

# Editorial and Opinion

## Persistence Equals Results

Good news was in the making last week when the announcement came through that extension and some consolidation of the telephone service in this area was being negotiated. Some of the plans have already been put into effect and others are tentative.

Nevertheless, this is heartening to many people in the rural areas of the county and to the towns and communities. This is what they have been striving for, for a number of years.

The announcement last week culminated a two year campaign for extension of telephone service in Orange County. This campaign got underway before Gov. Scott took office and has continued without letup since that time. Many of the civic organizations and delegations of rural folk carried this fight all the way to the Utilities Commission and then to the Governor's office.

For a time it seemed as if results would never materialize but persistence has made the difference. Whether the crack down on the part of Gov. Scott played an important role in the picture is unimportant. The fact that a move in the direction desired is important.

Although plans, actual and tentatively, are being made, the utmost effort should still be put forth to obtain telephone service on par with the large towns. There is no excuse for service to fall under this standard.

When the present intensified campaign for more and better telephone service got underway, the main reason for faulty service put forth by the telephone companies was the lack of good equipment and the non-availability of additional equipment. This block of contention has been removed, the equipment is available, and the ball has started to roll, so let's not slack off now. Every effort humanly possible should be put forth to see this thing through to good, efficient telephone service throughout Orange County.

## 'Death and Taxation'

It seems that the old adage of "Death and Taxation are sure things" continues to hold true in North Carolina.

Last week a former member of the Advisory Budget Commission, Leroy Martin, predicted that Gov. Scott's budget message to the 1951 legislature will be "paramount increased taxation all along the line."

One link in the line mentioned by Martin was an increase in the general sales tax now in practice in North Carolina.

Back during the depression the general sales tax was put into effect only by dire necessity. Gov. J. C. B. Eringhouse made this general sales tax proposal to the General Assembly and the people hesitatingly. At that time he said that if the Assembly and the people did not accept this tax measure on a temporary basis, the public schools would have to be closed because there were not enough funds to fill their needs.

Within a short time Gov. Eringhouse's proposal was accepted but only on a temporary basis. Years slipped by and instead of this tax being abolished, it became a permanent thing, and at the expense of those who could least afford to pay.

The general sales tax is a discriminatory tax in its very nature. From any angle that it is figured, it hits the little man the hardest. Everyone pays this tax regardless of his financial status when making a purchase. Also, it is further discriminatory in that a limit is set on the amount of tax charged on a single purchase—\$15. This means that a purchase of \$5,000.00 would only carry a \$15 sales tax. While at the same time, a \$500.00 purchase would carry the same amount of sales tax. So the man who least needs to worry about his financial means gets out just as light or heavy as the man who must stretch a dime further than it will go.

Should this increase in the general sales tax be proposed by Gov. Scott and accepted by the General Assembly in 1951, it will mark and deface the steps forward that have taken place in the state in the past few years. Many states that are not on a par with North Carolina financially and productively do not have to resort to this discriminatory method of raising funds to meet the needs of the state. And those that do resort to this type of taxation make special efforts to keep it within reason.

Should this prediction by Mr. Martin materialize, the theory and practice of taxation will have reached limits of such unreason that it will be hard for the ordinary man to understand or stomach.

If additional funds are to be needed to carry on the business of the state in the next few years, a more equal and fair means could and should be devised.

### PRESS COMMENT

## No 'John's Other Wife'-Horror

Boys and girls of today have so totally different a daily routine from that of those who lived a century and a half ago, that the tremendous contrast may not be fully realized by the present generation.

Today's 10-year-olds spend a generous part of their time attending movies, listening to gangster or murder programs on the radio, reading comic books, and other dubious cultural value.

Consider now the daily routine prescribed by Thomas Jefferson for his 10-year-old daughter, Martha (known as "Patsy"), afterward the wife of Governor Thomas Mann Randolph, of Virginia. In a letter written in 1783 to Patsy from Annapolis, published in *The Domestic Life of Thomas Jefferson*, by Sarah N. Randolph, a once-rare volume reissued by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, the master of Monticello said he would approve the following schedule:

"From 8 to 10, practice music

"From 10 to 1, dance one day and draw another.

"From 1 to 2, draw on the day you dance, and write a letter next day.

"From 3 to 4, read French.

"From 4 to 5, exercise yourself in music.

"From 5 till bedtime, read English, write, etc."

We do not happen to know whether Patsy actually carried out this rigorous routine, which left practically no time for anything but study or for practicing music, art or the dance. Probably she varied from it only slightly, or her father would have refused his consent.

Certainly it would be out of the question for any 10-year-old in 1950 even to consider so exacting a schedule. How would he or she keep abreast of the doings of Roy Rogers or Henry Aldrich, or remain hep to the most recent escapades of the Cisco Kid or the "Green Hornet"?

Yes 1783 was a long time ago. A Patsy Jefferson, devoting her entire day from 8 A. M. until bedtime to literature, art, language and letter-writing, is hardly conceivable in this year of grace.

—Richmond Times-Dispatch



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## Fertilizing Time For Fish Ponds

A reminder for farmers with farm fish ponds that have been stocked with fish. It is time to start fertilizing the pond. For a pond of one acre, 100 lbs. of 3-8-4 fertilizer provides the proper elements to the water to provide food for the fish. By adding sodium nitrate or ammonium sulphate, most common fertilizers can be made the equivalent of 3-8-4. For example, to 100 lbs. of 4-8-4 add 20 lbs. of the nitrate or sulphate; to 100 lbs. of 6-8-4 add 10 lbs. of either; or to 100 lbs. of 3-8-5 add 25 lbs.

When the water becomes clear enough to see a bright object in 12 inches of water, it is time to give another application of fertilizer. More than these amounts will not do any harm. The water will not be harmful to livestock, and will be just as good for swimming. The pounds of fish that one acre of pond will grow will be about three times what it would be without no fertilizer.

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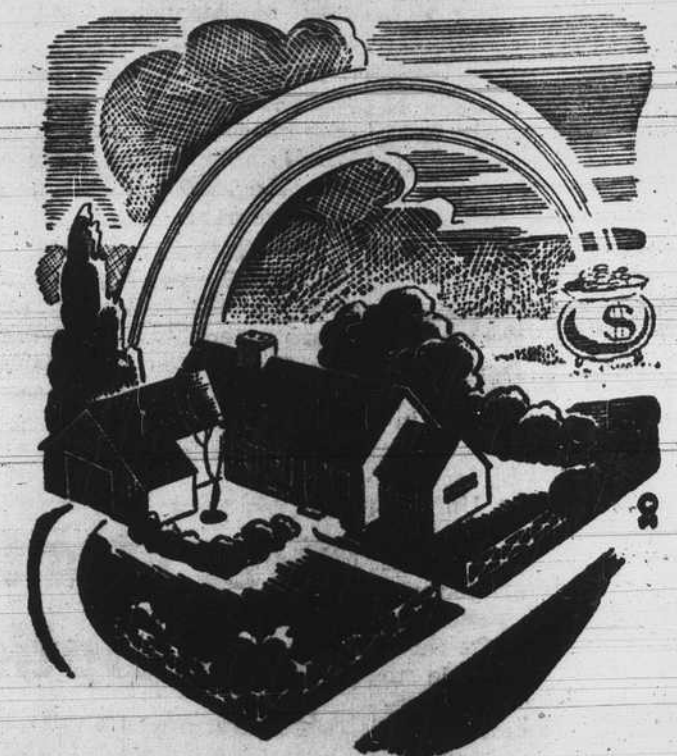
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