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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1971

What's Happening In County Government?

(This article is written this week by T.B. Lester, Jr., County Manager, for the Editor Paul Dickson who is out of town for a couple of weeks.)

The Editor in a telephone conversation last week, just prior to departure on his annual winter vacation, hit me with the idea of writing his weekly column. He stated that I would be allowed to get anything I wanted to comment on off my chest.

If there is any real gripe regarding the things that have been written about County Government over the years it would probably be that at times there have been too many insinuations and not enough research or facts presented. We realize that this probably applies to both sides of the fence.

It is not my intention to use this opportunity to present any gripes, but rather to inform your readers regarding the changes that are taking place in County Government.

Several months ago Governor Bob Scott issued an Executive Order requiring that Counties be banded together into Regions and Hoke County was placed to Region "N" along with Robeson County, Scotland County, and Bladen County. This requirement was brought about by the fact that the Federal Government requires review and approval of all Federal programs by an organization representing at least 150,000 people. Region "N" consisting of the four counties and all the cities and towns therein have now formed a Council of Governments (COG) and are in the process of hiring an Executive Director. Within the Region are two other organizations: (1) A Regional Comprehensive Health Planning Council now in the process of being formed. (2) Lumber River Criminal Justice Region which has been in operation for some time.

All of the above organizations require Directors and Staffs which have to be financed from tax money. Most of the money for operation will come from the budgets of the Counties and Cities.

The Supreme Court decision regarding the .01 Sales Tax will curtail plans for implementing some of the services needed in the County. Plans are going forward to secure land to provide a Land-fill operation where citizens can carry waste material for disposal.

Revenue Sharing is very much in the news at present. The meeting held in Atlanta recently on revenue sharing drew such a large crowd of interested official that only about half of the people got into the auditorium where the Vice-President was to speak. Revenue Sharing could be a help if the price tag is not too high and it is distributed to the right places. I understand that distribution is the big question in Congress.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature to implement some of the recommendations of the Tax Study Commission. The following are some of these recommendations that might be of interest.

(1) List Taker System - Each County will decide for itself whether it will use list takers. Heretofore this has been a statutory requirement.

(2) Oath or Affirmation - Taxpayers will be permitted to sign affirmations comparable to those used for income tax purposes. One reason for this and some of the other changes is that a good many counties are using the mail listing method.

(3) Use of Officers and Agents in Listing - Business firms will not be permitted to list through agents - their abstracts must be signed by a principal officer of the firm.

(4) Criminal Penalty for Failure to List - The maximum penalty for failing to list property, for concealment of property, and for aiding and abetting the concealment of property, has been increased from \$50 fine or thirty days imprisonment to a \$500 fine or six months imprisonment.

(5) Discounts and Interest - Discounts for prepayment of taxes will no longer be required, but any taxing unit desiring to grant discounts may establish its own schedule, subject to the approval of the State Board of Assessment. Interest for failure to pay taxes on time will be increased from 1% for the first month plus 1/2% per month thereafter to 2% for the first month plus 1% per month thereafter.

(6) Tax Collection Calendar - The tax due date will be advanced from first Monday in October to the first day of September. This means that interest will begin on the first day of January rather than February as now provided and will be 2% for January and 1% for each month thereafter on current years taxes.

Sincerely,
T.B. Lester, Jr.

STORIES BEHIND WORDS

By William S. Penfield

Lynch

Names

In the late 1700s a band of criminals preyed on a frontier settlement in Virginia. Finally, the settlers organized to put an end to the crime wave.

The settlers chose as their leader William Lynch, a former soldier. Under Lynch's leadership the group caught many of the criminals and meted out what it considered appropriate punishment.

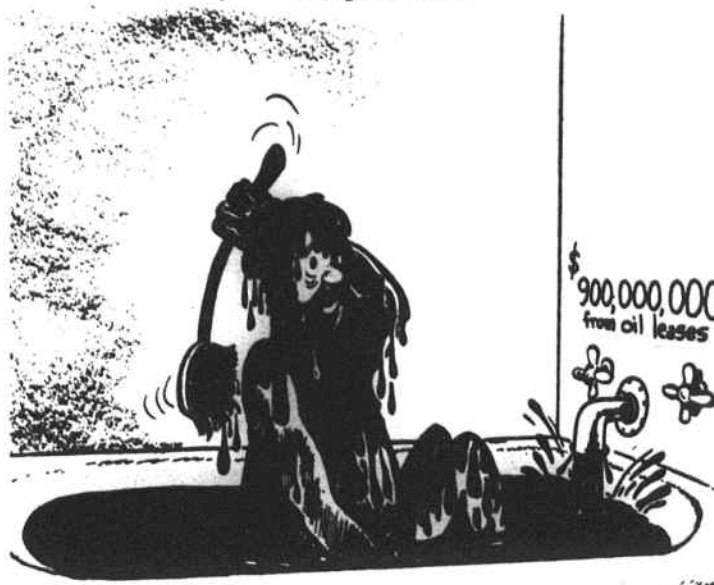
After a few years the area was rid of the criminals, and the settlers' organization was disbanded. But the group's disregard of legal procedure gave rise to the term "to lynch," meaning to punish a person for a real or alleged crime without due process of law.

