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"It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness"

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1970

The public school is a precious thing

The public schools of this nation, this state, this region, are precious things.

We forget this fact sometimes. And we ignore it a good portion of the time.

Today, with the public schools - particularly in the South - on the cutting edge of social change which, in truth, has not spread to the larger society, the forgetters and the ignorers may be perilously close to having their way. The panacea being offered all over the South and in some areas of our own state is the instant private school. The idea draws adherents. Their tribe is increasing. Their fury - in some measure at least - is understandable.

But in their haste to preserve a custom that is dying, in their determination to fight a battle they cannot win, the forgetters and the ignorers stand in mortal danger of delivering a crushing blow to a precious institution, to an idea which in large measure separates the United States from the rest of the world.

Has any other major country ever set for itself the gargantuan task of providing the opportunity for all of its citizens to burgeon out all that was within them? Has any other major country ever completely adopted the lofty ideal that a man ought to be judged on what he was or could be rather than on the accident of birth and station? Has any other country ever offered, through one democratizing institution, so much hope for all of its citizens?

What made the United States unique, what brought the immigrants flocking by the millions was the message of opportunity, the idea that the son of a tenant farmer or a mill hand could become a captain of industry or - even - President of the country. It was heady stuff almost 200 years ago, and it is still heady stuff today.

That idea sometimes exceeded the reality is unimportant. What is

important is the institution which gave credence to that ideal, and that institution was and is the public school, supported by all, open to all.

That institution took of the children of many lands and many languages and welded them into the strongest nation the world has ever known. That institution was the germinative influence, the wellspring, which marked this country's march to greatness. While other nations took for themselves the task of educating the elite, the aristocrat, the "ruling class," America educated a nation.

That private schools played a part in that education process, no one would deny. That comparison of an individual private school with a single public school often finds the public school lacking, no one would deny. That the public schools have often failed and fallen far short of the ideal, certainly no one would deny.

But private schools, instant or otherwise, are not the answer to the educational problems of this state, this region. A private school, or a system of private schools, must be selective and restrictive - on economic grounds if no other. The private school - over the long haul - cannot meet the needs of the poor, the forgotten.

And neither can the public schools if they are to be left with only the poor and the black. Community leaders can't be expected to show the same concern for the financial needs of the public schools if their own children are in private schools. If we allow ourselves to be once again stampeded into establishing two school systems - separate and unequal - slow starvation may be the lot of the public school.

And make no mistake about it. We will all pay a terrible price if we allow this to happen.

By Glenn Keever in
 "North Carolina Education"



Eclipse--To See Or On TV That Is The Question

By Mrs. Laurie Telfair

Saturday is the day for the big show. Don't miss it or you'll have to wait until July 1972 and then go to Alaska to see another total solar eclipse.

Now, "see" is a bad choice of words here - maybe "experience" would be better. Because it seems that even though we'll be right in the zone for viewing the phenomenon, we can't really look at it. Looking directly at the sun is very dangerous, the National Commission on Blindness says.

The light rays are blocked out during an eclipse but the heat isn't so the unwary viewer can get a sunburned retina by looking directly at an eclipse. The retina, or back of the eye, isn't sensitive to pain, so they say, so a victim can suffer permanent damage before he knows it.

Anyway, this leaves the rather unsatisfying alternatives of going inside and watching the eclipse on television while it is taking place just outside or else going outside and standing back to the sun while focusing a shadow of the eclipse onto a white cardboard through a pinhole.

Of course, anyone who has a telescope with special eclipse-viewing lenses can safely use it to view the eclipse. However, a regular telescope or a camera are both very dangerous as they intensify the sun's heat.

So there you are. Take your choice between shadows on cardboard or television. Or you could just ignore the whole thing and turn on the light for the few minutes it is dark.

All this will take place at 1:38 p. m. Eastern Standard Time Saturday, March 7. The sun will be eclipsed by the moon which will pass between the earth and the sun, blocking our view of the sun.

A halo of light, called a corona, will appear around the sun at that time.

