

YOUR HOME NEWSPAPER'S editorials are the opinions of staff members. As such they may be wrong. Whether you agree or disagree our columns, under "The People Write" heading, are open for you to express your own opinion.

Area Base For Mental Health

The commissioners in the four counties of the Roanoke-Chowan area should accept the suggestion of the director of the North Carolina Board of Health's Community Services Division and create a mental health authority.

There is unanimous agreement among the medical doctors, the welfare departments and the health departments in Gates, Northampton, Bertie, and Hertford Counties that there are inadequate means of handling the problems in this field that requires specialized training and professional competency.

The state can provide two-thirds of the cost of a budget up to \$120,000 (if planned on the basis of the four counties needs) and half of the cost beyond that sum if the budget should ever go beyond that level. The Hill-Burton Act of the Federal government will provide 85 per cent of the cost of constructing buildings if this should be part of a long range plan after the first few years.

The state has also suggested that the commissioners appoint one or two of their members to constitute this authority. To assist them they should form an advisory council of doctors and interested citizens to assist in the work of planning a long range program that could expand the services as professionally trained persons could be recruited.

It is not likely that the authority could find a psychiatrist or a psychologist in the first years, but the chances of getting these services through a part-time arrangement with some other district or hospital seems a possibility. Even under a limited program the nursing care, after care, and educational parts of the program could be started. A memorandum of agreement would be needed and a budget appropriated before any attempt could be made at recruitment.

The average cost of \$2,500 to \$3,000 per county is not high compared with the need and the cost could be apportioned in a fair manner. In view of the fact that the commissioners are now planning their next budget, this matter should be given consideration immediately.

The question of unifying the efforts

of the health departments in the four-county area has been repeatedly discussed over a period of years and has always lapsed because of the problems of personnel that are part of the history of the development of health services in the area.

Dr. Raleigh Parker of Northampton County has served in this field for many years and has been the prime mover in helping to establish such area facilities as the Tri-County Airport and now the mental health program. Without his initiative, some of these projects would still be shelved.

When Dr. Parker, of his own accord, decides to enjoy the leisure earned by 72 years of dedicated effort, the area could consider a reorganization of all of its efforts in the health field. In the meantime a start could be made with this objective as part of the future planning.

The most important suggestion from North Carolina health officials is that the services be established so they are provided on a regular basis in each of the counties and that they be coordinated with the local hospitals to provide efficient use of existing medical personnel.

The demands for public services are growing at the state and local level at a rate that dwarfs the growth of federal programs. The counties are going to have to look hard at the new programs that local citizens want for they can only come from increased taxes, matching funds or economies brought about by consolidating services and facilities in an area plan.

It will take a great deal of development and growth before the Roanoke-Chowan area will have a tax base sufficient to improve the area's services to a level matching those in counties now having an industrial base. Commissioners will have served their counties well if they have the courage to cut across old, outdated political boundaries and make their plans with an eye to the elimination of duplications.

A mental health program is a must, but so is tax relief.

Road Scramble Is Unhealthy

With every passing day, as the tempo of the campaigning for 1st Division highway commissioner appointment increases, it begins to look more and more as if Governor Moore made a mistake in his reorganization of the highway commission by reducing the number of commissioners from 18 to 14.

Seems like every time a new governor takes office he thinks he has to make some change in the highway commission to satisfy folks who thought the last administration didn't treat them right on roads. There was the Umstead plan to take care of those unhappy with the Scott administration, then the Sanford reorganization to satisfy those disgruntled with the Umstead-Hodges highway commission. Now we are to have the Moore plan to improve on the Sanford plan.

Fact of the matter is, few people are ever satisfied with the amount of new road building their area gets. This every four years bit of redoing the highway commission has become a game. Object of the game is to appear to be doing something while everybody waits for their own favorite highway project to get built.

Governor Moore's announced purpose in his cutting the commission down to 14 members, one from each highway division, was stated in his legislative message February 4 as being "in the interest of economy, efficiency and integrity." From the looks of things so far it is extremely doubtful if it will accomplish any one of these objectives.

Highway commissioners are paid on a per diem basis. The only saving to be had from reducing the number is in the compensation for the four so-called "floating" members of the commission. With fewer people to carry the load, this small apparent saving will probably be wiped out by the small commission having to work more days.

