

The News - Journal



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THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1971

Positive stances have paid off

(The article this week is written by D.D. Abernethy, Superintendent of the Hoke County Schools.)

Most of us spend too much time counting our lack of fortunes and do not stop to realize that we have many good attributes. This newspaper has consistently tried to offer constructive criticism and remind us of our worth but we still tend to amplify our problems and needs. Never would I want to turn my back on the problems of Hoke County, but I grow a little weary of hearing of our smallness and lack of this, that and the other. Paul Dickson has often talked of "positive action" and "positive leadership". I concur that we need positive approaches and that we have had positive outlooks and that these positive stances have paid off for this county.

As you would expect, I view our station through the windows of our school system. Almost daily you can read of conflicts between and among students and faculty and public in school districts even within our state. A look behind these fracasos will usually reveal problems that positive actions and fair dealing would have prevented. Your Board of Education has attempted to deal fairly, to anticipate the problems and seek remedies before they become realities and to expect the administrative and teaching staff to do likewise. AS a result of this leadership at the top, the skillful implementation of the programs by the principals, the dedication and hard work by the teachers, and the spirit of cooperation from the students, coupled with the splendid support of the community, the Hoke County School System is a monument to the years of work and development of earlier leaders who helped to foster an educational climate.

From an administrative standpoint, we do not claim perfection. There may be better ways to organize the schools, but we seem to have the best organization with the facilities available. Naturally we will continue to look for ways to improve the organization.

But the organization is not the chief factor in education. An educational system is measured ultimately by the quality of instruction available inside each classroom. We recognize that teachers are having to face new challenges today. Fortunately, the schools of this county realized the teachers would face new problems and under the leadership of the late W.T. Gibson, operated one of the first in-service institutes in the state for teachers studying problems of desegregation. Recently, your teachers have organized their own in-service workshops, one of which is currently in operation. Your teachers are constantly seeking to improve their methods of instruction in order that your children can be even better involved in learning processes. They need your continued support and they need your praise for the work they are doing.

Sometimes when the sea seems a little rough, folks want to jump out of the boat. In this matter of education, the water is deep. It seems to me that the best vehicle for the best and broadest education is still the public school system. I am proud of the school system of this county and will work to make it even better.

D.D. Abernethy

Affluence effluent

The pollutant power of family income, more than the growth of the population itself, will likely determine the state of the environment at the end of this century.

This was the prediction of Herman P. Miller, chief of the United States Census Bureau's population studies. It should help shift the emphasis from merely containing population growth to the need to rethink the priorities and impact of the nation's earning and spending power.

Mr. Miller expects the U.S. population to increase by a third to 280 million by the year 2000. At the same time, however, average family income is expected to more than double from \$9,800 to \$21,000, measured in today's dollars.

More people will be able to buy cars, buy lakeside lots, jazz up their homes with electrical gadgets - all of which grind the environment hard.

We can hope the populace will both moderate their material wants and be willing to spend more of their growing income on environment-saving refinements of their life style.

Already in the auto market such a spending shift is under way: For the first time, more than half of all buyers are taking smaller - than - standard models, with more antipollution equipment. Spending habits will have to undergo a like change in other areas if America is to avoid asphyxiating itself in its own affluence. - *The Christian Science Monitor*

STORIES BEHIND WORDS

By William S. Penfield

Woolgathering

Grazing sheep sometimes will brush against hedges or bushes, which snag patches or tufts of the sheep's wool.

Sheep raisers who wanted to get the maximum amount of wool from their flocks used to send their children out to gather the tufts snagged on bushes. Since the bushes grew haphazardly, the children wandered here and there about the fields in their woolgathering.

A person who did not concentrate, but let his thoughts stray from one thing to another, was likened to a child gathering wool in the fields. Thus, such mental wandering came to be called "woolgathering."

