

# Opinions

## Preserving the historic past getting good reviews in Hoke



Kay Thomas  
Looking On

The eager responses of Hoke County residents to recent historical preservation ideas has been wonderful.

Many people have expressed their interest in being a part of the Hoke Historical Association.

The Association's most recently elected President, Sam Morris, has appointed me to serve as reorganization chairman.

In this capacity I have expressed the Association's concern for the old Bank of Raeford building, and I have written a letter to and visited with City Manager Tom Phillips.

Phillips made a number of calls in our behalf. There are extensive demands for creating historic districts in North Carolina, he has learned. Just as there are many requirements to satisfy, we must find many people ready to give some time. I'm certain that Raeford residents can do anything they really want done.

One item to be addressed at once is that Raeford is not really old.

My response is: How will we save the beginnings of Raeford if we don't start now? If buildings are allowed to crumble, there would be nothing to preserve.

In the establishment of a historic district, an inventory of every structure must be done. Facts about buildings - the date of construction, the owners, the uses, the architectural significance - must be compiled.

This means every business, building or residence in a designated area would have to be

researched. Owners could do this. History buffs could do this. Scouts could help. Graduate students could work on course credit. A high school history club might do some work as a project. A photography student might compile a study, and an art student could do a series of sketches.

Luke McNeill says he remembers when Home Food had a chicken coop out back and "fresh chicken" was a reality.

Anite Lentz thinks her house may have been a teacherage for Raeford Institute.

Our town has folks with interesting tales and folks who know the facts.

People who want to join a reorganized Hoke Historical Association should send a check for \$10 for membership in the organization to P.O. Box 426, Raeford, N.C. 28376.



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## Democrats' tide could turn

Reading from the front page of *The Wall Street Journal* with a Cleveland dateline.

"After a recent appearance here by Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale, Sen. John Glenn, who had shared the platform turned to a friend and said, 'You know this campaign's in trouble when I'm the exciting guy on the stage.'"

"These are the best of times for Ronald Reagan and Republicans. They are the worst of times for Mondale and the Democrats."

"In this tale of Ohio and Texas, two crucial battleground states, there are background noises - the distant rumble of a mighty landslide that threatens to bury the Democrats under piles of rubble."

"We got shot," jokes Tony Garofoli, a former Democratic chairman in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland and suburbs). We're on the ballot, aren't we?"

"The dire portents for the Democrats could be turned around, of course. Mondale might regain his poise and pull things together; he might score a great victory in next month's debates. Or something totally unforeseen could happen."

This seems to be the feeling from reading the newspapers throughout the land.



Cliff Blue  
People and Issues

But remember: This was about the same feeling across the country when Harry Truman kept fighting when hardly anyone felt he could win! This same thing might awaken millions after November 6, 1984. Remember the brave little man from Missouri!

Helms Trails ... Steve Gerstel, writing under a Washington dateline, in Sunday's papers; "Helms, seeking a third term, consistently trailed in the polls against Gov. James Hunt. But the latest Gallup Poll put Helms ahead 49-44 in what is the premier Senate race of the year - expected to be the most costly ever at \$20 million and a gutter-level clash between the right and the left."

Poll Fever ... Poll Fever is on, and likely will remain on until the votes are counted on the evening of November 6, when the polls are closed.

Two points should be kept in mind. Polls are not always ac-

curate to within three percent as claimed by many. In mid September four nationwide polls came up with the following results on the Reagan-Mondale presidential race. Harris Poll - Reagan leading by 13 points; Gallup Poll - Reagan ahead by 15 points; ABC Poll - Reagan ahead by 16 points; USA Today - Reagan ahead by 22 points.

CBS - Times poll found Reagan even further ahead; one poll found the Reagan margin to be 30 percent. Mondale's own poll found Reagan ahead by only 12%!

Obviously, in a spread of 12 to 30 points among polls, someone is badly off the mark, and by more than three percent.

A further note about polls; occasionally all are proven wrong. This happened in the 1948 presidential elections and again this spring in the New York Democratic primary, which all major polls forecast as a tossup race between Mondale and Gary Hart. It wasn't close.

We think the polls try to be accurate, but sometimes they fall flat on their face as they did in 1948!

State Fair ... The N.C. State Fair begins Friday, Oct. 12 with Senior Citizens, age 65, and older admitted free of charge each day to the Fairgrounds.



## Letters

(Continued from page 2B)  
of this letter to *The News-Journal*.  
Sincerely,  
Mary W. Smith, RN  
Plant Nurse  
House of Raeford

## North Carolina has the lure of Florida

To the Editor:  
"Y' know, every year, about this time I get an uncontrollable urge to go back to North Carolina and see the changing of the leaves and smell the fall in the air and feel the crisp mornings and feel the delight of the warmth of snuggling into the covers as the turnips sweeten and the persimmons ripen ... and on and on."

Yes, I appreciate Florida but love the "Ole North State also ... forever..."

Wonder what causes that?  
I enjoy your cartoons!  
Chris Bruton  
Merritt Island, Fl.  
(A native of Hoke County)

## 'Real thing' move over

A friend who lived in Washington witnessed an ironic moment of human comedy in the Smithsonian Institute.

This middle-aged woman was showing a covey of fidgety children through the room where life-sized wax figures of all the first-ladies are on display. Eager to move her young charges close to the exhibit, she jostled past other visitors in the area and began identifying the various wax figures.

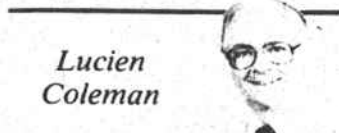
"Look, there's Dolly Madison." "See Mary Lincoln over there?" And so it went, until she came to a likeness of Lady Byrd Johnson. "Here, children, this is Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson; doesn't she look elegant?"

At this very moment, an elegant lady stood quietly in the back of the crowd. The real Lady Byrd Johnson, in the flesh.

The women with the children pushed on through the crowd, chattering all the way, apparently unaware that she had almost rubbed elbows with the real thing.

The episode was a parable of our times. We live in an age where the genuine things in life often take a back seat to cheap imitations. As in the case of the father so engrossed in a televised football game he ignores his son, who keeps asking him to come out in the yard for a little football.

Or take music, for example. Thousands of people who have never found time to attend a perfor-



Lucien Coleman  
Things That Matter

mance of George F. Handel's remarkable oratorio, "Messiah," will listen to corny jazzed-up versions of the "Hallelujah Chorus" on pop radio stations during the coming holiday season.

Another case in point is the widespread passion for cheaply made chipwood furniture, thinly covered with "woodgrain" plastic veneers. You can often go to an antique shop, and for the purchase price of the ersatz stuff, acquire older furniture in solid oak or walnut, if you haven't been conned into thinking "new is better."

On a more profound level, many people pass up the joy of satisfying work for a job that produces a monthly pay check, and little more. Or they miss out on the opportunity to build a real home because they stay so busy trying to pay for a bigger house. Or they fall to cultivate genuine love, settling for vicarious versions of phony romance via TV "soaps."

Sometimes we become so intent on seeing wax figures, we overlook the real thing.

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