

The News - Journal

NATIONAL EDITORIAL
ASSOCIATION

North Carolina
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Raeford, N. C. 28376

Subscription Rates In Advance

Per Year - \$4.00 6 Months - \$2.25 3 Months - \$1.25

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Second-class postage paid at Raeford, N. C.

Your Award-Winning Community Newspaper

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1965

WAR ON POVERTY

Let's Spend Money Wisely

Having been officially declared a "poverty-ridden" county, Hoke can now look forward to 100 per cent federal support in its war on poverty program.

That means the county will not spend a cent of the some \$300,000 which will be spent here during the next 12 months to alleviate the plight of our less affluent citizens. That is, of course, if the local program is approved.

Hoke was one of 17 North Carolina counties to receive 100 per cent federal backing. Previously, it was thought that the county would have to bear at least 10 per cent of the cost of the program and county commissioners had included that amount in the budget for next year.

Frankly, we doubt that the county or its anti-poverty program will be as well off with the federal government footing the entire bill. For while the Community Action Program - - the local organization which to date has made all the anti-poverty plans - - has done an admirable job, we believe local interest in and enthusiasm for the program may wane when the county no longer has a financial interest in the program. That, at least, is the history of other handout programs. We tend to be less wise when we are spending someone else's money.

That notwithstanding, it is to be hoped that Hoke will benefit from the program, which proposes 10 projects which are supposed to have a lasting effect on poverty. Most of them are aimed at the problems of sanitation, health, substandard housing and education. Another would provide free seed and other materials for home gardens. And while we realize that we are not going to solve our problems by sowing 50 pounds of turnip seed or planting 300,000 cabbage plants, we can, by treating the problem of hunger, help put our indigent citizens in a more receptive mood for the other phases of the program. It is true, as the Salvation Army contends, that you cannot preach effectively to a man with an empty stomach.

There have been accusations that the entire anti-poverty program is a political move made by President Johnson to inspire certain voters to vote for the Democratic ticket. Whether the idea, which originated in the Kennedy administration, was politically inspired is now relatively unimportant. The federal government is going to spend several billion dollars on the program during the next few years. The opportunity to spend the money wisely is ours, and it is up to us to buy as much prosperity as we can with every dollar.

Horse Show

We have commented before on the first annual Raeford Woman's Club Horse Show, which will be held Friday and Saturday at the fairgrounds east of town, and today we add a further note about the event.

First of all, the woman's club is to be commended for undertaking a project of such magnitude. Certainly, few of us realize how very much work is involved in the staging of such a show, and the fact that the woman's club has brought the project successfully to the eve of its execution is an accomplishment of note.

We endorse the horse show and hope for its success for several reasons. First, it is wholesome entertainment of the variety the

town and county could use more of. Second, profits from the event will be used, by and large, for benefit of the entire community. Third, it is excellent publicity for the town and county.

Therefore, we urge the citizens of Raeford and Hoke County to lend their support to the show, which they can now do by attending the show. We feel sure that the lover of horseflesh - - and who doesn't love horses - - will be amply rewarded for the price of admission.

And again, we commend the ladies of the woman's club and others who have, by their participation and sponsorship, contributed to the early success of the show. Too, we welcome the exhibitors who will be here for the two-day event and encourage the community to make them feel welcome.

Old Age

This week through Saturday is the Special Week on Aging in North Carolina during which we recognize the contributions of our older citizens.

During the week, churches will recognize their older members, mayors will proclaim the week, special tours of nursing homes and homes for the aged will be held, and interested groups and individuals will sing the praises of our senior citizens.

We do not know precisely how many such citizens there are in Hoke County, but in North Carolina there are 344,000 who are 65 years of age and older. In the United States, the number is 18 million, of which 12,000 are older than 100 years.

Here, as throughout the nation, these older citizens daily contribute to their communities. We are aware of their contributions and appreciate their presence among us.

From The Wall Street Journal: "The idea that employers can go on forever paying the wages of workers who perform no useful work is wildly impractical in any industry, aside from being personally degrading to the workers involved. . . . No employer, moreover, operates in a vacuum. He must daily contend with competition, both from other employers in his own industry and from other industries. If he is denied the right to make changes in his operation that will promote efficiency, he will not long be able to keep pace with the unions' ever expanding wage demands. In fact, he will not long be able to survive as a provider of any jobs at all."

