

Carteret County News-Times

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EDITORIAL PAGE

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Those Fishermen With College Degrees

One of the most extensive research projects ever to be undertaken in eastern North Carolina will get underway this month when the federal government research vessel, Albatross III, comes to North Carolina.

The Albatross left its base at Woods Hole, Mass., Wednesday and will arrive at Morehead City Saturday, Jan. 14, not to leave for Massachusetts until Feb. 24 when its work is expected to be completed.

Writing recently in the Winston-Salem Journal, Chester S. Davis, one of the South's best feature writers, pointed out that research is one of the largest blind spots in the New South's thinking. He remarked that our natural resources are being exploited dangerously, but that in this modern age a nation is not bent on finding physical frontiers — virgin lands — but frontiers that can be opened through science. Mr. Davis dwelt mainly on the necessity for research in the fields of engineering, chemistry, and industrialization, but the University of North Carolina, one of the South's leading education-research centers, realizes too that through science new worlds can be opened on the seas. In comparison to the progress other industries have made through science, the fishing industry is still in the Dark Ages.

Cooperative efforts of the Institute of Fisheries Research, Morehead City, part of the University of North Carolina, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, have made it possible, along with appropriations from Congress, of course, for the Albatross to make a second, lengthier visit to North Carolina than it made last summer.

While it is generally known that the average fisherman has little faith in fish scientists and their high-falutin' ideas, it can't be denied that only through research has our modern world become the fantastic, wonderful, and awesome place that it is. It may be that facts learned on this current Albatross trip may not, for years, fit into the vast puzzle of fishermen's problems, yet year after year, a scientist here, a scientist there, gleans facts, records them, and makes it possible for future seekers of the truth to gain the final answer. Through just such manner we now have sulfa drugs, penicillin, nylon, and plastics.

The potential in the fishing industry is just as great, and if one can conceive the challenge, it is overpowering.

Our tendency is to want things to happen as rapidly as machine gun fire. The average person learns a fishing research boat is undertaking a project, and immediately after its return to port from the first cruise a startling announcement is expected regarding, perhaps, a new fishing grounds teeming with fish, location of a gigantic sea monster, or something equally sensational.

Most fishermen don't even expect that. They merely think and occasionally say, "Those fishermen with college degrees are crazy." Funny, isn't it, almost every scientist the world has ever known, has been called crazy.

Attempting something new isn't easy. Only a minority, if that, looks favorably upon ventures into the unknown. Research foundations and sponsors of research projects wait until years of tests are conclusive, before releasing information that a new scientific frontier has been opened. Human nature just isn't built to sweat it out with scientists through all the trials and disappointments. And thousands of discoveries made in the laboratory are not of the type that make an impressive stir when revealed to the public. They are just a few more pieces of the puzzle that may, in the distant future, fall perfectly together.

The South as a whole may be deficient in the number of research scientists, and engineers. But little do we in Carteret county realize how wealthy we are from that standpoint.

Being constructed now on Piver's Island is a radio-isotope laboratory, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been appropriated for work on fishery projects headquartered there. At the south end of the island Duke university makes it possible for students to continue work in marine biology and other studies of the sea. At Morehead City Technical institute, a part of North Carolina State college, technological training is the byword, and near MCTI is the Institute of Fisheries Research of the University of North Carolina.

We are indeed wealthy from the scientific standpoint. Would that we were wealthy also in patience, understanding that these scientists are seeking those things which will make a better world, if not for us, for our children.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I have been looking for a letter in your "Letters to the Editor" column since the "Operation Economy" program of the Jr. Chambers of Commerce of Carteret County got started. The column has carried numerous comments on how money should be spent or how it should not be spent, yet no comment has been made on one of the biggest economy operations ever undertaken by any group in this country.

The Hoover commissions recommendations if enacted into law, would mean tax savings to every citizen of Carteret County, not only income taxes, but the thousands of "hidden" taxes which are being extracted from us every day. The United States government is the biggest business concern in the world, yet it is using some accounting methods which were instituted by Alexander Hamilton, George Washington's Secretary of the Treasury.

The only way to get this legislation enacted is for the citizens of the United States to rise up and

protest such inefficiency as has been brought to light by the Hoover Commission. By rise up, I mean write your Senator and your representative in Congress. Urge them to push this legislation. A post card will do. Any J. C. in Morehead City or Beaufort will provide not only the addresses, but writing materials. Better yet, address a letter or card to Senators Graham, Hoey, and Rep. Graham Barden, care of "Operation Economy," Beaufort, N. C., and we'll see that the Congressmen get those letters.

Yours very truly,
Gene C. Smith

Smile Awhile

A millionaire, as he climbed into his limousine, snarled at a newsboy, "No, I don't want to buy a paper!"
"Well, keep your shirt on, boss," the newsboy answered; "the only difference between you and me is that you are making your second million, while I'm still on my first."



Raleigh Roundup

By Eula Nixon Greenwood

OPPOSITION . . . Former Senator William Umstead will decide between now and February 1 whether he will be a candidate for the U. S. Senate in opposition to Sen. Frank Graham.

The belief in this corner now is that he will not make the race; but that somebody else of almost equal importance and political popularity will get into the battle against the present Senator.

This column has felt all along that Senator Graham would, and should, have strong opposition. He has nothing to lose. Should he win, he will emerge a much bigger man in the eyes of the people. If he suffers a defeat, President Harry S. Truman will provide him with a position of more importance than that of U. S. Senator.

