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Carlton Morris Writes - Rural People No Longer Use Corn Cobs And Catalogues



A Faithful Servant Is Retiring

It will be hard for the citizens of Northampton County to remember an election when the name of J. Raynor Woodard was not on the ballot. His ability to win elections was just as consistent. Woodard served nine regular terms as the representative of Northampton County in the North Carolina Legislature and was called on for four special sessions during his 18 years of service. Before that he served as a county commissioner and as a town official. Illness in his family and the added demands of running in a three-county district instead of only his own county have apparently weighed heavily in his decision not to file this year for re-election.

Rep. Woodard was never known for his flamboyance in the House. But he was known. The list of his legislative committee assignments covers the whole range of state business. He managed to adhere to the wishes of his electorate without causing divisions and conten-

tions. This appeared to be the secret of his success. No one in Northampton County has been more clearly a county-wide leader in a county known for its factionalism. His successor will find a quite different picture facing him. Not only will he have to run for one of two offices in a three-county district, but he will have to face an enlarged Negro registration and growing Republican strength. Redistricting has already started to bring about rural change.

Woodard's decision marks a changing of the guard. There was a time when a skillful county leader could seek the support of the active leaders of his party and be reasonably assured of election. That time is gone. Woodard deserves the thanks of the county's citizens for he has been consistent and faithful over many years. It is hoped that his personal and family affairs will allow him many more active political years.

We are now told that almost every segment of our people has jumped on the wagon train for "economic development" except the rural areas. They, we are told, are dragging their feet. The exact word used was "resist." Rural areas have resisted progress according to the news makers, and many homes don't even have such elementary things as running water and indoor toilets.

The dictionary says "resist" means to set one self against; to oppose; to offer opposition; to strive against; refuse to obey or agree. If the dictionary definitions are correct, and they could very well be wrong as we are in the process of rewriting everything including the history books and the Bible - but granting the dictionary is correct, I think "resist" is an ill chosen word, even by our slap-dash reporters of ultra liberal persuasion.

Rural people move up the economic development ladder just as fast as city dwellers if given half a chance. In the country we've moved a long way from the days of the old three-holeer and red and white corn cobs. We didn't exactly go indoors during the Hoover depression, but the WPA got away from corn cobs under FDR. They built new outdoor privies at a time when most people would have been willing to keep on going behind the barn if they could have some sow belly and beans.

And even under the WPA we couldn't afford toilet paper, but we couldn't afford to order much either and so we had little use for our mail order catalogues. Now there was a case of little resistance for the pages from Montgomery Ward offered little resistance compared to a red corn cob on a cold morning. And we didn't have water in our houses unless the roof leaked, but we didn't resist development.

A mountain man told me how his people planted white potatoes in the early spring, but times got so bad they dug up the seed potatoes and ate them. James Hill, a Kentucky hill country writer, told a graphic story of a starving family waiting for their string beans to get big enough to sound just right when they were snapped. Just

before they were to be eaten, a couple of neighbors showed up and said their families were starving. In the mountains and most rural areas, you don't send a man away hungry. The father told them to help themselves to the beans. The young boy telling the story wept when the men left and he saw the barren bean vines and felt the hunger in his belly. They were not resisting anything.

Mass production hit rural people before it got to the factory workers. I've met very few people who resist a better way of life if it's presented to them. Once I worked with an insurance company that kept a slogan before its employees that read, "It's not in the land, it's in the man." But very few men can get it if it isn't in the land to begin with.

By rural areas, I believe the government and sophisticated reporters mean anything outside Washington and New York. People riot time and again in New York, which is the place many people pray to go when they die, instead of heaven. A good friend wrote that she and her husband had to move out of Washington into neighboring Virginia, because of the terrible living conditions in the nation's capital. Incidentally, she is a native New Yorker and a brilliant newspaperwoman and her husband is one of those rare oddities, a born New Yorker. They told me that in some sections of Washington, no lady dared set foot even in the daytime for fear of rape, robbery and even murder.

So I suppose "resist" is the right word after all for we rural people do resist such things as that. We don't put up with it. And some don't have running water any closer than the creek, which is usually polluted by factories that bring economic development.

Personally I've come up pretty close to the proper level since the days of corn cobs and catalogues. My wife even buys perfume toilet paper. We don't have much to eat, but our privy is in the house and we smell real good.

Time To Take A Local Interest

There will be no doubt be some who will be highly incensed to learn that Hertford and Northampton counties are among those in which low skilled people will be recruited for migration to the Piedmont section. This news is similar in nature to the type of publicity that comes with having an area designated a depressed area available for special aid. When this happened several years ago there were wounded cries of protest, notwithstanding the fact that the area was and is "depressed" as far as economics goes.

