

The News - Journal



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PAUL DICKSON Publisher-Editor
SAM C. MORRIS General Manager
LAURIE TELFAIR Reporter
MRS. PAUL DICKSON Society Editor

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1970

Saturday, May 2: the nature of the duty

By Paul Dickson

The presence on the ballot for the May 2 Democratic Primary of a total of six black and Indian candidates for seats on the Hoke County board of commissioners and the Hoke County board of education seems to be creating quite a lot of conversation and some little excitement. This is not surprising, since it is a new development here, but some of the areas of excitement and some of the reasons are rather interesting and might bear a little objective discussion, if such is possible.

To take one of the statements of one of these candidates at the face value shouldn't prove too difficult: "We're not running against anybody. We're giving the black and Indian residents a chance for greater participation in their government."

We can take it at face value because seeking and holding public office and taking part in government selection and operation are perfectly logical steps in the march to equality, and this march has already gone so far that a man doesn't even have to wear the label of "militant liberal" (in all quarters, at least) to state with conviction that all of us must have equal opportunity, in all directions.

It is an obvious fact, too, that to some degree, all black and Indian residents of Hoke County will gain dignity by having members of their races in public, official, respected positions. It is our assertion that the white race in Hoke County will also gain in dignity and stature by having them there.

The quoted statement that blacks and Indians are not receiving "all the benefits that we should receive because we are not truly represented," would have to be accepted as inherently true also, although the lack of recent specifics on this must be noted.

As to the concern which undoubtedly exists among some whites as to what

will happen if non - whites get on these boards, and the equal concern and determination among some non - whites that a non - white, regardless of qualification, should be on them, let's just stop and think a minute.

We believe the fact that some of the candidates are better qualified for the jobs they seek than are others cannot be debated successfully, and that almost no one would even dispute it. We further believe that some of the white candidates are better qualified - by background, temperament, judgment, fairness, intelligence, etc. - than are others; further that some of the non - white candidates for the same reasons are better qualified than others, that some of the non - white candidates are better qualified than some of the white candidates, and that some of the white candidates are better qualified than some of the non - white one.

It is undeniably true that in the past some very poorly qualified persons have been elected to and have held offices all the way from Hoke County to the U.S. Senate - and many people would say even higher - and our town and county and state and nation keep rocking along, and the people eventually get around to throwing the sorry ones out and electing better.

So the possibility that a poorly qualified person will be elected does not become an impending catastrophe, although it should concern every voter, and it leads us to the inevitable conclusion of these thoughts.

This conclusion would have to be what it has been at every election in every county from the beginning: Our duty, to ourselves, our county, state and nation, and to our posterity, is to appraise the candidates for each office honestly and vote for those whom we feel to be the best qualified.

We believe our country, our children and our consciences will fare better if we follow this course.

'But what about 19-year-old fathers who make computers, go to night school and were Dr. Spock babies?'



Life After Sixty-five Has Its Do's And Don'ts

By Laurie Telfair

The senior citizens of North Carolina will be celebrating the month of May as Senior Citizen Month. Miss Josephine Hall, advisor to the senior citizen's clubs here, brought in some information from the Governor's Coordinating Council on Aging.

There are about 379,000 residents of North Carolina who are 65 years of age or older. In the ten years since 1960, the senior citizen population has increased by one-third.

Miss Hall listed some suggestions for facing old age: Don't let your attitudes harden like cement. Life is a constant change; old ways of thinking and doing things are not necessarily the best.

Don't anchor yourself to the past. It is so easy to criticize today's children and idealize good old days. True, it isn't perfect today. There are dangers, social dislocations. But things were worse in the past. There was the religious breakdown after the Civil War, the Panic of '73. Criminals were everywhere - Disease was rampant.

Don't be a hypochondriac. Don't bore everyone with an aches and pains recitation.

Don't ever completely retire, if you can help it. Find some work. Develop hobbies. Get into community activities.

Don't give in to loneliness. Talk with others. Study history, current events, bible courses. Perfect skill in your favorite hobby.

Try to keep your capacity for wonder. Marvel over nature and keep in touch with new things, new people, and new ideas.

Keep on being creative. Some of our best writers and artists produced their best works in their 70's and 80's.

