

Viewpoints

Phone vote viewed as victory for Hoke

The decision by the North Carolina Utilities Commission to require Carolina Telephone to conduct a costs study for extended service between Fayetteville and Raeford was a good one for Hoke County residents.

Although the order by the commission was not the exact one that was sought by a group pushing the improved service for Hoke County, it was a fair compromise and a step in the right direction.

Because the commission took over three weeks to make up their minds, it was evident that Carolina Telephone was working to stop the order and that even the compromise would not have passed without the ground work being laid by Hoke County Economic Developer John Howard and others on the telephone committee and the strong lobbying push from Rep. Danny DeVane and Sen. David Parnell.

What the order does is requires the telephone company to determine how much it will cost to link the Raeford 875 exchange with Fayetteville, and will allow the utilities commission to evaluate the rates being proposed by the Carolina Telephone for the service based on the actual costs.

According to the order, which was issued last week, rates for Raeford customers would be based, not on the actual costs of the service, but on a companywide averaging system called the matrix.

Even if the order stands, phone rates in Hoke County would probably not exceed the service which is being offered. We would be

receiving Fayetteville service and paying Fayetteville rates.

What the local committee has objected to in the past has been Carolina Telephone's effort to charge Fayetteville customers more per month for service to Raeford. Only a small percentage of the 90,000 Fayetteville customers would derive any benefit from the expanded service and all the users would be penalized by the proposed rate schedule.

In addition, local supporters of the extended service felt the additional annual revenue of \$1.7 million generated by the rates was exorbitant.

Now that Carolina Telephone is conducting a costs study, perhaps the commissioners will be able to view the rates in a clearer light and will be able to balance Hoke County's desperate economic need for the extended service against a true profit picture for the company.

Raeford should look for county park aid

Work is underway on building the new Burlington Park, and it is about time.

Hoke County needs the new facility and the construction costs of \$40,000 are justified.

In addition to Burlington Park, Hoke County is also refurbishing Armory Park and has plans to return the ball field to its original baseball playing size.

However, the county's progress in recreation only contrasts with

the inadequate job being done by the City of Raeford in maintaining its two parks.

As the drive to bring better recreation to this community progresses during the upcoming fiscal year, the time may be right for Raeford to turn its park business over to the county.

If Hoke County is going to grow and be appealing to new industries and residents, better recreation is needed.

Unfortunately, the two city parks, which are very visible, do not speak well for this community's commitment to provide good facilities.

McLauchlin Park is trash littered and only one basketball hoop remains on four goals at the facility.

In Robbins Heights, where the city has one of the largest park facilities in the county, grass needs mowing, trash needs picking up and the basketball goal straightened.

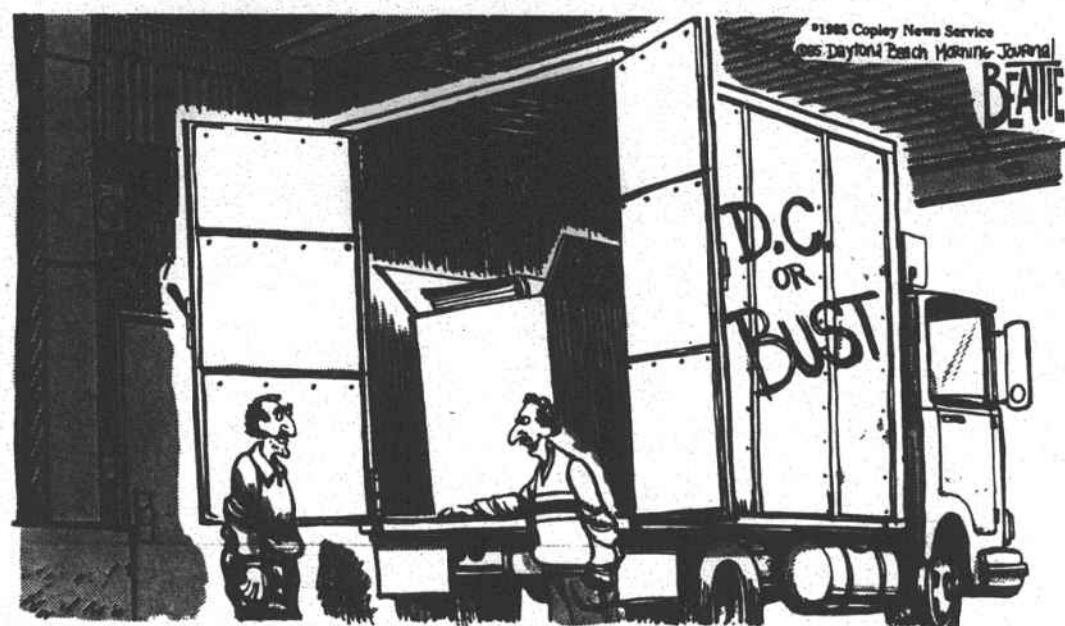
Both parks are heavily used, and the equipment falls victim to vandalism. Raeford residents say they have complained in the past to the city about the maintenance and claim little has been done. The city says no one is protesting now.

Residents have accepted the poor condition of the parks, and now budding and retired athletes play basketball with imaginary hoops and nets.

During the coming fiscal year, the city parks should be turned over to the county recreation department, and the facilities should be restored and maintained.

Until the transfer is made, the city should not only repair the goals, cut the grass and pick up the trash, but municipal officials should also work with those using the parks to eliminate the vandalism that has put them in their present condition.

This community needs the McLauchlin and Robbins Heights parks, but in their present condition they are a wasting asset.



"OK, the truck's loaded with a 500 pound tax overhaul plan that eliminates everyone's favorite deduction... now all we need is a suicide politician."