Distinctive personal characteristics were responsible in many cases for the names originally given to people.

The name Emmet, which means ant, is an example. Some man who was noted for his industriousness was given the name because he was compared to the ant, which is noted as a hard worker.

Emerson, which is of Old English origin, is just one of the many names that are the result of slurred pronunciation. The name originally was "Emory's son." This was contracted to Emoryson, which through faulty pronunciation emerged as Emerson.

'What pollution?'



ALASKA



By LAURIE TELFAIR

We Went To Town To See The Circus

We drove to Greensboro on Valentine's day to see the circus. Oh yes, I know the circus is coming to Fayetteville in March, but I didn't know that when I made certain promises to the children. Anyway, it really isn't so very far to Greensboro.

What do you say about a circus that hasn't already been said? That it was exciting, lavish, thrilling? It was. But more than that, it had that very special quality that of extraordinary human accomplishments make a circus different from just a traveling extravaganza. Not every circus I've seen has that.

People approach circuses in different ways. Some can't stand them and won't attend. Others can take it or leave it. There are others who love the circus and attend at almost every opportunity. Beyond that, of course, are the circus nuts, but they, like all true believers, are beyond the ken of ordinary fans and are better left to others like them.

My days of circus watching go back to early childhood. I dimly remember attending the big Ringling Brothers circus under the big top, before they did away with the tent. It was in the fall, as I remember, and was set up in a muddy field. There was sawdust over the mud in places and mud over the sawdust in others. It was cold, and past my bedtime and there were more rings than I could watch at once. Despite all that, it is still a pleasant memory so I must have enjoyed it.

After that, the circus moved indoors to the auditorium and the seats were better and the temperature more comfortable. Indoor circuses have eliminated the sideshow, its true, but carnivals and fairs fill that gap nicely for sideshow addicts.

What fascinates me most about circuses are the people in them. I once dreamed of being a performer on the Spanish web, that long rope used in aerial acrobatics, and I practiced faithfully, three feet above the ground, all one summer. I think I was inspired by the movie "The Greatest Show on Earth."

I still like the aerial acts the best. The muscular strength and coordination required to perform those feats high above the arena floor are amazing. We had seats this time directly in front of and nearly under the tight-rope. It was a good place. During one stunt, he nearly fell and saved himself by grabbing the wire as he toppled off - a heartstopping moment. After he got back on the wire, he capitalized on his close call and got a good round of applause from the audience. Maybe it was all part of the act, but I'd rather think it wasn't. He ended his act by walking slowly down a steeply inclined wire - a muscular feat anyone who has ever done a deep knee bend can begin dimly to appreciate. His tight-rope act was, I think, my favorite of the afternoon.

There were the usual animal acts and a few unusual ones as well. I really don't like animal acts in the circus. The bears are especially sad. They look pathetic and clownlike, shuffling along, muzzled, through their tricks. Bears were meant for more noble things.

One act features two elephants and a tiger. Rudyard Kipling assures readers in The Jungle Book that tigers and elephants are deadly enemies, but even knowing that, it was startling to watch that huge striped cat attempt to eat an elephant. He was supposed to be merely riding on its back, but every now and again, the tiger would begin to try to bite through the saddle and elephant hide.

Aside from occasional nips, the tiger and the elephant went through their paces with precision.

Another thrill at the circus is watching for mistakes. Because so many superhuman things are done rather routinely, it is reassuring to the ordinary mortals in the audience when things go

harmlessly wrong. Thus, when the acrobats missed a four-person tower and the young man who was to have landed triumphantly atop his three compatriots toppled unhurt to the floor, the audience gave him more applause than they did to the two troops who did the stunt successfully in the other rings.

Likewise, the "perfectly-trained" Liberty horses were a delight because they nearly had a mutiny in two rings and in the center ring three of them got into a kicking, squealing horse fight. The young ladies directing the show lost most of their control over their charges and stood helplessly in the center until the animals had batted it out. It made a terrific finale.

The kids had a fine time too. Oh, they liked the clowns and the trapeze artists and the pretty costumes. But what they really liked were the soft drinks, the popcorn, peanuts, toys and gimmicks they bought from the vendors who paraded by in a never-ending stream. That, too, is part of the circus.

