

Anyone for digging sassafras?

Coffee is very much in the news today due to the sharp increase in price. Some grocery chains are pushing a boycott. Some cafeterias are offering free hot tea as a means of reducing the interest in coffee.

There are, however, millions who insist they have to have their coffee, regardless of price.

New ways of getting the last drop out of a pound of coffee are being sought, yet the per capita consumption of coffee adds up to 9.2 pounds of regular grind and 2.7 pounds made from instant varieties. That is almost 12 pounds or a pound a month.

Problems of weather in the coffee-growing countries seems to be the chief blame for the high prices. Of

interest is the fact that the United States uses just about one-third of the world crop. And now coffee growers and processors are trying to change the image of coffee to make it appeal more to the younger groups. This is in direct competition to the soft drink industry.

One man suggested that coffee trees be grown by individuals who could harvest the beans and save. It takes a tree about three years to bear beans and six years to mature. Coffee trees cannot stand the cold, so they would have to be in pots and easily moved inside never under 65 degrees.

The coffee bean appears between September and January, and they ripen a few at a time. They are

picked when dark red. One tree will yield a handful of beans per picking or three pounds a season — this means about a pound of roasted coffee.

The sticky pulp has to be removed by fermenting, and the seeds are kept in water 36 hours, then dried in the sun. Under a hammering process, the parchment coating can be broken off and blown away with a fan. Next comes the roasting, at about 350 degrees for 30 minutes. The lighter the bean when roasted, the milder the coffee.

Get your mattock fellows, we are going out to dig some sassafras roots for tea. It is easier to make a brew from it than home-grown coffee beans.

When bureaucracy moves beyond control

One of our reporters was making his round of news sources the other afternoon when he came upon an interesting item.

He had walked into this governmental office and was waiting for the Big Boss to come out when one of the trusted janitors came around to empty the waste basket. He pulled a stapler from the basket and put it back on the table, commenting that somebody must have thrown it in the basket by mistake. About that time,

the second in command came through and spied the stapler. He picked it up and threw it back into the basket, noting that the thing was broken and couldn't be repaired.

Our reporter reached in, picked up the stapler and proceeded to unhinge it. In a few seconds, he had dislodged three staples from the inside of the machine and had it working once again. The second in command hadn't bothered to try to fix it. It cost him nothing. He simply would

requisition another one. That's the way it is when bureaucracy moves beyond control of those who pay the bill.

We understand that the second in command later told the first in command what had happened and that he admitted that he should have tried to repair the stapler. Right on.

This happened in the sheriff's office but it probably is happening in other offices as well. We hope not. — The Gastonia Gazette

Heard and seen

By POP

Even the greatest admirers of snow are beginning to get tired of seeing the white stuff... rising temperatures above the zero marks gave a little relief over the weekend but there are still many water pipes frozen and many homes are without water... fortunately we are blessed with compassionate firemen, town employees and others who have worked day and night doing everything possible to restore water supplies... Warren Edwards and Alderman Donald Ramsey, along with Buford Marler and Richard Roberson continue to work helping people with their water problems... firemen even came to the aid of a Southern railroad engine Sunday night that needed water... they have also been called out several times on fire calls... when the temperatures were below zero here recently, one lady said it got so cold that the "coo-coo clock" in her kitchen failed to operate... she said the bird came out but couldn't coo-coo and couldn't go back inside the clock... she declares that this is true... Raymond Stines said he started his car okay a few mornings ago but that the tires and wheels were so frozen in the ice the car wouldn't budge until he was pulled out... boys and girls have been having a great time sledding on the cotton mill street... when I got out of bed about 6 a.m. Monday there was no new snow on the ground... but, by 7 a.m., the ground was white with at least an inch of snow... being unable to navigate after going home for supper these nights I have had additional time to read and watch TV... guess you've had the same experience...

Hunt's message applauded

By ERNEST MESSER

Although some proposals in Gov. James Hunt's legislative program will be difficult to pass, his message to the joint session of the House and Senate last Monday night was well received.