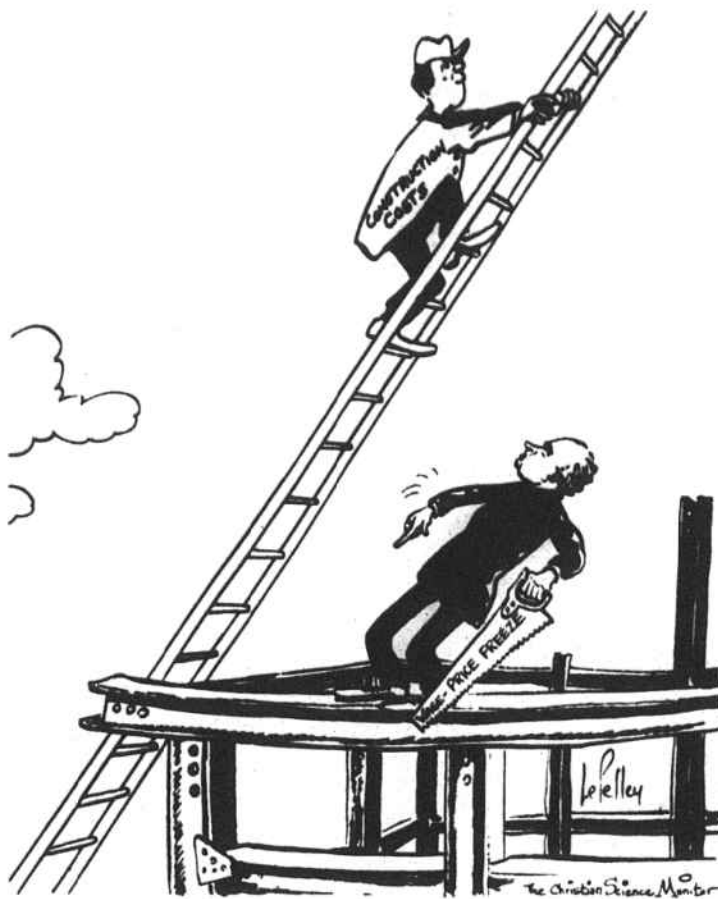
Bungalow

The type dwelling that is called a "bungalow" originated in India. It is generally one story, with a wide porch that sometimes extends around the entire dwelling.

This type house was designed to provide living comfort in a hot, rainy region. The porch and its over hanging eaves protect the windows and doors from sun and rain. The screened windows and doors permit the occupants to take advantage of any breeze.

In Hindustani this type house is called "banga," meaning of Bengal, that region of India where it originated. The British adopted the name and changed it to "bungalow."

'Hey, this is where it's at'



People & Issues

CLIFF BLUE ...

SLAIN STUDENTS -- We are sure that the whole state and people beyond the confines of its borders have been shocked and saddened over the slaying of Jesse

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Guerch

Champion sentence of all time, so far as we're concerned, is the one O.O. McIntyre quoted from the village loafer of his home town: 'I wish I had as much money as I know where the courthouse is.' ...

Worry about this for a moment: If you start counting - one, two, three, four, etc. how far will you have to go before you come across a number with the letter "a" in it? ("And doesn't count"). ...

Dr. J.A. Hunter of Elon College sent us a copy of "My Old Scrapbook" which he has been compiling for years and which contains many interesting items. Among them is this one. See if you can read it:

O, MLE, what XTC
I always feel when UIC
I used to rave of LN'S I'S
4 MA I gave countless sighs,
4 KT, 2, and LNR,
I was a keen competitor;
I want 2B where'er UR
4 UXL them all, by far.

The following little item was written by Mrs. Theo Davis some years ago and appeared in The Zebulon Record. Brings back old memories doesn't it, when times weren't so good and people weren't so extravagant.

Garbage disposal units are wonderful things; and I can imagine the satisfaction in getting rid of all the scraps at once, leaving the kitchen neat as a pin. But even if one should be offered me free, I could never use it without a sense of guilt. For I was brought up to save all the greasy water from washing milk utensils and dishes for the pigs; to save for dogs and cats all bones not put into the soap fat jar; to keep for the cows all shucks, hulb, peelings and cores that were edible for them.