Efficiency of a 14 member commission will most likely be less than with 18. Each man will have an increased num-

ber of counties to look after. The 1st Division is a good example. The division has 15 counties which means that the new commissioner will have all 15 to try to satisfy. Under the 18 man board some of the counties were given to one of the floating members as his responsibility.

And as for the Governor's stated objective of improved integrity this will depend not on the number of members but on the quality of those appointed. What the results of this will be only the coming list of appointments and the passage of time will tell.

For the moment it would appear the state, including most especially the 1st Division, is headed for trouble on the highway front during the next four years. There is every indication that vastly increased funds for road building are going to be available. A \$300 million bond issue appears certain. Many millions for roads in the west are already assured through the President's Appalachia program. But while there will be more to spend, there are going to be fewer commissioners to see that it is spent right.

The result is that on a smaller commission every single seat has become more important. Witness to this is the almost unheard of campaigning going on for the 1st Division job. Far from the often stated objective of taking politics out of road building is the present situation. The thing has degenerated into a political campaign for an appointment.

Governor Moore will have to be a real Solomon on his highway commission appointments if his new commission is not to receive vastly more criticism than any in recent times. Before the old commission has even left office, the scrambling for favor has reached unhealthy proportions in these parts. It will take a wise man to restore public confidence in the integrity of a highway commission arrived at through active campaigning for appointments to it.

The People Write:

Futrell Endorses Liquor Vote

To the Editor: I would welcome a chance to vote legal whiskey, beer, and wine into this county and rest of the state too.

It has been clearly demonstrated locally and nationally that abolishing legal sales does not abolish or decrease consumption of alcohol.

Why should a man pay \$1.25 profit per pint of beer when in this county or use 3 or 4 gallons of gas to go somewhere else to buy? Profit on beer runs 25 cents a can or more to bootleg-

gers. This looks as if it will produce more poverty than legal sales of the stuff. N. C. tax per can is 3¢ to 4 2/3¢ and less than 30¢ per pint.

Now 17 years after legal sales were defeated maybe we can vote it back in over the protests of foolish people and bootleggers.

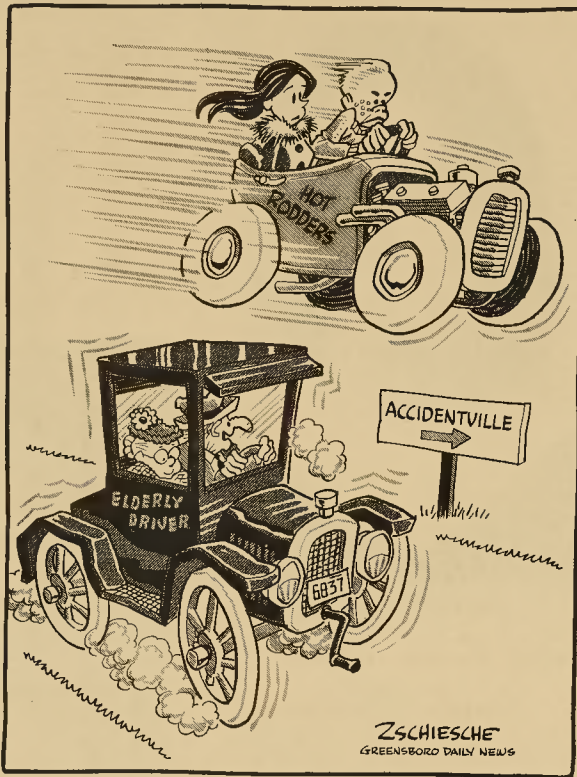
More power to Mr. Burgwyn in getting his petitions signed, referendum and actual legal sales here.

Walter F. Futrell, Jr.
Jackson

Beads 'n Deeds

"Troubles concerning the dollar would disappear overnight if the U. S. could collect debts owed it by other nations," says an economist. That's the biggest "if" of the year to date.

In most cases the reason a person can't make ends meet is that he is covering too much territory.



Carlton Morris Writes- History Can Jerk A Knot In You To Keep On Repeating Itself

As I have often said, history keeps repeating itself. I see in my sons the very things that happened to me in other times. I'm pretty sure my father saw in me some of the things that made up his life.