John winds up this little bit of philosophy with the following poem by George Klingbe:

"God broke the years to hours and days,
That hour by hour
And day by day,
Just going on a little way,
We might be able all along
To keep quite strong.
Should all the weights of life
Be laid across our shoulders, and the future, rife
With woe and struggle, meet us face to face
At just one place
We could not go;
Our feet would stop. And so
God lays a little on us every day
And never, I believe, on all the way
Will burdens bear so deep
Or pathways lie so steep,
But we can go, if by God's power
We only bear the burden of the hour."

It doesn't make any difference what newspaper turns up out here, every one of them will have an article or two about the dire necessity of finding a new source of tax revenue.

All levels of government are desperate for new tax money, cities, towns, counties, states, Washington. State governments alone right now are hunting ways to raise over six billion dollars in new revenue. That's 15 per cent more than the 48 billion they raised last year. In Washington the story is even worse.

I have been wracking my brain to find a new source of government revenue, knowing that if you leave it up to most office-holders they'll just come up with an increase in the old taxes, apparently believing that for example raising the sales tax a penny or so constitutes original thinking, or maybe cutting the property tax rate 2 per cent and raising property valuations 50 per cent is a new idea.

But I have actually found a new source of government revenue that won't cost the tax payers a cent. It's simple: charge all office-holders office rent.

You take a Congressman. He's now making \$42,000 a year, plus free postage and free stationery, plus an allowance for travel and telephones, and pays nothing to heat or cool his office or to even have it cleaned up.

Surely he could pay a little office rent. You take say a lawyer and guarantee him \$42,000 a year and he'd be delighted to pay his own office rent. He's doing it now, frequently on less. The same goes for most professions and businesses. I know there are some millionaires in Congress, but I know also there are a lot of Congressmen who're making more in Congress than they could out. Why couldn't they all pay some office rent?

Now I don't know how many office-holders there are throughout this country but it's a pretty good sized figure, and if they all paid office rent you can see the revenue would mount up.

Furthermore, since the people after all are the landlords, whenever office-holders raised their salaries, all we'd have to do to hold our own is raise their rent.

If you think this idea is sound, you promote it. I'm afraid to. I don't want Judge Dupree and President Nixon both mad at me.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

People & Issues

CLIFF BLUE ...

BILLY GRAHAM - The writer was in Raleigh last Thursday, the day the Rev. Billy Graham spoke at the governor's prayer breakfast at the Sir Walter Hotel, and later before a joint session of the N.C. General Assembly. From all comment we heard, Billy, whom we regard as North Carolina's most

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

The other night I was reading some old columns that the late John Bragaw had written for our magazine and came across the following comments that are as useful, if not more so, than at the time they were written:

If one should ask me what I considered the greatest single blessing that a good God vouchsafes to us mortals, His children, I think I could answer quite readily. It might not be the correct answer, but it would be my own answer, worked out from my own experience.

I would not say Health, wonderful as such a gift is. I would not say Friends, indispensable as those are. I would not say Family, or Home, much as love and other blessings are bound up in those two words.

My answer would be: His withholding from us knowledge of what tomorrow is to be.

I think few of us would be able to endure if we knew definitely what lies in the future for us. The pleasant things ahead would lose much of their joy, and the burdens ahead would bear us down before they reached us.

The man or woman who lives one day at a time, borrowing neither joy nor sorrow from the unborn tomorrow, is the stronger to cope with unhappiness and tragedy, and better able to enjoy the full measure of sweetness, by meeting both as they come and when they come.

More than once have I heard men and women express fear of what the coming year may bring. We shall be better off if we do not let that fear take hold of us. In my file of clippings is one I cut out in 1938. The man who wrote it - a man of some prominence, whose word carried weight - dwelt with apprehension upon the prediction that 1940 would bring us a depression far worse than that through which we had lately passed. I saved it because I did not believe the man was right, and I wanted to be able to say, "Now see what you did!" For I am sure that many who read his words looked with fear toward 1940.

John winds up this little bit of philosophy with the following poem by George Klingbe:

"God broke the years to hours and days,
That hour by hour
And day by day,
Just going on a little way,
We might be able all along
To keep quite strong.
Should all the weights of life
Be laid across our shoulders, and the future, rife
With woe and struggle, meet us face to face
At just one place
We could not go;
Our feet would stop. And so
God lays a little on us every day
And never, I believe, on all the way
Will burdens bear so deep
Or pathways lie so steep,
But we can go, if by God's power
We only bear the burden of the hour."

It is an interesting coincidence that the last word spoken by Charles B. Aycock, North Carolina's great apostle of education, was "education."

