

The Foothills View

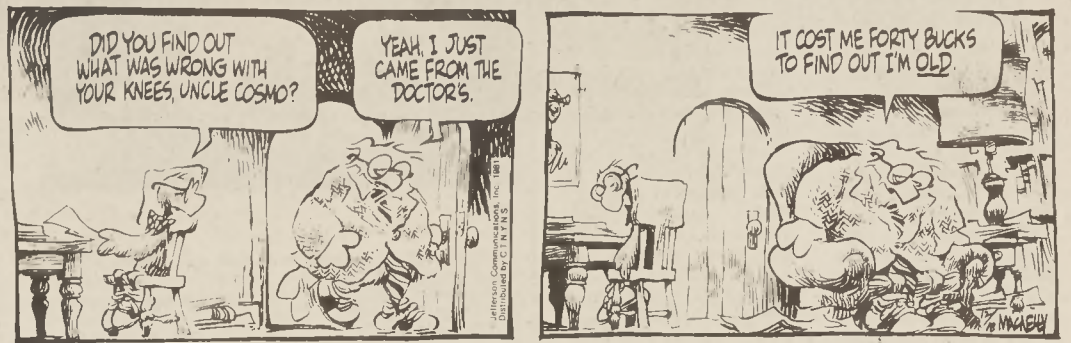
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Dave Robertson Managing Editor

SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Commentary

The editorial page of The Foothills View

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

There has been enough lead bad talk about our town and it's time someone spoke a few kind words about the city in which we live.

I am very proud to say I have lived in Boiling Springs all 25 years of my life and most everyone has always been willing to show kindness to his friends, neighbors and visitors. I have been reading letters in the Foothills View about our town officials, our policemen and the re-zoning of property and often wonder, would you take their jobs, put up with all the griping and grumbling, the headaches and the sleepless nights these people do for a salary much less than minimum wage? The councilmen of this town should be admired, not degraded because they can't please everyone. These men hold down regular jobs but they are willing to do their best at making our town a better place to live.

As for the police department, I hear people make statements such as I could do better than that or, well, that officer gave some of my family or friends a speeding ticket and I'm going to make it tough on him. If you, the people of Boiling Springs could only realize the work load our two officers have. They can't be everywhere at one time. When we had a five man force the officers were told to stay out of the office when on duty except when they were told to "clean up" the police station. These men put their life on the line for each and everyone of us who live in this city each time they pin their badge on their chest. I guess I care a lot more than most of you do because I know at any time I could lose my best friend and my brother, yes I am speaking of the officers that try their best.

Another thing that bothers us is that some of you don't want anything else built in this town, especially a factory which could employ someone who has been laid off from their jobs, or more trailers or apartments for people to live. I am speaking personally about the re-zoning of land for a mobile home. I have recently married and someday hope to have a family and hopefully be able to live in Boiling Springs. Since we aren't rich and can't afford to build a fine home, or pay high apartment rent, we settled for a mobile home which could only be placed on my family's property after it was re-zoned which some of you had rather not have done since it would take away the land value. It seems that the land wouldn't be of much value any way if you couldn't live on it or farm it.

I realize that this letter will probably make a lot of you upset but as I said at the beginning, it's time to say a few kind words about this town and show a little respect for those who love to call Boiling Springs home.

Donnis Greene

Dear Editor,

I failed to see the connection of the letter that Mr. David Hamrick wrote and the poem sent in by Officer Clary. I agree it is tragic when a police officer is killed, but it is also tragic when a whole police dept. is killed too. The mayor and town will never get trained men or women to take a police job here if they know the "revolving door policy" set up by the mayor. Ask any of the six officers who went in and out that door in just four years. And that is tragic too, because our tax dollars will be spent for that type of protection.

W.T. Ingram

Washington Report

A Column By Rep. James Broyhill

Consumers suffered a potentially costly defeat last week in the Congress when a package of waivers was approved for the Alaskan natural gas pipeline project. I say potentially costly because ratepayers across the country can be billed for a project which might never be completed. Even if the project is finished, the gas might be so expensive that no one will buy it.

First, it is necessary to give you some background. About 15 years ago the largest single finding of oil and natural gas on the North American continent was discovered at Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's North Slope. President Carter, with the approval of the Congress, designated the then-called "Alcan Highway" proposal as the one which would be the best of the three under consideration. President Carter's report to the Congress made clear that his choice was determined by his view of the environmental and economic factors of each of the three.

Ironically, the one chosen was the only of the three to claim that it could be privately financed without "pre-billing" gas ratepayers. The chairman of the sponsoring group of oil companies told the Congress that the consumer would not have to bear the hypothetical burden of the non-completion of the project. With those assurances, the Congress gave its approval to President Carter's decision.

Between 1977 and June, 1981, the sponsors had the authority to build the 4800-mile pipeline which will transport natural gas through Alaska and Canada to nearly every state in the union. However, contrary to their testimony, the sponsors have been unable to arrange private financing. That is why they wrote to President Reagan to seek the waiver package. The law we passed in 1976 does not permit the waiver proposal to be amended by the Congress. The administration established an informal Congressional working group to advise the President on the contents of the waiver package. As the senior

Republican member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I served as a member of the group.