The shadow of the moon as it comes between earth and sun moves across the earth at speeds ranging from 1,100 to 5,000 miles an hour, depending on where it touches the earth.

This leaves an eclipse path that is never any wider than 167 miles although a partial eclipse may be seen in areas outside the total eclipse path.

The longest duration for a solar eclipse is 7 minutes 40 seconds with the longest eclipse in modern times occurring in June, 1955, which lasted 7 minutes 7.8 seconds. The eclipse Saturday will last about 3½ minutes.

Eclipses occur in cycles. Those in the same series will happen every 18 years 11 1/3 days but they will not necessarily occur in the same part of the earth as the previous one in the series.

The next eclipses that may be seen in the United States will occur on July 10, 1972 in Alaska and on Feb. 26, 1979 in the Pacific northwestern U. S.

**STORIES
 BEHIND
 WORDS**

by
 William S. Penfield

Harum-Scarum

The adjective "harum-scarum," which means wild or reckless, comes from a hunting term.

Hunting hares, or rabbits as they are called in America, with dogs is an old sport. The dog's persistent chasing of a hare led to the adoption of the verb "to hare," meaning to chase or harass.

The verb resulted in the colloquial "hare 'em and scare 'em," meaning to harass and worry some animal or person. "Have 'em and scare 'em" evolved into the adjective "harum-scarum" which described the plight of someone so harassed. By extension it acquired the figurative meaning of my wild or reckless behavior.

Hitch

We often hear a delay or temporary setback in a course of action described as a "hitch in one's plans."

The allusion is to the gait of a horse that has suddenly become lame.

"Hitch," which had the synonymous forms of "hotch" and "hutch" in Middle English, used to have the meaning of moving in a jerky manner.

The word was used specifically to describe the action of a horse - traveling at a smooth gait - that picks up a stone in a hoof, or in some other way becomes lame, and starts limping.

By extension "hitch" acquired the meaning of any impediment to a smooth course of action.

Double-Cross

"Double-cross" originated in the cant of the underworld, but it was popularized in the sport of boxing.

To "cross" someone was to work some dishonest scheme on him. Two or more persons sometimes teamed up to rob a person. Sometimes the one who made off with the money kept it for himself. This was called a "double-cross," because he "crossed" the ones with whom he had conspired to rob the victim.

In boxing, "double-cross" denoted a situation in which a fighter conspired with gamblers to lose a fight, but changed his mind and won it.

**Puppy
 Creek
 Philosopher**

Dear Editor:

According to an article I read in a newspaper last night which I'd picked up in town earlier in the day while I was trying to find a good used battery for my car which I'm tired of parking on a hill so I can start the motor without pushing, oh it's all right in dry weather but in wet weather you wind up at the bottom of the hill with the motor running but the wheels spinning, my pasture isn't paved, at any rate, according to this article, some world experts on economics have come up with a proposal to the United Nations on solving the problems of poor countries.

They proposed a world-wide sales tax on certain luxury items, with the money then to be distributed to poor nations. They said this tax would apply on those goods "the possession of which is indicative of the attainment of a relatively high standard of living by the purchaser."

I read the list of things and included are television sets and automobiles.

I'm afraid those world-wide economic experts haven't looked beyond the driveway or the outside antenna if they believed that owning a car or a T. V. set is proof you've reached a relatively high standard of living.

It seems to me they ought to try to figure out some other standard, say like owning a private swimming pool and a personal airplane, although you'd find if you checked closely enough a good many of those are mortgaged.

Cars and television sets aren't luxury items in this country. Bread and meat are. I'm against the United Nations taxing my car and television set but I'll meet them half way. They can tax my airplane as soon as I get one.

Yours faithfully,
 J. A.

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

Writes a friend from Georgia:

"I was present at a meeting of the Kiwanis Club the other night and heard this story. If you are ever toastmaster at such an occasion you might like to use it.

"Clarence Buddington Kelland was master of ceremonies at a large dinner where there were to be eight or ten speakers. Kelland knew what he was up against. As he stood up to open the talk-fest he had a slip of paper in his hand.

