

Opinions

Candidate's role unusual

By Cliff Blue
UNUSUAL -- Betty Ann Knudsen, candidate for the Democratic nomination for Secretary of State, has also announced her support of Tom Gilmore for governor on the Democratic ticket.

This is most unusual as most candidates tend to steer clear of other races when involved in a state-wide race of their own.
DEATH PENALTY? -- Leaders of six denominations in North Carolina, including Presbyterian Synod Secretary, John D. MacLeod, Jr., have issued a statement to Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr. opposing North Carolina resuming the death penalty, citing The New Testament as the reason for opposing capital punishment, and calling on the governor to insure "that North Carolina remains free of the practice of killing prisoners."

The leader's of the other five denominations were not revealed by Dr. MacLeod. "We believe that no one can rightly judge another to be beyond the reach of God's grace," they said. They also quoted Jesus, from Matthew 5:38: "Do not set yourself against the man who wrongs you," and Paul, from Romans 12:17: "Never pay back evil for evil."

JACKSON -- William E. Jackson, Jr. a native of West End in Moore County, is the first senior fellow of the Fulbright Institute of International Relations at the University of Arkansas.

People & Issues

The Tar Heel native is an authority on arms control and United States-Soviet relations and has extensive experience in government and international relations. He was executive director of the general advisory committee on arms control during the Carter administration. He also served in the State Department's office of Congressional Relations. Earlier he was legislative assistant to Sen. Alan Cranston.

Jackson also serves as an associate professor within the Institute and will teach courses in his area of specialization.

A START -- If the Federal Government would reduce all expenses wherever possible by 10 to 20 percent, it would be a solid start towards balancing the budget. Few people would resign, and it would be a move in the right direction.

STATE MAGAZINE -- The State Magazine observed its 50th year with the January, 1984 issue.

The late Carl Goerch started the Magazine in June, 1933, in the very depths of the Great Depression.

That was a few months after "Ye Editor" had started "The Captain" in Vass, on August 31, 1932. The State Magazine was designed to cover the state, whereas my publication was plan-

ned for the Vass community in Moore County.

I became acquainted with Mr. Goerch in his early days with The State and admired the magazine.

W.B. Wright has been editor and publisher for the past several years, Goerch having sold the publication some years before he died.

Bill Sharpe, another friend of mine, became editor and publisher in 1951 and served for several years before Mr. Wright took over this position.

I was amused at some of the articles which were reprinted from past issues during the 50-year history of the magazine.

One in particular, "The Bride Forgot Her Kick-and Step," was especially enjoyable.

People who have read The State Magazine during the past 50 years will enjoy recounting the many humorous articles as well as political history featured in this monthly publication.

Editor and Publisher Wright says: "Regarding this Anniversary Edition it might be gratifying to say we are presenting the best articles of the past 50 years. But that would be easier said than done... In this issue we have settled for trying to present a fair sample of the material which kept State subscribers reading in the past," and Editor Wright has done a masterful job in his undertaking.

Family still force in farming

There is every reason to believe that the family farm will continue to be the dominant force in American agriculture.

According to figures released by the American Farm Bureau Federation, about 90% of all farms and ranches in this country are family owned and operated -- as they were 50 years ago. Further, about 80% of all corporate farms are also family owned and operated, having been incorporated for tax and other legal purposes.