DEFICITS . . . A year ago when he was inaugurated Governor, Kerr Scott said something to the effect that "We have a surplus of money, but a deficit in services to the people."

In his 12 months in office he has worked steadily to decrease

the service deficit. In January of 1949 North Carolina was in the best financial condition in its history. Now it faces the biggest debt in its history, and for the first time since depression-dark 1933 the State is forced to borrow money with which to carry on its day-to-day operations.

Roosevelt cared little for financial deficits and went down into history as one of our greatest Presidents. It may be that Kerr Scott will follow the same route through the remaining three years in the Governor's office.

NECESSITY FOR TRUCKS . . . A survey conducted in some manner by the State Highway Commission's Division of Statistics and Planning finds that trucks are using the State's highways as never before. This is probably true. But the report on the "survey" says, among other things, that "the average truck owner has no conception of the manner or extent of the damage his truck can inflict on the highway through high impact load stresses."

It would be interesting indeed to know just what statistics the Division employed in arriving at this great statement. If the truck owner has no conception of what his truck does to the highway, who does? This is just another case of statistics being off-base and used as a basis for a very unfair indictment.

This State would be seriously crippled industrially without trucks.

AT THE TOP . . . Although N. C. stands right near the top in the trucking industry, the trouble here and elsewhere is that we continue to look down our collective noses at trucking and still are inclined to view truckers as plug-

uglies. Meantime, we glamorize trains and railroads.
Hardly a week passes that the State Utilities Commission here does not have some business concerned with curtailing the operations of some railroad line. There seems to be a general move on among railroads to reduce their services. A few weeks ago the Railway Express Agency eliminated deliveries on Saturday. Railroads are constantly at the mercy of one John L. Lewis.

All of this emphasizes the dependence we must place on trucks. We need more trucks, more trucking companies, and highways sufficiently strong to bear up under the biggest trucks. Trucking is only in its infancy. This industry is about where railroads were 75 years ago. Since we must depend more and more upon trucks, it is incumbent upon the State of North Carolina to face the situation squarely and construct highways which can carry the freight of an industrious area.

NOTES . . . State patrolmen were measuring the gas in filling station tanks on the night of Dec. 31, presumably preparing for a check on gas sales during the first days of the cent-per-gallon-increase voted by the people last summer.

Note to Gov. Scott: Somebody is taking collars out of the Women's Prison garden and giving them to neighbors in Raleigh. . . . This has been going on for quite a while now, but the employee's stolen collars are winning him no friends. . . . They are literally lousy.

Raleigh is setting a standard for the entire nation in its overall sales and business activity. It has been written up in Sales Management, Business Week, and Forbes, the businessmen's magazine, for keeping its retail sales volume ahead of 1948. Forbes in a recent issue says that only three cities in the U. S. showed a percentage gain over last year. They were: Albany, Ga., 7 per cent; New York City, 1 per cent; and Raleigh, 10 per cent over last year.

Raleigh employees of the Federal Land Bank report that loans to farmers are picking up sharply because of the boll weevil damage in the cotton areas. . . . and general leveling-off on farm front.

The State will get its new Highway Building underway very shortly now, but complaints about a State-operated cafeteria have died down. Mum is the word right now. P. S. The State likely will not run a cafeteria, but will provide a floor for one which will be operated privately.

During a lull in the Dixie Basketball Classic games here, the man on the public address system announced: "Will Raymond Hair please report to the press table!" The joke was on C. A. Dillon, Jr., son of the prominent merchant and leading Raleigh socialist, who was doing the announcing. He was so absorbed with the games that he did not realize he was casually asking for the appearance of a man being hunted throughout the nation. It was the laugh-of-the-week in Raleigh.

State employees are now on five-day work week. . . . Gov. Scott may come up with a surprise appointment early this spring. . . . The Jackson Day Dinner here the latter part of this month is expected to be the best in several years because of North Carolina's increasing prominence in Washington. . . . So, if you are going to be here, get your reservations at your favorite hotel now.

Aside to political candidates: filing time for candidates for solicitor, judge, all State offices, U. S. Senate and Congress closes at noon on March 18; and for those seeking to come to Raleigh for the 1951 General Assembly or to hold a county office or city office, at 6 p. m. on April 15.

DOING WELL . . . Charlie Johnson, who lost out to Kerr Scott in the gubernatorial shebang 18 months ago, is now selling stocks and bonds. Reports are that he is making slightly more in this business than he would have in the Governor's chair.

Johnson's phenomenal success in this field may have influenced his cousin, Robert Grady Johnson, to resign from his post with the Utilities Commission, effective March 1. He could have stayed on until his term ran out on February 1, 1951, but he didn't stay around and wait for the Governor to give him the boot. This column pre-

dicted nearly a year ago that Johnson would move on, but it was a long time coming about and his decision not to serve out his time occasioned some surprise here.

ONE REASON . . . In looking for this Johnson's record—which got underway on the Raleigh front when he came to the Legislature from Pender County in 1929—it is significant that he was secretary of the N. C. Petroleum Industries Committee during 1936-37, when Kerr Scott moved on the scene as (Continued on page 7)

EVEN AN ESKIMO WANTS A ROOF OVER HIS HEAD!

North pole or south pole, or any place in-between, everybody seems to want a roof over their head. This human desire is more pronounced naturally in civilized climes where there's a housing shortage, currently.

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