

## Communication

An Open Letter To The Commissioners, Taxpayers, Builders and Concerned Citizens of Polk County:

I became a resident of Polk County in 1988 and since that time I have become increasingly concerned about various rulings, hirings and adoptions of ordinances by our elected officials.

The commissioners are to be held responsible for the running of this county for the best interest of all the people of the county, not just a few choice groups. The spending of the monies collected for taxes must be accounted for by our elected officials and the employees they have hired or appointed to the various positions. With the above statement mentioned please let me explain or clarify what I am getting at.

The construction of the new Polk County High School should make each of us proud but I'm afraid that to some people who really know what is happening we will be saddened and outraged to find that quite possibly a less than standard building is being erected.

What each of you will see is a beautiful cosmetic design and will not know what has been covered up because of inadequate inspection and supervision. I ask because I know what can be covered up.

Why? First, I ask because we the taxpayers have placed our trust in our commissioners as well as those they have hired such as the county manager, new assistant county manager, inspectors, contractors, architects and engineers to deliver what we are supposed to be getting for our tax dollars.

Secondly, how can the county advertise for an inspector who is certified in all levels of inspections and proceed to hire an unqualified individual to do the job; one who hasn't been in the inspection field for the past 8 or 10 years and then to proceed to expect cooperation from taxpaying individuals who have no idea that they had to dig deeper into the county funds to pay an outside inspection department from Henderson County to inspect the new school and will need to do the same for the renovation on the

old Polk Central School.

Thirdly, when did Polk County become so large in size and the magnitude of the work

for the inspection department that it takes the next day and even two or three days for the inspection department to make inspections after the first initial request for an inspection.

The instigation of a high re-inspection fee has brought hardships on our builders and poor folks just because of legal maneuvering and a lack of good old, common horse sense. This type of departmental procedure is evidence that we have unqualified individuals who do not know or have a total disregard for the laws which are enacted or are already in force. With individuals in control as I have heard said, "To straighten out this bunch of builders in Polk County."

The state building code is a state wide set of laws with minimum standards supposedly over seen by the local authorities and rule by the Department of Insurance for the public safety, health and welfare of the general public not a department for the cosmetic control of a few glory seekers.

It is time in my opinion and the opinion of a lot of people that I have talked to in our county that the county get ready this fall to vote for candidates who have the county's best interest at heart.

I am writing this letter not as a busy body, a jack-leg, or small minded pea brain individual but a concerned citizen who has 18 years in the construction field plus eight years as an inspector qualified in building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical Level III (each being the highest standard required by the state).

I am also licensed in the limited electrical field: having qualified as an unlimited electrical contractor and I think I can truthfully say: I doubt the leadership being offered for our tax dollars whether ignorantly, deliberately or politically motivated.

On several occasions I have heard judges say "Ignorance of the law is no excuse." But I ask our commissioners if they are above the law? or do we live in a county ran by a "Godfather in-crowd." Sorry, please excuse the expression, "God-person in crowd", or could it be Polk County taxpayers are ready to clean up and straighten out some bad presumptions about our leaders who have control of the use of our county's taxpayer's monies.

A lot of people shun the use

of scripture as a reference so I'll paraphrase. "Somewhere it is said, 'All it takes for sin to abound is for all good people to do nothing.'"

Now is the time for Polk Countians to make a difference. Time to go to the polls and vote your convictions on how our county is being run. Now is the time for each of you to call each of your Commissioners, County Manager, County Attorney.

Ask for the facts, not political hogwash. It's public record. Call the inspection office ask for the lowdown on how things are being handled and then study the laws and see what is really going on. Is our inspection department an asset to our county or has it become a political pawn, a money machine controlled by an inspectors interpretation? I'm afraid you'll be surprised. Get the facts.

Then go vote in November.  
*W.B. Hodge*  
*In an effort to allow the county a response, this letter was held over two weeks. At presstime*

*Wednesday, that response was still unavailable.*

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### PINE CREST INN

#### EASTER SUNDAY DINNER

Noon to 2pm  
April 19, 1992

For Easter Sunday dinner Chef Bill Squires has chosen a celebratory menu with all of your favorites, so please join us.

#### SOUP

Cream of asparagus or tomato pesto with parmesan cheese

#### SALAD

Mixed green salad with house or blue cheese dressing

#### ENTREES

Lamb Chops - thick loin chops grilled with rosemary and topped with a Madeira sauce

Poached Atlantic Salmon - fresh fillets of salmon poached in white wine, served with lemon-dill butter

Roast Filet Mignon - sliced and served with a green peppercorn and brandy sauce

#### DESSERT

Selection from our dessert tray

*The price is twenty five dollars per person, plus tax and gratuity.*

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 859-9135**