

Perspective

Remote Control Woman

It's her other half again. I'm back by popular demand, and this column is especially for the men out there today.



The other night I was sitting in front of the TV with the remote control in my hand, watching her pace back and forth with a blank piece of paper in hers. I couldn't help but think about something as I watched her wearing a hole in my carpet.

Have you ever given much consideration to putting a remote control on your wife? Well, I'll give you single guys out there a good piece of advice. Listen up fellas. When you finally decide to pick one out, always ask... "does she come with remote control?" If she doesn't...forget it.

Sitting here flipping this television from one channel to another and making all the adjustments by hand without ever leaving my worn-out chair...well, it makes a man get to thinking.

I wish I had a remote control on my wife sometimes. Then, for once, I'd be in control. When I got tired of what she was talking about, I could just change channels. When I got tired of her talking altogether, I could just hit the mute button for some peace and quiet. And, if I really got ticked off, I could just place my finger on this one little particular but-

ton...push slightly, and turn her off completely.

I mean...have you EVER tried to set the controls on a woman? Well, if you have, you deserve some kind of combat medal. But, when you've got that little box in your hand, you're in complete control. However, don't fool yourself, cause that's the ONLY time.

You can turn the volume up or down or off entirely. You can skip around until you find something worth listening to or looking at. You can have a whole lot to things going at once and enjoy every one of them. You're in control. You get to mash the buttons. You get to enjoy your masculine ego...all by yourself.

And fellas, it's a whole lot easier to fix a television than to make adjustments to a woman. When a woman gets out of working order...she OUT. Period. Paragraph. She'll come around in her own good time. You may as well save your energies and your money. Nobody will move her until she gets good and ready.

When the TV gets into a state of static, you can just load it up and take it to town. When it blows a tube, you can load it up and take it to town. But, a woman...well, you don't load her up and take her anywhere, ESPECIALLY to town.

Most women spend a lot of money when they have a case of static. They shop to get rid of the blues. And they usually shop with YQUR money. It's always been interesting to me that my money is "ours" and her money is "hers." I've never figured that one out. Have you?

And, it's a whole lot cheaper to trade in a TV than a wife. You can get yourself a new wife, that's a fact, but you'll still be paying for the old one until your hair drops out. You can leave that old TV right in that store and come home with a new one with no more worries about the one you left behind. But a woman...well, you can never just leave her somewhere and forget her. She'll haunt you forever. On purpose. One way or the other.

Sometimes my TV reception comes across a bit fuzzy. But I can take it. Eventually it'll clear itself up. Compared to a woman...I can take it. A woman is NEVER clear. The water stays muddy all the time, even on good days.

My TV stays the same size and shape. It doesn't change moods on me or get wider and sag. It's nice and firm, and sturdy. Just the way I picked it out years ago. Exactly the same as I bargained for in the beginning.

I sure do like pushing those little buttons all the time. It really does make a man feel sure of himself. Confident. In charge. On top of it all. Powerful. In definite control.

But, I've got to go now. This column has generated a few ideas of my own. Somehow, I'm going to figure out how to put a remote control on that woman...one of these days.



A new carpet?
No, it's her wall to wall clothes.

Farmers must meet demands

There is an old expression that goes something like "You don't bite the hand that feeds you." I'm going to violate that rule and comment on the problems many farmers face today. As we all know, farming is a very important part of our local economy, and when the farmers have problems, we are all affected in some way or another.



Much has been said recently about possible foreclosure proceedings against farmers that are behind on payments of their loans with the Farmers Home Administration. The most lenient lender of all times, faced with pressure from higher-ups, is getting a bit tougher on those who don't pay their loan payments on time, or in some cases, not at all. They should have done so long ago. No other lender would have allowed borrowers to be as lax in repaying loans as the FmHA has been. Even so, there will be screams from farmers and related groups. Some agriculture experts are warning that thousands of farmers will be put out of business.