Keep trying new things. Life is not measured by length. Life has depth, breadth, intensity. Life is dynamic, not static. Strive for a useful, influential life and the result will be a

happy one. Keep in touch with people. The time to start is in the middle years.

Develop a philosophy of life that will help over the rough spots on the road of life. Be yourself. This is not easy at any age. Abandon pretense. Put self-honesty into daily practice.

The Senior Citizens Charter, drafted at the 1960 White House Conference on Aging, listed these rights and responsibilities for older people:

1. The right to be useful.
2. The right to obtain employment, based on merit.
3. The right to freedom from want in old age.
4. The right to a fair share of the community's recreational, educational and medical resources.
5. The right to obtain decent housing suited to the needs of later years.
6. The right to the moral and financial support of one's family so far as is consistent with the best interest of the family.
7. The right to live independently, as one chooses.
8. The right to live and to die with dignity.
9. The right of access of all knowledge as available on how to improve the later years of life.

The obligations of older citizens were also outlined:

1. The obligation of each citizen to prepare himself to become and resolve to remain active, alert, capable, self-supporting and useful so long as health and circumstances permit, and to plan for ultimate retirement.
2. The obligation to learn and apply sound principles of physical and mental health.
3. The obligation to seek and develop potential avenues of service in the years after retirement.
4. The obligation to make available the benefits of his

experience and knowledge. 5. The obligation to endeavor to make himself adaptable to the changes added years will bring.

6. The obligation to attempt to maintain such relationships with family, neighbors and friends that will make him a respected and valued counselor throughout his later years.

Finally, a prayer which Miss Hall clipped from The Health Bulletin, which sums up some of the ideas above.

"Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and will some day be old. Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs.

"Make me thoughtful, but not moody - helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

"Keep me free from the recital of endless details - give me wings to get to the point.

"Seal my lips on my many aches and pains. They are increasing and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

"I ask for Grace enough to listen to tales of others' pains. Help me to endure them with patience.

"Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I might be mistaken.

"Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old human is one of the crowning works of the Devil.

"Help me to extract all possible fun out of life. There are so many funny things around us and I do not want to miss any of them - Amen."

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

Recently we went into an industrial plant in Greensboro and couldn't help being impressed by the sign the company had in front of an enclosure in which NO

ADMITTANCE FOR EMPLOYEES ONLY

Which, according to the way we read it, means employees only are not admitted.

Here comes Mr. O. F. McCrary of N. C. State University with some more puzzles:

1. A man goes one mile at the rate of 20 miles an hour, and another mile at the rate of 30 miles an hour. What was his average rate of speed for the two miles? (If you say 25 miles, you're wrong.)
2. What number, multiplied by 3 more than itself, will give you 180?
3. Suppose you're traveling by train from Raleigh to New York. In which berth - upper or lower - would you travel the greater distance, and why?

Near Asheville, a tourist home with a sign outside - "Comfort Inn." And, about a hundred yards away, another tourist home that evidently had decided not to be outdone, because it had a sign out in front: "Restful Inn."

We used to do a radio broadcast on Saturday mornings asking people on the streets of Raleigh questions. It is sometimes difficult to make folks talk over the microphone. Occasionally, you'll find somebody who loosens right up, but for the most part there's a lot of hesitation and mumble.

Sort of like a broadcast that we did from the Wilson

tobacco market a number of years ago. We persuaded several farmers to come up to the microphone and say a few words. There was one old gentleman who was hanging back. In order to make him lose self-consciousness, we greeted him rather effusively: "Well, well - Mr. Adams, isn't it?"

"No, sir," he replied. "My name's Hill."

"Oh, yes; of course, George Hill."

"No sir - Frank Hill."

"Why, of course. How stupid of me. My old friend Frank Hill of Wilson County."

"No, sir - Johnston County."

"That's right. I've got you placed now, Frank Hill of Johnston County. And how's your wife?"

"I ain't married."

Following which somebody else besides Mr. Hill began to feel self-conscious.

In an old issue of the "Old North State," published in Salisbury in 1866, Lewis Hanes, the editor, uses as a filler: "The first institution vouchsafed to our race was the Sabbath; the next, marriage. So give your first thought to heaven, the next to your wife."