My view, which did not prevail, was that the sponsors and the state of Alaska should be willing to take more of the financial risk rather than have it hit the consumers in the pocketbook. The working committee divided into two camps. The House members sought further concessions from the sponsors, while the Senate members felt the sponsors had gone as far as they could and the future of the project would be in doubt if additional changes were made.

I found two basic problems with the project. First, the assets of the sponsors are insufficient to make them creditworthy for such an enormous amount of debt. This could mean that the consumers are struck with the bill for a pipeline which might never be completed.

This cost is estimated to be roughly \$40 billion and will be the most expensive private construction project ever conceived.

Second, the price of the Alaskan gas, once delivered to market, may be so high in relation to other gas that no consumer would be willing to purchase it. The initial rates could be as much as five times as high as the current rates by the time the project is supposed to be completed in 1987.

There are also those who believe this waiver package could be the first step in a very expensive bailout by the federal government. If natural gas is deregulated, then the sponsors could come back to the Congress and say that further financial investments needed to complete the pipeline cannot be found. Then the pressure would be applied to the Congress to make massive federal appropriations in order to complete the project. While I hope this does not happen, the possibility certainly exists.

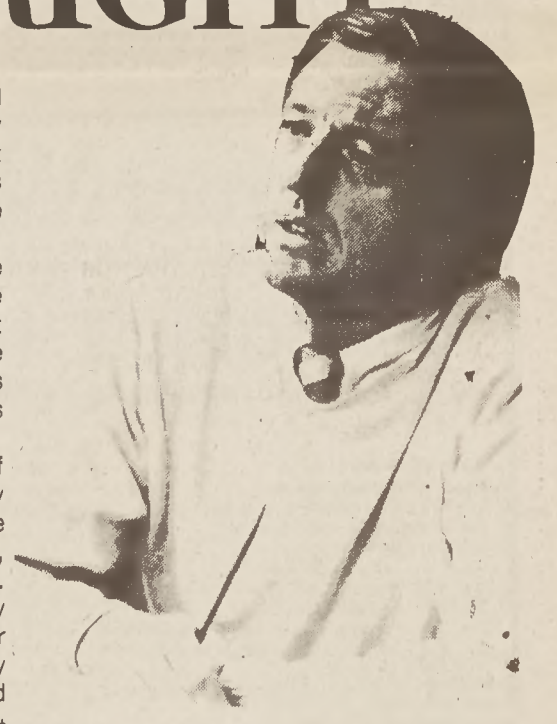
William F. Buckley, Jr.'s "ON THE RIGHT"

The failure at this end to have remarked rapturously on the virtues of our secretary of the Navy is to be taken as evidence not of his shortcomings, but of mine. He has transfused much energy and intelligence in the enterprise of rebuilding our fleet, which suffered as much devastation at the hands of President Carter, whose name will live in infamy, as at Pearl Harbor. But his prodigies as a shipbuilder are not the subject of this column, which addresses his stirring exchange with Bishop Thomas J. Drury of Corpus Christi, Texas.

Here is what happened. The elders of Corpus Christi put pressure on the Navy Department to name a vessel after the city, an altogether conventional request, particularly coming from a city by the sea. The Navy acknowledged the request by naming a newly commissioned nuclear submarine the "Corpus Christi." The city passed a formal resolution of gratitude and that would have been that -- except that Bishop Thomas J. Drury wrote to Secretary John Lehman to protest, on the grounds that it was not fitting to name a warship "Corpus Christi."

One assumes that Bishop Drury is an elderly bishop, and therefore recalls, from the days when Latin was the universal liturgical instrument of the church, what exactly Corpus Christi means, which is "body of Christ." Twenty years after Hiroshima, a group of modernists within the Catholic Church ganged up against the use of Latin, so that the sons of Corpus Christi are probably unaware what it actually is that their city is named after. On the other hand, that knowledge is presumably not denied to the Russians, whose KGB can penetrate most secrets, regardless of how zealously the modernists in the Vatican protect them.

So Secretary Lehman answered the bishop, and began by reminding him that naming a naval vessel "Corpus Christi" was not a historical precedent, since we deployed vessels so named during World War II and Vietnam. The Brazilian navy has a vessel called the Espiritu Santo -- and so on.



But then Mr. Lehman struck. He quoted from St. Augustine ("To maintain peace within the natural order of men, rulers require the power and decision to declare war") and St. Paul ("Not without cause does he carry a sword, for he is God's minister").

"My concern is as a Catholic with the theme that seems to underlie this issue: that naval ships and even military service are somehow profane and less worthy of association with the Sacred Name, than, for instance, the city itself. I am sure that the real significance of the name of our submarine, suggestive of unity and peace among men, will be reflected in the profession of her commander and crew. They recognize that their essential mission is to keep the peace. A noble, ethical and virtuous mission...fully recognized in traditional church teaching."

The bishop probably wishes he had been hit by the submarine, rather than its commander. Let us pray for him, as we do for peace.

The View invites all people of Boiling Springs to express their opinions in Letters to the Editor. Letters are subject to editing for space, but the author's thought will not be interfered with. Preferred length is one page, typewritten, double spaced. Anonymous and libelous letters will not be considered. Address all correspondence to Editor, Box 982, Boiling Springs, 28017.