As a youngster I could go fishing in the river in front of the house. But for a real outing, we took my granddad's old one-lung gas boat and went down river a good distance where we could catch much bigger fish than those nearer home. This took place in high summer after the crop was laid by.

I would start talking it up weeks in advance, and after much hinking and questioning on my part, my father would set a tentative date. I don't remember questioning his judgment or trying to hold him to a promise for such tactics merely invited disaster. My father made up his own mind and you better believe it. But our generation is getting weaker, though I doubt that it's any wiser. For my sons never allow me to forget a promise and are not above putting all sorts of pressure on me to carry out their well laid schemes. I must admit that they get by with many things that would have caused my father to take the hide off me, if I had been stupid enough to try such things on him.

I never remember getting enough sleep on the night before a day's fishing down river with Papa. Incidentally, this same sleeplessness and nervous tension plagued me before every basketball game in which I played and still later, before changing jobs or making important speeches. As a result of this sleeplessness, the day of the great event found me looking as though I had been pulled through a knot hole and my eyes looked like two burnt holes in a blanket, as Papa used to say. Nowadays, these attacks, hit me only when I have spoken or acted angrily, when I should have used kindness.

But no matter how endless the night, the day eventually arrived and these were the days when I learned about weather. We went fishing in the early part of the day and as certain as night follows day, and we were going fishing, clouds would be racing across the sunrise, a certain harbinger of foul weather in the immediate future.

Sometimes Papa would decide against the trip and my loneliness and despair was complete. On other occasions, he would waste an hour or more trying to decide what to do. This wasted hour weighted down my heart like the stone in my granddad's grist mill, and if he decided we could

go ahead with the trip, the stone was rolled away and I could float as freely as the clouds across the rising sun.

Youngsters didn't have autos until they had earned them. In those days, we didn't have money or charge accounts or unlimited freedom. By present day standards, we really didn't have much. But when an older man remembers the almost physical pain that the joy of a day's fishing gave him, perhaps he didn't miss too much.

Now history repeats itself in my youngster. For weeks he has been talking up a fishing trip. I am weaker than my father for I look at my youngsters and see in my mind's eye all the things

I'd like to do for them during the little time I have left. Thus when one asks only for a fishing trip, I'm a setup for him.

So my youngster and I began to try to accumulate enough gear to go creek fishing. No down river fishing for us. We are anxious, just to fish with plain old earth worms.

A couple of days ago we thought we had almost everything ready and I went out one morning and stepped in a little hole unexpectedly. Since then, I've gone around looking like the leaning tower and we haven't wet a line yet. The water is fine, but I don't know how to take a youngster fishing with my crippled back. That's history for you.

R-C Editors Say ...

Forecast Is Turbulent

By SHELBY HOWELL
Gates County Index
Gatesville
At 11:30 p.m. on any given night of the week, conversations in a large percentage of Roanoke-Chowan area homes probably sound something like this: She: "Did you hear the weather forecast for tomorrow, dear?" He: "Yes, but somehow I missed the local weather."
Of course he missed television's local weather report. It was there, but announced in tones so soft and sly as to present a challenge to the hearing ability

you've had no trouble with up until now.
It's a conspiracy. All stations are the same. You hear a detailed and boring description of weather conditions from all over the globe, but tomorrow's forecast for your area is discreetly inserted between the reports of the high pressure area in Canada and the low in Florida. Who cares whether it's snowing in California? All the average viewer wants to know is whether to wear a raincoat tomorrow.
I must say that the accuracy has improved to some degree at the stations during the past few years. But the local announcers seemed out to prove me wrong last winter. It is true that snow was predicted, but at the wrong times. When they said it would snow, it didn't, but watch out when clear skies were predicted. That is when we had our snow.
But don't despair. There are solutions. The best would probably be to make a long distance phone call to Canada or Florida to find out what tomorrow's weather in your area will be like. Since we have heard in detail exactly what their's will be, it stands to reason that they will have heard our's. We can then exchange information.
Homes which shelter elderly citizens have a built-in reporter. The oldsters beat the daylight hours of the local television station in accuracy simply by studying sky conditions.
Or better still, the most reliable way to uncover the secret of tomorrow's weather is to wait until tomorrow. Look out your window, and even if the imbecile on TV is still shouting about the weather in Michigan, you'll be way ahead of him.
This is the way to lick 'em. We will find our forecast in spite of them. They might be so angry that the local forecast will be cut out entirely.

