

# Viewpoints

## Phone battle centers around service costs

Hoke County has a long fight ahead before local telephone calls can be made to Fayetteville, and most of the battle will probably be centered around the high price of the service.

Although the company apparently does not know what costs will be incurred to make the needed local connections, Carolina Telephone has suggested rates which are frightening customers on both ends of the lines.

Currently Carolina Telephone is proposing to raise local phone rates by 57% and Fayetteville phones by 13% in order to provide the service.

Under the present proposal, Carolina Telephone's annual revenues would jump by \$1.7 million for service between the exchanges, which leads one to believe that the rates may be on the high side.

Even with the proposed high rates, the local service would be a bargain for Hoke County residents, because without the change we can look forward to tax increases much higher than what is being suggested by Carolina Telephone.

Local telephone service to Fayetteville would not only be more convenient to those already living in Hoke County, but it would also remove another obstacle from the path of new residents.

More residents in Hoke County mean more taxpayers and more dollars for local businesses.

Though not on as great a scale, the local telephone service would also benefit Fayetteville by increasing the metropolitan and shopping area.

For Hoke County, direct telephone service to Fayetteville is a necessity, and if Carolina Telephone gets its heart right, the connection can be made at an affordable price.

We encourage Hoke County residents to support the change in telephone service and to fight for its passage.

If the bid for the local telephone service fails, every resident can look forward to paying the higher taxes needed to keep Hoke County afloat.

## County takes new step

The vote by members of the Hoke County Commission Monday to pay a portion of the costs of providing water and sewer for a new business showed a progressive change in attitude.

In recent months the commissioners have been voicing a need for new industry and for an increased tax base, but Monday's vote is the first time the county has had an opportunity to replace words with dollars.

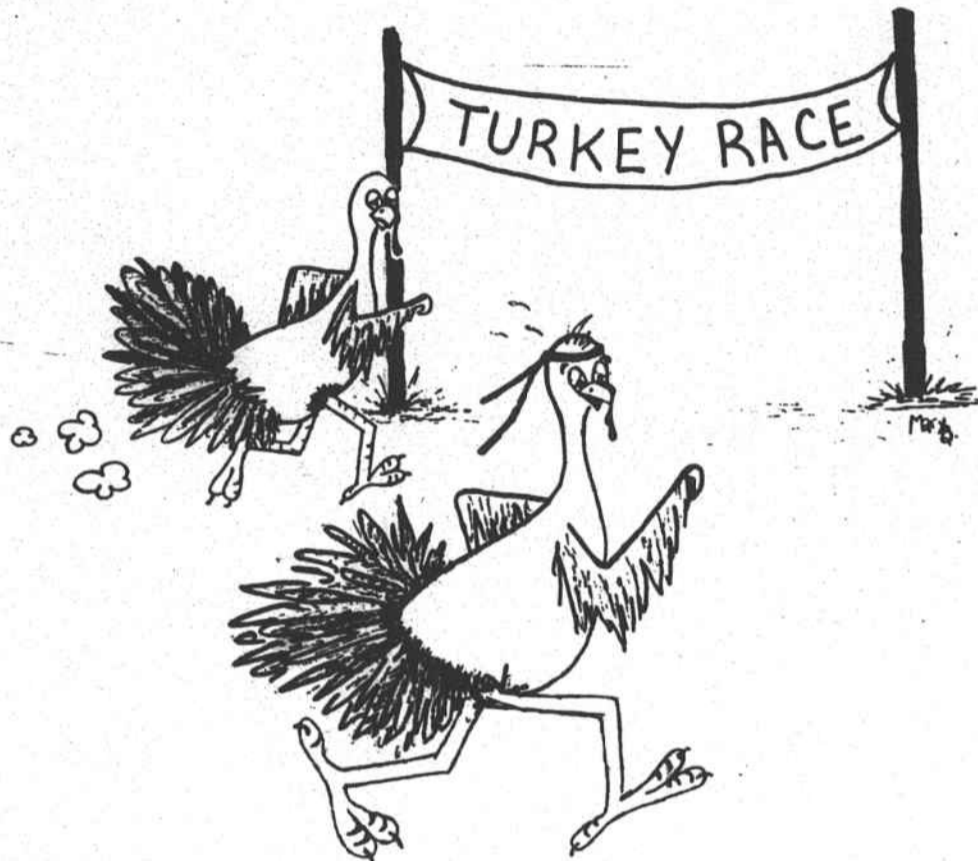
The commissioners voted to pay up to \$20,000, or about half of the costs of running sewer and water lines to a new motel planned for U.S. 401 south of Raeford.