"From the Shores of Hispaniola to the Hills of Viet Nam..."



By Jim Taylor

Mostly Praising Local People



Alfred Cole, who is something of a practical joker among politicians, received a write-in vote for mayor Tuesday.

Somebody who saw the ballot as it was counted said the handwriting looked suspiciously like Cole's.

I doubt it. Alfred was quite successful as a vote-getter several years ago when he resigned as Raeford's mayor. Since then, he's taken some parts of politics rather lightly.

He's presently identified as John Stansbury's county campaign manager during the last gubernatorial primary, and he's got plenty of mileage out of the joke.

Tuesday night, he congratulated Franklin Teal after Teal had led the ticket in a 13-man race for the town board.

"I voted for you because I like your slogan -- 'Steal With Teal,'" Cole said.

Somebody else said it was little wonder that Teal, a banker, and R. Palmer Wilcox, a young attorney, ran so strongly in their initial venture into politics.

"Half the people in town need a lawyer, and everybody needs money," the jester said.

I was quite pleased when someone wrote in the name of W. L. Poole for mayor.

Colonel Poole, who has been feeling rather badly of late, has been a leader in town affairs for many years. And from what I've been told, there's never been a greater booster of the community.

Not many months ago, Colonel Poole was honored as "The Father of Athletics in Hoke County."

Now he has received another tribute, and albeit a small token, he richly deserves it.

Elections are funny things. People are always complaining about public officials, yet hardly half of them show enough interest to vote on election day.

The way I figure, you have no room to gripe unless you voted. Not a man among the 13 candidates can feel badly about the showing he made in Tuesday's election. The lowest man got 69 votes, and any man can be proud he has that many friends.

And any man who is among the top five in a 13-man field can be proud of his popularity. He also should be doubly conscientious about his job, with so many people pulling for him.

Holding office in a small town is a thankless job, and certainly worth more than the money it pays. The town official is subject to all sorts of insult and ridicule, and few of us ever pause to thank him for the service he renders.

Personally, I wouldn't have the job. Yet it is an honor and a privilege to serve.

Perhaps that is enough payment for those who seek office. We are fortunate, indeed, to have had so many good candidates from which to choose. Let us hope that we have chosen wisely.

I cannot resist adding another plug here for the Woman's Club Horse Show, which is coming up Friday and Saturday at the local fairgrounds.

The show is a great thing for the community, and the ladies of the club have done a remarkable job with the project. At this moment, there is every sign of success for the venture, believed to be the first horse show ever staged in Hoke County.

The only thing that can now cause it to fall is us. We can, by not attending, ruin it -- and at the same time erase forever the possibility of another civic group ever undertaking a project of such magnitude.

Raeford is big enough for a whopping good horse show, and we can prove it this week end. As George Burns says, "Do it!" You'll enjoy it, and the kids will love it.

STORIES BEHIND WORDS

MAKE ONE'S MARK

When the signature of a person who cannot write is necessary, he is required to make an "X" at the place of signature and have it witnessed.

An "X" as a signature was not always used by a person who could not write. In ancient times, it was used by educated persons, for the "X" -- or cross -- was a sacred symbol and indicated good faith on the part of the one who used it.

The peasantry looked with awe upon a person who was important enough to put his "X" or "make his mark," as they called it, upon a document.

Therefore, a person who rose to such a position was said to have "made his mark" in the world.

PUPPY CREEK PHILOSOPHER

Decides To Go Underground

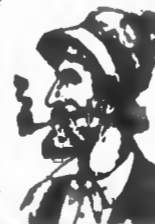
When All Surface Land Becomes Paved

Dear editor:

I don't know how many cars there are right now in the United States, I may have read the figure in a newspaper somewhere and probably put it in my files for future use but it's too far down to get to, which may need explaining. I file newspapers by stacking them in a corner and if something I want is on top it's readily accessible but if it's a few feet down I hesitate to pull it out, I've got forethought. I don't want the whole stack toppling over on me. You run your business and I'll run mine.

