

Editorial And Opinion

Not On Solid Ground

In appealing the denial of their son to the white Carrboro Elementary School, the Negro parents have weakened their request by revealing the obvious underlying factor in their plea.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Vickers of Carrboro, the parents, applied this summer to the County School Board for admission of their son to the Carrboro School. The Northside School in Chapel Hill which he had been attending was not at that time open to him because of Carrboro's May 20 rejection of the merger referendum.

Following the second referendum on this issue in Carrboro the Vickers' application was rejected, basically because the Northside School, as a result of the favorable merger vote, would be open to Carrboro pupils again this coming year.

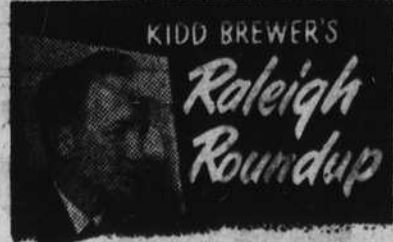
Upon that Mr. and Mrs. Vickers appealed the denial of their assignment request, and made two points. The first was that they lived only a block from the new Carrboro School, but a mile from Northside School. The second was that "We are also appealing from your failure and refusal to operate the Orange County School system on a non-segregated basis."

It would seem that if they appealed purely on a geographical basis they would theoretically, at least, have a stronger case in their plea. For it has been clearly established by the Supreme Court that integration is not required by the May 20, 1954 decision.

But it is also clear that segregation, purely on grounds of race is not legal. The court has said that at some future time in different localities that school segregation on a purely racial basis must be stopped.

The Vickers and Walden parents, it would seem, are protesting that the Orange County Schools are not integrated. And whatever the other merits of their application, or whatever their true motives in entering this appeal, it seems that this appeal is not on solid legal grounds in protesting because the County has failed and refused to operate its schools on a non-segregated basis.

Further, it appeared conclusively as the parents made their first appearance before the County Board of Education, that their role, more than anything else, is that of front for the small pro-integration white minority in Chapel Hill, who make a fetish of liberality.



(Continued From Page 1) bragging about a holdup . . . and, further a little more, he had been tossing around money a bit recklessly. Upshot was the arrest of Richard S. Townes Jr. in West Raleigh.

Seen in friendly walk up Fayetteville Street here last week Cloyd Philpott of Lexington and Addison Hewlett of Wilmington . . . and Philpott going all-out for Carl Venters for Speaker of the House

Ed Friedberg and I spent a couple of days in New York last week . . . and we agreed that Raleigh has it all over the big city as a place to live . . . Ed, a graduate of the Duke Law School and now a prominent tax attorney, lives near us on the west side of Raleigh in a beautiful home surrounded by gracious grounds . . . and a wonderful, happy family . . . Ed and his lovely wife, Edith, are as near the same philosophy of life as the Brewer's as we have ever known.

And these last, lazy days of summer always remind us of a line from one of John Charles McNeill's poems: "For him who will seek them, the valleys are his and the far quiet hills of September . . ."

The fight over reapportionment in the 1959 Legislature may be even more bitter than previous sessions . . . If strict rule were applied, you would see a big shifting about from smaller counties to the more populous counties in legislative strength . . . About 25 counties—this will surprise you—now have one-half the State's population . . . but not nearly one-half of the political strength the other 75 have when they get their heads together . . . and that's what the fight is all about . . .

The hunting season in 1958 comes in the doves . . . on the afternoon of September 6 . . . and fishing, dull on the coast all season, is expected to be wonderful in October for spots, blues, and trout. Better make your plans now for about the second week in October.

