

remarkable as the airline industry is highly competitive, oftentimes turbulent, and never a cake walk.

Mr. Hagan started working for American Overseas Airline at LaGuardia Field on January 10, 1946. After working as an operations representative, he was transferred to Paris, Copenhagen, and then London where he was appointed relief station manager for Europe. He returned to the United States where he worked his way up at American from lead agent in Dallas in 1949 to Dallas sales representative in 1964. After holding various positions with Braniff Airlines in the late 1960's and 1970's, Mr. Hagan returned to American Airlines in 1982 to serve as manager of special services.

It was in this latest position that I had the opportunity to see Mr. Hagan in operation and understand why he's been such a valued employee for 50 years. Mr. Speaker, Walter Hagan has extended hospitality to many Members of Congress, Senators, and other VIP's at the Dallas Airport. Luminaries such as Dolly Parton, Roger Staubach, and many others celebrated his 50 years with a January 10 luncheon in Dallas.

While Mr. Hagan recently announced his formal retirement, Mr. Hagan's admirers were not surprised to learn that he's still helping out at his office. So, even in retirement, Walter Hagan is still contributing and adding on to his now 50-plus years in the airline industry.

TOMHANNOCK UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the 22d district of New York is one of the most historic in the country. Our oldest churches, in particular, are virtual repositories of history.

The growth of those churches paralleled that of the communities they served. And nearly every one of them has a wealth of interesting anecdotal information worth preserving. One of these churches is the Tomhannock United Methodist Church in the Rensselaer County community of Valley Falls.

A constituent of mine, Mrs. Zillah S. Herrington of Johnsonville, was kind enough to forward a letter from the church's pastor, Rev. Gaylord Campbell. I'd like to share the letter with you, Mr. Speaker, and proudly place it in today's RECORD.

DEAR GERRY: We learn that the first sermon preached by a Methodist minister near Tomhannock was in 1788. From that small beginning, a service in Tomhannock that particular Sabbath Day, Methodism has a start in June 1789. Tomhannock had a preaching appointment is the erection of a church—it was built the summer of 1811 at a cost of about \$1000. This church later burned and the present one was built on the same site in 1845.

Before continuing the appointments of 1832 an interesting story of Christian adventure must be told. James Caughey, an Irish lad, was licensed to preach by the Tomhannock Class. For eight years he preached in our conference. Then on one special occasion following a season for prayer, he felt a call to return to Europe. On July 19, 1841, he set sail for England. His ministry took him to Dub-

lin Limerick, Cork in Ireland and Liverpool, Sheffield in England. During those six years of untiring ministry fully 20,000 were converted by his preaching. While in England, he met a boy by the name of Wm. Booth and led him to Christ. That boy became the famous General Booth, head of the Salvation Army. Our interest is intensified when we learn that a man from Tomhannock was instrumental in leading this famous leader of a worldwide known, religious organization to Christ. This is a great heritage that comes down to us.

In 1845, this present church building was erected on the site of the old church. The total cost of the building was \$3300. Subscriptions of \$300 and less made possible the building of the church. Roswell Brown had the contract for the mason work. This came to \$1200. Two men from Cambridge had the contract to the carpenters work. This bill totaled \$1400. This did not include the steeple which was extra. While the church was being built, a committee was busy raising funds to repair the parsonage. This also was done. In 1855, the Social Rooms in back of the church were added at cost of \$626.38. In 1859, the church bell was purchased at a cost of \$53,876. In 1866, the parsonage was rebuilt at a cost of \$2000. In 1871, the church was repaired and refurbished at an expense of \$1188.

The period from 1870 to 1880 reveals that Tomhannock Methodist Church was the outstanding rural church of the Conference in points of membership, missionary zeal and local activity.