Larry Godwin, Farmers Home state director says this isn't so. Those who receive warning letters will be given 30 days to respond, and will be given a variety of options for reducing their debt. Only those who fail to respond to the letters will face foreclosure proceedings.

That's fair enough. For too many years, the taxpayer has subsidized the farm industry, encouraging some farmers to overspend and grow much larger than they could afford to be. A recently enacted farm bill, over the objections of many who have the foresight to see the future, will provide an estimated \$70 billion additional in funding to support farm programs over the next five years. Because of political pressures, a bill that was originally designed to push American agriculture toward a sounder system of supply and demand will only continue many government supported programs that tend to make matters worse.

Americans aren't willing to accept the fact that the small family farm as we now know it is be-

coming a thing of the past. In order to meet growing worldwide competition, farmers are going to have to begin producing in quantities designed to meet real need. In certain areas of agriculture in this country, we have too many farmers producing too much of the same thing. If supply can be brought closer to demand, food prices will rise and those farmers that survive will make a decent living.

The bargain we have enjoyed in food purchasing is actually costing us more than we pay at the checkout line.

Though prices have been kept reasonably low at the consumer level, the cost of government programs to support low prices has been enormous. We've been robbing "Peter to pay Paul" and that's not good business.

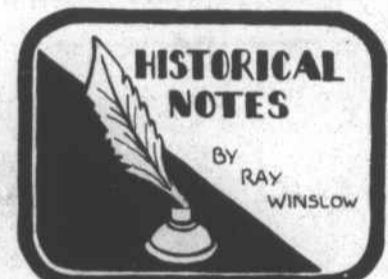
It's time we began taking a more realistic look at the costs of government involvement in agriculture. And it's time we required those farmers who are behind on their obligations to pay up. A new attitude is needed to move American agriculture toward a profitable future, and it is not too early to start.

As agriculture moves toward a sounder system for producers, those of us on the receiving end can expect food prices to increase. While most people would like to see the family farm preserved, few want to pay higher prices for food. We feel food prices are high enough, even though we don't blame the farmer. We blame the government and the middleman, and many others with limited involvement. We believe most farmers are honest, hard-working individuals. We have a hard time understanding the money involved in farming and can't identify with borrowing thousands of dollars to plant crops. We don't think government should treat farmers any different than other businesses, and while we would like to see the small farmer survive, we want them to do it without government involvement.

When all is said and done, American agriculture will find its safest existence in a system of supply and demand, free of government involvement. As this happens, many small farmers won't be able to compete, and the small farmer as we know him will cease to exist. That's certainly a sad probability, but we know it is coming, and the better prepared we are, the easier it will be.

Reputations reflect individual views

Reputation depends on viewpoint. To his king, George Carteret was a faithful subject and a true friend; to Oliver Cromwell he was a traitor and a pirate.



Carteret was born on Jersey, an island in the English Channel, early in the seventeenth century. The sea called him and he served long in the royal navy. By 1639 he was comptroller of the navy.

In 1643 he became bailiff and soon after lieutenant governor of Jersey. The English Civil War was then in progress and Carteret remained loyal to the crown. He supplied arms and munitions for royal forces and held his island against the parliamentary enemy. His interceptions of parliamentary supply vessels lead to his being declared a pirate.

In his flight from England the Prince of Wales (the future King Charles II) too, refuge with Carteret in 1646. Carteret vacated his own home to furnish quarters for the royal exiles, earning the princely promise that "if God bless me you shall find I do remember (your kind-

nesses) to the advantage of you and yours."

Carteret and his royal stronghold (the prince having left for France) held out against a parliamentary siege for three months before surrendering to superior firepower in December 1651. He then fled to France.

With the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 Carteret became a leader in government. He served as privy councillor, treasurer of the navy, vice Chamberlain of the household, and commissioner of the admiralty.