The loudest ovation came when he recommended that the ERA amendment be passed. In second place on the applause meter was his promise to place strong consumer representatives on the Utility Commission.

Gov. Hunt recommended that there be no significant increase in taxes, except that he did recommend the removal of the \$120 limit from the sales tax.

In order to improve North Carolina's economy, Gov. Hunt recommended that the Industry Hunting Section of Natural and Economic Resources be moved to the Department of Commerce,

and that high quality industries be sought for North Carolina.

Gov. Hunt asked that a \$300,000,000 road construction bond issue be submitted to a vote of the people and that a single policy making Board of Transportation be established.

To aid agriculture, the governor would establish an Advisory Council on Agriculture.

Gov. Hunt asked for a \$40,000,000 biennial appropriation to improve reading in the public schools, and advocated that by 1979 every high school senior be required to pass a standard reading and math test as a prerequisite to graduation.

He further advocated that school facilities be opened for use by the people and that there be more people involvement in the operation of the public schools.

No appropriations are recommended for building the School of Veterinary Medicine on the North Carolina State campus. This will become one of the appropriations issues of this session.

The governor restated his earlier recommendation that

teachers and state employees be given a 6½ percent pay increase (each one percent increase costs \$16,000,000).

The new budget submitted to the General Assembly by the governor and the Advisory Budget Commission calls for biennial expenditure of \$7.9 billion, an increase of one billion dollars over the 1975-77 budget.

He advocated the establishment of an Economic Development Board and a Labor Force Development Council.

Information available

All North Carolina citizens have easy access to complete information on the status and legislative history of all current legislation being considered by the 1977 General Assembly of North Carolina. Beginning Jan. 12 any interested person may get information on the status of current legislation by calling, writing, or visiting the Bill

Status Desk in the Legislative Library (Phone: 919-733-7779; Room 2226, State Legislative Building). During the last legislative session the General Assembly provided toll-free access to the Bill Status Desk, but because of the high cost associated with the toll-free phone line it will not be continued this session. The same information service as was

available in 1975-76 will be continued, but any long distance charges will have to be paid by the person inquiring. The Bill Status Desk will also respond to written requests or personal visits.

By calling, writing, or visiting the Bill Status Desk, a person will have access to the North Carolina General Assembly's computerized bill indexing system. A caller can quickly find out the latest action on any bill currently being considered by the 1977 General Assembly, the name of the legislative committee considering the bill, and any other bill history or status information stored in the system. The Bill Status Desk will respond to requests during normal working hours for the General Assembly, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays and 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday nights.

The Bill Status System can respond only to information requests about current legislation being considered by the 1977 General Assembly. Information about bills considered by past legislative sessions, information about statutory law existing before 1977, or information about case law, is available in numerous published sources but is NOT available from the Bill Status System. The Bill Status Desk cannot respond to requests for information from earlier legislative sessions, or to very lengthy individual requests, because of instructions to give priority to the large number of individual current information requests handled by the desk. Also, for the same reason, the desk will not be able to take messages or provide access to the members of the General Assembly.

Letters to the editor

APPRECIATION

Editor, The Marshall News-Record:

It is a comfort to know the temperature doesn't get too low for people like Maurice McAlister and Robert Allen of the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department; Harold Wallin, Madison County Tax Collector; and O. A. Gregory, Gulf Oil distributor to come to your aid. Within a few hours after the water got into the basement of the old Sprinkle Shelton Wholesale Building and the furnace in the Food Stamp office went off, Maurice and Robert were there with their pump. They manned the pump day and night in sub-zero weather until Wednesday when the water got low enough for the oil truck drivers to wade in and fill the tank that had overturned and start the furnace.

A word of thanks also to the Food Stamp staff that very willingly stayed on the job to take care of the people's needs in spite of the oil fumes and with what "the electric heat we had, W. and many families that work at construction sites and other outside jobs that had never needed food stamps that

were forced to apply to feed their families. Unlike many other programs the Food Assistance Program with a minimum of one collateral contract to verify the situation, help can be given immediately.

