

Editorial and Opinion

Passing Up A Good Bet

For many years school authorities in this county as well as in other counties of the State have seen the need for some plan through which financial assistance might be provided in the payment of medical or hospital expenses that arise as the result of injuries sustained by students in connection with their school activities. In isolated cases of great tragedy, there have been spasmodic attempts to aid the unfortunate victims or their families. In some cases such as a school bus tragedy, the appeal for financial help even went to the Legislature of the Council of State.

Heretofore, the cost of accident insurance on an individual basis was higher than the average family felt that it could afford, so few children have had the benefit of such protection. This year, a group plan giving protection at a very nominal fee of \$1 was presented and received the whole hearted approval of our school board, our school principals and our P. T. A. leaders.

Reports of the reception accorded the plan in the schools, however, have been very disappointing. To date, only about 48 percent of the pupils and only 63 percent of the teachers are insured. If 80 percent could be obtained, then all of this year's enrollment would be covered, since the basis for the group plan proposed was on 90 percent of last year's average daily attendance.

To our way of thinking, this proposition seems like too good a bet to pass up lightly. It is apparent that information regarding the plan has not been disseminated sufficiently and that someones along the line have failed to do the selling job required. We hope that the extension of the deadline to December 1 will enable additional and proper presentation of the matter to every parent with the further hope that complete coverage can be obtained.

Unity In Thanksgiving

The United States are once again united, at least as far as Thanksgiving Day is concerned.

For the past few years there has been a little confusion throughout the country as to just what day to cook the turkey. It was fairly well settled in 1863 when the President issued a Proclamation and most of them have done it ever since. Life was simple then, but in the thirties there was a move afoot to advance the day one week. It had been observed on the last Thursday of November, regardless of what the date happened to be. Thus it turned out that one year the day of Thanksgiving would fall on November 30 and another year on November 27 or 24, so President Roosevelt recommended that the holiday be set for the fourth Thursday. He left it up to individual states to make it official.

And confusion arose. Football schedule makers found the traditional turkey day classic in the middle of an ordinary week. Federal offices closed in some states where the other folks worked and other folks went hunting while the federal people worked.

Special holiday transportation schedules were mixed up and worse of all calendar designers had a rough time trying to decide which Thursday in November to circle in red. Some folks gave up and were thankful whenever they felt like it regardless of what the President or the Governor said.

Finally all previous Thanksgiving commercial commitments ran out, and observers of the national scene tell us that this year, 1950, it is all legal. From now on our traditional day of feasting, hunting, and visiting Grandma's will be on the fourth Thursday of November.

It's nice to get at least one thing settled so all of us in these United States and territorial possessions can be thankful at the same time, legally and officially.

Little Reminders

The leaves are a little later this year, or rather the rakers are a little later. However, most cities and towns already have issued warnings about burning leaves without permission; nearby Burlington has purchased a leaf machine which gathers the dying reminders of a nice summer from the streets, and some stores are peddling devices to gather them.

It still remains for many of us to do our own leaf raking, and maybe after football season and if the little woman reminds us enough times, we might get it done by Christmas.

All this reminds us of a friend who last week, when his wife suggested it was time to take down the summer screens said, "Oh, that's all right dear, I haven't gotten around to putting them up, yet."

Corn Shuckin's Fondly Recalled

(The Sandhills Citizen)
The time of the year has arrived when farmers used to have corn shuckings.

But corn shuckings like many other popular farm practices of a quarter of a century ago seem to be going out of fashion and practice.

As a boy we liked to go to the corn shuckings. We may not have shucked too much corn but we got a real sumptuous supper anyway.

If a man made a poor corn crop, they would never have a shucking for they hated for their friends and neighbors to examine their corn ear by ear if there were too many nubbins. But if a good crop of corn was made—a shucking was likely.

When we first started going to shuckings they would never serve supper until all the corn was shucked. Sometimes that was ten or eleven o'clock at night. The shuckings would not start until about sun-down or later. In the late '20s they began to start the shuckings in the afternoon and try and get done by seven or eight o'clock. Sometimes a dance would follow the shuckings; sometimes some of the youngsters would start a fight—maybe one would hit another with an ear of corn, but usually a most enjoyable time was had by all.

Many women would attend and they would help with the cooking.

But corn shuckings in the Sandhills seem to be following the footsteps of "Old Dobbin" whose chief day seems to have long passed.

