

# Viewpoints

## Old armory would make good incubator project

There is little question this county has too many vacant buildings and not enough jobs, but news of marketing the old armory building as an industrial site is received with mixed emotions.

Under the approved plan, the county would sell the building, along with 1.4 acres, for about \$200,000 to any industry interested in locating at the site.

Taxpayers could use the revenue from the sale to help pay the cost of running this county, and the jobless rate is a clear indication another employer is needed, but there is a lingering question if giving up a public asset like the armory might not come back to haunt us.

This county might be better off by allowing the building to be used for a limited period, so that it could be retained for future public needs.

Under a state-sponsored business incubator program, the armory could be used by private industry for as much as five years and then returned to the public.

There are 14 incubator projects in North Carolina, and many of them are located in counties like Macon, Haywood and McDowell and in smaller communities such as Ahoskie, Hillsborough and Boone.

Not only would the program put the armory to a useful revenue producing purpose, but it would also create a facility which would help new struggling businesses.

Through the incubator plan, counties can get a one-to-one match of up to \$200,000 for building renovations for providing services to the tenants. The old armory building could be used as Hoke County's match to gain the state funds.

Incubators are used to nurture new businesses into healthy ones by providing them with below market rents and low-cost support services during their start-up years.

Technical and educational assistance could also be provided through the new Hoke County satellite of Sandhills Community College. Such a program would benefit the new firms and would be in keeping with the institution's role in the community.

Although it is difficult to see into the future, it is easy to imagine in five or 10 years, Hoke County might need the armory to meet recreational or community needs.

To replace the square footage of the armory with a new building would be far more costly than \$200,000.

We encourage members of the county commission to develop the armory under the incubator program and to preserve the option for the building's future use as a public facility.

The armory is a fine facility, and when it is coupled with the armory ball park, it becomes an asset most counties our size can not afford.

It would be unfortunate for Hoke County to step backwards for the short-termed benefits of a \$200,000 sale.

## Christmas tree needed

City of Raeford crews were busily installing the same tired old Christmas decorations on utility poles this week, and it was difficult not to think there should be more in this community to bring in the Yule season.

A Christmas tree lighting on a crisp late November or early December evening would lift the spirits of the grumpiest in the community, particularly if the event included carols from all of the county's church choirs.

There will be no Christmas parade in Hoke County this year, however, there is still time for a tree lighting.

Hoke County has a long history of community events at Christmas. It is a tradition which should not be forgotten.

## United Fund helps Hoke

Hoke County's United Fund has moved over the halfway point towards a goal of \$28,853, and the drive's directors are pushing to reach the mark before December.

Money for this year's drive will go to meet the fundraising demands of 11 Hoke County agencies, and will insure those groups of financial stability during the coming year.

United Fund helps Hoke County children by supporting the Children's Center, the Boy and Girl Scouts, the 4-H Council and Share Your Christmas.

Aid is given to this county's elderly through the United Fund contributions to St. Joseph Home Health Agency, Senior Citizens' programs, the Raeford Lion's Club project and Share Your Christmas.

Residents of all ages are given a hand through contributions to the Hoke County Rescue Squad, the Reading and Literacy Council and the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

The Hoke County United Fund needs the support of everyone living in the county during the last weeks of the drive.

If you cannot give anything else, give \$1. It will make a difference.

