

# The News - Journal

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CHIEF NOT AT FAULT

## Undeserved Black Eye

The Town of Raeford, its chief of police, and a private citizen were embarrassed last week by an incident which came to light at the monthly meeting of the town board. The citizen, Ralph Pandure, complained to the board that Chief of Police L. W. Stanton presented several bills against him, from the town, and demanded payment. The action, Pandure contended, was the result of a run-in between him and Chief Stanton. That difficulty occurred, Pandure said, when Chief Stanton and Assistant Chief Sam Motley arrived at the Pandure residence on North Jackson Street in response to a telephone call from Mrs. Pandure in what her husband described as a domestic argument.

Pandure confided that in anger he demanded that Chief Stanton get off his property, that the chief left, and that he later returned with a bill for \$12.50 for a privilege license to operate a livery stable, and \$15 town fee for two colts which Pandure keeps at a stable he leases on Harris Avenue. The total bill was for \$27.50. Pandure also revealed that his most recent water bill had an added charge for sewer service, although there is no sewer tap at the barn.

His contention was that Chief Stanton acted in spite, and on the face of things, it would seem that such an impression would be justified. Pandure was not unreasonable, and appeared to hold no malice toward Chief Stanton. On the other hand, Chief Stanton was most reasonable in responding to our editor's questions about the matter, and while his point of view contradicted that of Pandure, it did not disagree with the basic elements of the situation.

Following the encounter with Pandure at his (Pandure's) residence, the chief did not go back to town hall, he said, and dig up the bills against Pandure. Rather, he said, he had been carrying them in his pocket since last August and had been catching the dickers for not having collected them. The newspaper account of Pandure's appearance at town hall suggested that Chief Stanton "later went to Pandure's barn" and demanded that it be opened for his inspection. Actually, the chief says, he went to the barn the following day, explained to Pandure that he was not upset about their encounter the previous day, and presented the bill, advising Pandure he would have to pay it, or appear before town council at its February meeting.

After hearing both Pandure's and Chief Stanton's sides of the story, we are convinced that neither were at fault, really, for a rather perplexing and disturbing occurrence. Pandure acted no differently than the average husband would act under similar circumstances, and Chief Stanton, rather than reacting in spite, merely followed what amounted to orders from his supporters in town government in presenting the bills and demanding that they be paid.

Therein is the answer to the whole dilemma, and the cause of all the embarrassment.

Chief Stanton is not the tax collector, or the bill collector, for the Town of Raeford, or should not be. This additional "duty" has been imposed upon him, and he was kind enough not to grumble about it. He should have refused to do it, but Stanton is a man who considerably tries to fulfill the duties of his office.

To send the chief of police, or any officer, to collect a bill, or to demand payment of same, is an injustice to the officer, and amounts to downright intimidation of the citizen to whom the bill is presented. It should be beneath the dignity of an officer to serve as bill collector. His job is to enforce the law. Indeed, the only "papers" a town policeman is required to serve is a warrant. He does not deliver civil papers, which are handled by the sheriff's office.

Without a doubt, the chief of police is an effective bill collector, and no wonder. To the average citizen, his presentation of a bill would have the same effect as a court order for payment, for the average citizen does not know the intricacies of law, and undoubtedly would conclude that if the bill were not paid, he would be in trouble with the law. That is intimidation, because legally the town has no recourse in collecting its bills that is not available to the private merchant.

The mails are a quite effective means of getting bills delivered, and the town should distribute its bills by mail. If payment is overdue, again the mails should be used, or the telephone, and the police department ought not be in any way involved -- not even when civil action is contemplated or concluded, for it is the duty of the sheriff to serve such papers.

Thus, Chief Stanton took it on the chin for following the instructions of somebody at town hall. If the town board has authorized the policy of the police department serving as a collecting agency, or directed that it be thus involved, it should immediately rescind the order. If Town Manager Ed Williams, or any other official of the town government, has instigated the policy, it ought to be stopped immediately.