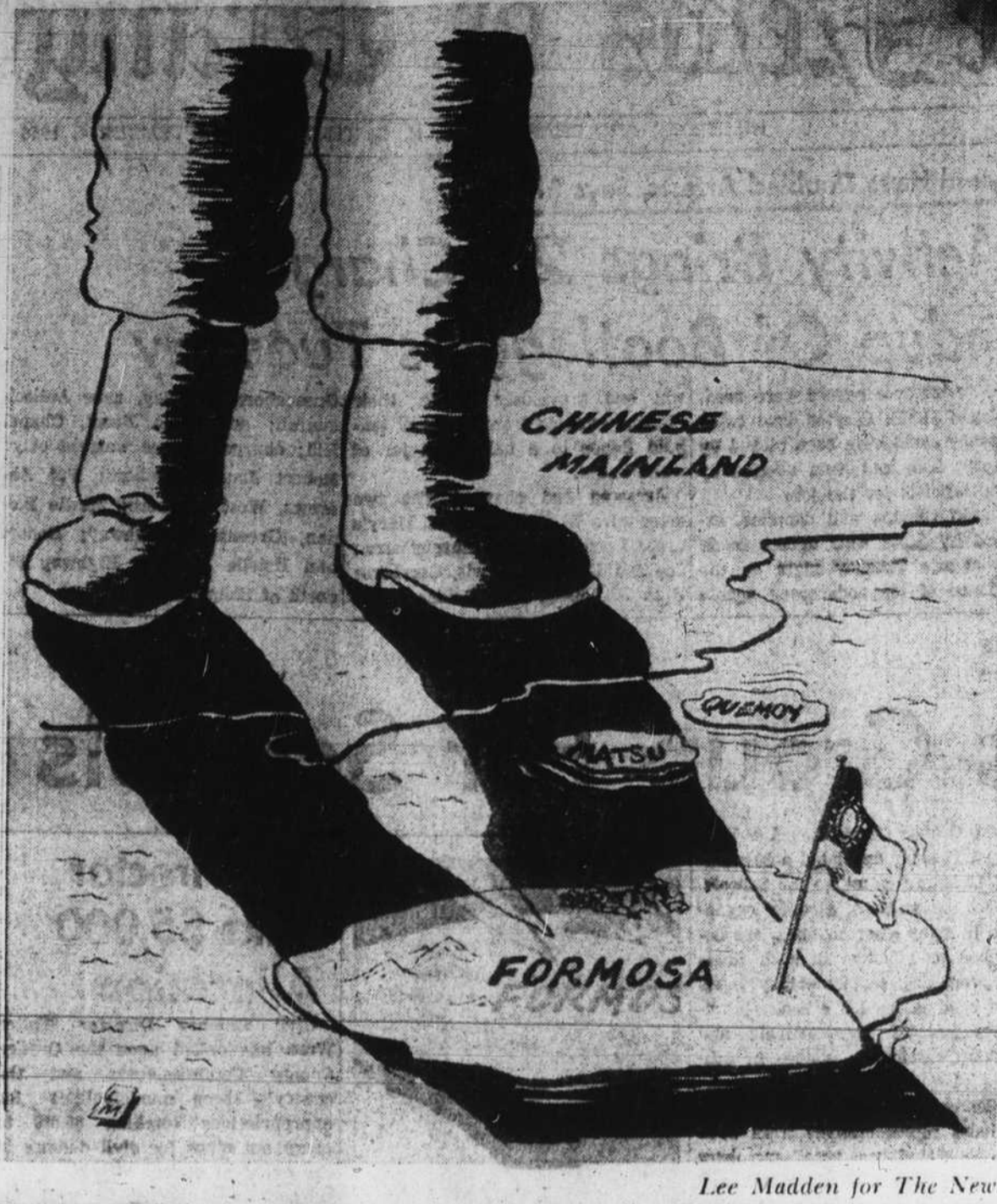
Jack Gilmore's Garden Gossip

If you are planning to plant pansy seeds, get them in the ground right away. Forget-me-nots and English daisies should be planted within the next two weeks if you want them to bloom next spring. Sweet William, Larkspur, "Ragged Robins" or corn flowers and hardy sweet peas should also be planted now.

Divide Coral Bells right away so that the new plants will become well established by cold weather. Cutting should be made of Fever Few and Marquette slips for the same reason. Watch out for seedlings while working in your borders. Move them into a more advantageous place so that they can become strong and hardy before heavy frost. If you are a lazy gardener you will find hundreds of small seedlings scattered about, however if you are an "eager beaver" that must always be chopping and hoeing you will find very few of these viable garden assets.

Since I have become too old for heavy gardening my borders do better and the plants maintain themselves by self-seeding. I have even found several magnolia seedlings in my border and up until then did not have a magnolia tree. I expect that one of my mocking birds brought the seeds from the Sam Latta trees as a reward for all those suet balls of winters past.

WATER THIRST
At the present time North Carolinians are using some 914 million gallons of water per day. A study just completed by the State Board of Water Commissioners credits domestic use with 252 million gallons per day, industry with better than 301 million gallons and agriculture with more than 360 million. At the present rate of increasing use, we will require twice this amount, or more than 1,750,000,000 gallons per day by 1975. Gov. Hodges.



Lee Madden for The News

Back To North Carolina

Henry Belk of Goldsboro quotes a friend as proposing an endowment for Frank P. Graham that would bring him back to North Carolina.

Any move that will bring Graham back to his native state will have the support of an army of citizens. The State can use his intimate knowledge and affection for it, his faith in it, and his energy in its behalf.

