

THE "TIMES" PRIZE-WINNING COLUMN



From ALMAR FARM In Transylvania BY CAL CARPENTER

Several columns back, I reviewed two of the vignettes in Ora L. Jones booklet, "Memories of a Reporter." I'd like to do another in this column.

This took place early in the 1900's when Mr. Jones was a reporter for an Asheville newspaper.

He notes, in the beginning of this little story, that about this time, four internationally famous Americans were getting together about once a year for extended automobile tours of the country. They were Henry Ford, manufacturer of Ford cars; Thomas A. Edison, the great inventor; Harvey Firestone, automobile tire manufacturer; and John Burroughs, the naturalist and author.

Mr. Jones discusses some of the difficulties of auto touring in those days, when there were few paved roads, no road maps, no service stations, and no repair garages except for local blacksmith shops.

He notes that these tours were of necessity planned as an expedition, carrying plenty of help, extra fuel, spare parts, and even having two or three road scouts traveling a day or so ahead to check different routes and report back by telegraph.

Jones, it seems, was friendly with Fred Seeley, the manager of Asheville's famous Grove Park Inn. Mr. Seeley was an ex-newspaperman and cooperative with reporters, so one night he phoned Mr. Jones that he had some famous guests at the Inn.

Jones hurried over and was introduced to Ford, Edison, Firestone and Burroughs. He sat in front of the Inn's famous with these VIP's for several hours listening to their tales about earlier tours.

The one Mr. Jones said he liked best has been told in another version I've heard, but I'm inclined to believe this is the real McCoy, since according to Mr. Jones, it was told by Henry Ford himself.

It seems that the tour party including these four famous men was making its way through the mountains of Kentucky. It stopped at a country store and Mr. Ford went in and asked for a certain Ford part that needed replacing on one of the cars.

"Yup, I got one," said the merchant and brought it to Mr. Ford.

As the merchant was making change, Mr. Ford said: "By the way, you might be interested to know I'm Mr. Ford, the builder of the Ford automobile and those Ford parts you have there."

"So?" said the merchant, totally unimpressed.

Mr. Ford had noticed some

automobile tires in the back of the store. He asked if the merchant had a certain size that would fit his car.

"Yup, I got one," said the merchant, and got it.

Ford noted that it was a Firestone tire. He casually remarked that one of the gentlemen in the car outside was Mr. Firestone, the maker of the tire.

"So?" the merchant said, still unimpressed.

While the Ford car part was being installed, one of the drivers reported trouble with the headlights of his car. He suggested they buy some sort of lantern to use until they arrived at the next town. Reentering the store, Mr. Ford asked the merchant if he had any kind of light that could be used. The merchant brought out a carbide lamp.

"Here's some sort of internal contraption a slick-tongued drummer sold me," he said. "He told me it would make a light but I never could make it work."

Ford instantly recognized the lamp as an invention of Mr. Edison. He bought it and said:

"We won't have any trouble making it work. The man who invented this light, Mr. Edison, is in one of those cars out there."

"So!" replied the merchant sharply.

As he started to leave the store, Ford noticed some packages of cough drops.

"I see you have some cough drops," he said. "I'll take two packages . . ."

"Now see here, stranger," said the merchant hotly. "If you're going to tell me Old Whiskers out there (Mr. Burroughs) is one of the Smith Brothers, I'm goin' to take this single tree and brain ye. You must think I'm a fool to believe all those tales . . .!"

There were a lot of Ford car stories going around at this time, Jones says. Asked for his favorite Ford story, Jones says Henry Ford told him this one:

On one of the auto tours, a road scout wired back a strict warning to keep off a certain stretch of road. Since the party was anxious to travel that way because a number of historical landmarks to be seen, they wired back to the scout requesting full particulars of the hazards they might encounter. His reply was succinct:

"One of the Ford competitors has sprinkled this road with insect powder. There are dead Fords scattered all along the way!"

Remind you of the Volkswagen "Beetle" stories? I guess this just goes to prove the old saying that "There's nothing new under the sun" — including automobile jokes.

Hearing Required Prior To Student Suspension

BY MITCHELL SIMON

CHAPEL HILL — The U. S. Supreme Court recently ruled that a public school student cannot be suspended without notice of the charges against him and, if he denies the charges, an explanation of any adverse evidence and an opportunity to present his version of the facts must be permitted.

Robert E. Phay of the University of North Carolina's Institute of Government at Chapel Hill noted the new changes in the law at a meeting of North Carolina school attorneys and superintendents sponsored by the N. C. School Boards Association and the Institute of Government.

Having determined that procedural due process must be accorded a student before he is suspended, Phay explained, the Court faces the difficult problem of determining what process is due.

At the very minimum, according to the Supreme Court, students facing suspension must be given some kind of notice and afforded some kind of hearing. The court attempted to balance the student's interest in avoiding "unfair and mistaken exclusion from the education process" with the schools' recognized interest in using suspension as a means to maintain essential discipline and order.

Noting the great concern that elaborate hearing proceedings not be imposed in every suspension case, the court likewise stated "it would be a strange disciplinary system" that did not provide for communication between the disciplinarian and the student to insure that "an injustice is not done."

