

Viewpoints

Board of adjustment needed to ease load

In April of last year, members of the newly formed Hoke County Planning Commission passed a comprehensive mobile home park ordinance, which will eventually improve the quality of developments throughout the county.

In the spring, there were great hopes that the planning board would put their first accomplishment behind them, and move ahead with subdivision regulations and with plans for needed countywide zoning.

However, since May, the planning board members have been bogged down in hearing appeals of the law they passed in April.

For six months, the board meetings have been filled with complaining mobile home park owners, who are seeking relief from the new regulations.

Now the planning board needs relief from the appeals process. A board of adjustment should be established.

This county's population has grown at a rate of about four new residents every month for the last five years. If things go as planned, there should be an even greater growth before 1990.

While the planning board has been emersed in mobile home complaints, about 24 new residents have moved into the county.

That growth needs to be regulated and construction must be controlled and protected.

Currently in the county, there are no regulations to prevent junk yards from being placed next door to \$75,000 homes or to stop subdivisions from being built on land which is not suitable for sewage disposal or proper drainage.

There are no laws on the books which would halt construction of an eyecore in the middle of what is now a lovely cotton or bean field.

The planning board hopes to develop fair and comprehensive laws which would give rural Hoke County residents and farmers relief from the perils of growth, but the members need help.

We encourage the Hoke County Commissioners to establish a board of adjustment and to have the group functioning before 1986 begins.

There are few things to be faced in the next two months which are as important as the issue of zoning.

'tis the season for county unity

Now that the Christmas season is on us, there is no better time for Hoke County residents to work together to improve our community.

There are positive steps being taken to make things better here, but there is also an effort underway which can accomplish little more than tarnish the upward swing of the county.

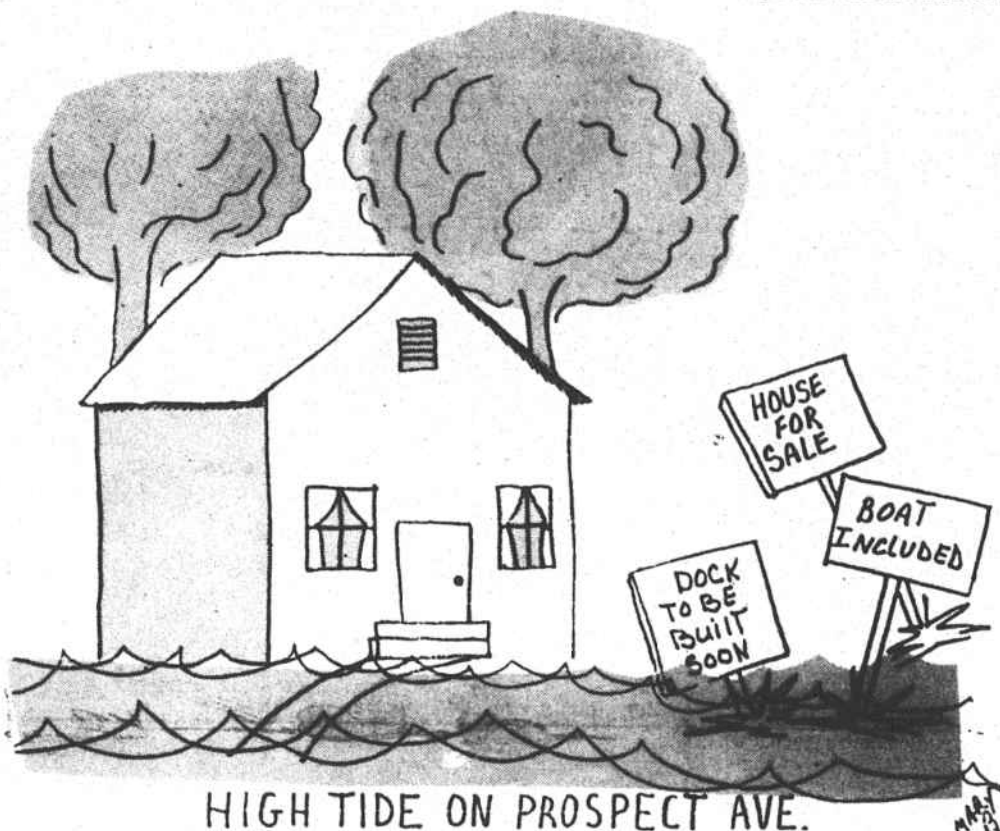
A present move to create a racial crisis in Hoke County where one does not exist is wrong. Tempers are being raised and emotions are being inflamed over misinformation and by misguided leadership.

