

GAIL WINDS

by: Gail L. Roberson

Children. They can do it to you. Even on their better days. They always have the answers, or, as the case may be, the questions for everything and every occasion in life.

A Sunday School teacher was telling her class the story of Lot.

"Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city," the teacher said, "but his wife looked back and turned into salt." The teacher glanced around the room to discover that one little girl had shyly raised her hand.

"Yes?" the teacher questioned the child.
"I was just wondering," the child said, "what happened to his flea?"

One little boy named James, who was a year older than his friends, was judged by his friends to be more knowledgeable than they. A woman who ran their nursery school in California was delivering a station wagon load of the kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting on the front seat of the fire truck was a dalmation. The children fell into a discussion about the dog's duties. Matt said they used him to keep the crowds back, while Andy suspected he was just for good luck. However, James put the matter to rest once and for all when he declared, "they use the dog to find the hydrant." And so, the case was closed, to everyone's satisfaction.

Sometimes, children make more sense of the world than adults. Such as the time a fourth grade teacher asked little William what three-fourths of five-sixteenths was. "I don't know exactly," said William, "but it isn't enough to worry about."

Eight-year old Jenny went to visit a little friend who had a new-born brother. Jenny had not seen the baby before, and was excited about the prospect. When her friend said, "Come see my little brother," she tip-toed quietly to the side of the crib where the baby was sleeping peacefully.

"He's beautiful," declared Jenny, "and I'll bet he's already spoiled."

"Now, he's not spoiled," her little friend said. "He smelled like that when they brought him home from the hospital."

Richard Lederer, a teacher at St. Paul's Preparatory School in Concord, New Hampshire, collects student bloopers. Here are some:

"Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contended Congress. Benjamin Franklin produced electricity by rubbing cats backward and declared that 'a horse divided against itself cannot stand.' Franklin died in 1790, and is still dead."

"Abraham Lincoln became American's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands."

"Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields."
"Queen Elizabeth was the 'virgin queen.' When Elizabeth exposed herself before her troops, they all shouted, 'Murrhah!'"

The words that spill from a child's mouth are pure and genuine. They have not yet been tarnished by the world around them. They speak as they see. And they see plenty. So, it's no wonder that . . .

"It's not the office, it's the home, that sets the nerves to hopping, and it's not businessmen, but wives, who calming pills keep popping. Executives may think they've strain and need for tranquilizing, but if they stayed home just one day, they'd find it quite surprising. Indeed, they'd take pill after pill to calm the psychic riot, or rush back to the office for a little peace and quiet."

Obituary

John E. Robinson Jr.

John E. Robinson Jr., 51, died Monday at Craven Regional Medical Center in New Bern.

The funeral service was to have been conducted at 11 a.m. today in the Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel in Vanceboro by Rev. Jackie L. Gaskins. Burial will be in Celestial Memorial Gardens with military rites being accorded.

He is survived by his wife, Edna Coward Robinson; four stepsons, Edgar R. Gaskins of New Bern, Jackie L. Gaskins and John W. Gaskins, both of Vanceboro, and Joe A. Gaskins of Phoenix, Ariz.; a half-sister, Mrs. Pat Lloyd of Hampstead, Md.; 10 step-grandchildren and 10 step-great-grandchildren.

Robinson was a native of Maryland and he served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 20 years, retiring in 1976. For the past 13 years, he lived on Route 2, Vanceboro. He was a member of the Vanceboro Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad and the VFW in New Bern.

Walter Harris

Walter Harris, 85, died March 8 at the Craven Regional Medical Center in New Bern.

The funeral was held March 12 at Queen's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church with the Rev. W.J. Best officiating. Burial was in the Harris family cemetery in Vanceboro.

He is survived by his wife, Muriel G. Harris; a son, Edmond Earl Yates of Vanceboro; two brothers, John Clayton Harris and Acie Harris, both of Vanceboro; two sisters, Dorothy M. Bryant of Vanceboro and Aleatha H. Williams of Newark, N.J.; seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was a member of Queen's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, where he served on the Usher Board, in the Senior Choir and as a deacon. He was at rigger at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard during World War II and later was employed with Carolina Telephone until he retired.

Arrangements were by Oscar's Mortuary, Inc. of New Bern.

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Our Opinion

Poor Hit Hard Whenever Any Item Tax Is Levied

When it comes to this matter of levying taxes, the source itself in just about every instance hits poor people hardest because they are the least able to pay.

When it comes to property, if a poor family owns a home, it so often finds it extremely difficult to pay the taxes levied upon that home. While we do not argue that by necessity one smokes cigarettes, if he or she does, the heavy taxes levied upon each pack hits the poor person harder than the well to do citizen.

Now we have been reminded that when the argument begins over the charge that the sales tax hits the poor person harder than the rich person, that very argument can be extended to just about every source of taxation.

Of course, the more money one makes, the more income taxes he or she pays. The more property one owns, the more property taxes one pays. Yet, this nation, state, and locality would be in bad shape if only income and property taxes were allowed.

We have been reminded critically that the gasoline taxes hit the poor person much harder than the rich person even though each pays the same amount per gallon. We are reminded that the state gasoline tax is 15.95 cents per gallon while the federal tax per gallon comes to 9.10 for a total of 25.05 cents per gallon. It is argued that the poor man has to have transportation to get to and from his work. That is surely true, and there is no argument there from us.