The Court has stated: "We do not believe that school authorities must be totally

free from notice and hearing requirements if their schools are to operate with acceptable efficiency."

It has outlined the minimum procedures required by the Constitution's Due Process Clause when public school students are suspended for 10 days or less:

- 1. The student must be given oral or written notice of the charges against him.
2. If the student denies the charges, he must be given an explanation of the evidence against him.
3. The student must be given an opportunity to present his side of the story.

This procedure is necessary even when the disciplinarian witnessed the alleged misconduct, Phay said. The Court approved an exception to its general rule of notice and hearing before suspension:

"Students whose presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process may be immediately removed from school." In these cases, notice and hearing should follow "as soon as practicable." The Court made it clear that its opinion applied only to short-term suspension of 10 days or less.

"The Supreme Court's decision has now stated as a matter of constitutional law what most school systems have already been doing," Phay said. As the Court notes, he added, the minimum requirements it has now imposed "are, if anything, less than a fair-minded school principal would impose on himself in order to avoid unfair suspensions."

The school attorneys also heard Irving C. Evers, president-elect of the National Organization of Legal Problems on Education,

discuss how school boards should prepare for collective bargaining.

He reported his objections to some bills introduced in the last session of the Congress (93rd). One bill (S3295) provides for collective bargaining under federal law, but the law is administered under an independent agency known as the National Public Employment Relations Commission, Evers pointed out.

"The bill is so far sweeping as to constitute a complete surrender to employee associations of every management right and privilege," Evers said. "This is particularly true insofar as boards of education are concerned. If this bill was not prepared in the offices of the National Education Association, it certainly had tremendous input from that organization."

require public bodies to bargain collectively over terms and conditions of employment but to bargain over "other matters of mutual concern relating thereto," Evers cited.

"This nebulous language would, in my opinion, require boards of education to bargain with teachers over such items as agendas of board meetings, selection of staff, selection of text books, decisions as to courses to be offered and a myriad of other subjects which clearly do not belong in the bargaining sector," Evers said. "This is something the National Education Association is determined to bring about."

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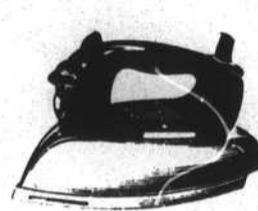
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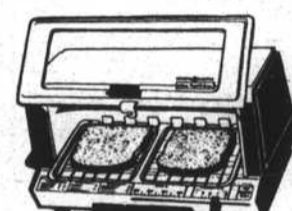
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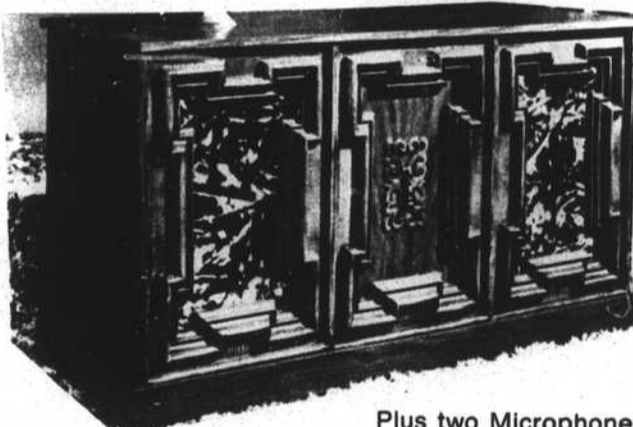
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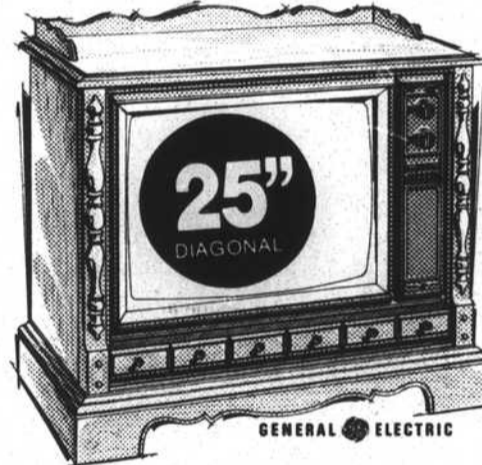
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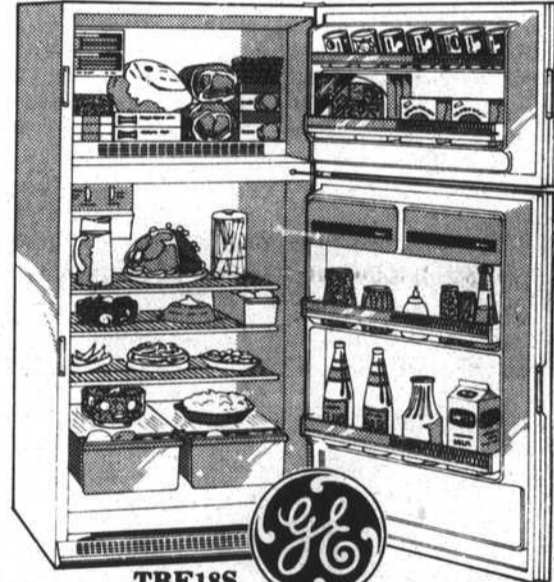


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