

# Viewpoints

## Fowler's work needs to be kept going

Hoke County residents were shocked last weekend by the sudden death of Earl Fowler.

Fowler had served this county for almost seven years as Director of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, and was at the time of his death on the verge of achieving many of the goals he had sought for the community.

In recent months, the 55-year-old Lumberton native had spearheaded this county's efforts to secure a satellite branch of Sandhills Community College in downtown Raeford. As Fowler saw it, the college would not only improve the educational opportunities for local residents, but the

facility would also work as a stabilizing influence in the deteriorating downtown area.

Fowler envisioned the embryo college spreading from its first proposed location in the old Bank of Raeford to other vacant downtown buildings. He also saw new retailers being attracted to the area by the potential of doing business with the students attending the facility.

Recently Fowler had served with a committee of 20 other citizens to develop a long ranged facilities plan for the county's schools. The plan developed by the group is far reaching, and, if adopted, could make the future of the schools secure for the next 10 years.

Because of the teamwork and spirit exhibited by the group, Fowler and others in the community believed a similar citizens' committee could be established to expand industrial recruitment efforts.

The process of establishing the industrial search team was in the works when he died Saturday.

### Editorial

In order for this county to grow in an orderly manner and to keep pace with other counties in the state, Fowler believed we needed local telephone communications with Cumberland County. He was working on a first phase of a countywide plan which could have initially linked the Rockfish area to the Fayetteville exchanges.

Fowler thought we needed a motel in Raeford and was optimistic about recent talks with out-of-town developers.

Two weeks ago, he talked about plans to get a busload of county residents to attend a May meeting of the state Highway Commission. The group would lend needed support for the four-laning of U.S. Highway 401 between Raeford and the Cumberland County line. That was a project Fowler believed was essential for Hoke County to grow.

In addition to his public life, Fowler was an active member of both the Raeford Presbyterian Church and the Raeford Kiwanis Club. He was also a solid friend to many in this community.

It is hard to think of Earl Fowler and not think of rhododendrons. He would have loved to have seen the county covered with the shrubs, and a festival held each spring to celebrate their blooming. One is also reminded that Fowler grew one of the best varieties of cantaloupe in the area. He gave more to friends and neighbors than he ever tasted.

Fowler's death creates a void in this county's leadership at a time that is critical to our future. It is hoped that others, who believed in what he was doing, will step in and see the tasks completed.

Earl Fowler often said there was one achievement for which he wanted to be remembered.

"I have always tried to do what was best for Hoke County," Fowler said.

# Letters To The Editor

## Raeford Airport has relaxed atmosphere

To the Editor:  
I take the liberty to answer your editorial about the airport and its management.

I have flown in and out of Raeford Airport for several years and have the highest regard for it and its management. In my opinion it is the best of its size in the state, and even better than many larger ones in the state. I really like the nice relaxed atmosphere of this airport where everyone is very helpful (except certain editors) and Raeford excels at this.

To answer some of your questions. The skydiver killed was not a member of the Raeford Skydiving Club. He was a green beret experienced jumper using an internationally acclaimed skydiving site and had an unfortunate problem that I was sorry to hear about.

Many international and world champions use Raeford to train for championship matches, and this brings it good publicity not to mention REVENUE, how many successful jumps have been made there? I don't know, but it has been a lot.

The marijuana plane was about out of gas. (I was there the Sunday after it landed and overheard the agents remark) and had to land somewhere, Raeford was handy and available, and was not its intended landing area. There are too many curious people who know a strange airplane at these small airports.

The crash of the plane that got in the helicopter turbulence, as every pilot knows the turbulence can't be seen and can linger around for usually no more than several minutes.

Most of the time the turbulence is gone almost immediately, but in this case due to atmospheric conditions, air density, air pressure, wind direction or turbulence (or some other cause unknown, such as wind shear, which wrecks large airliners). This turbulence lasted longer than it should have about 15 minutes in this case.

In my opinion you should have written an editorial alluding to the excellent manner the pilot (who this writer has watched many times and knows him to be a very safe thorough pilot) handled the plane so as to keep the injuries to such a small amount.

This is my view on the crash as witnessed by me on the evening of the crash.

The question mark ask are you an editor?

