

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Another Fine Program

The Louisburg Jaycees, true to their tradition, staged another outstanding production of their Pageant here Saturday night. One is not quite sure just how they manage to pack so much emotion into the final few seconds of the contest each year, but again Saturday night, a waterbucket would not have held all the tears.

People cried for no apparent reason. Surely all those folks could not have possibly been that close to the winner or, for that matter, to the losers. It was just a moment, skillfully manipulated by obvious professional hands, to bring the feight of emotion to the tremendous climax.

### The Gold Sand Grange

At a time when Franklin County seems to be getting more than its share of unfavorable publicity, it is heartening to take note of an organization, such as the Gold Sand Grange celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The enthusiasm and the attendance at Saturday night's observance in light of other conflicts in the area, shows the strength of such an organization. It shows too, the things most people consider important.

It would be hard to point out all the good this organization has meant to the Gold Sand community and to the county as a whole. In twenty-five years, it has had a number of out-

standing leaders. These too, are far too numerous to mention.

But certainly three charter members should be commended. These three were present at the first and they were present at the last Saturday night.

We have no way of knowing, but we suspect they were present at most of the meetings in between.

Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Watkins and Mr. O. F. Tharrington are to be congratulated, along with all the others who have made this organization a going one over the years.

Congratulations to the Gold Sand Grange on its twenty-fifth anniversary. May you have many more.

## Loyal Goose Rivals Dog As Man's Best Friend

Washington--Is the barnyard goose man's second best friend? Geese make faithful watchdogs, determined shepherds, efficient field hands, and good companions. When geese have reached the end of their working days, they make the supreme sacrifice. They are delicious to eat.

Geese have been serving man as long as any other bird, the National Geographic Society says. The graylag goose, depicted on ancient Egyptian frescoes, is probably the oldest domestic bird. Chinese swan geese were tamed at least 2,000 years ago.

Selective breeding of the two species has produced the many varieties of domestic geese. In the process, the tamed geese have lost their ability to fly and surrendered stable family life. Wild geese are monogamous, but domestic ganders are veritable Casanovas.

### Geese Saved Rome

A honking, hostile goose long has been recognized as a superior watchdog. In ancient Rome, the sacred geese of the Temple of Juno were credited with saving the city from marauding Gauls in 390 B.C. Enemy scouts sent into the city at night awakened the geese, which set up such a clamor that they woke the Roman defenders.

Today in Dumbarton, Scotland, a gaggle of 18 geese patrols the sheds storing thousands of barrels of aging whisky. At the sight of an intruder, presumably thirsty, the geese start cackling and guards come running.

A Johannesburg, South Africa, pet shop owner was deluged with orders for watch geese after he boasted: "They do not doze off and will not make friends with prowlers."

### Geese Weed Cotton

Geese come into their own as weeders. With ingenious encouragement, they can be made to clean cottonfields, strawberry patches, asparagus beds, and nursery plantings of unwanted plants. Grain is placed at one end of the field and water at the other to keep the birds moving back and forth.

The foragers fan out evenly among the rows. Weeding geese have some bad habits: They tend to knock off in the heat of the day and will stop work to cluster around a visitor.

Perhaps a million geese now waddle through southern cottonfields, destroying weeds more efficiently than man, mechanical weeders, or herbicides. Geese are credited with reducing the cost of growing an acre of cotton from \$124 to \$98. Said the owner of a 10,000-acre Louisiana plantation with 4,500 geese: "If it weren't for them, I couldn't stay in the cotton business."

In Washington and Oregon, thousands of geese roam peppermint fields as weeders. They are retired after two seasons, having by then developed a taste for young mint plants.

Many a domestic goose has become a family pet; it answers to its name and responds to petting with contented hissing. This wise goose knows a good thing—it rarely ends up on a holiday dinner table.

... For Best Performance In A Supporting Role



## VIEWPOINT

### "Shameful And Sordid Little Item"

By JESSE HELMS

Last week there came out of Oxford, the county seat of Granville County, a shameful and sordid little item of news that was all but obscured by other events which newsmen concluded were of greater interest and significance. But we are not so sure. Indeed, the item from Oxford may well have been of exceedingly great importance to white Southerners who recognize the necessity of self-examination in this time of racial discord and strife.

Five young white men were sentenced in Granville County Superior Court last Thursday to 15 years in prison each on charges of assault with intent to commit rape. The victim in the depressing affair was a 17-year-old Negro girl. Testimony in the case, uncontradicted insofar as we have been able to determine, was that the girl was violated a total of eleven times by the five men during a six-hour period beginning at 1 a.m. on January 23 of this year.