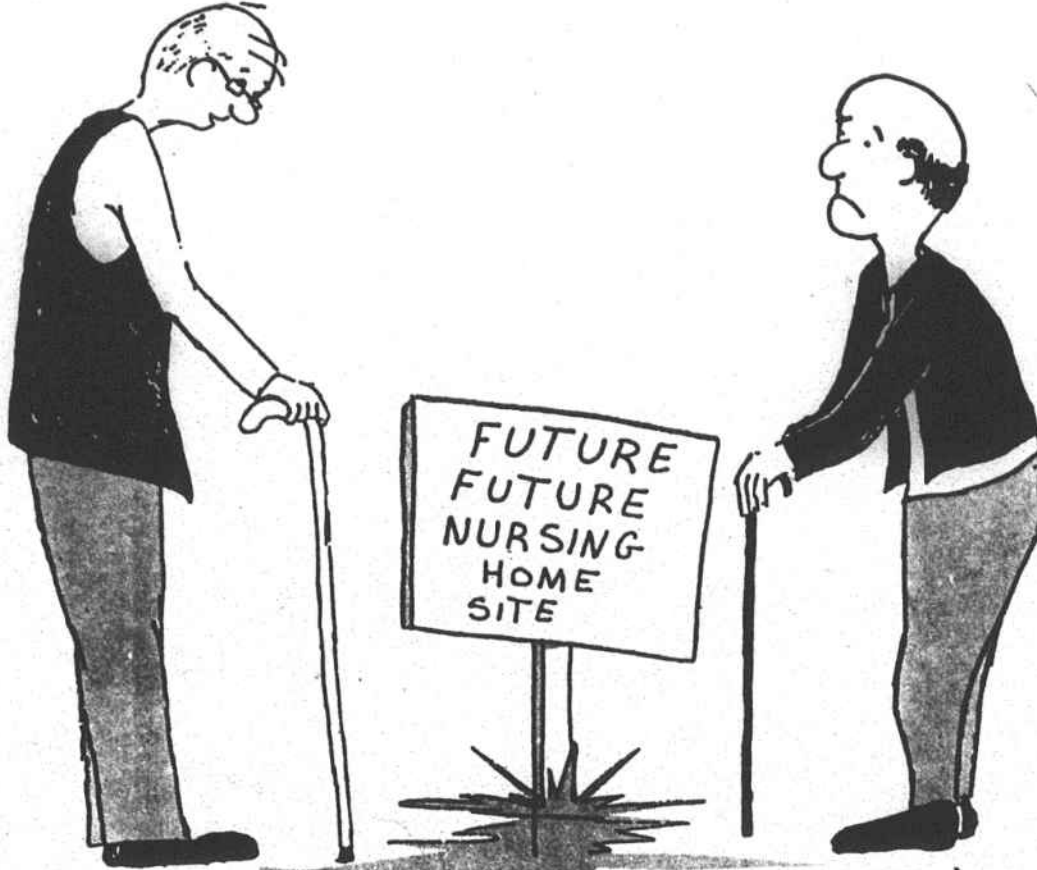
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Why, I remember when my daddy got  
the ball rolling on this thing back in '85  
Reckon them flat sided balls roll slower...

## Letters To The Editor

### Participation in schools urged

To the Editor:  
The Hoke County Association of Educators is joining our nation's celebration of American Education Week November 17-23.

This year's theme "America's Public Schools: The Subject is Excellence."

This theme translates into a commitment by Hoke County educators to excellence here in the schools of Hoke County.

We urge parents and friends of education in Hoke County to learn more about the exciting things that are going on in schools this week and throughout the year.

You are encouraged to visit the schools and see first hand the excellent manner in which knowledge is being shared.

Your support and encouragement is essential to the ongoing process of education here in Hoke County.

Hoke County NCAE  
President  
Jacqueline Miller-Gladney

The amount of money Americans now spend on health care averages out to \$1,500 each year for every man, woman and child. Nearly half of every health care dollar is spent for hospital costs.

## Martin's road plan just updates Hunt's

RALEIGH -- No one runs for governor without hearing about roads. How a candidate feels about a certain road will often determine whether he'll get the backing of a community's leaders and later its voters.

It should not be surprising, then, to see a new governor's first Board of Transportation quickly adopt his roads agenda. But it was surprising to see the first long-range roads plan adopted by Gov. Jim Martin's board. Despite Martin's partisan and geographical differences with his predecessor, Jim Hunt, his roads plans reflected no extraordinary amount of change.

The changes enacted by Martin's board "are similar to what we've been having all the time," said Sen. Ollie Harris, D-Cleveland, a former chairman of the legislature's oversight committee on transportation. "The (roads) program has to be updated every year. I don't think they've gone beyond anything we've seen in past years."

The state's 10-year roads program is updated every year. Last month, Martin's board dropped 45 projects laid out in the plan approved by Hunt's board last December. Martin's board also added 66 projects. In all, however, Billy Rose, deputy secretary of transportation and the real brains behind state transportation policy in both the Hunt and Martin ad-



Watching  
By Paul T. O'Connor

ministrations, said more than 90% of the 1984 plan went unchanged in 1985.

This is not to say that the board didn't take care of itself. About two-thirds of the new projects are located in the county of residence of the 22 board members.

The biggest change adopted by the board concerns federal fund-

ing. Every year, the Congress sets funding levels for a number of different highway programs run by the states. Then Congress comes back and sets an overall spending limit for each state which is smaller than the sum of all the individual programs. This year, only 86% of the promised dollars were delivered in the form of hard cash.

In past years, the board planned according to full funding for each project, said Transportation Secretary Jim Harrington. For the next four years, the Martin board will plan according to the estimated number of dollars that will be available for spending. That change in policy led to a freeze on spending for a short

while earlier this year while adjustments were made.