It is a dangerous experiment to drive a racial wedge through a community, in order to awaken the apathetic. It is an experiment too harsh for the conditions which linger in Hoke County.

During the last 12 months, there has been a strong movement here to improve life for all residents, however, that effort has been slowed because of a lack of participation from all races.

For Hoke County to continue to lift itself up, all leaders need to step up and get involved, instead of sitting back and watching it happen.

The season is right to lay down differences and to unite for harmony, cooperation and making Hoke County a better place.



Letters To The Editor

Four snows predicted

To the Editor:

Four snows predicted; and needed, so much; our technology which we use, for granted; with our thinking, has polluted the air seven miles up; by our factories, belching out black smoke, airplanes speeding out carbon dioxide; and submarines, and other toxic pollutants being poured into our streams, creeks and rivers every day.

The good Lord helps us out by our filtering needs, and we come up with the question, Do material benefits outweigh the price we pay for clean air, water, land and health?

So, technology must be controlled.

Four snows, one big one and three small ones.

211 Prophet
Earl H. Shannon

A sign-up period will be held on December 2nd thru the 6th and again on December 9 and 10 between the hours of 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the T.B. Lester, Jr. Bldg.

If you wish to make a referral, complete a SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS referral and mail or bring it to The News-Journal by December 10.

If you have any questions, you should direct them to Mrs. Clara Pope at 875-3868 or 875-4106 or Mrs. Caroline Shook at 875-3205.

By you and I sharing our material goods and resources, SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS will be able to bring some brightness to the lives of the children, the elderly and the disabled of Hoke County.

SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS
Clara Pope
Caroline Shook, Co-Chairs
Raeford Woman's Club

Another loss we must consider, the family that loses the breadwinner to prison, the society has to pick up both bills, that of the prisoner and his family.

So it appears, both above and beneath the surface, our present judicial system is in a "no win" situation, unless, "from the Whitehouse to the courthouse and on to the poor house," we as a people, are willing to "turn back to the Bible."

Our country was founded on Biblical principles, and we have strayed far from the mark set by our forefathers. The Bible gives us perfect directions. And as common sense would have it, anytime you alter that which is perfect, you can only get imperfection.

I feel, or rather know, that we make a mockery of God and use his name vainly by placing the quotations in our courtrooms, "In God We Trust," when in fact, a great number of persons charged with duties within the court, do not consider God in their duties.

So as you can see, "from society to prison," we must make amends. But above all, to get results, we must make our peace with God.

These words still apply to us today; "If My people who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Joseph Robert Monroe, I
Southern Correctional Center
Troy, N.C.

Society to prison is a costly road

To the Editor:
There is much talk about inmate cost and upkeep (\$30.50 daily or \$11,132.50 annually per inmate in North Carolina), rehabilitation of prisoners, deterring crime and alternatives to prison sentencing for non-violent criminals.

Until this talk has been put into action, everybody loses (the victim, the taxpayer, the prisoner and ultimately society in general).

The taxpayer suffers for many reasons, along with society in general:

(1) New and improved housing must be had to meet federal standards.

(2) Loss of revenue due to the incarceration of non-violent taxpayers.

(3) Due to the lack of rehabilitating facilities, more often than not, a person returns to society in a more criminal state of mind.

(4) For those prisoners who are able to rehabilitate or educate themselves, society rejects their return, and unless the person is strong-willed to do better beyond rejection, the ex-prisoner harbors hate and that within itself breeds crime.

(5) The victim loses, in most cases, where financial loss is involved and the offender goes to prison. Here, again, society eventually has to pick up the pieces.

Share Your Christmas seeks community help

To all interested individuals:
Helping others at Christmas has become a tradition since 1981 when the Raeford Woman's Club established SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS. Christmas of 1985 is not far away so the need to rekindle our giving spirit is now.

In order to meet the special needs of families, SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS 1985 will concentrate on the elderly, the disabled, and children from birth to 18. Referral may be made from any interested party or from the family.

Particularly needed this year will be children's clothes of all ages, toys, canned goods, and fruits.

Cash contributions will be received and will be used to purchase children's articles of clothing as well as toys and fruits.

Cash contributions may be mailed to The News-Journal at P.O. Box 550 Raeford, N.C. 28376 just as soon as you wish.

It will be important to receive cash contributions by December 16.

Children's clothing, toys, and fruit may be brought to the T.B. Lester, Jr. Building beginning December 2nd between the hours of 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Fruit should not be brought until December 16.

Hot tips should be resisted

One of the temptations one must resist in buying stocks is the hot tip. There are hot tips that prove to be very good. But there are the exceptions in a so-so market.