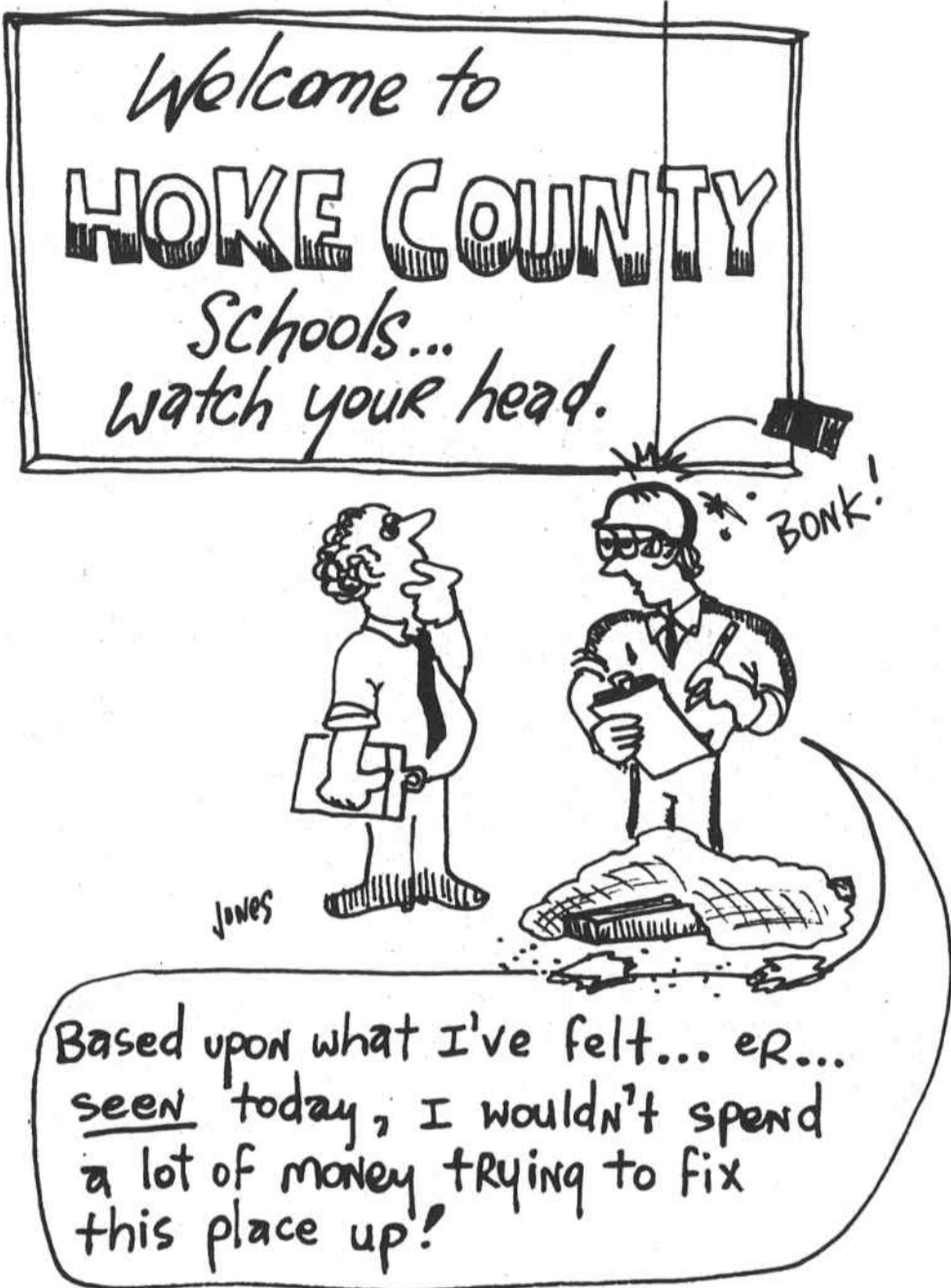
Statistics which show that the food and fiber needs of our nation are being produced by a declining number of farms, most of which are increasing in average size, are used by those who argue that "family farmers are being forced from the land."

Such fears are unfounded. Farm size is growing larger. Each farmer is indeed able to produce more today due to modern technology, mechanization and the high per unit productivity of our nation's

farmers and ranchers.

Ironically, most questions about the make-up of today's agriculture come from church and other social action groups and from those with political axes to grind.

Family farming has changed over the years, just as is true of any other enterprise. But, the future for family farming remains great if it can be saved from the politically and socially motivated "family farm savers."



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KEVIN DAVIS

Kevin is single and lives in Raeford. He graduated from Hoke County High School and received a B.S. from U.N.C. Chapel Hill. He is a member of Raeford Presbyterian Church where he sings in the choir.

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