My opinion is reserved.  
Jack Camp  
Hoke County

## Child murderers should have public executions

To the Editor:

It's bad enough when you can hardly trust your neighbors in the daytime much less at night on a street. Walking isn't even safe anymore. It is not hard to imagine one being on jungle patrol during the Vietnam conflict when one thinks of clerks working in convenience stores at night.

Surely, crime is social "cancer." Capital punishment is good "surgery." The murder of an adult is terrible enough, so perhaps the gas chambers or injection is fine in that case. But for child killers, it should be a different story.

Anyone that is dirty and low down enough to kill a kid should for punishment, be given the death sentence in the manner of being stripped of their clothing, taken out, and hung upside down by their heels.

If in summer, coat their body with honey so the flies and bees will torture them while the puncturing of the "animal's" jugular vein will allow them to bleed to death.

Admission of \$5 should be charged and the money would go to the family of the kid that was a victim of death. Such punishment is no crueler than the murder of an innocent child could ever be.

When you consider some cases in the past, such a show would be great to see.

Thank you sincerely,  
Daniel Edwards  
Pine Ridge, Box 301  
Bladenboro, N.C.  
28320

## More ineffective Congressmen needed

Dear editor:

Some people are always criticizing Congress. From time to time I've poked a little fun at it myself. "Congress can't get anything

done," some people say. "It's too ineffective, too slow. Takes it a month to do half a day's work."

Anybody who thinks along that line ought to read an article I read last night. According to it, in the 10 years from 1972 to 1982, Congressmen from all 50 states introduced 87,000 pieces of legislation. That's an average of 8,500 a year.

Now of that 87,000 proposed laws, only 3,600 were passed, for an average of 360 a year.

Have you stopped to think that if Congress has been 100% effective, we'd now have 87,000 new laws instead of 3,600?

What this country needs is more ineffective Congressmen.

Of course, there's another side to this. Had Congress gone ahead and passed the full 87,000 pieces of legislation, it might have been at a rate faster than lawyers could figure out how you can get around them. For every law passed, there are generally two judges and four lawyers interpreting it in two different ways.

Even Supreme Court justices have trouble deciding what's constitutional and what isn't. By a 4 to 5 vote, a piece of legislation can be ruled constitutional, whereas if two of the five had come down with a bad cold and missed the vote, it could have come out unconstitutional.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

The News-Journal

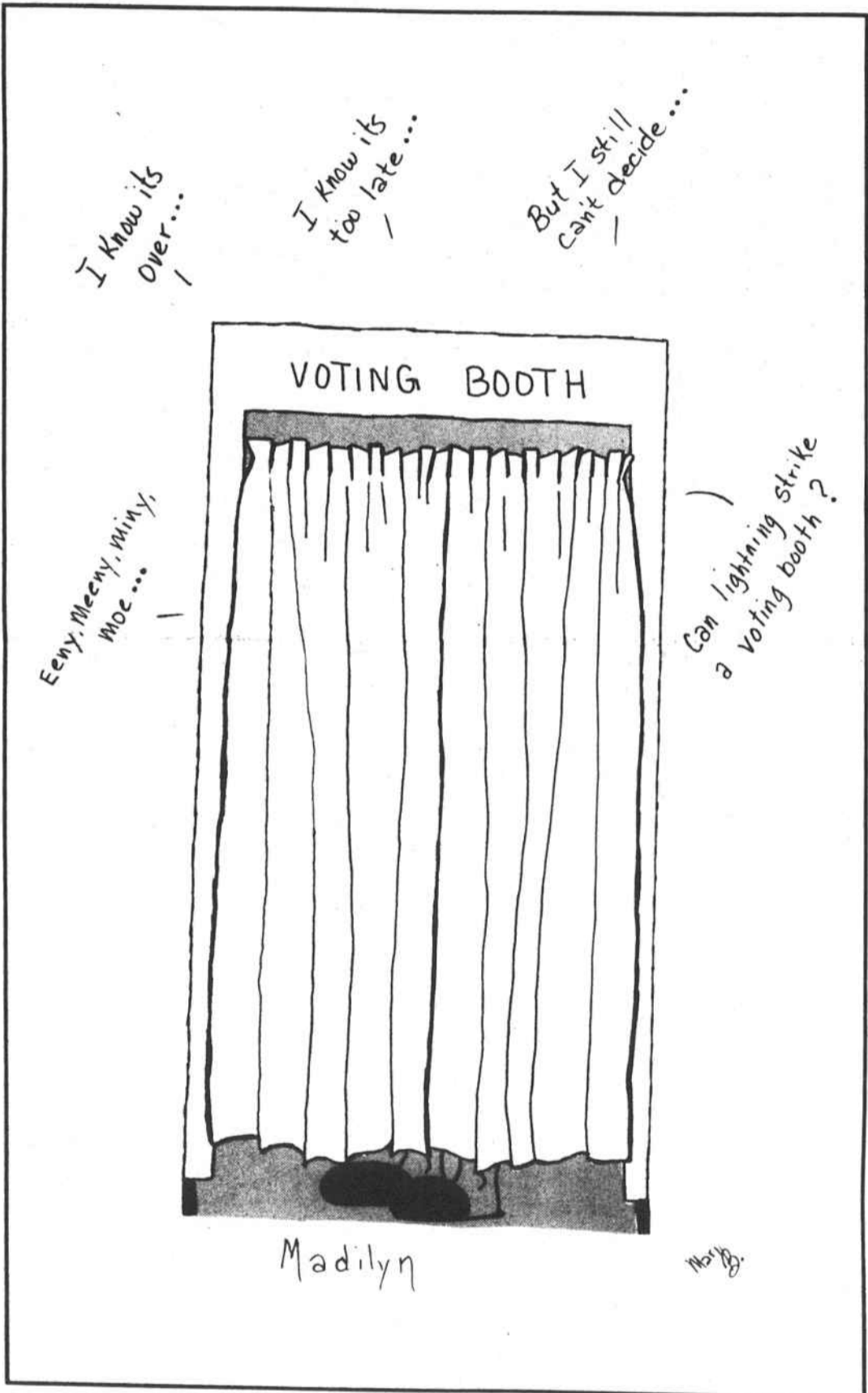
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# Elections can be like Christmas and Easter