No one questions the value of his work for the United Nations or doubts that his efforts as a peacemaker between India and Pakistan will bear fruit. But North Carolina does not wish to see all his talents expended on the resolution of foreign problems, huge as they may be. The State has peculiar problems of its own.

At the moment North Carolina is at a stasis. It has lost some of the momentum it had a few years ago. Its public life is pitched on a very materialistic plane whereby statistics of production take precedence over consid-

eration of goals, and horns are blown over the acquisition of an imported industry rather than a healthy growth from within.

When a factory becomes more important than a schoolhouse or an efficient teaching faculty, permanent values tend to become submerged in seas of cost accountings that seem to make the prevalent low wages a greater achievement than an advance in public welfare.

Imaginative business men and industrial engineers are making a major contribution to the State's life, but their efforts would be strengthened in the presence of seers and statesmen.

Mr. Belk's friend proposes Graham as an ambassador at large to the people of the State. Better to have him put his shoulder to the wheel so that North Carolina does not sink back into the Van Winkle daydreaming that once beset it.

—Selected Reprint

Rumors Distort Facts

Morganton News-Herald
Have you ever wondered how rumors spread?

Perhaps you have received information "straight from the horse's mouth," only to discover later that somebody as well informed as to the facts as your source presented an entirely different version. You may even become skeptical of the motives and honesty of your informant.

Rabbi Ephraim Rosenzweig, director of the Hillel Foundation at Chapel Hill, recently gave a demonstration as to how rumors can distort facts and how witnesses testifying in court can vary in their version of what happened as they saw or heard it.

In a speech at Chapel Hill, Rabbi Rosenzweig chose six "reporters" from among the audience and sent all but one outside.

He showed a slide picture to the remaining reporter who watched it for about two minutes. The projection was a street scene involving some construction work, a dress sale, seven or eight persons, and a brick about to fall on one person's head.

The first reporter went outside, brought back reporter two with him and explained what he had seen. Reporter two repeated the action with number three. This procedure was followed until all were back in the room.

The original story had been somewhat distorted by the time the last reporter related what he had been told.

"Six people in 20 minutes have taken hold of a body of facts. Part of what was kept was distorted," said Rosenzweig.

After discussing with the audience why there was a lack of effective communication among the reporters, Rosenzweig listed several factors.

"The kind of person you are determines what you see. Your

physical position also is a very important factor."

"Often," he said, "you are so anxious to make a point, to make a contribution, that what you say has nothing to do with the subject."

Rabbi Rosenzweig also listed a person's sex, his profession, and what he thought to be important as additional factors. He then asked, "Who makes up our mind?" and answered, "We do. We make up our own mind in the sense that what we think is colored by what we see."

"Don't be too sure of yourself," he advised.
He might also have warned: "Don't be too sure that the information you receive from somebody 'in the know' is completely accurate, even if the person has no reason to misinform, unless you know well the nature and personality of the narrator."

The distortion which accompanies the spreading of a report is old stuff to any newspaper reporter (who has his own troubles trying to present what he sees and hears without coloring it with his own personality and ideas).

Every reporter has tracked down rumors; which proved to be far removed from actual facts offered by the best informed source available. Some of this distortion is contributed by gossips who take delight in spreading rumors, especially when such tales tend to darken the character of the person talked about. This reflects a fiendish phase of personality, even though the gossipmonger may try, in a protective rationalization, to insist that he or she was simply passing along what they had heard from a reliable source.

But a nonmalicious person may be guilty of a distortion by reason of personal coloration, however unintended.

It may be a safe conclusion to

GEMS OF THOUGHT

GRATITUDE TO GOD
"Gratitude to God makes even a temporal blessing a taste of heaven."—William Romaine

"Praise is the best auxiliary to prayer. He who most bears in mind what has been done for him by God will be most emboldened to ask for fresh gifts from above."—Henry Melville

"Reflect upon your present blessing, of which every man has many; not on your past misfortunes of which all men have some."—Charles Dickens

"Gratitude is not only the memory but the homage of the heart—rendered to God for his goodness."—Nathaniel Parker Willis

"God has two dwellings; one in heaven, and the other in meek and thankful hearts."—Isaac Walton

"While no offering can liquidate one's debt of gratitude to God, the fervent heart and willing hand are not unknown to nor unrewarded by Him."—Mary Baker Eddy

THAT'S WHAT THE BOOK SAID!
Walter Allen, Jr., Professor of Latin, University of N. C.

The poet Martial had a friend who liked only the old poets and who praised only the dead poets. Martial begged his friend to excuse him, but he didn't really think it worth while to die in order to have his poetry praised by his friend.

say that when it comes to word-of-mouth tales which are injurious to any person's character and reputation, one should believe nothing, or little, of what you hear and only half of what you see. The chances are that anybody who follows that advice will come a lot closer to the truth than when he accepts at face value every rumor he hears.