According to a census taken July, 1858 of the city of Raleigh, there were at that time 620 families residing in the municipal bounds.

This same census gave Raleigh a population of 4,235 - of which 2,507 were whites and 1,728 blacks.

It is said that the British troops under Ferguson on the way to King Mountain found a creek called Cane Creek so crooked that in marching four miles they had to cross the stream 19 times.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues

PRIMARY ... For the first time in many years Democratic voters will go to the polls Saturday without at least one statewide contest of considerable interest.

In Saturday's primary there is one state-wide contest for a seat on the North Carolina Court of Appeals now held by R. A. (Fred) Hedrick who is being challenged by Superior Court Judge Harry C. Martin of Asheville. Judge Hedrick is from Iredell County. While a seat on the Court of Appeals is a very important office, chances are that only a small percentage of the voting public is familiar with the contest.

However, across the state there are many races for Sheriff and other county and district positions which are attracting considerable local interest.

As we have scanned the newspapers from across the state it appears to be that the main issues is the House and Senate contests center around the legislative retroactive pay bill and their pension bill which they enacted during the 1969 session of the General Assembly; with the tax increases also holding considerable interest.

LEGISLATIVE -- Running for the State House and Senate in many districts entail considerable more work than used to be the case when House seats were confined to a

county and in the senatorial districts there were usually the rotation agreements.

COLLEGE PRESIDENTS -- It seems that we are having right much of a turn - over in college presidents in North Carolina, with three new presidents having been officially inaugurated last week at Saint Andrews, Pfeiffer and Appalachian State University, and within a few days a new president will be inaugurated at Fayetteville State University.

Operating an institution of higher learning on an even-keel in these turbulent times is no weak man's job.

SHAD BAKE -- Last Friday some 400 or more people gathered in Aberdeen for the annual shad bake sponsored by the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad and the Town of Aberdeen. Spark - plug in the social which brings together

top businessmen and politicians from throughout Central North Carolina is Forrest Lockey, president of the A&R Railroad, former Aberdeen Mayor and Highway Commissioner. Jack Taylor, retired manufacturer, is also a top-notch diplomat for the town. At least five possible candidates for governor in 1972 were on hand for the occasion, they being, Highway Chairman Lauch Faircloth, Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham, Dr. Leo M. Jenkins, president of ECU, C&D Director Roy Sowers and Lt. Governor H. Pat Taylor, Jr., to name them alphabetically.

HOUSING -- In North Carolina and in other sections of the nation there is a great need for better housing but in some of the great population centers of the northeast there seems to be plenty of housing but not where the people want it. Describing the "cluster of two - and - three story apartment buildings set on rolling hills and separated by tree-lined streets, lawns, sidewalks and play areas," John Herbers of the N. Y. Times Service says:

"While the nation is undergoing the most critical housing shortage since World War II, structurally sound dwellings in the inner cities are being abandoned in increasing numbers to vandalism and demolition." He listed other cities where the problem of abandonment of housing is as bad if not worse than in the nation's capital. "In New York, officials estimate that 114,000 buildings," he said. Herbers said that "The causes are complex and are intertwined with all the other factors of urban distress, especially the troubles of poor minorities."

"In New York, officials estimate that 114,000 apartments have been lost since 1965 because of the abandonment of the buildings," he said. Herbers said that "The causes are complex and are intertwined with all the other factors of urban distress, especially the troubles of poor minorities."

Reading between the lines we gain the impression that lawlessness has much to do with the thousands of vacated sound apartments along tree-lined streets

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

30 years ago

April 25, 1940
(Note - The News-Journal's files for early May 1945 are not complete, so we will pick up some items from the issues five years earlier, in April and May of 1940, for the next few weeks.)
Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon for Julian S. Johnson, who passed away Tuesday at the age of 47. The service was conducted by the Rev. Watson M. Fairley, pastor of the Raeford Presbyterian Church, assisted by the Rev. E. C. Crawford, The Rev. W. C. Brown and the Rev. E. R. Clegg.

