

Viewpoints

Sewer work helps industry hunting

The discovery last week of 800 feet of crushed pipe could have put a big dent in the Raeford sewer woes and could make a difference in the city's ability to treat discharges from future industries.

For the last few years, the Raeford sewer system has been under the close scrutiny of state Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD) because treated discharges have not been meeting clean water standards.

Until last February, the city was under a NRCD moratorium which prohibited the addition of new industrial customers to the sewer system. After two local industrial users improved pretreatment facilities, the ban was lifted, but discharge readings have hovered just under the mark considered to be safe by the state agency.

City officials have also found that the Raeford sewer plant is getting back millions of gallons more water for treatment than is being sold to water customers, which is an indication of ground water draining into the system. City officials believe the extra water could perhaps be coming from the crushed pipe which runs beneath Rockfish Creek.

According to City Manager Tom Phillips, the extra flow of water

Editorials

causes the sewer plant to become overloaded and could result in discharges not being adequately treated.

By correcting the crushed pipe, city officials hope much of the external water pouring into the system will be stopped, and the treatment plant's discharge quality will improve.

An efficient sewer system is essential to this community's efforts to recruit new industry, and the repair of the crushed section pipe could upgrade the potential capacity of the plant.

This county has set its sites on finding more industrial taxpayers to locate here, and the work being done by the city to improve the sewer system will make that goal easier to obtain.

Big night planned at Hoke High Friday

At Hoke High School on Friday night, winning football, excellent band music and mouth-watering barbecue will be served up. The event is worth more than the price of a ticket.

Not only are the Hoke High Bucks playing better football than the team has in recent years, but the school band is making the halftime show as exciting as the game.

In addition, this Friday, supporters of the Hoke Heritage Hob-

nob will be holding a fund raising barbecue supper at the school before the game.

Profits from the supper will go to support a community festival this spring, which promises to an improved version of last year's first affair.

Activities will kick off on Friday afternoon with the annual Hoke High Homecoming Parade on Main Street in Raeford.

Barbecue, slaw, hushpuppies and apple crisp will be served from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the school for \$3.50 per plate.

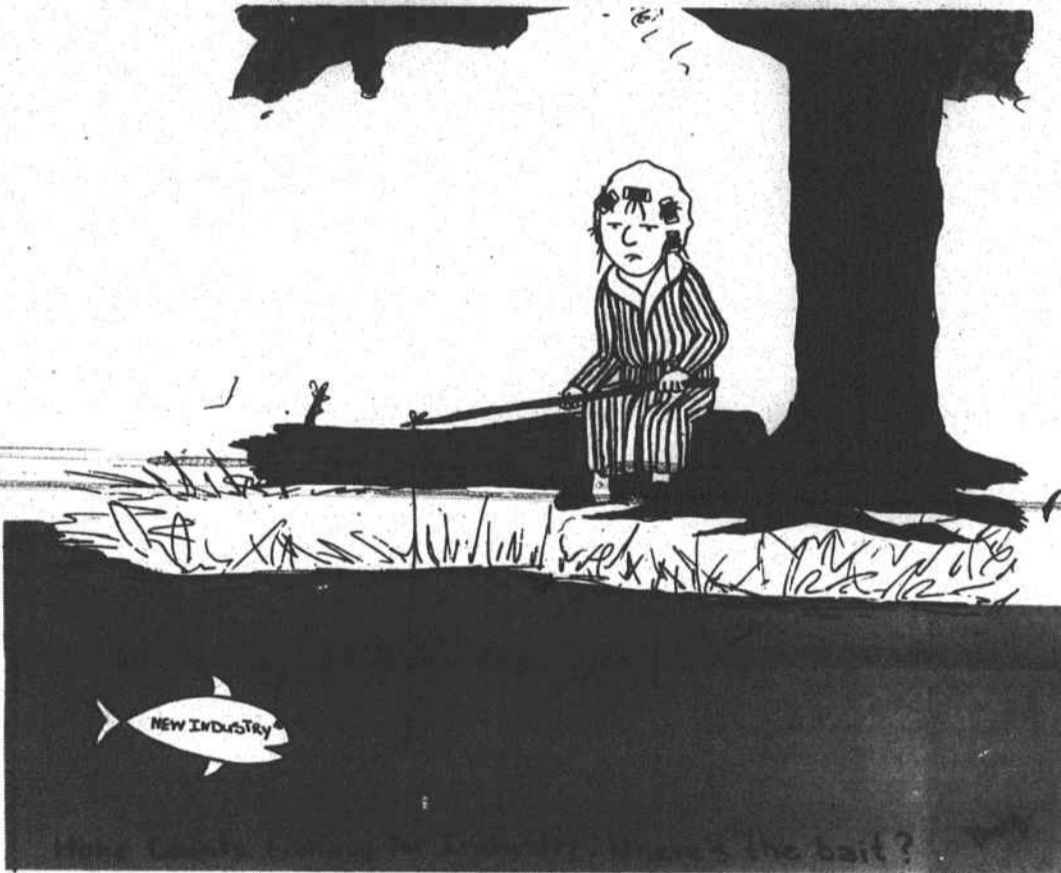
Then the Bucks, who were ranked in the state prior to last week's close loss to Scotland County, will take on Reid Ross. The game will be a close one, and hometown support could make the difference.