By Warren Johnston

Elections are a lot like Christmas or Easter, I told my wife the other night as we were sitting around watching the final pleas of the candidates on television.

"Do you think that we should celebrate them more soberly?" she asked, immediately assuming that I considered the voting days to be similar to religious holidays.

"There are already prohibitions on the books about drinking and giving away liquor while the polls are open. I suppose now you want to add some sort of election day feast or have a parade so everyone can wear their voting bonnets. Do you honestly believe that will make people stop and think before they vote?" she attacked.

"I'll admit that we're probably too flippant about the way we vote, and a session in church might not be a bad idea before we cast a ballot. But I really don't see why you are so hell-bent on changing things," she went on.

"Now I know how Martin Luther felt. He was misunderstood too," I said, pointing out that it was the surprise element of election days that I found similar to Christmas and Easter.

When you go to bed the night before Christmas and the tree is

## The Puppy Papers

bare, you're surprised when you wake up and find dozens of presents, I said.

On Easter, it's a real shocker when you wake up and your mother says the Easter Bunny left colored chicken eggs all over the yard.

"Elections are a lot like that," I said.

The voting process always seems to be a surprise for the candidates, particularly in the south. On the Saturday before the balloting, many think they are leading and likely to get elected.

When they wake up on Monday, the day before the polls open, they find out that a bunch of the voters got together in church on Sunday and decided to block vote. They are surprised to find that their names are not on the specially marked sample ballots, and they have lost the election.

"That's what happened to Jimmy Carter and Thomas Dewey. Boy, were they surprised," my wife said.

There are other things which are surprising about elections, I said.

On Monday night before an election there are usually only a handful of campaign posters hanging around, but the next morning, there are millions of them.

"They're sort of like Easter eggs. Colored posters are strewn over the yards of every polling place in the county," I said.

The other thing that amazes me about elections, is my inability to choose a winner.

"I remember, you're the one who predicted a McGovern landslide in 1972," my wife said.

"Yeah, I thought Alan Cranston had a chance this year too," I noted.

"Well, you can't win them all," she said.

Perhaps I should quit being surprised by elections, I told her. "Maybe you would be better off organizing a voting day parade," she said, pulling a strange looking hat out of her closet.

The parade was a good idea, but the thought of an election feast seemed more appealing.

I decided to make myself a sandwich and not to think about the festivities again until November.