Any other difficulty between Pandure and Chief Stanton would have been resolved, we are convinced, by an apology and a handshake on the part of both -- and we have encountered no unwillingness on the part of either to do just that. We understand Pandure's consternation. We understand Chief Stanton's position. And we blame the entire unfortunate incident directly on whoever sends Chief Stanton out to collect bills for the town.

Many German medical schools have departments of balneology that instruct students in the therapeutic uses of springwater baths.



TALES OF THE RED BERETS

By Jim Taylor

## Rube Scores Winning Run



Eulogies sometimes are run in the columns to the left of this space, but this week, I prefer to personalize my comments about Colonel William Lawrence (Rube) Poole.

Not that I was all that close to him. I was not privy to his counsel and knew him for far too short a time to qualify as his biographer.

But I knew him well by reputation, which sometimes is the mark of a great man, sometimes not. Bad reputations often can be discounted, but when you encounter a person about whom no man speaks evil, you have met a most remarkable individual, indeed.

Colonel Poole was that sort of man. He was unique among us -- respected by all who knew him, loved by all who knew him well.

They number in the hundreds in Raeford and Hoke County -- perhaps in the thousands -- for this remarkable man touched the lives of just about every youngster who ever threw a baseball, except those of recent generations, and they were richer for the experience.

He was an avid baseball fan -- as well as player, coach and manager -- and it is said he could ambulate down the sidewalk and tell you if the lad would be able to play good baseball when he grew up.

He was a soldier, a veteran of both world wars -- a first sergeant in the first, a lieutenant colonel in the second -- and was promoted to colonel just before his retirement from the National Guard.

He was more than a soldier. He was a gentle practitioner of the art of war -- a commander who neither drank, smoked, nor cursed, but was able to enjoy the sometimes ribald life of the garrison. He was, in character, far above it, yet he was very much a part of it, a sort of lesser Lee whose paternal guardianship of his men inspired soldiers to dare errant comrades to not step back in line.

Consequently, I decided to get my mind off the current trials and tribulations for a few hours and think about an odd news item I read in a newspaper a couple of weeks ago and which I

When the Raeford National Guard unit was called into federal service in 1940, Colonel Poole, then a captain, was their commander. Immediately, he was promoted to major and placed in command of the battalion of which the local unit was a part.

Later, he was elevated to the rank of lieutenant colonel and became commander of a military post in Fort Myers, Fla., while his battalion of "home-folks" shipped out to the Caribbean, and thence to combat zones in Europe and elsewhere.

On many occasions, his neighbors elected him to positions of responsibility. He was mayor of Raeford, clerk of Hoke Superior Court, chairman of the county board of elections, commander of the American Legion post, and elder in Raeford Presbyterian Church.

Before the days of paid coaches in high school athletics, he coached the Raeford High School football and baseball teams. In summer, he coached (managed) the Raeford semiprofessional baseball team, and sometimes teams of youngsters who played sandlot engagements with teams from other towns.

On the baseball diamond, he was regarded as a crafty strategist, a scholar of the game, a never-say-die leader who would beat you with his head when his players talents were not capable.

"We used to play the Raeford team coached by Colonel Poole," a St. Pauls man told me last week. "You couldn't beat him. We sometimes out-hit them, outpitched them out-ran them, but Rube always out-scored us."

Several years ago, the citizens of Raeford staged "Rube Poole Day," bringing in some of his baseball cronies of his younger days, whooping it up for a day, then sending the colonel North to take in several major league games.

The colonel enjoyed it, they say, but seemed glad to get back home.

The nickname "Rube," acquired by Colonel Poole in his baseball playing days at the University of North Carolina, where he was a catcher, and in the tough semiprofessional league around Raeford, was one of affection, rather than scorn.

A "rube," in baseball and carnival lingo, is a country boy, a "hick," an "oaf." Colonel Poole was none of these. He was, however, a gangling, rawboned man whose sandy hair and oversized ears gave him a noticeable appearance, as did the physical features of two other "Rubes" of baseball fame -- Rube Waddell and Rube Walker.

