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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1981

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Weather Thursday: high 57, low 51, rain at 7 a.m. Friday 16. Friday was a sunny spring-like day.

The Postal Rate Commission approved on Thursday a 3-cent hike for first class mail and added another two cents to the price of a dime postcard. The increases take effect as early as next month. The rate decision included increases of 9 percent to mail newspaper and magazines, between 6 and 24 percent for advertising circulars and 3 percent for parcel post and book rates. Maybe President Reagan should tell the Postal Service that we are trying to cut inflation, not add it.

Laurel Park near Hendersonville is seeking an ABC referendum.

Thursday's Inman Times had a picture of Chapman High Varsity baseball coach Bill Metcalf and some of his players who are planning a trip to Taiwan June 4 — 15. The team will play several Asian baseball squads during the trip and plan also on a two day stay in Hawaii. Coach Metcalf is a graduate of Tryon High School and Furman University.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile

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Communication

Feb. 20, 1981

Dear Seth:

I feel that the report on the special meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, February 18, 1981 needs some clarification pertaining to these comments concerning the Town of Tryon's communication equipment. At the request of Paul Butler, I met with him at the Tryon Town Hall on February 12th to discuss the central communications system for Polk County and possible alternatives for both existing and future centralized communications. Charles Lankford and Chuck Lott also were in attendance during this discussion.

Since it appeared to me that it was economically infeasible to have two systems duplicating the exact same purpose, I recommended to Paul Butler that officials from the Town and Polk County MEET AND DISCUSS the possibility of allowing the County to maintain and operate the central communications system for Polk County with the existing Town property and equipment which is already paid for. The Town has made no offer of Town owned communications equipment to the County only suggestions that this alternative to one central communications system is the most cost effective for all regardless of the location of the system.

As of this date, I have written two letters to the Polk County

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An Editorial

By Seth M. Vining, Jr.

Some very serious questions must be addressed in light of recent action by the Polk County Board of Commissioners in awarding of a bid for a communications console to the Motorola Corporation in the total amount of \$11,885.00. The low bid was submitted by General Electric in the amount of \$8,559.00 or \$3,326.00 less than the Motorola bid.

1. Did General Electric meet the bid specifications as prepared by the Polk County Board of Commissioners? On what basis was the low bid refused? According to observers the low bid was refused because of "incompatibility" with existing communications system. If the bid specifications were met, then "incompatibility" is indeed a very loose and vague basis on which to review and evaluate a bid. How do you competently review and evaluate a bid in 30 minutes or even 1 hour! When it involves \$3,326.00 of taxpayers money, the Polk County Board of Commissioners should take their time to carefully review and evaluate all bids.

2. In the awarding of this bid to the Motorola Corporation, did the Polk County Board of Commissioners seek legal opinion from County Attorney Jay Foster for clarification to assure that the North Carolina General Statutes were being complied with? The North

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Guns Stolen

The residence of Philip Dusenbury on Howard Gap Road was entered Tuesday during daylight hours and taken were a rifle, shotgun and two pistols.

Allen Rickman of the Polk County Sheriff's Department stated that the thief entered through the kitchen window. The Polk County Sheriff's Dept. is conducting the investigation.

Musical Program At Kiwanis Tuesday

The Tryon Kiwanis Club will meet Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. at The Pacolet River Plantation A musical program, "The Hollow Log" will be presented. Dr. Earl Hornbeck is in charge of the program.

Tourney Underway

S. C. Conference 1-A basketball tournament gets underway this week. Today the No. 5 boys team plays at the No. 4 team and the No. 6 team plays at No. 3. The No. 1 and No. 2 teams received first round byes.

Tuesday the girls play the same schedule.

Thursday the No. 1 team plays the winner of 4 and 5 and No. 2 plays the winner of 3 and 6.

The semi-finals are Thursday with a girls game at 3:30, boys at 5, girls at 6:30 and boys at 8.

Friday the finals are 7 and 9 p.m.

The semi-finals and finals will be played in the Landrum gym.