In the past, the county commissioners have rejected joint venturing utility projects with Raeford and have left the burden of providing the service on the city taxpayers.

Although Monday's move was small, its significance was great because it shows a definite beginning of cooperation between local governments.

If this community is going to survive, then both Raeford and Hoke County must work together to make it happen.

We commend the commissioners for supporting the effort to bring new businesses to the county, and hope that Monday's action is a sign of more good things to come.



Whew-boy, we haven't run like this since last November!

## Red Springs leaves a lesson



Kay Thomas Looking On

Last week was tornado week awareness week. I hope you practiced what you should do to protect yourself if a tornado were coming toward us. I must admit that I have not actually practiced, but I have tried to learn what I should do in various situations.

I heard that Clayton Bouyer recommended grabbing a little cheese, a few crackers and a mayonnaise jar of water and hiding in a ditch. A similar plan was hatched by employees at Raeford Oil Company.

My niece talked about the tornado drill at her school. She explained the students in her class were to go quickly into the hall and each take a jacket from the hooks there to cover their heads. She did not like the idea of taking someone else's jacket, but she knew why it was important to cover her head as she knelt against the wall.

In fact, tornado awareness was the topic at a meal in my mama's kitchen recently. She teaches, and she told us about the plan for protecting children in her school. She also told us a friend's daughter had put her children's heads on one pillow and covered them with another last spring when there were storms in her town.

My brother-in-law, who

treasures his children, said "I guess it would be a pretty good idea to shoot 'em...." He began to search for words. We all turned to stare. His children sat frozen. I reached over and touched his forehead, between the eyes. He snapped to and finally said "...between the mattress and springs of the bed." We all screamed, laughing. We were all so relieved that he was not putting those dear children out of their misery. He was insulted. He had a good idea.

He now has a plan. His children know he would shoot them...between the mattress and springs of a bed. We all need to have plans.

The people of Red Springs got little or no warning. If they had been told last March that one or more tornados were headed toward them, they might not have taken the warning seriously. I believe that North Carolinians have not had enough tornado experience to have more than a child-like fear of the unknown.

I have had this strange feeling about tornados since I first saw Dorothy and Toto swept away from Kansas to the Land of Oz. Houses in Hoke County don't have basements. I didn't know that I needed to plan.

Now I know. I have seen Red Springs. I saw it about 36 hours after the storm passed. I have been often reminded when I see the way the sun shines there. (The sun was always filtered through massive trees and shadows grew near great houses which are no longer standing.)

The Town of Red Springs and her people suffered grievous loss. Trees, houses, a church, stores, gardens, schools were swept away in minutes. People were injured, but there were no people killed. It must have been some sort of miracle.

Let us learn from their experience. The folks of Red Springs have valiantly rebuilt. There are lessons to be seen in their determination and their working together.

The simplest lesson is the one I think we need. Look after people and people can rebuild.

Make a plan that will protect you and those around you.

## Buchanan appointment needed

The appointment of Pat Buchanan as new Director of Communications at the White House was a long-awaited and badly-needed move.

Since press secretary James Brady was tragically shot and crippled in 1981, President Reagan hasn't replaced him. Now, after four years, he's not replaced the name, but by a capable newsman of experience and know-how is being brought in to improve communications.

We read that Reagan's young assistant press chief, Larry Speakes, is not, it's said, under Buchanan, a veteran of the Nixon White House.

Buchanan and his lovely wife were two of the more graceful, effective White House performers in those days - when many of Nixon's top aides were of a tougher cut.

LUNG CANCER...Lung cancer will surpass breast cancer as the



Cliff Blue

### People and Issues

leading cancer killer of women this year, the American Cancer Society said recently.

LIVING TOGETHER...The nation's death rate has dropped to a record low and Americans can expect to live longer than ever before, new government statistics show.

GM'S PROFITS...General Motors Corp. reported record 1984 earnings of \$4.5 billion recently, but strike-shackled fourth-quarter earnings kept profits under expectations.

TO INVESTIGATE...Twenty nations recently signed a conven-

tion that sets up a committee to investigate "well-founded indications" that torture is practiced systematically in any state party to the treaty.

