

# The Foothills View

May 6, 1982

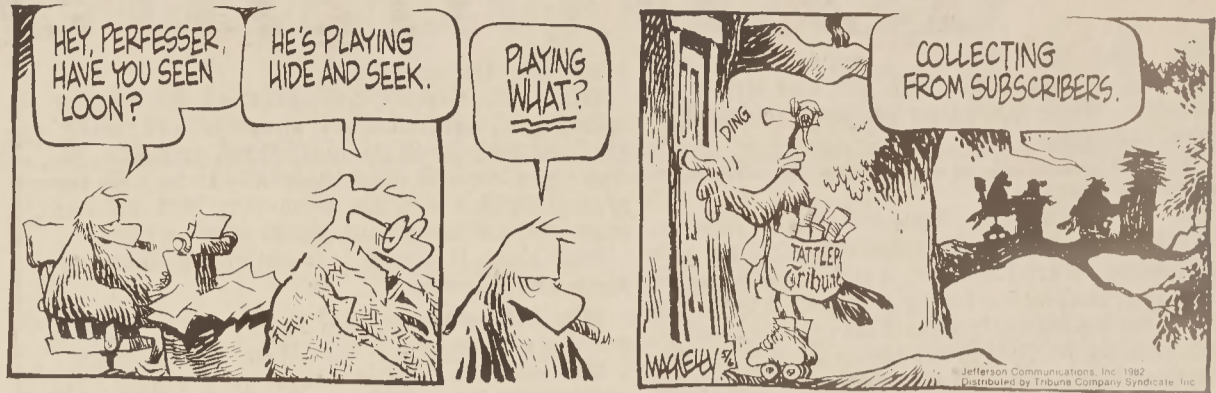
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Dave Robertson, Managing Editor

## SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



# Commentary

The editorial page of The Foothills View

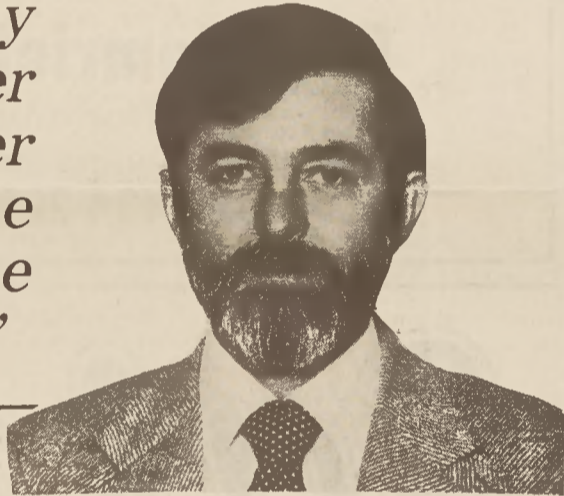
## The Humble Farmer

Whenever I stray from my usual routine, my neighbor Gramp Wiley feels obligated to comment on it the following morning.

"Didn't I hear two cars doors slam in the hermit's dooryard last night?" he chuckled.

*"The Great Depression was caused by products that never wore out. No one ever had to replace anything, and the economy collapsed."*

By Robert Skoglund



"Yes," I replied. "I had to slam it twice — didn't shut tight the first time."

Gramp enjoys that type of answer more than he does the truth — it leaves room for uninhibited speculation.

"Pretty dark over there too," he cackled. "Didn't see no lights."

"I always use candles on Edison's birthday," I said. "What better way to honor the man who invented the light bulb?"

Gramp pounded his fist on the arm of his rocker. "Bah. Inventing the light bulb was easy. And what good did it do?"

"Why it lit up everyone's home."

Gramp looked at me as if I were a small child. "Edison's original light bulb did nothing for the economy of this country," he shouted. "The first light bulbs lasted for 12 years."

"My Uncle Ern, who was very patriotic, knew that wasn't right. After months of research in his barn, he developed a bulb that would blow out in six years."

I began to see the light. "If you're thinking of increased profits, that's a hundred percent improvement over the original," I exclaimed.

"Uncle Ern wasn't satisfied with that," he continued with a modest look at his thumb. "Before he quit he had the perfect light bulb; it blew out and had to be replaced in only three months."

"I guessed he wasn't the economy's only golden boy," I sniffed. "What about the unsung hero who improved the brass kitchen faucets we had when I was a kid? When a faucet would drip anyone could unscrew

the top of it and put in a ten cent washer. But you can't buy a washer for the improved faucets today. They'll tell you at the hardware store that you have to throw away the whole unit and buy a new one for \$40."

"I don't mind throwing away a steam

iron or a toaster every six months when I know it's for the good of the country," Gramp said. "The Great Depression was caused by products that never wore out. No one ever had to replace anything, and the economy collapsed."