I did not know him as most men in Raeford knew him. He was an old man when I first came to Hoke County almost five years ago. Within a few months after my arrival, he lost a leg to disease, retired to his home on Prospect Avenue and wasn't seen downtown much after that.

On several occasions, I went with others to his home and enjoyed tremendously his conversation with my companions. He was by then extremely hard of hearing, so many of their words were wasted, and the conversations usually evolved into a recitation of baseball stories about Raeford.

His sense of hearing was poor, but his mind was sharp as a tack, right up until the day of his death, February 5, a week ago, at the age of 80.

His funeral was held Friday. His friends and admirers gathered at the church, sang a few songs, heard a few psalms, then laid him to rest beside his beloved Miss Irma.

And somewhere up there a tobacco-chewing angel in baseball spikes and warmup jacket stood at the third base of Heaven and waved Rube Poole home.

Corn, America's great food gift to the world, goes by many names. The Dutch, Hungarians, and French sometimes call corn "Turkish wheat." The Turks call it "Egyptian corn," and Egyptians say "Syrian corn."

## Philosopher Finds Odd News Takes Mind Off Tribulations

Dear editor: The world is so crammed full of news lately nobody is able to keep up with a tenth of it, and two-thirds of the part he can keep up with is so unrelatable a man with a good television set and plenty of time to watch it is likely to come out of his house every morning more misinformed than a man with a busted picture tube.

Consequently, I decided to get my mind off the current trials and tribulations for a few hours and think about an odd news item I read in a newspaper a couple of weeks ago and which I

have been toying with in the back of my head ever since.

According to it, a food processor has come up with an artificial turkey. He mixes a lot of proteins and such stuff, blends it together, shapes it up, and according to people who have tasted it, you can't tell it from real turkey meat.

However, and this is the point I've been thinking about, to help sell it, the inventor includes a plastic wish-bone in each package.

Outside of my tractor, I can't think of anything more fun than

coming up on a plastic wish-bone while munching on a piece of artificial turkey while watching a taped soap opera on television.

This is a strange world we're living in. Only last night I heard a politician on television making a speech he wrote himself. He just barely got through making it and I just barely got through listening to it.

There may be something to say, after all, for synthetic turkey, plastic wish-bones and ghost-written speeches.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

## CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



TERRY SANFORD -- While Terry Sanford has decided not to run for the United States Senate against Senator Ervin in 1968, his stirring about in the interest of becoming a candidate has not dimmed his political future in the least.

His recent activity in surveying the political situation has brought him back into focus. Like other governors before him, Terry Sanford did not go out of office at the height of his popularity by any means. However, time has erased much of the criticism directed toward him largely due to the tax on food and his 1960 support of John F. Kennedy for the presidential nomination.

Barring unforeseen obstacles, Terry Sanford is almost certain to be a candidate for statewide office -- either governor or United States Senator, in 1972 and during the next four years you can expect that he will constantly be moving about over North Carolina keeping his fences mended.

General feeling has been that Sanford would not be able to unseat the veteran Senator Ervin if he decided to make the race, and many loyal Sanford supporters are happy that the former governor has decided against making the try at this time. But most pleased of all is North Carolina's senior senator and popular conservative statesman.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT -- For the first time within our memory, the people of North Carolina will select through a primary and general election the state superintendent of public instruction. While the state superintendent has been an elective office under the state constitution, for all practical purposes it has been an appointive position, for our recent superintendents have first been appointed without a vote of the people and then reelected without opposition. However, we cannot belabor the practice, for we have had able and forward-looking state superintendents of public instruction who have served the state well -- and Dr. Charles Carroll is a good example.

Three able and capable men are now seeking the position through the Democratic primary -- Dr. Raymond A. Stone, president of Sandhills Community College near Southern Pines; Dr. Craig Phillips, administrative vice president of the Rich-

ardson Foundation in Greensboro and J. Everett Miller, assistant state superintendent of public instruction.

