

Opinions

... Letters continued

(Continued from page 2B)
 up by our dog wardens are ultimately put to sleep at our pound. This tragedy need not happen. The national average cost for sheltering one dog or cat is \$40.00. By spaying just one female animal, it will present ultimately the birth of about 200 unwanted animals, saving a tremendous amount of money in shelter and kill costs, not to mention how much suffering it will prevent. So, please, we urge you, have your female pets spayed. Spaying is the only alternative to death for these animals. Their only crime is being born unloved and unwanted. You can help put a stop to this. You have helped us with our bake sales, now it's our turn to help you. Thanks again for your continued support.
 Sincerely,
 Sheryl McGinnis, Sec.
 H/R Humane Society

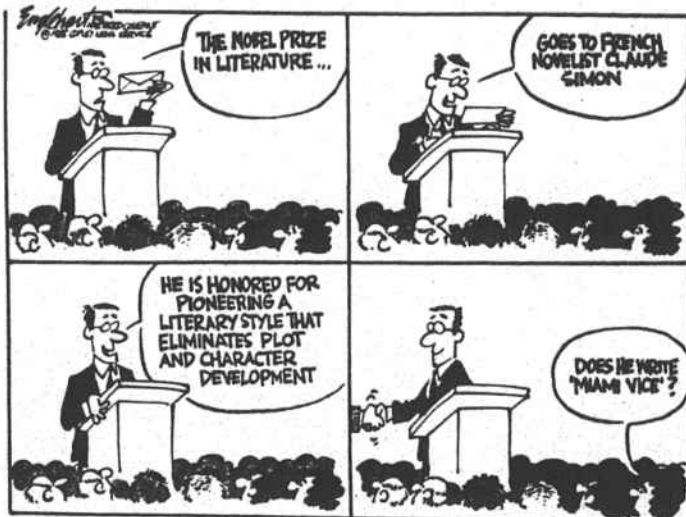
monthly meeting and responded to our call for help. John Furrage, Frank Branch, David Warren and others spent over an hour working on my car and leading us to safe lodgings in Southern Pines.

Your community is indeed fortunate to have such men willing to share time and effort to help those in distress.

Sincerely,
 Jackie Elliott
 New Bern

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.



Helping hand given

To the Editor:
 On Friday evening, October 24, 1985, a friend and I were traveling to Charlotte to attend the Annual State Mathematics Conference. Around 7:30 p.m. my car overheated near Parks Grocery on 15-501. When I called the Methodist Church in Raeford, Boy Scout Troop #404 was holding its



Small towns making a comeback

By W.B. Jenkins
 N.C. Farm Bureau Federation

After decades of decline, Small Town U.S.A., is making a comeback. This revival began in the 1970's with an abrupt reversal of population patterns that had prevailed for generations. Small towns had been losing residents to metropolitan areas for some time but according to census figures, millions of Americans are opting for a more rural lifestyle these days.

U.S. metropolitan areas grew by 9.8% during the 1970's but rural and small town regions developed much faster. With a growth rate of 15.8%, they gained more than 8.5 million people.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says samplings done in the U.S. since 1980 show that rural and small town areas are still drawing people though the growth may not be as dramatic as it was in the 1970's.

The USDA also says that the

surprising thing about this exodus to rural areas is that it's occurring in all major geographic sections of the nation with the south and west seeing the greatest influx of new citizens.

The experts say this rush for rural America is caused more by social factors than economic fluctuations. Which basically means urban folks are just now discovering what rural folks have known all along about the many advantages of rural and small town living.

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