"Technology has done wonders for the country's economy," I agreed.

"Some new inventions don't help the economy," Gramp said. "I've seen Japanese robots assemble automobiles on television. Our auto makers won't use robots because then they'd also be able to make a better car at a lower cost — it would destroy our present system."

"It's too bad that industry's watchdogs were sleeping when other labor saving machines were invented," I said. "If some patriotic person had suppressed the combine, we'd have 100 percent employment today."

"We could even raise our immigration quotas," Gramp cried. "Haitian boat people, criminals from Castro's prisons, and our friends from Mexico would all be welcome. We could sell them all scythes and let them harvest corn and wheat."

"Can you think of a product that hasn't improved in the last 50 years?" I asked.

"Well, nowadays a pair of socks seems to last me forever. When I was a little kid my socks used to wear out in three days."

Gramp leaned back in his rocker and looked at his feet before continuing: "Of course I never had a pair of shoes until I was 20."

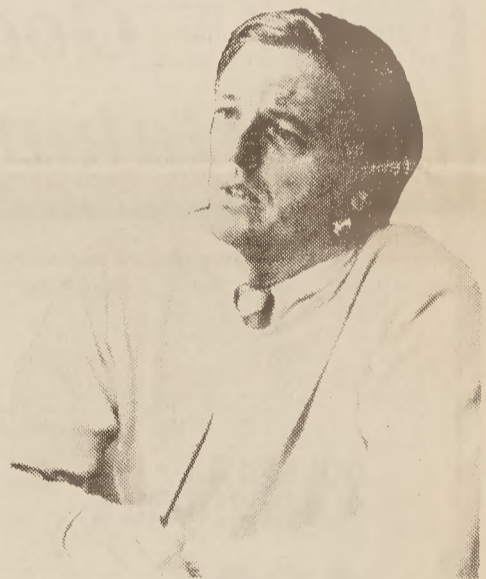
The thunderbolt about Fidel Castro — that he is dealing with Gen. Vernon Walters and considering a shift in allegiance — is altogether fascinating and calls for several comments, among them:

(1). Why did Secretary Haig let on? Is it because he knew that the news was about to leak and elected to preempt the beat? This would seem strange because, after all, the rumor could have been

*"Americans would think it as likely that Castro would join the West as that Hitler would take out membership in the Anti-Defamation League."*

By William F. Buckley

## On The Right



more or less denied, as is routine in the world of diplomacy. Al Haig could have said that General Walters was indeed in Havana, but that his discussion was limited to the problems of refugees, etc. And probably he'd have got away with it, inasmuch as most Americans would think it as likely that Castro would join the West as that Hitler would take out membership in the Anti-Defamation League. What was Haig up to?

(2) And is it — patriotic, to dredge up a word some of us were opposed to in our youth, to discuss so delicate a negotiation?

(3) How does one feel about a man who, on the altar of Marxist theology, has enslaved a whole people for over 20 years, pro-sadistically singling out

dissenters for 20-year stretches in the contemporary version of Devil's Island? The strategic consequences of Titoism 90 miles from Florida would be greatly to rejoice. Subject, to be sure, to evidence confirming that from now on the United States had grounds to shift its traditional posture. Whereas up until the great day we were the superpower that growled at the Soviet-Marxist state a few miles offshore; now we would be the protecting power of the Marxist state offshore — guaranteeing it (presumably) against any efforts by Soviet irredentists. The same people who were once hired to kill Castro we might now covertly engage to act as his bodyguards. President Reagan would have proclaimed that the Western

hemisphere was now safe for Marxism, provided it was of the indigenous variety. Quite a day.

(4) The Soviet Union is said to be spending at the rate of \$8.5 million per day in support of Cuba.

(5) Accordingly we must assume that the Soviet Union is up in arms over the whole business, contemplating maximum pressures. Do we — the paradoxes of our world can become insufferable — have a stake in the good health of Fidel Castro? If this is what Al Haig is hinting at the probability of, then those of us who drag ourselves to Havana will (I now speak for myself) demand the highest national award for patriotic devotion to duty.

## Mini-Skirt Or Not?

Nearly half of 1,200 American adults surveyed say they "don't care one way or the other" about the mini-skirt coming back into style. One-third "really don't want it to come back" compared to 19 percent who "really want it to come back."

Men and women disagree on this fashion

trend. Among men, 33 percent want to see the mini-skirt return; only 7 percent of women do. Fifty percent of women say that they do not want it back in style, as compared to only 13 percent of men.

Fifty percent of males and 41 percent of females "don't care one way or another."