Thanks, fellows. Your efforts did not go unnoticed and were greatly appreciated not only by the staff but by the many families we served during the crisis.

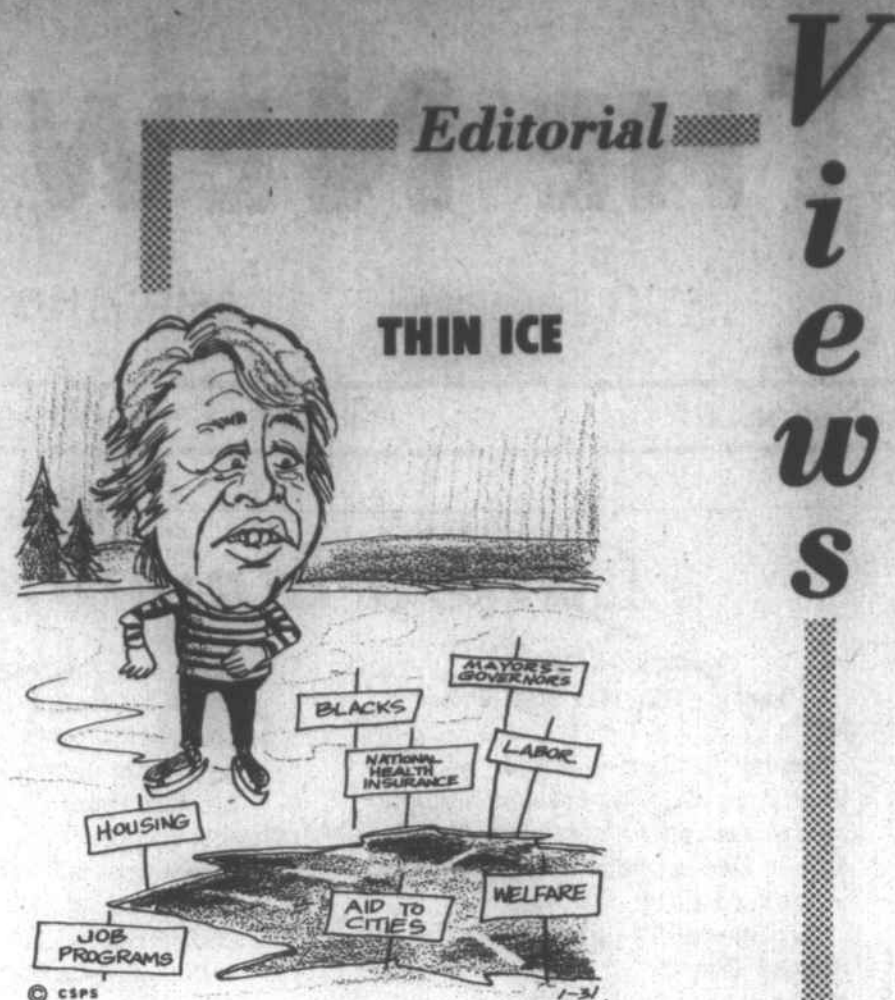
ELIZABETH S. ROBERTS
Food Stamp Supervisor

HUNTSINGER RELATIVES BOUGHT

I need help in locating relatives of Speth Huntsinger. He lived on a tobacco farm near Mars Hill from 1878 to 1888 (married to Ann McFarland). He moved to Tennessee near Tullahoma Term, 1890. In 1900 he moved to Texas with children to a farm near Mount Calm, Tex. He died in 1904 or 1905.

I would appreciate hearing from any descendant of Speth Huntsinger, my grandfather. (Mrs.) DONA HUNTSINGER WELCH

P. O. Box 1
Lorven, Tex 76055



'Howdy, Ma'am, I'm new in the territory... introducing a new line of brushes'



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