THIRTY TERRIBLE

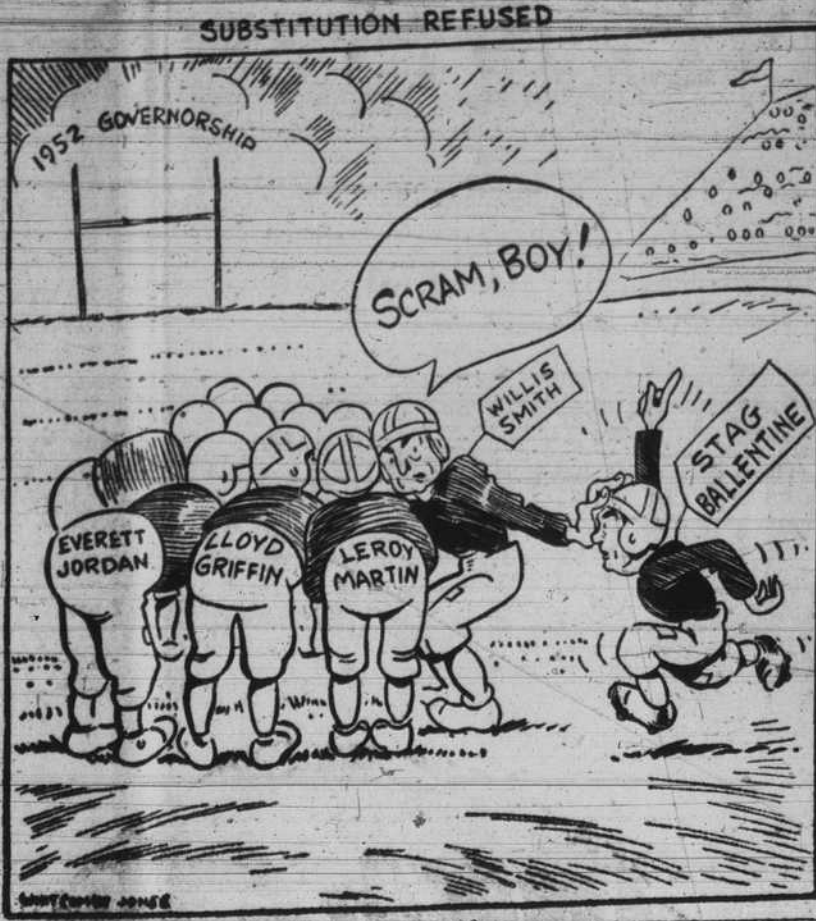
(Holt McPherson in Shelby Star)
The editor of a small town newspaper, upon going to his place of business one morning, found that some prankster had stolen all the letter "S's" from his type cases. He was not outdone, however, and the paper came out on time, with the following apology appearing on the front page:

Thome thneaking thoundrel hath thtolen into our compothing room and thkedaddled with all our etheth. We mutht apologize to our readethr for thith weekth "Then-tinel." We would altho like to thtate that if any tmie in the yearth to come we thee thith thir thnake in the graath about the premitht, we will thoot him the full of hpleth he will rghemble a Thwith etheth. Thank you.

GOLDEN GLEAMS
Pray to God only for those things which you cannot obtain from man.—PopeXystus I.

None can pray well but he that lives well.—Thomas Fuller.

A single grateful thought toward Heaven is the most perfect prayer.—G. E. Lessing.



CAPITAL REPORTER

Raleigh—State Treasurer Brandon Hodges has come up with a novel excuse for the \$32,500,000 general fund bond issue not getting a lower interest rate than the 1.41 1/4% they did last week.

He blames it on the telephone strike across the nation—says members of the buying syndicate could not get in touch with each other for last minute conferences. That's hogwash, and Hodges should know it.

A representative of one of the firms in the purchasing syndicate pointed out that all of the firms are connected through their own teletype machines, and could confer right up to the deadline of the bond-bid opening.

"Even a much worse telephone strike than the one now in progress could not possibly keep us from having a quick conference on the bid," this investment house representative said.

Real truth of the matter is that the bonds sold for a pretty good interest rate. What kept it from being lower is the "A" rating of the State as to general fund bonds, plus the anticipation of a greatly increased State budget for the next two years.

Capitol Hill forecasters proved themselves right on one count for the general election. They had predicted Willis Smith would either be low or next to low vote-getter on the Democratic ticket. He was low man on the regular ballot—but was saved from being low Democrat by the fact that Jeff Johnson, Clinton lawyer who was named Supreme Court Justice nominee at the last minute, got fewer votes. So-called political experts say Johnson would have got-

ten more votes, and probably would have topped Smith, if his name had not been on a separate ballot.

Meantime, over the country both Democrat and Republican party stalwarts were distrusted by one thing. It seems more and more people are voting for the man, rather than the party. If that trend should continue—and expand—party bosses will have to change their methods. In particular, they'll have to be mighty careful about the candidates they choose, because the voters generally seem to be tired of voting for some party hack whose only recommendation for the job is party loyalty.

Incidentally, it is reported around Raleigh that the Willis Smith faction is giving the back of its hand to Stag Ballentine. The agriculture commissioner was a member of the inner circle during the primaries, and reportedly was listened to more closely by Smith than any of his other advisers. Stag's reward, the boys supposedly in the know say, is to be ignored now by the Smith group that is trying to take over control of the Democratic party in the State.

What a lot of folks apparently do not know is that a prisoner may be paroled at any time. He does not have to serve a certain time. He may parole a prisoner the first day after he starts his sentence.

Paroles Commissioner Dr. T. C. Johnson says this causes a lot of confusion. The law requires that a man be considered for parole after he has served one-fourth of his time. That is to say, each

(Continued on Page 6)

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