Death came to Aycock in April, 1912, while he was making an address to the Teachers' Assembly in Montgomery, Alabama. He was seized with a heart attack while speaking, and died on the platform. "Education" was the last word he uttered before he collapsed.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, February 28, 1946

Representative William O. Burgin announced from Washington last Friday that he would not be a candidate for re-election to Congress from the Eighth North Carolina district.

Only three cases were tried in Tuesday's session of Hoke County recorder's court. The session was unique in that there were no defendants charged with cases in which liquor was involved.

RM 2-C Herman Cole has been separated from the Navy after three years of service.

The local Lumber River Electric Membership Corp. has just received bids for construction of 100 miles of "B" project lines with 130 more miles to be added by contract amendments.

From Poole's Medley:

A farmer on the streets remarked a few days ago that he was going to cultivate a few acres of corn to feed his three mules, but he could not cultivate any more crops for want of labor.

outstanding citizen, made an excellent impression on the Tar Heel statesmen.

LIKE HIS DAD - The way Governor Bob Scott came out in behalf of more institutions providing training for doctors in North Carolina before the State Board of Higher Education last Friday was reminiscent of his dad in Kerr Scott's fight for more telephones and rural power lines.

Many people will regard Bob's outspoken statement of January 19 as one of his finest hours since becoming governor and it could in the years to come mean for better health service in the tomorrows for North Carolinians.

His criticism of the University of North Carolina - and Scott being chairman of the Board of Trustees, was reminiscent of the late Kerr Scott's blast at state government agencies during his term as governor.

ROGER KISER - The passing of former State Representative Roger Kiser of Laurinburg removes from life one of North Carolina's most colorful statesmen. Roger Kiser was elected by the people of Scotland County, but he served well the people of North Carolina.

Commenting on Roger Kiser's passing, his hometown newspaper, The Laurinburg Exchange said: "Mr. Kiser not only extolled the virtues of the common man, he lived the life of one. Sham and frills were not a part of his makeup. As a legislator, he never wavered from the foundation which contained his dearest personal values. He refused to compromise on principle. He was an ethical man and made a lasting and beneficial contribution to his community and his state because of it. The legend of friends and admirers left behind attest to this fact."

OPINION POLL - Following last week's report of results in a Public Opinion Poll on national issues and personalities by The Sandhill Citizen and The Robbins Record in Moore County, this week we are listing the results on five questions regarding state issues and personalities. Here they are:

1. Question: Governor Scott has recommended that the School Teachers be given a 10% pay raise. Do you feel that the proposal is: About right; Not enough; Too much.

Answers: About right, 56%; Not enough, 21%; Too much, 23%.
2. Question: A Liquor by the Drink Bill has been introduced in the N.C. General Assembly. Do you: Favor it; Oppose it; Undecided?

Answers: 46% favor it; 39% oppose it; 15% undecided

3. Question: If the law permitted a governor to succeed himself and a contest were on between Democrat Bob Scott and Republican Jim Gardner, for whom would you vote?
Answers: Scott, 55%; Gardner 33%; undecided, 12%.

4. Question: In a contest for the Democratic nomination for Governor of North Carolina for whom would you vote if the election were to be held within two days? On the ballot the names of Hargrove Bowles, H. Pat Taylor, Jr., and Robert Morgan were printed, with a place for write-ins.
Answers: Hargrove Bowles, 8%; Robert Morgan, 63%; H.P. Taylor, Jr., 21%; undecided, 12 percent, with one write-in vote for Beverly Lake.

5. Question: In a contest for the Republican nomination for Governor, if the contest were between Rep. Broyhill, Jim Gardner, Wilmer Mizell and Jim Holshouser, for whom would you vote?
Answers: Broyhill, 17%; Gardner, 45%; Mizell, 6%; Holshouser, 7%; undecided, 24% with one write-in for Charlie Jonas.

In the straw vote 101 ballots were cast. It must be remembered that straw votes like straws in the wind can be blown over, and can only give an indication at a certain time. Tomorrow the wind may be blowing in a different direction.

A great majority of those participating in the straw vote were registered Democrats and members of the white race.

AMM 3-C B.B. Cole is at home on a 15-day furlough after which he will report to Alameda, California.

15 years ago

Thursday, February 23, 1956

Hoke High's girl basketball team defeated Sanford 48 - 47 to give them certain possession of the District one SEAA championship. The team finished the season with a record of 17 victories and one defeat.

Robert M. Cox, 58-year-old carpenter of Raeford, passed away of heart trouble in his sleep at his home here Monday night.

Ernest E. Fridell of Raeford died in Veterans Hospital, Fayetteville on Friday after an illness of about eight months.

Political pot wars as Judge T.O. Moses files for judge.

Mrs. Leo Little, chairman of the Hoke County March of Dimes, reported today that receipts during the week had raised the total of the drive to \$3644.71.