The Williamsport Grays, Class A Eastern League baseball team which trained here for four weeks, left here last Sunday for Sanford, where they were to play the Wilmington, Delaware, team before continuing on their way to Williamsport. J. Roy Chalk, business manager, left last Thursday for Williamsport, and Elmer L. Schuyler, editor of the Williamsport Gazette, who covered the club's spring training for his paper, made the trip up with the team.

Lt. Gov. Wilkins P. Horton, emphasized his interest in agricultural conditions in a Democratic gubernatorial campaign speech here Monday.

Couch "Cap" Clark has gone

to Dover, Delaware, to assume his duties as manager of the baseball team.

Supt. K. A. MacDonald reports that the senior class presented "Pride and Prejudice" to a large and appreciative audience last Friday night. Director was Miss Lillian Marion.

Political announcements include the following candidates for county commissioner: E. R. Pickler, N. H. G. Balfour, T. B. Lester, D. C. Newton, A. K. Stevens, Hector McNeill, Walter Maxwell, Walter L. Gibson; for representative: George Weaver and Laurie McEachern.

A new registration was announced in an advertisement signed by the county board of elections, W. L. Poole as chairman, J. H. Blue and J. T. Robertson, members.

A letter has been distributed to 930 landowners and tenants who have applied for membership in the recently organized Lumber River Electric Membership Cooperative by A. S. Knowles and Josephine Hall, Hoke County farm and home demonstration agents, respectively. The letter is regarding action taken at a meeting of the directors last Thursday.

Bob Covington writes about the contrast he finds in the big

city in "A Tar Heel In New York."

15 years ago

April 28, 1955
Officers of the Raeford Jaycees were installed at the annual banquet Tuesday night by Bill Henderson of Reidsville, State Jaycee president. They are Angus Currie, president, Dave McMillan, vice president, Bud Deibler, secretary, Charles Hostetler, treasurer, Everett Ferrell, corresponding secretary, J. Bion Brewer, director at large, and Peter McLean, retiring president, state director.

Cast of the Hoke High Senior play, "Hobgoblin House" includes Carole Coberly, Carroll Scarborough, Joan McLeod, Faye Dark, Don Tickle, Carson Clippard, Carole Marshall, Grady Butler, Janice Benner, Gerald Wright, Dale Connell and Claudine Hodgins.

Mrs. B. B. Cole, mathematics teacher at Hoke High, said that 15 students had taken part in a math contest at the school with Virginia McNeill winning first place and with Joan Gobeille and Suzanne Cameron in a tie for second.

On Sunday, May 1, at 11:00 a.m., Bishop Walter W. Peele of Laurinburg will preach at Parker Methodist Church.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear Editor: Governments all over the world have been wringing their hands for several years now trying to find some new sources of tax revenue, and consequently I hate to see one come along and get no more attention than one I read about last night.

According to an article in a newspaper that showed up in my mail box by mistake, somebody has proposed a junk tax for worn-out automobiles.

Like it is, he pointed out, when a car has gasped its last some people just leave it where it quit, even on city streets, while other cars wind up in junk piles, offending the eye and rusting away because the metal in them isn't worth the cost of melting again.

This man wants a \$25 junk tax collected when the car is first sold, to be used in getting rid of it when it plays out.

If governments are alert they'll hop on this idea at once. It has limitless possibilities.

If they can collect a \$25 junk tax on a car, why not on other things too? Say \$10 for worn-out television sets, \$8 for refrigerators, \$2 apiece for tires, 10 cents for tractors (this may sound low but how many tractors have you seen abandoned on city streets?) \$2 for sofas (it's a fact, somebody threw one out on the road by this Bermuda grass farm a while back), and possibly \$100,000 for battleships, \$3 for Congressmen and two-bits for columnists. I won't

estimate the tax on editors. As for bottles and tin cans, I understand this country is throwing away 250 billion of them a year. One cent junk tax per can or bottle would be 250,000,000,000 times 1 cent which comes out either 250million or 2 and one-half billion dollars, one or the other, figures like that don't mean much to me, I get mixed up when you go past 3 zeros, but you can see we're talking about big money.

With that much additional tax money, think how many more miles of highway we could build and how much more room that'd give for throwing cans out.



Yours faithfully,
J. A.