Three years ago a broker -- this was not a hot tipper -- advised buying shares of Multimedia. Later, an executive of the company said he felt the stock was a good buy. Those who followed this advice more than doubled their money. This is not advice from the hot-tip league.

A typical hot tip is one which a friend hears about from another friend. If he calls with the tip, increase your caution. Look into the stock very carefully and get an opinion, a research report, from a major brokerage house.

One need not follow the report, but it often helps. And beware of the stock which must be bought right now. Few bargains evaporate in a matter of days.

Not long ago the magazine "Business Week" listed the most promising -- in its views -- young companies in America. The writer bought half a dozen, in small



Cliff Blue
People and Issues

amounts, to see how good that advice was. It was a long-term project. After some eight months, it's still a long term project. Few have done much. One must figure in years on small growth companies.

SAFE DRIVING ... The United States is known as the country where most every family has a car. Many families have two or three, or even four automobiles, when the children are given cars of their own.

As a result of this and because the acquisition of a driver's license is relatively easy, we kill more people with automobiles than any other nation on earth.

What is the answer to it all? Perhaps one of the answers is to make it harder for people to obtain

driver's licenses. Or maybe we should have periodic checks for all drivers so that when a licensed driver no longer is capable of meeting the standards which the state feels are necessary for the safety of others his license will be revoked.

We must, in some way, cut down on the toll automobiles are taking.

The editor urges all drivers to drive cautiously in the winter months ahead when driving conditions and visibility will be at their worst.

ON HEADACHES ... Nearly three-quarters of Americans suffer occasional headaches, and slightly more than half complain about backaches or sore muscles, according to a recent poll.

AN AGREEMENT ... Chrysler Corp. and the United Auto Workers agreed on a tentative contract for 70,000 strikers, giving them wage parity with other autoworkers plus a \$2,000 bonus to make up for concessions granted when the automaker faced bankruptcy.

It was a perfect morning for hog cooking in Hoke County

It was 25°, and the first cold dawn of the fall. In the half-light, weary shadows moved busily around smoky outdoor pits filled with 20 prostrate hogs, which were roasting near perfection.

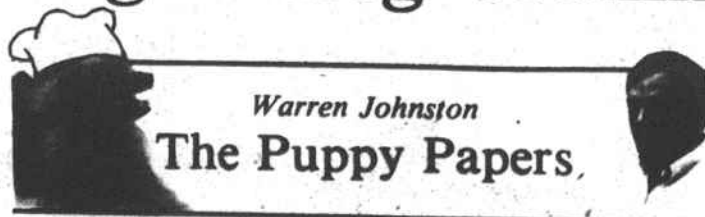
The air was heavy with smoke. The rich smells of burning oak and hickory, sweetened with the drippings of sauce-laddened pork filled my nostrils and invaded my clothes.

There were four or five of them. They had stayed the night to tend the fires. They were insulated from the cold by the heat of their work and had survived the watch on nervous energy, fed with ink-like coffee and hearty conversations.

After more than 12 hours of careful roasting, the hogs were ready. I was there to help with the harvest.

"It was 25° last night," I said, as I approached a large bonfire, built to make the coals for cooking and to keep the cooks from the weather.

"You know it wasn't," one of the all-nighters said. "One'd never know it out here with these fires," another declared.



Warren Johnston

The Puppy Papers

Before long, the pigs were proclaimed ready. We carried the large carcasses from the pits to a preparation area and began removing hot meat from the bones and fat, nibbling as we worked.

It was the first time I had ever eaten barbecued hog for breakfast. Another crew took the meat, chopped it, mixed it with sauce and packed it for serving.

The operation was organized and well rehearsed, but after all it was the eighth annual Happy Hobby Harvest.

"We cut down some this year. We usually cook about 27 hogs," one of the veterans said, as we worked.

Hot grease ran out of the crisp hog skin, down my pants leg and coagulated on my cold feet.

"I usually throw my clothes and shoes away after I work out here," another said, remembering a tale about a past worker who ended the life of a new pair of "wingtips" during an earlier pig dismantling.

"You sure can mess up a pair of shoes doing this," somebody agreed.

As it neared 8 a.m. and after about an hour of steady boning, I began to feel the strain of the job. My back and legs ached, and my empathy for the all-nighters increased with my weariness.

Around 10 o'clock, the job was about done. The 20 hogs had been turned to a fine delicacy and taken to the serving line.

We had severed and boxed three "smiling" heads as surprise gifts for some unknown recipient, and the neighborhood dogs developed cholesterol problems from the scraps of our labor.

It was not a bad way to spend a frosty fall morning. It was nice to be part of a passing Hoke County tradition.

Next year, I might even try to become one of the all-nighters. I don't think there is a waiting list for the job.

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