Carteret was also appointed a member of the committee of trade plantations, which oversaw matters relating to England's colonies. This inside position gave Carteret an advantage in several enterprises of his own. He became one of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina in 1663 and a proprietor of New Jersey the following year. He was also involved with the Hudson's Bay Company.

One of the problems hindering the early growth of Carolina was that its affairs were in the hands of the proprietors, who were often too heavily engaged in other matters to take much thought for their few subjects around Albemarle Sound. Carteret was no exception, as his attention was given to charges of errors in naval accounts while he was treasurer. Although no fault was found by investigators as far as he was involved, Carteret was in-

olved, Carteret was nonetheless convicted by Parliament (politically motivated no doubt) and removed from the office.

Carteret died in January, 1680, shortly before a peerage was

fully bestowed upon him. His share of Carolina fell to a grandson. The Carteret name would survive in a North Carolina county.

(Part 8 next week.)

Carolina fan feeds her ego

(Staff's Note—For reasons unknown to us, our editor is refusing to write her weekly column today. For lack of better things to put in this spot, we are featuring a letter written by Mrs. Becky Boynton of the Beach Springs community.)



To The Editor:
Ah, Sweet Revenge. Reference to your column of November 27, 1985, when you really gave us staunch Tarheel Fans a tongue lashing after Duke beat Carolina in Chapel Hill. Never mind that that was football and this is basketball, a Carolina fan is a Caro-

lina fan is a Carolina fan!
Did Carolina give Duke more than it could handle on Saturday, or what? From graciously allowing Alarie to score the first points ever in the new Dean Dome (NOT Jim Valvano as previously rumored), to letting Duke lead by several points most of the first half, to fouling out Hale, Martin and Wolf in the last few minutes so as not to pad the final score, Dean Smith sent Duke back to Durham licking its wounds in defeat. Oh, be still my heart!

Two great teams played a great game. But for now, we Tarheel fans are in Blue Heaven sitting on our self-made pedestals and gloating. And so it is...until the next time.

Cordially
Becky Boynton
P.S. Keep up the good work!!

Dear Friends,
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT!
Jane

Letters to the Editor

Letter To The Editor
Perquimans Weekly,

Just recently a big improvement was made in Perquimans County. All the trash and fifth on County Road 1214 was hauled away. It looks like a different place for which I'm very thankful. However I feel like our tax money was foolishly spent on this project unless people are going to take pride in how our county looks and begin to use the trash boxes and landfill that is provided for our trash.

Thanks to whomever was responsible for this clean-up. It was a job long over due. I hope everyone will cooperate and take their trash to the proper places and help keep one of our few remaining dirt roads clean and a place we can be proud of.

Thanks again for a well done clean-up job.

Sincerely,
Sibyl J. Winslow
Belvidere, N.C.
Editor

The Perquimans Weekly,
Please publish this letter in your newspaper. I am in the process of tracing my ancestry and hope that one of your readers can provide some information

that I am seeking. Census records indicate that a James Collins lived in your county in the early 1800s; I am curious to know if he could be my great-great-grandfather, who was born in North Carolina 1783 (maybe 1793). I think that he may have had a first wife named Rachel. He and Cynthia (born in 1821, probably his second wife), had the following children: Katie, Celia, Isaac, James (1843), Jasper and Liza.

I believe that this family moved to the Greenville, Tennessee area about 1845, when my great-grandfather James (1843-1923) was a small boy. He married Rebecca Selina Davis in 1866. Their children were Joseph, Elizabeth, Jasper, John, Andrew, Samuel Anderson (my grandfather, born 1880), Luther, David, and Ida Bell.

I would like very much to know what part of North Carolina that great-great grandfather James came from and the mother country from which his father or grandfather hailed.

I am told that the Collins' of Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee are pure English, but knowing that many

Collins' hail from Ireland, I would at the least like to confirm England as the country of my heritage, regardless of whether I ever am able to pinpoint the city or county where my family tree originated.

Whatever information one of

your readers could provide for me, I would be truly grateful. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Ray Collins
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