Although not very flattering, actually it is a quite practical program which the N. C. Fund proposes. The idea is to take the unemployed and unskilled from the eastern part of the state where few jobs exist and move them to the central part where there are jobs. Besides the 2,000 to be relocated as part of the program, expectations are that others will naturally follow their friends and relatives and that the total migration to the Piedmont will be even larger.

If there is any one thing this area now has too many of, it is unemployed and underemployed. Those of us who have a reasonable income are getting along pretty well. But there are many, many more who are on the edge of dire need in this area. There are more here than in most other parts of the country. The

number of people in Northampton County receiving food stamps is an indication of this need. In Hertford County those certified for food under the free distribution program has reached one in seven, an almost astronomical number in a county which prides itself on talking about how much better off it is than are its neighbors.

We are glad the N. C. Fund has come up with this very practical solution to one of the area's most pressing problems. However, it must be recognized that its limited program is not a solution—it is a token effort. It is a move in the right direction but it cannot do the job by itself.

The initiation of this program ought to serve to wake people up to the needs of our masses of unskilled laborers. Almost no effort has been made locally to provide increased opportunities for these unfortunate people. It is time a local interest was taken in them—not just leave it to the experts from the foundations and federal government. It is time we recognized it as our duty to help with the solution of this problem. We affluent citizens caused, by mechanizing our farms. We need to take an active interest ourselves in seeing new jobs created for these people and training given to enable them to hold them.

Food For Thought In Farming

It grieves no one in the United States, except Castro's Communist friends, to learn that Cuba and Red China have had a serious falling out. There was to have been a substantial exchange of Cuban sugar for Chinese rice, but Peking fell down on the deal because the Mao regime did not have the rice to spare. There were widespread crop failures in Red China last year, both in the wheat-growing north and the rice-growing south. At the same time, Cuba produced much less rice than usual because Castro expected ample shipments from China and ordered less rice planted. The result has been loudly expressed ill-will, and hunger, in Havana.

In the East, Communist North Viet Nam is a rice-eating country, but it now is rice-hungry. Until lately it has been able to buy some rice from Red China, but now China has no rice to spare. South Viet Nam normally grows a surplus of rice, some of which it used to market in the north, but war conditions have greatly reduced production, and it is said in Saigon that one of the reasons why Hanoi is so desperately eager to conquer the South is the need of food. The people are being told that the only way to get enough to eat is to fight for it.

The rice-growing and rice-eating areas in Southern Asia include a wide belt running from the Philippines westward through Indo-China, Thailand, Burma, India and Iran. Another belt, which would include some of the same territory, extends from China's Yangtze valley southward all the way to and including Indonesia. Then, off the east coast, are Taiwan and Japan, plus Korea up the coast. Taiwan produces heavily, feeds its own 12 million people, and has a surplus for sale. Japan is not self-sufficient and is an importer from Taiwan.

These various Asian countries produce and eat 90 per cent of the earth's inadequate supply of rice. The production of the other 10 per cent is widely scattered. In Europe, Italy and Spain are the heaviest contributors. Little is grown in Africa. As for this country, Louisiana and other southern states.

primarily South Carolina, produce enough rice to satisfy our modest needs and a surplus from which we ship heavy tonnages abroad as part of our foreign aid programs.

Rice is a key factor in the world situation, and it seems not unlikely to us that in both Red China and Red Viet Nam, rice may bring on more developments than either bombs or diplomacy.

The strategic value of rice is indicative of the growing importance of our farm products as instruments of national policy. With increasing population pressures, the American farmer and the food he grows are becoming more and more important. Here in the Roanoke-Chowan there is food for thought over how to produce in the future more to eat. This is especially important because of the many threats to tobacco, both from being boycotted as an export product and because of the health factors involved in its use. To a lesser degree cotton is also vulnerable since it cannot be eaten, there are many substitutes for it and other places—like the southwest—that can grow it much more cheaply than can we.

Thank goodness peanuts and corn can be eaten. Diversification in the form of other new eatable products would seem a wise course, even if it means upsetting some agricultural traditions and traditionalists.

An evolutionist predicts that by the year 5000 babies will talk as soon as they are born. If so, it would be no doubt amusing to hear what these babies say to obstetricians who speak them.

Cars are more reliable than people. Almost all traffic accidents are due to faults of drivers rather than to mechanical faults of cars.

Employer Loses Union Suit.—Headline. Gosh! And right slap-dash in the middle of a tough winter! How awful!

Some say President Johnson has poor taste in choosing clothes. There are others who have a more serious criticism: They say he is trying to clothe himself with too much authority.

Conway Seaboard Pendleton

By MRS. LEE BRITTON. Dr. W. L. Spivey and children of Atlanta, Ga., were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vick Saturday.

Eddie James spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Marshall Francis in Raleigh.

Mrs. William Davis returned home Wednesday from Richmond Memorial Hospital at Richmond.