Tar Heel PEOPLE & ISSUES

By Cliff Blue

EVERETT JORDAN . . . From what we read in the newspapers and the late Will Rogers used to say: "All I know is what I read in the papers," it appears that B. Everett Jordan is taking to Washington and Senate affairs like a duck to water. More and more it begins to look as if Jordan may insist on running rather than stopping aside for Hodges to run as was the general expectation when the appointment was made following Scott's death. Jordan has had the advantage of a good publicity man in Bill Whitley, and a good public relations man can mean a lot for a man in public office. The way in which Jordan has been issuing statements regarding farm problems shows that he is thinking of the vote which proved to be so helpful to Kerr Scott.

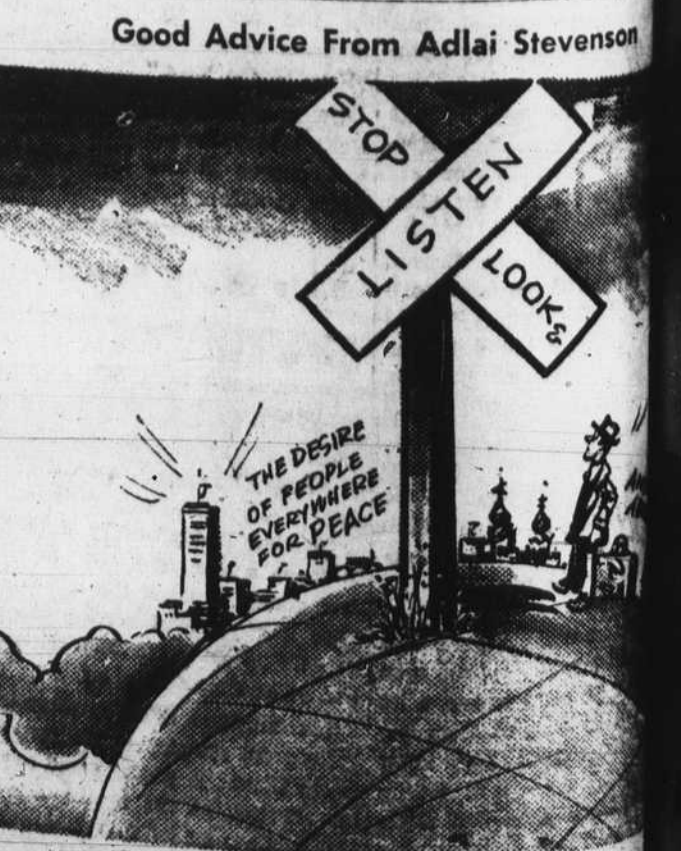
PHILPOTT . . . Rep. H. Cloyd Philpott of Davidson County was regarded as a strong Hodges supporter in the '55 and '57 sessions of the General Assembly. He is now a strong backer of Carl Venters for House Speaker. In fact it was at Philpott's lake cottage near Lexington that a group of the Venters supporters met on June 1—the day after the first primary on May 31 to devise plans to name Venters Speaker. Word is that this meeting at Philpott's lake may have cost the Davidson County man the chairmanship of the State Democratic Executive Committee.

Before the meeting Philpott was generally regarded as Hodges' choice for the party chairmanship when John Larkins could be ousted out. All along Hodges has been saying that he was keeping hands off the Venters-Hewlett race for Speaker. To have named an all-out Venters leader Party Chairman might not have set well with the Hewlett forces which at this time appear to be in the lead.

JANUARY CAUCUS . . . Some of the General Assembly members have suggested an early January caucus of the Democratic House and Senate members to name the Speaker and President pro tem of the Senate. The contest for these positions takes place in the party caucuses and the House and Senate then puts the official stamp of approval on the caucus choices. Thought is that with January party caucuses, the successful candidate for Speaker could have his committees named and ready to announce with the official opening of the General Assembly on February 4.

In 1947 and 1949, Tom Pedrall in '47 and the late Kerr Craig Ramsey in '49 had their House committee assignments ready to announce when the Session opened. In fact they were mimeographed and available for the members on Sunday before the session opened on Wednesday. We think January caucuses would certainly be advisable.

HODGES . . . Like most public figures, Hodges' popularity has gone up and down since he became governor in late 1954. Right now it doesn't appear to be too high. A year ago it went pretty low. Among a good many people who gather at filling stations and talk, they feel that after a rousing campaign for the Pearsall segregation proposals, that he has softened. They point to Governor



Walt Partymiller—York, Ga.

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