"Gentlemen," he said, "the obvious duty of a toastmaster is to be so terribly dull that the succeeding speakers will appear brilliant by contrast."

"The men who were to follow him chuckled delightedly.

"I've looked over this list, however," Kelland continued, "and I don't believe I can do it!"

"The speakers stopped chuckling and the diners roared."

In the front window of a house in a town in eastern North Carolina where the houses are very close together, there was posted a card bearing three words:

PIANO FOR SALE
 The next morning after that sign was posted, another was seen in a window of the house next door, with just one word on it:

HURRAH

In the book, "An Honorable Titan," Gerald Johnson mentions an incident in the life of Adolph Ochs which is worth more than passing notice. When Ochs proceeded with the fulfillment of a dream in the

erection of the Times Building at Longacre Square in New York City, now called Times Square, it was necessary for him to borrow money. A loan was negotiated with a large life insurance company. A few years later circumstances required that the loan be repaid upon very short notice.

Mr. Ochs was in a predicament, for the amount was \$300,000 and that is no small sum. He did not know where to turn, since there would not be time to borrow from another lending institution. In his anxiety he went to a friend to whom he related the situation and asked if he could advise him what to do. The friend listened sympathetically, and at the close of Mr. Ochs's statement, smiled, drew a check for \$300,000 and handed it to Mr. Ochs. In due time Mr. Ochs repaid the loan.

Mr. Johnson goes on to tell the sequel, which is the more interesting part of the story. He knew the name of the man who had helped Mr. Ochs - a man of prominence - and asked him, after the death of Mr. Ochs, to allow his name to be used in the book in the recital of the incident. The man laughed and said no, he did not wish his name to enter into it. But, he said, Mr. Ochs fully returned the obligation, for when the friend in after years was caught in a stock market jam which threatened to wipe him out, Mr. Ochs called at his office and put into his hands securities worth much more than \$300,000 to tide him over the crisis.

Sign in front of a filling station at Kinston:
HONEST PETE?
 Yes, the question mark is part of the sign. We're still puzzling over it.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues

DR. MELTON - A recent night we attended the District Eight meeting of the State School Board Association held at Union Pines High School in Moore County. Dr. James Melton, assistant State Supt. of Public Instruction was the principal speaker of the occasion. He is sold on the pilot kindergarten schools in the state, saying that in his opinion the kindergarten schools for the five - year old children provided more for the money than the 12th grade for the upper classmen. In other words I take it that if we couldn't have both the kindergartens and the 12th grade which in reality makes 13 grades, that it would be better to lower the entrance to 5 - year olds rather than to the 6 - year olds as is now the law and let them get started soon and complete their high school training a year earlier.

In his talk he was certainly not advocating giving up the 12th grade but he believes that the public pilot kindergarten schools - there are eight of them in the state now, are proving themselves and pointing the right way.

We regard Dr. Melton as a solid educator.

JJ DINNER - Democratic party leaders from all over North Carolina from Murphy to Manteo will converge on Raleigh and the Sir Walter Hotel in particular this Saturday, March 7 for the annual Jefferson - Jackson Day Dinner.

With no statewide exciting primary race on docket this year more talk than usual may well be towards the 1972 gubernatorial sweepstakes.

MOORE VOTERS - The voters of Moore County gave a thunderous "no" to any increase in property taxes last week when they voted almost 5 to 1 against increasing the county's 4½ cent tax to 12 cents for the upkeep and maintenance of Sandhills Community College. 1970 will hardly find any candidates running for office advocating an increased property tax or an increase in any other tax in Moore County.

Its pretty clear that the voters in general are disturbed about many things that are going on, particularly so in regard to taxes and inflation and when taxes or a bond vote comes up, unless it is for an essential like water needs or fire protection it is likely to meet a chilly reception at the

ballot box.