The Hoke High band has been collecting rave reviews for performances this year. Director Jimmy James has assembled a larger group of musicians than in previous years, and the band is expected to improve on its award-winning tradition.

Friday will be the next to last Hoke High regular season home game. It will also be the next to last opportunity this community has to support the team's effort to compile a winning season and to see the spectacular halftime performance of the school band.

The barbecue supper is the only fund raiser now scheduled to help the community spring festival. In order for the event to continue, it must have the backing of this county's residents. A barbecue supper is an easy way to give.

Take part in the Hoke County community and turn Friday night into a family outing at Hoke High for barbecue, excellent music and exciting football.



Farmers were first entrepreneurs

By John Sledge
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation
"Entrepreneur" is an "in" word in many circles and simply means those who assume the risk and management of business.

It is a word often used in speeches. Students seem to be interested in pursuing its study in the classroom and it's becoming a catchall word to portray our increasing interest in economic development.

It applies directly to agriculture since farmers were probably one of the first, if not the originators of the entrepreneurial concept.

They have always been risk

takers and astute managers. How else could about three percent of the population manage to feed the other 97% and still have surpluses to help feed the rest of the world.

It's our biggest industry. As a matter of fact, farm assets are equal to about 70% of the capital assets of all manufacturing corporations in the United States.

Approximately 3.4 million work on the nation's farms and ranches. This is as many people as are employed in the combined industries of transportation, steel and automobiles.

Agriculture also requires the services of 15 to 16 million people to

store, transport, process and merchandise the output of farms. Another three million people provide the seeds, fertilizers and other supplies farmers use for production and family living.

A recent study shows that for each \$1 million farmers spend on livestock, machinery, buildings and other farming inputs, more than 100 new jobs are created to service their needs.

The efficiency of agriculture is demonstrated by the fact that one farm worker supplies enough food and fiber for 76 people. How's that for "entrepreneurialmanship!"

Letters To The Editor

School fees inconsistent with NC laws

To The Editor:
Just how free is a free education these days?

General Statute 115C-1, the opening statute in the North Carolina Public School Law Book states, "Tuition shall be free of charge to all children of the State and every person 18 years of age, or over, who has not completed a standard high school course of study." Why then should school children be charged fees to attend schools that are "free of charge"?

For the past three years Hoke County, like several other counties in the state, has been charging a "school fee," which is legal even though the Constitution states that "tuition shall be free of charge." Or is it?

If we trace the history of fees in the North Carolina public schools, we find that "book fees" were commonly charged until 1969 when it was declared unconstitutional to charge a text-book rental fee. General Statute 115C-100 states, "No local board of education may charge any pupil a rental fee for the use of text-books."

To offset the inability to collect the customary book fees, many school districts began collecting a "school fee" for "materials and supplies." Although the "Constitution does not prohibit (administrative units from charging) financially able persons for supplies and materials," these units are prohibited from charging indigent families such fees.

In 1980 the case of Sneed vs. the Greensboro City Board of Education set a precedent when the board provided a waiver of payment for indigent students but "failed to establish a mechanism by which the schools would affir-

matively notify students and their parents" of the waiver. The waiver, as presented in Greensboro, was thereby declared unconstitutional.

In 1981 the Alamance County Schools under Dr. Robert Nelson's Superintendency tried to impose a \$3.50 school fee on its students. Waivers were provided as specified by law.

Many parents refused to pay the fee since the Constitution guarantees a free public education and thus signed the waivers.

Over one-third of those eligible did not pay, and the fee was discontinued the following year.

It seems somewhat inconsistent then that the 7th-12th grade students in Hoke County (a county in which the federal government has been providing free or reduced lunches to most of the school children for over four years because of low incomes) must pay a \$10 school fee (\$3.50 in the elementary grades).

No mention of waivers or dismissal of payment has been made to indigent students.

Instead many students are repeatedly harassed, embarrassed, called over the public address system, and threatened that they may not pass or graduate if they fail to pay their fees.

Dr. Nelson must be aware of the ambiguity of this fee after what Alamance County went through.

Sincerely
Naomi Johnson

Good solution to conflict between Inauguration, Super Bowl

To the editor:
As far-sighted as the Founding Fathers were when they wrote the Constitution, they could not have been expected to have anything to

say about football. Horseshoes, maybe, or even mumbletypeg, but it was too soon for football.

