

Opinions

Trucking receives high marks

Cliff Blue



People and Issues

The results of a national public opinion survey conducted by the Washington office of Market Facts, Inc., a national survey research organization, gives the trucking industry high marks as an economic catalyst and rate truck drivers safer than other motorists on the road. Nearly 1,000 licensed drivers from across the country, at least 18 years old, served as the example of the poll.

On road behavior, 69% agree that truck drivers are generally more courteous than car drivers. 64% view truck drivers as more willing than automobile drivers to help in an emergency. Only 28% fear driving alongside trucks on the highway more than alongside other cars.

Those polled also see truck drivers as less likely to adhere to the 55 miles per hour speed limit than other motorists.

RICHARD PETTY...Richard Petty received super credit by his homefolks after winning his 200th automobile race.

It was a celebration honoring Petty's 200th at Daytona International Speedway in Florida.

The celebration in Randleman was organized by Mayor Lib Swaim and others and was sandwiched between Petty's other races and appearances on national television shows.

Petty described the fender-banging race at Daytona and how he went up to President Reagan's box after the victory. Petty and the President are members of a mutual admiration society. Petty is Reagan's re-election committee chairman in the Fourth Congressional District, back home in Randolph County.

720 MILLION...An Idaho National Engineering Laboratory study concludes that Americans throw away the energy equivalent of 720 million gallons of gasoline every year in the form of old automobile tires, reports National Wildlife magazine.

DEMOCRATS...In a release by Jim Martin, candidate for governor, it is interesting to note that two former candidates for governor in 1976 announced support for Jim Martin; Ed O'Herron, who was also a member of the House of Representatives for several sessions and Democratic State

Senator Thomas Strickland from Wayne County.

Seven other leading county Democrats endorsed Jim Martin's campaign for governor, they being, Earnie Koury, Alamance County; Mary Fay Brusbe-Hill, Cherokee County; Nathan Garrett, Durham County; Bobby Pigg, Mayor of Tarboro; Reuben Daniel, Mayor of Tarboro.

CRIME...President Reagan says: The problem of crime "is one as real and as deadly serious as any in America today; it demands that we seek transformation of our legal system, which overly protects the rights of criminals while it leaves society and the innocent victims of crime without justice."

WOMEN TO DECIDE...The selection of Geraldine Ferraro as the Vice Presidential nominee of the Democratic Party emphasizes that there are more women voting now, yes, more than men, which leads emphasis to the power of women voters. Generally, heretofore the ladies voted as did the husband, but that seems to be in the past rather than the future.

100th YEAR...The United States recently saluted the 100th anniversary of the Washington Monument, the towering but simple memorial to America's founding father.

Farming still number one

By John Sledge

N.C. Farm Bureau Federation
Farming is still the most important industry in the United States. Although less than three million Americans actually till the soil, another 20 million are employed in jobs created by agriculture.

Farming is big business, worth \$144 billion to our economy last year. One farmer now produces enough food to feed 78 others, including two dozen in other countries.

People in other countries are major customers of many of our products, such as soybeans, tobacco, rice, cotton, wheat and many more products. In fact, one-fifth of all agricultural goods entering world trade originate in the U.S. Last year we exported \$35 billion worth of agricultural commodities and imported about \$15 billion, resulting in a \$20 billion ag surplus to help cushion our nation's staggering debt load. Every \$1 billion of farm commodities exported creates 20,000 jobs.

Countries that buy at least \$1 billion in farm goods are: Japan, the Netherlands, Canada, Mexico, South Korea, West Germany, Taiwan and Spain. Our most

valuable exports are tobacco, wheat, soybeans, corn and cotton.

In addition to creating jobs necessary to take a harvested crop to the consumer's table, farmers help the general economy through their purchases. Farmers use 6.5 million tons of steel, for example,

requiring the efforts of 40,000 workers. They buy products containing 360 million pounds of rubber, enough to put tires on seven million automobiles.

In all, farmers will spend about \$140 billion to produce our food and fiber this year.



McDonald's lesson foretold

What does one say about that awful human carnage at McDonald's restaurant in San Ysidro, where 20 people were slaughtered by a demented gunman? My first thought was to say, "A whole nation went into shock." But that probably isn't so.

Let's face it. We've produced a shockless generation. To them, gore is entertainment. They pay big bucks at the box office for the privilege of watching madmen mutilate human bodies with chainsaws, butcher knives, double-bladed axes, and blow-torches. They scream with delight at the spectacle of tearing flesh, crunching bone, and spurting arteries. They applaud as Charles Bronson plays the role of a self-appointed vigilante, gunning hoodlums down in the streets.



Lucien Coleman

Things That Matter

How can a whole generation be brought up on a steady diet of violence without concluding that life is cheap, and that killing is an inalienable right of the strong?

Even more horrifying than the San Ysidro tragedy, in some ways, was the macabre story of the shooting death of an ice-cream vendor. As the man lay bleeding in the street, a syndicated news story reported, more than 150 children

swarmed his truck, helping themselves to free ice-cream.

But, then, seeing a shooting victim lying in a puddle of his own blood is old stuff to any kid who watches an average amount of television. Why should he care any more than "Dirty Harry" does when another guy hits the asphalt?

An ancient biblical saying warns, "They sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind."

We shall not soon forget the day the whirlwind struck at San Ysidro.

The ears of the great horned owl may have the most acute sense of hearing in the animal world. They can pick up the faint sound of a beetle rustling through the grass, more than 100 yards away.

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