TREES - Midland Road, the beautiful tree-lined six-mile link between Southern Pines and Pinehurst fell victim to the woodman's axe a day last week when a group of State Highway workers rushed in one morning and cut down 108 tall pines before the cutting could be halted. Pines line the outside of the road and were planted in the median by the Kiwanis club in the 1920's. The outcry of the neighborhood people recalls George Pope Morris' "Woodman, Spare that Tree" which goes like this:

Woodman, spare that tree
 Touch not a single bough!
 In youth it sheltered me,
 And I'll protect it now.

LEGISLATIVE RACES - A number of hot legislative races appear to be in the offing before the May 2 Democratic primary.

In the Second Senatorial District a hot fight appears to be shaping up between Senator E.J. Gurganus of Williamson and former Senator Ashley Futrell, Washington, N. C., newspaper publisher. There are five counties in the district with one senator to nominate and elect.

In the 19th senatorial district composed of Davidson, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond and Scotland a contest is already on between Charles B. Deane, Jr., of Rockingham and Jack Klass of Lexington. Both are young lawyers. Thus far Wm. P. Saunders of Southern Pines is without opposition in the district for Seat No. 1. Deane and Klass are out for No. 2 now held by Dr. Wm. D. James who has declined to seek renomination.

In Richmond County a hot race appears to be in the making between Rep. John Covington and former Rep. Tom Hunter. Both have defeated the other in races for the House. Hunter is an insurance representative and Covington is a banker, and both are from Rockingham. The County has one seat in the House, and Richmond is regarded as strongly Democratic.

MARCH 7 - In history March 7 is a red-letter day for more reasons than one - and March 7, 1970 will add to that list with North Carolina as a special focal point when the solar eclipse takes place. We hope people will not remember the day due to damage done to their eyes by taking proper precaution.

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

March 1, 1945

Lt. Eldred Helton, who was previously reported missing in action over Germany since December 17, is now a prisoner in Germany, according to a message received through the Red Cross by his mother, Mrs. Mary Helton. Lt. Helton was co-pilot on a B-24 and went overseas the latter part of last year.

Sgt. James W. Greene, who is stationed at Langley Field, Va., spent nearly a week here with relatives and friends.

Thomas Neill McLaughlin of Raeford was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army of the United States on Feb. 10, upon completion of the officer candidate course at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H.C. McLaughlin of Raeford.

One night last week Arch Tapp got in his pickup, stepped on the starter, and heard the fan making a lot of noise. Investigating, he got his flashlight and raised the hood. The wind blew out what looked like a hat full of hair. Three days later his cat came home with most of her hair gone.

Dr. Horace M. Baker.

administrative head and chief surgeon at Baker Sanatorium in Lumberton, died last week at the age of 57.

Chairman H. L. Gatlin, Jr. of the Hoke County Red Cross War Fund Drive, reports that the first check was brought in last week by Ira Newton of the Antioch community.

Miss Luey Glenn Gill's home room has a new coat of paint. The work was done by Harold Gillis, a member of the class.

On Wednesday afternoon, February 28, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Flavius Culbreth kept open house from 5:00 until 8:00 o'clock, during which time their friends called to congratulate them, this being their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

D. Scott Poole comments in "People's Medley" that "Americans are making free of their freedom of speech, as is plainly seen in the daily wrangles in Washington, and even nearer by."

15 years ago

March 3, 1955

Starting the first of March the Town of Raeford took steps to keep a full time fireman on duty at all times

with the employment of Edgar R. Brooks, who will share the duties with Vance Wiggins. The step will save Raeford property owners an estimated \$10,000 yearly in insurance premiums.

Younger Snead, Jr., was awarded the Eagle Scout badge in a ceremony at Hoke High School last Thursday night.

The local plant of Robbins Mills became Amerotron last week as Textron, American Woolen and Robbins Mills were merged to form Textron American.

5 years ago

March 4, 1965

An outbreak of flu in Hoke County is nearing epidemic proportions, according to health officials, but a survey of local schools indicates the outbreak may be abating in some sections.

Mrs. Elen (W.E.) Willis was employed by the county board of commissioners Monday as assistant home economics agent.

A. D. Borelli, former employee at Raeford Worsted Plant, has been named the year's outstanding citizen by the Chamber of Commerce at Drake's Branch Va.