At any rate, there must be at least 30 million automobiles in the U. S. right now, maybe a lot more, but 30 million is a good enough figure for my purposes.

What I'm getting at is that I read in a newspaper last night that the automobile industry expects to produce nine million cars this year. This is first-rate business news, but it has its drawbacks. I mean, we're producing cars a lot faster than we're getting rid of them. Makes no difference how hard and conscientiously people try, they can't get the wreck rate up to the production rate.



Therefore, say we're gaining four or five million cars a year. In ten years, instead of having 30 million, we'll have 75 or 80 million. In twenty years, 125 million. In thirty years, 150 million.

Have you stopped to think that in a hundred years from now we'll have over 500,000,000 automobiles in the United States?

Do you realize that if they all started in one direction at the same time, those stacked up behind would never get there?

Is Congress working on legislation now to establish Driving Days, as it should be? What I mean is, with that many cars, driving will have to be prorated, with one group allowed out on Monday, one on Tuesday, etc. I can see some smart people right now buying seven cars so they can drive one every day in the week, but Congress will catch on and plug that loop hole before it spreads.

Then there'll be the problem of developing underground farming, as most of the land will be paved.

I tell you, there are vast problems coming up in the future that are going to take a lot of forethought.

Ours faithfully,
J. A.

CLIFF BLUE . . .

People & Issues



INSPECTION - - Governor Moore has had it easy thus far with all his major proposals.

He got the private versus public utility squabble settled in a very fine manner. Court reform has been enacted. Charlotte College has been made a part of the University of North Carolina. He will get his 10 percent pay increase for state employees under the personnel act without difficulty. His \$300 million highway bond issue sailed through like a slick pig, as did his highway reorganization bill.

The one bill where he is going to have to pull and push is his automobile inspection bill. Hodges tried and failed. Sanford tried and failed.

Can Moore put it across?

We think he can, and believe he will. We understand that he is now about 10 votes shy of enough strength to put it across in the House. Well, with appointments yet to be made, and with some arm-twisting, we figure that if Terry Sanford could muster support to enact the sales tax on food that Dan Moore can do the same thing for inspection since he has not had to do any arm-twisting with his other bills.

The inspection bill will be a show of Moore strength with the Assembly.

SOUTHERN NATIONAL - - Southern National Bank, of which senator Hector McLean of Lumberton is president, has been one of the fastest growing banks in the state. A few years ago it was a small national bank, but when it's merger with First National Bank of Sanford is consummated it will be the sixth largest bank in the state, with only Wachovia, N.C. National Bank, First Union National Bank, First-Citizens and Northwestern above it. Biggest stockholder in Southern National is John Covington Jr., of Rockingham, who headed up the Farmers Bank & Trust Company in Rockingham before it was merged with Southern National. When the Southern National and the First National of Sanford are merged it will have assets of more than \$67,000,000.

FUNDAMENTAL LAW - - The question arises as to how valuable is a constitution?

We would doubt that there is an intelligent, honest and sincere man today who would tell you that the founding fathers who wrote the federal constitution had any idea or intention of the federal courts stepping in and ruling that both houses of a state legislature had to be restricted on the basis of population. Yet, today, under that same constitution, rulings are being handed down to this effect and may be carried to a ridiculous end in other governmental units.

We would like to see an amendment written into the federal constitution along the line of the resolution passed by the State House of Representatives permitting one legislative house to be based on something other than population. But, as much as we are in sympathy with the idea, we do not feel that the constitutional convention method is the proper way.

We are moving too far from constitutional rule to rule by men. As a matter of fact, our system of government is no stronger than the men chosen to administer the laws.

In North Carolina, we operate under the executive budget act which makes it mandatory that the state operate on a balanced budget, which it has been able to do. But -- and we measure our words -- if we had people in authority who cared no more for the executive budget act than some do for the spirit of the federal constitution, then we would soon be operating on a deficit just like the federal government.

The strength of North Carolina government has been honest people in authority who felt obligated to follow the law because it was the law.