BILL JAMES -- When Dr. Bill James ran for Congress against Charlie Jones four years ago, he put up a powerful fight, and while defeated, came out with a good many more votes than most people thought he would. Commenting on Dr. James' entry into the political arena again, this time as a candidate to regain a seat in the State Senate, the Laurinburg Exchange has this to say:

"We don't have much idea what Bill James' chances are in his race for the State Senate. One thing we can say for the Hamlet surgeon. He came to battle and it is likely other candidates will know they were in a contest in the end regardless of the outcome. Bill did such a thorough job of running for Congress two years ago he may still be able to utilize some of his old campaign signs. Occasionally you will still see one nailed to a tree in counties to the west of Scotland."

PAT TAYLOR -- More and more it appears that H. Pat Taylor Jr., of Wadesboro will win the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor without a contest. If he does, it will be the first time in many, many years that the nomination for the state's number two position has gone uncontested. While not a great deal of interest is manifested in races for lieutenant governor, there are usually almost as many candidates for the number two office as for the governor's office.

GEORGE WALLACE -- While George Wallace will receive lots of votes in North Carolina and throughout the nation, most people seem to think that his entry into the presidential sweepstakes will do much to insure the reelection of President Johnson -- something that the former Alabama governor is out to prevent. While Wallace will receive much support in North Carolina we do not feel that he will be able to carry the state. However, he will hardly encounter much difficulty in securing the 10,000 names necessary to get his name on the state's presidential ballot.

FILLING DEADLINES -- Filing deadline for state offices is February 23 and for county offices March 22, three weeks earlier than heretofore.

### SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS

WASHINGTON -- In recent weeks, the president has made three major economic statements giving his recommendations on the Budget, the economy, and our balance of payments situation.

These messages with supporting data total more than a thousand pages. These documents show what most Americans already know and that is that our country has overspent its income and apparently plans to continue that policy. In turn, we are finding that such a policy and our world wide commitments are having a serious effect upon the strength of the dollar.

One gathers from these ponderous compilations of statistics that our country is much in the same predicament that a man finds himself in when he consistently overspends his current income. He finds money harder to borrow, he finds creditors seeking more security, and he begins to protest that he is able to meet all of his obligations if his creditors will permit him to borrow more money.

This is revealed in the budget presented to Congress in a table which analyzes the public debt, past, present, and future. As of the end of the fiscal year, the budget reveals that the public debt issued by the treasury stood at \$226 billion for fiscal 1969. Analyzing the fiscal 1969 deficit on the basis of estimated treasury borrowing reveals that the deficit will be nearly \$12 billion, assuming Congress accepts its spending and tax proposals.

However, this deficit estimate is based upon the assumption that Congress will end its opposition to the president's \$12.9 billion increase in income taxes. Thus as the matter stands at the opening of the consideration of the new Budget, Congress is faced with spending proposals that exceed presently authorized revenues by about \$24 billion.

Any analysis of the new Budget shows that it departs from the old concept Americans have used to judge federal expenditures and revenues. The new budget includes trust funds for

### Letter To Editor

The News-Journal, Raeford, North Carolina.

To the Editor: The Hoke County Chapter and its many volunteer workers are deeply grateful for the "extra" effort put forth by you folks in helping us make this one of the finest Blood Mobile visits since the operation began in Hoke County 8 years ago. Your fine editorial and your human interest articles were appreciated and the comments heard today at the Blood Mobile visit were very complimentary to you.

We were adequately staffed by volunteer and professional workers but the high turnout of donors at the beginning of the operation made it necessary for many people to wait in line too long and we will correct this on May 17, when we will do a better job of scheduling our donors.

I feel sure that the many people in Hoke County who are recipients of Red Cross Blood join me in saying to you, "Thank you very much for all you did."

Clyde Lpurch Jr.,  
Chapter Chairman  
Hoke County Chapter  
American National Red Cross