 2021,

in Richmond, Virginia from pancreatic cancer. Pierce, as he was called, was born June 13, 1949 in Richmond, Virginia. He was predeceased by his parents, Douglas P. Rucker, MD and Margaret Williams Rucker and his sister, Courtney Rucker. He is survived by his wife of 40 years and his best friend, Leslie Gruver Rucker, her two sisters and his brother, Douglas



Marvin Pierce Rucker

“Doug” P. Rucker, Jr. (Marian), of Richmond, his niece, Meredith Rucker Hunter, and great nephew, Miles Ambrose Hunter, both of Washington, D.C.

He was educated at St. Christopher’s School, The University of Virginia where he was president of Beta Theta Pi. He was an active alumnus, following football and basketball games at home

games, bowl games and tournaments.

He attended Washington and Lee Law School and became a “tough-minded” trial lawyer with Sands Anderson P.C., Law Firm. He was a member of the Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys (the “VADA”). He held a number of positions with the VADA, culminating in his term as its President, and was honored with the VADA’s Award for Excellence in Civil Litigation. He also was a fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation.

He enjoyed membership in the Commonwealth Club and the Society of Colonial Wars. Pierce was a committed Christian and a long-time member of St. James’s Episcopal Church. There he served on the Church’s Vestry (including as Junior Warden) and as Delegate to the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia. Always concerned about those less fortunate than he, Pierce served St. James’s Children’s Center and as a volunteer for CARITAS (helping the homeless), among other efforts.

Richmond Times-Dispatch,
Feb. 23, 2021.

Lineage: M. Pierce Rucker, Dr. Douglas Pendleton, Dr. Marvin Pierce, Edwin Timothy, Benjamin Jennings, Isaac, Ambrose, John, Peter
His grandfather, for whom he was named, Dr. Pierce Rucker was featured in the RFS newsletter, Vol. 30, No. 2, p.19. Article by Mike Rucker.

* * * * *

Polly White Adkins

Passed away on January 21, 2021, in Richmond, Virginia. Polly was born in Bedford, Virginia on August 26, 1928. She was predeceased by her husband, Alfred Ashton Adkins III; her brothers, Philip White and Barry White; and her sister, Jeanne Kenny. She is survived by her "girls," Penny Guza (Steve) and Amy Adkins; her beloved grandchildren, William Guza (Libba), Robert Augustine (Logan), Carter Warren (J.R.) and Ashton Guza; five great-grandchildren, Alfred Warren, Polly Warren, Hugh Guza, Wright Guza and Anne Brawner Augustine; her brother, Jack White (Dagmar); and



Polly White Adkins

her sister, Cary Baber (Ned). Polly graduated from E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg, Virginia and Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Polly had a cheerful personality, greeting everyone with a smile that lit up a room. She enjoyed making people feel welcome and included; the perfect hostess, she always had an ice-cold Coca-Cola to offer her guests. Some of her most cherished times were when she and her husband, Pug, gathered with their family for unending fun and many laughs during the summers in Sandbridge. She played endless card games and loved family game nights, especially at the beach. She ate ice cream every night and showed off her ability to solve even the hardest Wheel of Fortune puzzles. A skilled knitter, Polly shared her talents with her

family by providing each member with personalized Christmas stockings as well as blankets, sweaters and other gifts throughout the years. Polly, Mom, Mama...was absolutely adored by her family and friends and will be missed each and every day. A private burial was held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Goochland. A celebration of her life will be held in June at Sandbridge Beach.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch June 18, 2021.

Lineage: Polly⁹ Pendleton White, Lelia⁸ Vixella Rucker, Waller⁷ Jonathan Rucker, James⁶ Monroe Rucker, Jonathan⁵ Rucker, George⁴, John³, John², Peter¹ and Waller⁷ J.'s wife Russell⁸ McDaniel, John⁷ E., James⁶ P., William⁵, Margaret⁴ Rucker, Ambrose³, John², Peter¹ and William⁵ McDaniel's wife, Elizabeth⁵ Pendleton, Sarah⁴ Rucker, John³, John², Peter¹.

* * * * *

Annie Chappellear's Sidesaddle By Jeannie Brydon

There were always horses at the farm – summer home of William P. and Sudie

Rucker Wood, my grandparents, in Amelia County, Virginia. Horses were kept for all to ride.

The saddles were old army saddles. Leather saddles with a hole down the middle. Now that I think about it they were Civil War saddles, that grandmother had probably gotten from her parents' farm in Fauquier County, Virginia. My mother Jean Wood and her siblings all learned to ride at the farm and each had their own horse. Jean loved to use her grandmother, Annie Chappellear Rucker's sidesaddle.

Annie's daughter Sudie Rucker Wood inherited it. Sudie's daughter Jean Wood Brydon took over using the sidesaddle and it has come down to me.

It is made of leather and is in good condition, but has no girth so can't be used. To me, it is a family treasure.



Annie Chappellear Rucker's sidesaddle, now in my possession.

2022 Rucker family Society Reunion

Westward Migration of Ruckers - from Virginia to California

Enjoy the colorful history of beauty of Monterey Bay area

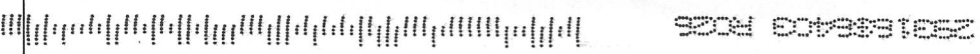
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Sunday, October 16, 2022

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Carol Gavette
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