Our purpose here is not to question the verdict of the jury in this case. Its duty was to determine the guilt of the five white men beyond any reasonable doubt. We have discussed, at some length, the details of the case with five men most familiar with the details, four of them officers of the court. Without exception, they agreed that there was testimony during the trial which tended, in any fair man's mind, to raise questions as to the degree of guilt of the five defendants. As a result, the five young men on trial were given the benefit of the doubt and were convicted, not of the capital crime of rape, but of the next most serious possible charge, assault with intent to commit rape.

White citizens, however, should not expect their Negro neighbors to understand fully, in this case, the distinctions of the law, or rules of evidence by which our courts function. Still, there ought to be some way by which Negro citizens could be assured that the vast majority of white citizens share their sense of revulsion regarding every aspect of this crime.

News accounts of the trial did not reveal enough to satisfy the doubts of those who believe in equal justice for all. There was mention of the fact that the victim of the attacks was lured from her home at one o'clock in the morning on the pretense, by one of the five accused men, that she was needed to stay with his child while he took his wife to a hospital. For the girl herself admitted, during cross examination, that she had been immorally involved a year earlier with one of the five defendants. The defendants claimed that on the morning of January 23, she had willingly accompanied them,

knowing their purpose. The girl denied that such was the case. Even so, a reasonable measure of doubt had been raised in the jury's mind.

It is not our purpose, as we say, to discuss whether justice has been done in this case. What bothers us is the inescapable fact that, psychologically speaking, the total image of the South has been sullied by the conduct of the five white men involved in this revolting episode. This is the

sort of incident that critics of the South always grasp in great glee. We would not be surprised to see it used hereafter as evidence, however unjustified, that our courts use double standards and that all white Southerners are immoral and decadent.

Neither charge is true, of course. But it is the sort of conduct which the South should not have to humiliate itself in trying to explain. Furthermore, it was ascertained after

the trial that three of the five defendants had to be forcibly restrained by police last Summer to prevent their becoming involved in physical violence against Negro demonstrators during a civil rights protest in Oxford.

Presiding Superior Court Judge E. Maurice Braswell, before passing sentence on the five men last week, commented: "In my opinion, you have prostituted ignorance and psychologically committed rape."

Then he handed down the maximum sentences under the law.

The Judge was right. These five defendants, and others like them who possess the morals of an alley cat, may not be guilty of rape in the legal sense. But when they transgress decency and deliberately crawl along the gutters of immorality, they commit ambush upon the good name of the South. It may be that they got more mercy than they deserved.

## The Diplomatic Pouch

Is there any official definition of U. S. understanding of the terms "land reform" and agrarian reform? We frequently use these terms, but I wonder whether there is any definition of either term which is somewhat official in our foreign policy.

J. S. Madison, Wisc.

Dear Professor S.:

We have not been able to discover a definition that might be called "official" for the terms. There are some functional terms of reference used in the Alliance for Progress which might be helpful to you. In that context "land reform" is a general description covering all those activities which are directed toward greater availability of land resources for the needs of the people as a whole, and "agrarian reform" is an even broader description covering all those activities directed toward improvement of the agricultural sector as a whole. Thus, you can see that the working definition is in terms of objectives, rather than in terms of means or mechanisms or institutions. A "land reform" measure might include a minimum wage law for agricultural workers and include a land redistribution.

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Mischler Bremen, an overseas passenger steamship transportation agency, issued some sort of book, visa, or passport to each passenger coming to the U. S. in 1906 or 1907. It is understood that this book had pertinent information about the passenger. In addition, this book is purported to have some sort of Seal of the German Government which probably consisted of stamps resembling postage stamps.

Was this seal composed in part of postage stamps? If so, were these stamps of any value to stamp collectors? Can identical stamps be obtained today?

M. D. Royaltan, Ill.

Dear Mr. D.:

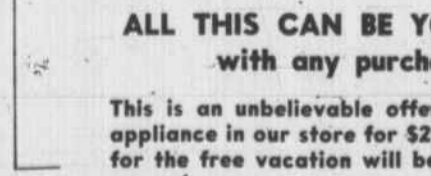
We gather, on the basis of information received from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Washington, D.C., that the seal mentioned in your letter was a tax or free stamp. This stamp is no longer available. The Department has no information whether such stamps are of value to stamp collectors.

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