In 1896, a building committee raised \$2100 which was used to redecorate the interior of the church. Three Gothic Pulpit Chairs (these are in the church today and used each Sunday) and a Pulpit were presented to the church by the pastor, Rev. Thomas Munro. The Rededication of the church occurred October 14, 1896. Dr. John H. Coleman preached the sermon.

DR. CORRIE ENDURES

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, there are two causes for the exorbitant, excessive cost of healthcare in this country—the Federal Government and large insurance companies.

If it were not for the involvement of these two entities, medical care would cost only a tiny fraction of what it does.

If we paid for anything else through a third-party payor system, costs would skyrocket.

That is why I read with great interest the opening comments of a recent feature article about Dr. Corrie Blair in the Knoxville News-Sentinel.

I also would like to call attention to a similar story in today's Wall Street Journal entitled "A Magnificent Misfit" by W.E. Gutman.

I wish we had more old-fashioned doctors like Dr. Blair and Dr. Gutman.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel]

LOUDON WOMAN HAS BEEN PRACTICING
MEDICINE FOR MORE THAN 54 YEARS

(By Don Williams)

"I'm one of a dying breed," says Dr. Corrie Blair.

"I don't like government medicine, I don't like insurance medicine, I don't like pharmacists telling you how to practice medicine."

If Blair seems set in her ways, she has reason to be.

She is 80 years old, although with her clear brown eyes and brown hair, she doesn't look it. She started practicing medicine when common sense directed how to treat common colds.

In this age of HMOs, TennCare and other programs brought in by big business and government, the bureaucrats and politicians have laid down a thick stratum of regulation on what used to be an uncluttered profession.

When Blair entered medicine more than 54 years ago, so-called innovations, such as preventive medicine, boiled down to using good common sense.

These organizations and things they're doing now are all based on economics rather than treating the patient," says Blair in a clear, high voice. There was a time, however, a time when . . .

Blair was a child when the bridge was put across the Tennessee River in Loudon, cutting her family out of the ferry business. Her family's ownership of choice real estate made life easy for her. Maybe too easy.

It could be that's one reason she chose medicine. For a young lady in the 1930s, training to be a doctor was far from easy.

Blair made good grades in Loudon County High School, but while the boys were studying biology and algebra, she was studying "domestic science" with the other girls.

"The only thing they thought we could do was get married or teach school, but when I got out there was no one I wanted to marry who wanted to marry me, so I went to college."

She attended two years at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga., taking her first real science course there as a sophomore.

"I like science better than anything, so I thought, I'll study more science and be a doctor."

She returned to Tennessee and entered the University of Tennessee pre-med program.

"It wasn't too popular for women to do," she says, and her family and friends needed convincing that she was serious. Her first cousin, Dr. Blair Harrison, was chief of staff at Knoxville General Hospital, and he offered to let her take nurse's training to test her mettle.

"After that was over, I told them, why yes, I still want to be a doctor, and I applied to the UT College of Medicine in Memphis. Back then there were no dormitories and we lived in houses with residents. My family thought it would be OK. There was another girl in my class, and we went all the way through together."

It was while in Memphis that she met Dr. William Thomas McPeake.

"He was an old country boy, and I was an old country girl. We were staying at the same boarding house, and every evening we would get together on the front porch. I'd go for a walk and he'd go with me. He was working his way through."

McPeake graduated ahead of Blair, but stayed in Memphis to intern until she graduated in 1941. When he was called up for military training in Pennsylvania, Blair went to Philadelphia to serve her medical internship.

There, on Jan. 25, 1942, they were married. When McPeake shipped out to North Africa for service under Gen. George S. Patton, he left behind a pregnant wife.

"Our daughter, Molly, was 3 years old when he got back," she remembers. She was the first of four children.

Molly Peeler is a physician at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center.

William T. McPeake is an orthopedic specialist, practicing mostly at St. Mary's.

Sara Louise Gilkey, now a lawyer in Lynchburg, Va., married a doctor.

Ed Blair McPeake operates the family farm, raising cattle in Loudon.