The present proposal in North Carolina is to increase the gasoline tax by around five cents per gallon, the money to be used for building and improving our highways and roads.

Taxes on items, we have long contended, work a greater hardship on those least able to pay. The sales tax offers the best example because few of us ever stop to consider how much taxes we pay on gasoline, and smokers seldom stop to think of how much taxes they are paying on a pack of cigarettes.

Now we believe that anyone must agree that there is a difference between taxing a necessity and a non-necessity. Does anyone argue that tobacco and alcohol are necessities? We realize that the confirmed smoker who wants to quit but who is unable might look at tobacco as a necessity.

We are bothered at times about just where we are heading when we pick out item by item upon which to place special taxes, and then add a sales tax on the very taxes we are already paying. One day we might look at items other than clothes, food, and medicines as being non-essential with both special taxes and sales taxes added and collected at the cash register.

We realize that the subject of taxes is not a favorite one with our citizenry. All of us dislike the very word when it comes to paying. It becomes more tasteful when it comes to some benefits we might receive.

So we are aware that item taxes hit the poor harder than the rich. At the same time the rich are able to pay taxes in general much better and with far greater ease than the poor.

But both poor and rich are about equal in their dislike of paying taxes.

Four Year Terms Again Before The Legislature

Those who seek to make the North Carolina legislature a professional group are at it again. Once more they are calling for a constitutional amendment to give legislators four year terms instead of two.

Just a short while ago this proposal was defeated soundly in North Carolina. If it is offered again, it ought to be defeated with a clear-cut margin. Insofar as we are able to learn, no one has asked for four year legislative terms except some of the legislators who think they are above the will of the people.

They tried to ram it down the throats of the general public before, and it seems that there well might be another ramming process. Does anyone know of any citizen in North Carolina outside of a legislator who wants four year terms?

Now the office of a representative or a state senator is one both of honor and of service. There is great responsibility involved. It is extremely important to keep legislators close to the people, and by having only two year terms, we do that in this state.

There is the argument about costs of campaigns. Well, no one pushes anyone in any corner and says "you must run." Running for the legislature is the choice the individual makes, and no one forces anyone at anytime.

We need to be aware of the action on the bill for four year terms. We need to watch and see which representatives and which senators vote for such a bill, and we need to take them to task for forsaking the people.

This is absolutely a legislators' bill. As they seek to feather their nest, we need to remember that already the legislature is paying enough so that many retired people are there with secondary incomes.

We see no reason to have four year legislative terms except that of catering to the sitting legislators who are seeking to make a career out of being in the assembly. It helps them, but we see no benefits to be derived by the people.

Since this bill represents a constitutional change, it must be passed by three-fifths of the Senate and House, or 30 senators and 72 House members and then be submitted to the people for a vote. And it might well be up to the people to decide the issue. We, the people, spoke before, and we, the people, can possibly speak again.

It is strange that with so many pressing needs in North Carolina, when there seems to be relative inaction in the legislature, the legislators spend their time on a bill to feather their own nests.

We have education, salaries, roads, environment, and many major decisions to make. But the legislators speak out for four year terms for themselves.

It is time John Q. Public took more interest in what is happening today in North Carolina.

Well, we fought it before and we are ready to fight it again. Very conscientiously, we feel it is a fight for people and a fight against the self-serving desires of some legislators.

We need to be ready to fight another day.

Soil & Water

By MICHAEL HARRIETT
SCS Technician

Producers who regularly need to turn under that cover crop or last year's residue, who burn off their wheat fields or who are planning to plant corn or soybeans can save time and money with no-till.

No-till involves planting in a narrow slot without disturbing the residue or mulch that's on the ground and using herbicides to control weeds.

Residue covering 50 percent or more of the surface is needed for the best results.

No-till can cut soil erosion by half in some cases.

The residue and mulch slow runoff keeping topsoil in place. Moisture can enter the soil and

fertilizer and chemicals are kept in the field where they're needed.

In a dry year, the mulch protects the ground from over heating and losing moisture.

Fields planted by no-till will show moisture stress later than conventionally tilled fields.

Other advantages of no-till include less labor and lower production costs.

No-till is considered one of the "best management practices" by the Soil Conservation Service for the improvement of water quality.

The crop residue improves water quality by keeping sediment from leaving the field with excess water.

Double cropping is more effective with no till.

The next crop can be planted while the combine is still in the field. This gives the crop full advantage of the growing season.

No-till double cropping is usually thought of with small grain and soybeans, but it is also very effective with corn crops.

When planting no-till corn, make sure the soil temperature is high enough for the seed to germinate.

The undisturbed soil doesn't warm up as quick when it has not been disturbed.

One problem producers face before planting no-till is weeds.

Most weeds can be effectively controlled with herbicides and good crop rotation.

Perennial weeds, Bermuda grass and Johnson grass should

be controlled in a field before beginning no-till.

Modern herbicides do a good job when used properly and safely.

Cost-sharing is available for no-till planting through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Washington.

It is limited to no more than three years per producer.

Farmers must apply and receive approval before they begin planting through the ASCS.

No-till offers many benefits and can be an important part of crop rotation.

For more information, interested persons can contact the Soil Conservation Service in New Bern.

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