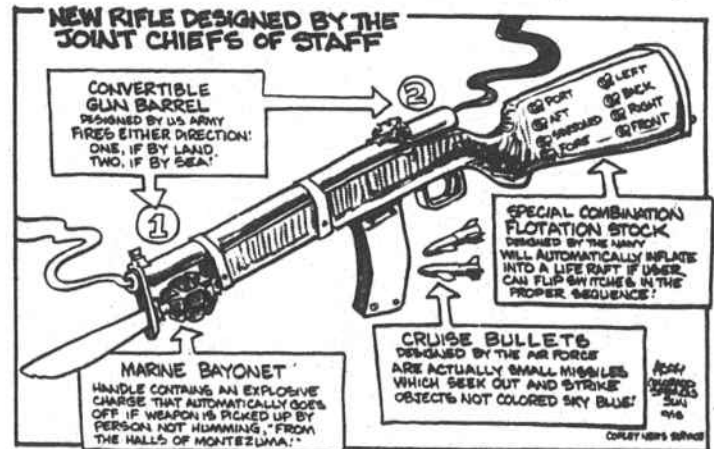
Harrington says the new policy will cut the number of projects that are removed from the plan at the last minute.

Another major shift will come in bridge replacement and rehabilitation. The old board had a fast schedule for using the federal and state money available for bridges. The new board decided to spread those dollars out over a slower schedule. By doing so, it allowed the new board to shift \$100 million into other urban and rural roads projects, Rose said. Both Rose and Harrington assured the oversight committee, however, that the total

amount of bridge work originally envisioned by the old board will be performed.

By making that bridge shift, the new board also hopes to relieve some of the upward pressure on costs. There was so much bridge work being contracted out that a builder's market had been created, Harrington said. That led to higher prices.

There is no evidence that the Department of Transportation and its board have suddenly lost interest in politics. Nor that Martin will not use his power over roads for political advantage. So far, they're simply using it selectively.



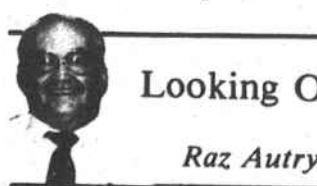
## Hendrix keeps Hoke County out of rough

Some people by their actions instill confidence in those with whom they associate. Such an individual is Brown Hendrix. His willingness to help people is his trademark. I often tell him if he has one fault, it is being too kind to those who take advantage of his good nature.

His church, community and country is a source of pride with him. Serving Sandy Grove Church has been a life long commitment. When the church has needed help he has walked the extra mile. The Arabia Community has a special place in his heart. No county has a greater booster.

Being at the right place at the right time has given many individuals opportunities they would not have gotten otherwise. This has not been true with Hendrix. Through hard work and a determination to succeed has been his right place at the right time.

Brown built Arabia Golf Course from a family farm. It was a gamble very few people would have been willing to take. It is now one of the finest golf courses in the



Looking On  
Raz Autry

state. Unfortunately, many of our folks fail to appreciate it. The value of the golf course to the county can not be measured in monetary terms. Those who enjoy the game leave Arabia with a good feeling because of his friendliness. He never fails to make home folks or strangers feel welcome.

For many years he and Mrs. Hendrix worked with and for handicapped children. Time as it does to all of us has slowed this effort in recent years, the desire and compassion for these children still exist. He continues to help the cause of those less fortunate in physical and mental capacity by furnishing golf carts of the special olympics.

Boosters clubs, Lions clubs, wild life organizations and many other

groups have used his facilities free or at reduced fees to get funds for their club's projects. The recently held turkey festival was the benefactor of his generosity. Golf carts were used for the downtown activities.

The golf course and the cabin were used for money making activities.

Those of us who live on the course know better than anyone the character of Hendrix.

I had the pleasure of being David and Martha's principal. At no time in my tenure did their parents fail to support me in my role as the administrator of the high school. Even when my score was better than David's on the golf round, when he was looking for sympathy because he had been beaten by an old man, his dad only smiled. In golf tournaments David would wrap the clubs around a tree when his temper whipped him. Martha was a little spitfire. After she graduated from high school she worked for the school system as a secretary, without question

her efficiency and know how was a result of a good solid home life. As a superintendent I couldn't ask for a better supporter. On many occasions I needed help with our grass cutting equipment used in the school system, he never refused me or charged the system.

Mr. Hendrix has his oldest son Brownie working for him. Brownie is a tremendous asset to the country. Being the chairman of the planning board requires not only a keen mind but a thick skin, he has both. He inherited his dad's generosity and willingness to help others.

His daughter Kathy works in the pro-shop. Her community activities center around her church and any good cause in which she is asked to work.

Being a young 70 years old hasn't slowed his desire to be around people. He still reports to the golf course on a regular basis. I am grateful to be able to call him friend. He is truly a server of his fellow man.