

Parallel Shown Between Birthrate And Education

RALEIGH—While North Carolina fell short of the Bureau of Census estimated that one-fourth of all women who marry by age 21 in the United States are pregnant at the time of the wedding, a statistical study of 1973 marriages by the Division of Health Services did show that 8 per cent of the brides were in the family way at the time of the nuptials.

Out of the nearly 47,000 marriages in 1973, 2,624 white brides conceived out-of-wedlock and 1,338 nonwhites.

Education appeared a fact in a number of pre-marital pregnancies. Brides with 12 years of education had the highest frequency of out-of-wedlock conceptions. This

was true for white and nonwhites alike. About 30 per cent of the total out-of-wedlock conceptions among white brides had 12 years of schooling and close to 44 per cent of nonwhite.

Brides with only 10 to 11 years of schooling had the next highest frequency of pregnancies. After that, out-of-wedlock conceptions dropped significantly among brides with even one year of college. White brides with 12 years of education had seven times more out-of-wedlock conceptions than those with one year of college. Nonwhite brides who had completed high school but no college had eight times more out-of-wedlock conceptions than those with one year of college education.

Brides, 17 years old had the highest number of out-of-wedlock conceptions among whites, while 18 year olds had the most among nonwhites. For white 17 year olds, just under 23 per cent conceived out-of-wedlock, while for nonwhites the figure reached almost 22 per cent.

For white and nonwhite brides, out-of-wedlock conceptions declined nearly every year of age after 18 and every year of education after the 12th.

My Neighbors



"No, you certainly may not order a porterhouse steak for two for one."

REPORT FROM U.S. Senator JESSE ★★ HELMS

WASHINGTON—It was just after midnight, and I sighed with relief as I climbed into the taxicab that had come to pick me up at the Washington studios of NBC Television. A few minutes earlier, I had reluctantly made a brief appearance on a national television program which, as hosts David Brinkley and John Chancellor had put it, "wrapped up NBC's coverage of the presidential primary in North Carolina in which Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan scored stunning victories."

It had been a long day. The Senate had been in session Tuesday, and I was unable to go home to vote. Anticipating that, I had mailed my absentee ballot some two weeks earlier. Now, it was all over.

GHOSTLY—Washington is an almost ghostly town at midnight. As the taxicab moved through the empty streets, and across Memorial Bridge into Virginia, the driver took note of my Southern accent—and remarked that I must be from out of town.

He likes North Carolina, he said. He had been stationed at Fort Bragg some years ago. Inasmuch as I had not identified myself, he assumed that I was a stranger in Washington. He began pointing out the various sights—the Capitol, the Pentagon, the Lincoln Memorial. Even the Washington Monument. All of these were a part of the impressive panorama of Washington, glowing in the subdued lights of Washington at night.

ROLLED—As we rolled along, I thought of the awesome responsibility that my fellow North Carolinians had exercised the day before. Those "stunning victories" that Carter and Reagan had scored—what impact would they have on the course of history?

I always think of the losers in any contest. I thought of George Wallace, and that day more than a decade ago when I first met him in Raleigh. I thought of Jerry Ford, a gracious friend. And then I thought of Ronald Reagan, with whom I began an enduring friendship years ago, and with whom I had talked by telephone just a few minutes before leaving for the television studios. His success in North Carolina had exceeded anything he could have hoped for. I do not know Jimmy Carter, but I could imagine the joy he was experiencing as a result of his solid victory in North Carolina.

PRIMARIES—But the thought would not go away: Are these presidential primaries really worth the time and money and effort? Are they meaningful to the people? If so, why do not more citizens participate? Why is the voter turnout so relatively small?

I thought of the hundreds of North Carolina Democrats who had gone to the polls on Tuesday, fully intending to vote for Ronald Reagan. They could not, of course. Under North Carolina law, voters may not cross party lines. It was surprising, I pondered, that so many Tar Heels were unaware of that. Hundreds of them were irate, because they wanted to vote for Ronald Reagan.

Their discontent, however, was an indication that Governor Reagan, if nominated by his party, will be able to put together a coalition of support—Democrats, Republicans and Independents—just as he did when he was twice elected Governor of California. He won office by a margin of more than a million votes.

ISSUES—The issues in the North Carolina primary centered around the economy, the U. S. defense posture, the proposed give-away of the Panama Canal, and other matters involving the future of our nation, and perhaps its very survival.

Finally, the taxicab pulled up in front of my home in Virginia. The driver and I exchanged good wishes, and he expressed the hope that I would enjoy my stay in the Washington area.

I shall and I do. But I am awfully glad that presidential election years roll around only once every four years. And I suspect most other Americans feel the very same way.



FOR ARBOR DAY—Members of the Edenton Junior Garden Club, last week, observed Arbor Day by planting a dogwood tree at the Barker House. The club is shown above preparing for the planting.

Students Tour College

RALEIGH—High school juniors from throughout the state and as far away as Richmond, Va., visited the Peace College campus March 20-21 during visitation weekend.

Attending the annual program from this area were Tammy Boyce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Boyce, Jr.; Kim Elmore, daughter of Mrs. J. H. Conger, Jr.; and Thelma Goodwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Goodwin, all of Edenton.

The visitors got an intimate look at the Presbyterian junior college for women. They mingled with students, toured the campus and the city of Raleigh, discussed academics and enjoyed recreational activities including swimming, basketball, tennis and volleyball.

The Peace Chamber Singers, a group of 12 talented singers, under the direction of Joan Melton Duyk, performed for the visitors Saturday night.

Sunday morning they attended a worship service conducted by the Rev. George Alexander Thomas.

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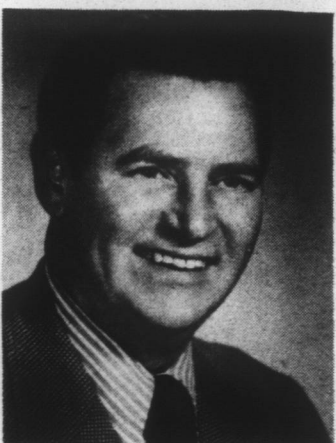
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