FLU STRAIN SPREADS...This year's flu strain continues to spread across the United States, as 10 states were hit by widespread outbreaks recently. The national Centers for Disease Control said 39 states have now reported the flu strain.

BIRTH CONTROL...Americans have dramatically changed their birth control practices in recent years with sterilization surpassing the pill to become the most common method of contraception, a new report based on government statistics show.

THE ELITE...The Pentagon's special operation forces - the most elite fighting units in U.S. military - are in the midst of a "high priority" buildup and revitalization, new budget documents show.

By John Sledge  
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation  
While many farmers are studying their financial records to see how they can survive for another year, agricultural scientists in laboratories all over the world are shaping agriculture's future for 5, 10 or 20 years.

They're unveiling a genetically engineered vaccine to protect against hoof and mouth disease and new technology promising a 30% increase in wheat yields, 100 bushel soybean yields and 320 bushel-per-acre yields for corn.

This information comes out of a study by Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, that also speaks of forecasts for sows that will produce 28 pigs in a litter... farm machines that will harvest and process crops right out in the field... and genetic cloning that will produce hundreds of identical super animals.

The study also talks about driver-less tractors... robot harvesters... revolutionary plant killers... non-polluting herbicides... and "target-dosage" spraying of crops.

Livestock scientists say

genetically superior swine should be with us in about four years and more efficient and productive sheep, cattle and milk cows will soon follow.

Before today's farmers become concerned about all these developments coming at them all

at once, they should take note of this concluding statement from the study:

"Whatever the nature of America's future agriculture system, the farmer will remain the linchpin in the nation's food production mechanism."

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# New writers hitting a different keyboard

"Tired of eating beans. Write the Great American Novel and live off the profits forever," the ad screamed, as I thumbed through the pages of one of those "writer's" magazines.

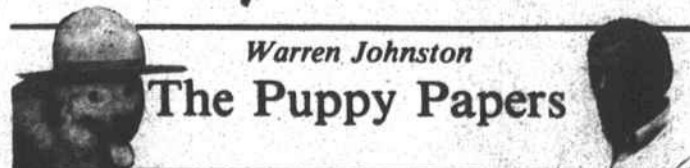
It sounded pretty good to me, and besides my wife had been encouraging me to do some moonlighting with the typewriter to help pay the cat's food bill.

"We could put the cat on a diet," I suggested, noting that the feline had become so fat that she would qualify for the sumo wrestling circuit.

There were probably great rewards to be had if we could get the cat to go into show business. After all, what family sitcom couldn't use a 150-pound mouser?

However, the cat was interested only in sleeping and consuming large quantities of canned "kitty delicacies." As a result, we were eating beans.

Short of mailing the cat to my Great Aunt Sadie in Pedula, Kansas, which I knew my wife would have no part of, after hours writing seemed to be a good solution to our financial woes.



Warren Johnston

## The Puppy Papers

I dove into the magazine, hoping to find out how to make my riches by devoting spare time to the pen.

As I leafed through, I found that commercial writing has gone the way of professional football. If one believed the ads, there are no more Hemingways or Fitzgeralds, just as there are no longer players like Horning, Brown or Unitis. Now, the writing field is filled with Tootsie LaTours, who confine their talents to four-letter words, and pro football is overrun with Bubbas, who can't spell their names.

In the old days, the pros in both fields had character. They were educated. Oh sure, they might shave a point or two, or even take a skinny dip in a public fountain, but they would have never passed

out in front of a Supreme Court justice.

The magazine offered every tool one needed to become a "successful" writer. There was no longer any need to read the Classics in order to learn the craft, the ad offering a dictionary of fictional characters and literary terms said.

Another offered a guide to poetry writing, complete with fill-in-the-blank forms. "It's a bargain for every aspiring poet at only \$12," the ad said.

A writer, whose articles, it was noted, appear frequently in women's grocery store magazines, suggested that I turn my lunch hour into dollars by writing short stories.

"I do it all the time," she wrote in the article.

After reading the magazine for 15 minutes I was too exhausted to write a line.

I opened a can of food for the cat and decided to take a trip to the bookstore. I had heard they were selling the Harvard Classics for \$1 each to make room on the shelves for the latest release by Tootsie LaTour, *An Evening In Pajamas*.