Mrs. C. W. Britton accompanied Mrs. Ruby Taylor to Newport News last week where she visited her daughter, Mrs. Millie Smith. She also spent some time with her granddaughter, Mrs. Bruce Williams, in Adelle, Va.

Miss Bridget of East Carolina College, Greenville, is spending a few days this week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Bridgers.

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Davis visited their son, Frankie, in Richmond Sunday.

Eldridge Vick is a patient in Southampton Memorial Hospital, Franklin, Va.

Mrs. Clyde Odum accompanied Mrs. Etta Griffith of Murfreesboro to Richmond Wednesday.

Dr. and Mrs. Vernell Vick and children of Tarboro were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vick.

Mrs. Roy Huskey and son and Mrs. James Martin of Norfolk visited Mr. and Mrs. Russell Cox Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fleetwood, son of Dr. and Mrs. Joe Fleetwood, is still a patient in Roanoke-Chowan Hospital after receiving serious injuries in a car-train accident.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Britton were in Norfolk Saturday.

Mr. W. C. Bradley and Mrs. Moody Howard were visitors in Eure on Saturday.

Mrs. James Lee and Danny Rizzo spent the weekend visiting relatives in Lenoir.

Miss Susan Best of Roanoke Rapids spent the weekend with her grandmother, Mrs. N. B. Best.

Mrs. Edgar Knight of Norfolk spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Bessie Dunning.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Powell visited their son - in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Howell, in Milton, Del., last weekend.

Miss Louise Hall Holloman of Scotland Neck spent the weekend with her grandmother, Mrs. W. D. Holloman.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Galtress, Jr., and daughter of Franklin, Va., and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Futrell of Murfreesboro visited Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Smith on Sunday.

Mrs. William S. Hampton of Norfolk spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Davis, on Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Hampton and Miss Clara Edwards visited Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Clarke in Seaboard.

Mrs. N. B. Boone, Sr., has returned to her home after visiting her daughter, Mrs. Thornton Stovall, in Stovall.

Miss Emma Gay Stephenson of Durham spent the weekend at her home here.

Connie and Jan Flythe of Conway spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Hinton Britton, on Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Britton, Betty Jo Britton and their guests attended the Barnum and Ballef Circus in Raleigh and spent the night with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Murray.

Mrs. Sam Dewar of Bethel spent Friday night with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Johnson.

Miss Linda Askew of Raleigh spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Askew.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Warren and children of Camden spent Sunday with relatives here. They also visited W. D. Edwards, a patient in Roanoke-Chowan Hospital.

Mrs. M. B. Johnson, Mrs. Connie Taylor and Susan Johnson were in Suffolk Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Johnson and daughters, Pam and Susan, were in Newport News Sunday.

The Rev. Randolph Phillips attended a State Family Life Conference in Greensboro Monday through Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Stephenson and Mr. and Mrs. Broadus Liverman visited friends in Mantoo Sunday.

Miss Patsy Bryant of Portsmouth spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bryant.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Edwards were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bruce and children of Yorktown, Va., and Miss Kay Edwards of UNC at Greensboro, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ward. He is a student at Guilford College.

Mrs. Del Miller is spending this week in Westminister, S. C., with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Boggs. Mr. Miller accompanied her there and spent the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Miller returned last week from a two months stay in Florida.

Dr. and Mrs. John Sledge and sons of Charlotte were weekend guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Sledge.

Mrs. O. C. Brown has returned to her home here after spending three weeks in Wilmington with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Browning. She was accompanied home by the Brownings and their daughter, who spent the weekend here.

Campbell College student Mary Beth Powell spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Florence B. Powell.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Warren of Rocky Mount visited his mother, Mrs. D. J. Warren on Sunday.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. three weeks in Wilmington with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sprinkle of Norfolk.

Annual YWA DeLOATCH Banquet Held

CONWAY - The annual Young Women's Auxiliary Association Focus Week Banquet was held on Monday night, February 14, at 7 o'clock in the Northampton County High School Cafeteria.

Approximately 200 YWA's, leaders and guests attended. Miss Sarah Ann Hobbs, state YWA director, was speaker.

The theme for the banquet, "Let Freedom Ring," was carried out with American and Christian flags and red and blue ribbons for table decorations.

The program included a skit about the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly and a poem on the YWA house party given by several girls from Northampton County.

Following Miss Hobbs' talk checks presented a check for \$200 by the associated YWA director, Mrs. J. A. Smith. The check represented money collected from YWA members and is to be used by Miss Hobbs next summer in Alaska where she will assist with WMU work while on vacation there.

DeLoatch is a private pilot's license. He holds a native pilot's license. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Roanoke-Chowan Hospital.

DeLoatch was a member of Northampton County and lived there until 21, the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. DeLoatch, Sr., who live on RFD, Conway.