GOVERNOR'S SALARY - - So far as salary goes, the governor should be the highest paid state official, but he is not. But, Governor Moore is opposed to the \$10,000 a year salary hike. He asked that the bill not be introduced and our guess is that he will not accept the raise should it be enacted, which we doubt. To make the bill effective for future governors would not be amiss.

Raleigh Roundup

By Sen. Voit Gilmore

STUDED TIRES--The new wrinkle in anti-skid equipment, they told us in the Senate last week, is a tire dotted with small pieces of carbundum, a tough steel which stick out a fraction of an inch. "Studded tires," they're called. Just great for ice and snow, it is said. Our problem was: Will they chew up N. C. highways? No, said Highway Director Babcock, just so we hold the stud length to no more than one-sixteenth of an inch. So that is how we wrote the bill--and a new safety feature is now available to Tar Heel drivers.

HIGHWAY TIRES--As you drive along and see new roadways cutting through farms and suburbs, do you ever think of all the lawsuits that grow from such invasion of private domain by public authority? One of the biggest gripes of private citizens has been that even when they are reimbursed for land taken as right-of-way, they haven't been paid for their cost of moving.

Last week our Senate Roads Committee acted to correct this. In line with a federal formula, S. B. 275 will authorize the State Highway Commission to pay up to \$300 for the moving costs of a household and up to \$3,000 for the relocation of a business or farm. In some cases this will still not be enough, but it is a big step toward justice for the man who finds himself directly in the path of progress.

DOWN THE DRAIN--The tempest-tossed "five gallon" bill sank out of sight in Raleigh last week. Explained as a measure to help large-scale hosts get their rations with just one stop at an A. B. C. store, it was doubtful legislation from the start and got worse as it was amended. The bill's voice vote defeat in the House underscored a strong feeling among legislators that the "C" in A. B. C. means "control," not consumption.

Daylight Savings Time--a measure popular with industry and resort people--was given a second knock-out drop last week. The latest maneuver was a proposed DST referendum by Tar Heel voters. "We legislators shouldn't pass the buck. This is our problem to settle," was the consensus of Senate speakers. So for the twelfth time in 12 sessions, Daylight Time bit the dust again.

Next try: 1967. What worried Senators was, if you keep asking voters to settle issues, will you some day not need a Senate?

THE BILLBOARD CLASH--A perennial storm swirls over Daylight Saving Time--and over highway billboards. This ses-

son's "control of roadside advertising" legislation is just now being introduced, and it is more moderate in its approach than in previous sessions. The proposal is to allow the State Highway Commission, after public hearings, to establish regulations governing signs, but on interstate and defense highways. In North Carolina this means 770 miles of highways--95, 85, 77, 40 and 26. Along these interstates, roadside advertising would be allowed at intersections and within municipal or commercial areas. In open spaces, advertising would be limited to signs which are actually on the premises of the business establishment or signs which tell of a business not over twelve miles away.

This legislation has the ardent backing of N. C. garden clubs, just as it has the wrathful opposition of business interests which depend heavily on outdoor advertising. Somewhere during the clash I plan to remind all concerned of the Wisconsin "scenic easement" plan. That state has established a fund to take long-term leases on roadside frontages in scenic areas, paying the landowner enough to keep the land free of signs and buildings so that motorists will enjoy the surrounding beauty. It's a plan worth considering, especially in areas where visitors can't see the scenic view because of the hot dog signs.

WHAT PRICE HOSPITAL CARE--Hospital patients who usually think they are paying more than enough for their treatment seldom realize their bill includes a hidden "tax". The 1963 General Assembly set \$20 as the maximum daily rate to be paid North Carolina hospitals for services they provide to certified welfare cases. What with rising costs, only 20 of the state's 156 hospitals were able to break even at \$20. During 1964 the maintaining 136 lost a whopping \$2,656,000 in treating state-sponsored patients. Unable to refuse care to such patients and unable to collect from patient or state or county sources, the hospitals passed the cost along to--you guessed it--their paying patients.

Hospital officials are as unhappy about this as the "victims." The squeeze gets tighter, rates go up, hospital insurance premiums rise, and the complaints increase as our average per diem hospital cost approaches \$30. Even at that, North Carolina is lowest in the nation in per day cost for patients, excepting only South Carolina.