Furthermore, when the 21st Amendment to the Constitution was adopted in 1933 setting Inauguration Day on Jan. 20, nobody could have known then that was going to be the date 35 years later of the 1985 Super Bowl.

You can see that's a crisis of major proportions. If both performances came off at the same time, which show would the public watch? Would Super Bowl announcer say "There's an official time-out to let you know the President has now been sworn in. For further details check the late night news." Or would the networks in Washington break into the Inauguration coverage every once in a while to give you the Super Bowl score.

The next President, even if he has to be pulled out of church, will be sworn in privately and Constitutionally on Sunday. Next day, Monday, he'll take the oath of office again in public with contributors on hand. The Super Bowl will play Sunday as scheduled.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

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Party was one from the pages of Fitzgerald

In the afternoon, trucks backed up to the stately Arcadia Plantation house. Dozens of workers moved in, unloaded the contents of silverware, glasses and serving pieces, piled the boxes on golf carts and transported them to the scene of what that night would become the party of the decade.

My wife and I were serving as two of the seven bartenders commissioned by The Pawleys Island Inn, whose owners were catering the affair.

The middle of three well-groomed grass terraces was covered with a huge green and white striped canopy. Tables, clothed in pink, were placed at appropriate intervals over the grounds. A dance floor had been constructed at one end of the tent. The orchestra would play from the adjoining area behind a flower-covered fountain.

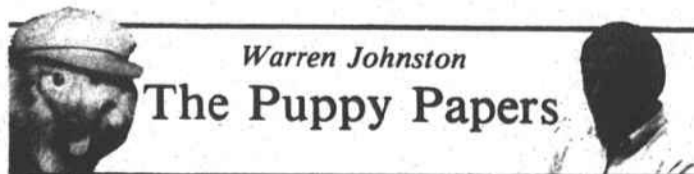
The scene was one fit for the Hollywood camera.

A soft breeze billowed the massive canvas canopy, and the chirps of birds dotted the silence of the bright autumn afternoon as florists and electricians quietly made the set ready with cascading blossoms and green arrangements covered with tiny lights.

"This reminds me of *The Great Gatsby*," my wife said, during our early afternoon stroll around the grounds.

The party that night promised to be an event taken directly from the pages of F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel. There would be nearly 500 guests for the five-hour wedding reception held on the grounds of the old Vanderbilt 30,000-acre plantation.

Although we would only see the lower sanctuaries of the imposing three-story plantation house, it was easy to imagine that from the upper porches one could survey the Waccamaw River in the



Warren Johnston
The Puppy Papers

distance and would have a good view, as Gatsby did at his parties, of the revelers on the terraces below.

Communication lines linking those in the right social circles across the South Carolina Lowcountry and along the Eastern Seaboard were abuzz with news of that evening's event.

At 4 p.m., we returned along with the rest of the help.

We sliced fruit, polished glasses and uncrated liquor. The cooks put the finishing touches on crabmeat mousse, venison terrines, liver pates and assorted canapes.

The ceremony-dressed bride and bridesmaids appeared on the veranda of the house for pre-nuptial photographs. Our tension increased.

As the hour neared six, we donned coatless tuxedos and made the last-minute preparations at the bars. We knew the guests, who had just come from watching the vows exchanged in church, would be thirsty. We were prepared.

Cordons of kitchen helpers paraded down the brick walk leading to the canopied terrace, carrying roasts of buffalo, suckling pigs, whole smoked turkeys, venison, glazed hams, tenderloins of beef and mounds of caviar. Hand-size Louisiana oysters were piled high

on the iced deck of a small boat, surrounded by giant shrimp and baby clams.

Confectioners spread icing and added final decorations to the wedding cake, which was assembled on a dais under its own canopy. "They're coming," someone shouted. We took our places. The orchestra struck up a waltz.

Guests, attired in proper evening dress and glowing with anticipation, poured down the walkways, flowed over the grass and filled the great tent with merriment.

Liquor flowed. Food vanished. Corks were popped on cases of Moet champagne, and somewhere in the din, I'm sure, the newlyweds were wished well.

During a momentary lull at my bar, I noted the orchestra was playing the Charleston.

"Jay Gatsby couldn't have done it any better," I said to a guest who was standing nearby.

"Yeah, we'll never see another party like this in our lifetime," he said.

Although the crowds thinned, the gaiety went on past midnight. We began the long clean up campaign. The golf carts rolled returning the remnants of food, uncorked champagne and unconsumed liquor to the awaiting trucks.

The orchestra played "When the Saints Go Marching In" and the evening came to a close.

"Jay Gatsby could not have done it better," I told my exhausted wife.