DeLoatch is a Baptist, Rotarian and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Roanoke-Chowan Hospital.

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MARTIN (Continued from Page 1) in the legislature in 1963. He was prominently discussed as a candidate for lieutenant governor and attorney general before the 1964 statewide elections.

A graduate of Wake Forest Law School in 1950, Martin did graduate work at the University of Virginia.

He served in the Judge Advocate Corps of the Army from 1951 to 1954 and while serving was elected to the post of solicitor of the Northampton County Recorder's Court. He served one term after having been discharged.

In November of 1963, he was cited as "Tar Heel of the Week" by the "News and Observer."

In addition, he served two terms as the chairman of the Northampton County Democratic Party.

He is now the chairman of the Northampton County Good Neighbor Council and is appointed to head two federal commissions by the federal district judge.

Martin married the former Carolynn of Cottonwood, Ala., in 1954. They have two children, Lisa, age 2, and Perry, 3 1/2 months.

Born in the creek village of Northampton County, Martin graduated from Conway High School.

He is a Mason, Rotarian, member of the American Legion and the Rich Square Baptist Church.

Explorer Post Open To Boys

JACKSON - All older teen-age boys who would like to participate in the wide-awake explorer program are invited to contact Earl Becht or Scott Bowers in Jackson.

"Boys from all over the county will be able to enjoy the adventure, fun and fellowship of an active Explorer Post on a county-wide basis if sufficient interest is shown by eligible boys," Bowers states.

Post 196 already has a charter and a sponsor.

Becht has organized an active summer program for the boys and has volunteered to serve as advisor.

It is planned to rotate meetings between towns represented in the Post so that each member will find it equally convenient to attend meetings, announced Bowers.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Plythe of Conway accompanied Mrs. R. C. Carter and daughters, Louise and Kathleen, to Whitaker's Thursday where they attended the funeral of Mrs. Carter's niece, Mrs. Jessie Atkinson.

Mrs. E. B. Lassiter spent Saturday in Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Martin and daughter, Janice, of Gates were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Moody Howard.

Betty Mulder of Roanoke Rapids spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Mulder.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Lassiter visited Mrs. Hazel Long in Roanoke - Chowan Hospital Friday.

Mrs. David Minton of Portsmouth spent Saturday with her mother, Mrs. J. A. Parker.

Mrs. J. H. Woodard and family of Grifton visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Beale Wednesday.

Potcasi Jackson

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Williams of Richmond spent the weekend with her father, B. L. Sykes. Raleigh Barrett has returned home from Roanoke Rapids Hospital where he was a patient.

Mrs. R. W. Barnes, Sr., spent Wednesday in Oxford.

Miss Mary Agnes Pearce of Southward College spent the weekend with her father, W. D. Pearce.

Hardy Barham of Washington, D. C., visited his cousin, Miss Elizabeth Hargrave, and other relatives here recently.

Mrs. L. N. Collier has returned home after spending two weeks with her son, M/Sgt. James R. Nelson, and family in San Antonio, Tex.

Spending the weekend touring Williamsburg, Va., were Messadames John Burgwyn, Buxton Midyette, A. C. Gay, E. W. Lewis, A. L. Cochran, W. J. Beale, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Collier were Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Collier of Woodland and Mrs. J. H. Howell and children of Sarysburg.

Jack Bain of Frederick College, Portsmouth, spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Bain.

children of Baltimore, Md., spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Edwards.

Miss Sue Parker of ECC, Greenville, spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Parker.

Mrs. C. K. Futrell spent the weekend in Washington, D. C., with Mr. and Mrs. Basil Futrell.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Futrell were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Goodwin of Suffolk, Va., and Mrs. Del Arthur and baby of Raleigh spent the weekend with her father, Ardell Long.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Heller and son, Tommy, spent Saturday in Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Q. Taylor and son, Quen, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Maddrey and daughter, Pearl Lane, Mrs. R. J. Barkley and daughter, Denise, and Mrs. M. A. Britt accompanied Mrs. T. W. Fogleman to her home in Greensboro after her visit of several weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Britt.

Severn

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bolt and baby of New York City spent the weekend with the Rev. and Mrs. John Dean.

Harold Martin of Richmond spent Saturday with his mother, Mrs. L. L. Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Barnes spent the weekend in Roanoke, Va., guests of relatives.

Carlisle Rose and Julie Martin of Richmond spent Sunday with Mrs. L. L. Bryan.

Mrs. Julian Carter and son, James White Porter, are spending a few days in Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. Garland Barnes spent Thursday in Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Britt and daughter, Denise, and Mrs. M. A. Britt accompanied Mrs. T. W. Fogleman to her home in Greensboro after her visit of several weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Britt.

M/Sgt. and Mrs. William Britt