Memorial Day's origins differ, but holiday's purpose is same

President Reagan's recent visit to a cemetery in Germany to place a wreath honoring soldiers killed in the second world war helps to remind us of our own Memorial Day in this country.

Memorial or Decoration Day, as it is sometimes called is a patriotic holiday in the United States, now the day for decorating the graves of all American soldiers.

Originally Memorial Day honored military personnel who died in the Civil War. It was inaugurated in 1868 by commander-in-chief John A. Logan, for the purpose of decorating the graves of comrades who died in the defense of their country.

Logan did this with the hope that it would be kept up from year

Looking On
By Josephine Hall

Around 30 are buried in the Raeford Cemetery.

Memorial Day is a legal holiday. Northern states observe Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

This date was made a Federal Holiday by law, that became effective in 1971.

On Memorial Day people place flags and flowers on the graves of military personnel.

Memorials are often dedicated on this day. Since the end of World War I Memorial Day has also been designated as Poppy Day.

Military exercises and special programs are held at Gettysburg National Park, at the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia and other national grave sites and memorials.

Letters To The Editor

Advice is offered for elected officials

To the Editor:

We are writing you this letter for your considering if it could be helpful to the City of Raeford, and Hoke County people for more understanding, and a better knowledge of all things, and christian love and peace and care for one another, and good will toward all people for to go forward for a happier and healthier life in the way of respect for the individual rights of people; according to their choice in how they live their life, within their rights, and duty: First to God, right to be a servant of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit given to all baptized believers who are in Christ, and accept his word.

For others not to cause hurt to any person because of their choice, or not agreeing.

Is there coverage in *The News-Journal* for a Neighborhood News, that anyone in Hoke County could

ask or give news helpful for the growing of knowledge and understanding of city people and country people.

Having been raised and living on a farm for the first 32 years of my life, we could have had a more abundant life if we could have known the good laws, and other good things about city life, also do all city people know about country life? Especially them who are not able to get out and learn for themselves.

Could life be better if city and country people cared for, and helped one another for the good of all?

We sure do believe people could have more understanding in working together.

With all the good of Radio and TV can anyone hear it all the day, unless that is a work for a given purpose?

If so be it, then that is knowledge of things that all of us do not need, speaking of myself in my line of duty.

How can people be beneficial to

that they do not know: kings are served by the field, so who can live to themselves?

Everyone did which was right in his own eyes until the law of Moses.

In our now New Testament age of the Spirit of Grace according to my knowledge there are people who now do not have knowledge of individual laws, for freedom through the Spirit of Grace to all people who accept and keep it. Should anyone be unreasonable concerning the natural man, or do despite to the Spirit of Grace? We respect your right.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Elma P. Williams

Priorities mixed up

To the Editor:

I believe we've gotten our priorities mixed up in this country.

It seems to me that we've waged an all out war of all people...the poor.

There's some real uglies out there!

I have actually heard more people selfishly complain about some poor pregnant girl receiving food stamps than some big government expense that wastes vast amounts of tax dollars and helps no one.

For example those \$400 ham-mers.

Thank you
Rosemary Lister
Fairmont, W. Virginia

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by *The News-Journal* by noon on the Monday of the publication week.

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Cat puts damper on otherwise pretty good day

The other evening, while my wife and I were visiting friends, a cat sprayed the seat of our car.

We did not know it until we got in to go home. By then it was too late. I sat in it.

We should have suspected something was awry when we saw the feline hanging around the car. I had never seen a cat with such a strange mirthful grin on its face before.

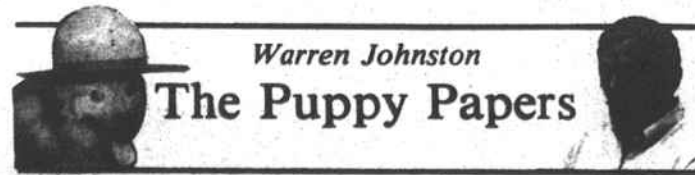
"What a nice kitty," my wife had said, scratching the purring animal behind the ears.

"What is that smell?" I had asked, as we backed out of the driveway. It was my seat that had been sprayed.

Fortunately the ride home was a short one. We kept the windows rolled down, but my eyes still watered which made it difficult to see.

Prior to the spraying, we had had a full social calendar. We had lunched at a neighbor's, spent the afternoon at a toad rodeo and had gone to an evening reception.

With the sort of schedule we had had that day, it was little



wonder that we were beginning to feel slightly big for our britches. "It just goes to show you that when you are riding too high, even a cat can bring you down to reality," my wife said during the eye-smarting drive.

When we arrived home, we became the immediate focus of attention for the three cats which live at our house. They were not impressed by the new odor, and appeared to be seeking ways to balance the smell by overspraying.

We were forced to roll up the car windows to keep the curious felines at bay. After 30 seconds, the vapor became overpowering.

We fled from the car into the house with the three cats and the dog following close on the heels of the wafting scent.

Our clothes were permeated and my shirt had worked as a blotter for the sprayed seat.

It took a two-hour shower and three bars of soap before I felt secure enough to go into public and before the three cats and the dog would stop following me around the house.

"I believe that cat was in league with the devil or at least a skunk," I told my wife later while I was scrubbing the car seat. It has been three weeks now. We only drive the car for rare emergencies, but we scrub it daily.

There is still an odor about the seat which is reminiscent of the evening's spraying. Our cats have taken to sleeping on the hood of the car, apparently waiting for an opportunity to get inside.

Sooner or later we know we will have to drive somewhere. If I have anything to do with it, the trip will be to the auto dealership to trade for a new model.