LOOKING BACKWARD

interesting items reprinted from old files of The Roanoke-Chowan Times
By MISS ESTHER CONNER
Editor Emeritus

April 17, 1924
A Thought For The Week—Few can utter words of wisdom, but opportunity to speak kind words is offered to everyone; and they are more helpful. —John Lancaster Spaulding.

The Northampton County Democratic Convention in session in Jackson last Saturday adopted strong resolutions endorsing Hon. Josephus Daniels for the presidency. This is as it should be. We do not believe there is a man in the United States who would make a better president.

Wednesday evening April 16 is the date when the Singing Class of Oxford Orphanage will give their annual concert in Rich Square. While here they will be entertained in the homes of R. W. Outland, R. L. Bolton, Dr. Q. E. Cooke, J. F. Shoulers, Dr. J. William Brown, W. C. Worrell, Dr. J. C. Vaughan, H. W. Elliott and Dr. J. Howard Brown.

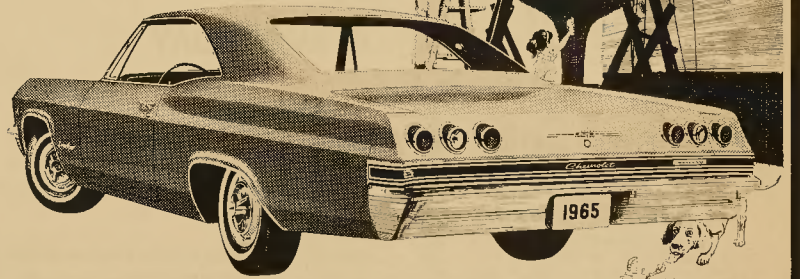
Several from Rich Square and Pinners visited Otis Brown, who is a patient in the Suffolk hospital, last Sunday.

The Baptist Church at Woodland has extended an invitation to the Baptist people here to worship with them at Woodland next Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock service, it being Easter Sunday. Rev. C. M. Billings is the pastor.

Miss Lottie Elliott is taking a vacation at home this week from

April 7, 1938
Judge Clawson L. Williams in his charge to the Northampton County Grand Jury in Jackson Monday rapped down on liquor, traffic and gambling devices and attributed the tendency toward crime in this county to breakdown in the moral and religious standards of the home. His charge made a deep impression on the Grand Jury, and led by their foreman, L. H. Martin, of Rich Square, they went about their work in earnest fashion.

Zing into spring! Chevrolet Impala



Chevrolet Impala Super Sport Coupe—one of two bucket-seated beauties for '65.

People who buy other big expensive-looking cars get one thing you won't (big expensive-looking payments)

It looks like a big car. And is—by almost any standard you want to apply.

Width? Nobody builds a car as much as one inch wider. Length? It grew three inches this year. Roominess? Every closed model's got three inches more shoulder room, front and rear, and more leg and foot room up front, too. Luzzuz? Nice little touches like the look of mellow walnut across the Impala's instrument panel. And big touches. Like the fineness of the same Body by Fisher workmanship that makes some of America's most

expensive cars look so expensive. How about the ride? Chevrolet engineers took the Jet-smooth one and smoothed it out even more this year. Also made it more stable by widening the wheel stance. Price? That's where Chevrolets fall way short of the other big expensive-looking cars. But we wouldn't have it any other way. Would you?

One last question: How soon can you make a good spring buy on a Chevrolet? One last answer: Just as soon as you can get down to your Chevrolet dealer's.



HIGH TIME TO TRADE AT YOUR CHEVROLET DEALERS

Zing into spring in a new Chevrolet, Chevelle, Corvair, Chevy II or Corvette

Authorized Chevrolet Dealers
in Ahoskie
STANDARD CHEVROLET-OLDS COMPANY
N. C. Dealer No. 785

In Murfreesboro
HILL CHEVROLET COMPANY, INC.
N. C. Dealer No. 1099

in Aulander
MARSH CHEVROLET COMPANY
N. C. Dealer No. 1915

Manufacturer's License No. 110