Many's the time Grandma Betsy Power's saving slogan was quoted to me: "It's a sin to waste even what would help to fill a bird's craw." I fancied she meant a humming bird, and used to take a rebellious pleasure in remembering she was not my real grandmother, merely a very distant relative. I still marvel at the actions of those who gather up scraps left from cutting out a garment and throw them into stove or wastebasket.

These persons can also discard half - word clothes and not feel extravagant; can put an old sheet in the ragbag without tearing out the four corners to make a pair of pillowcases; or tearing up an old shirt with no thought of a child's apron. But not me. I was not brought up to it; and have had little chance to depart from my raising. Though our livestock at present consists of a few hens, we have a compost heap; and I save for it. And I make over and contrive uses for remnants till my own family regards it largely as a joke.

Seems as though Mrs. Davis may have found one of the answers to pollution. We are so busy throwing things away, building larger and larger garbage dumps, when we should be trying to make use of these leftovers.

A man calls on you and hands you his card. You read: "JOHN POUGH." To be polite you try to pronounce his name. What will you say? Mr. Po (o as in dough or toe)? Mr. Puf (u as in rough or cuff)? Mr. Poo (aw as in cough or off)? Mr. Poo (oo as in through or too)? Mr. Pou (ou as in bough or doubt)? If you are wise you will say, "How do you pronounce your name, Sir?"

This illustrates the truth that no one can know with certainty how to pronounce an English word which he has only seen written or how to spell a word which he has only heard but never seen written.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, March 7, 1946
Officials of the Hoke County Farm Bureau announced yesterday that plans had been completed for the annual meeting of the Bureau at the army at eight p.m. on March 14 and that Lt. Gov. L.Y. Ballentine would be the speaker at that meeting.

Harry Greene announced yesterday that he had received excellent financial support from all he had approached with his plans to repair the road to the old swimming hole on Rockfish creek about one mile east of Raeford and to have the place itself graded and cleaned out.

The Board of Education and Commissioners inspected the new Upchurch school building and expressed themselves as being well pleased with

Allen McBane, 20 - year old N.C. State University student and his girl friend, Miss Patricia Ann Mann, 20 - year old student at Watts Hospital in Durham.

Beastly slaying of this nature lead people who may be softening in their attitude towards capital punishment to move back to the tenets of the Old Testament where we are told that "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

While capital punishment has for all practical purposes been eliminated in North Carolina we feel that the slaying of these two fine young people in the bloom of life will cause conscientious people all over North Carolina to back - step inclinations which they may have had towards abolishing by statute capital punishment.

VIETNAM -- Vietnam was Lyndon Johnson's Waterloo, and it is beginning to look as if Richard Nixon may soon begin to realize that his policies may well land him in the same quagmire which caused his predecessor not to seek re - election in 1968.

We have long felt that the U.S. participation on Vietnam was an awful mistake. We do not believe that the Saigon government has any more appreciation or regard for democracy and the rights of others than the Hanoi government.

Since Lyndon Johnson stepped up the tempo of the war in 1965 we have been told from month to month that we were winning or that things are working out according to plan.

Many people feel that we should direct our efforts towards safeguarding, insofar as possible, our boys who are prisoners of war, step - up our disengagement, bring our boys home and leave the Vietnam civil war to the Vietnamese. That's what France did after many years of fighting, and we suspect that in the end that will be the U.S. course.

ZOO -- "Zoo Lands On Purgatory" reads a headline in the Randolph Guide. "Purgatory Mountain" in Randolph county is in the vicinity of Asheboro. We believe that people over the state will in general applaud "Purgatory Mountain" as a good and central place for the zoo which hopes to open in July 1974. Money to start the zoo and to keep it going will be the big task from here on out.

WHO IN '72? -- When Democrats from all over North Carolina converge on Raleigh for the Jefferson - Jackson Day dinner Saturday, March 6 most tongues will be wagging about: "Who will it be in '72?" Skipper Bowles, Pat Taylor and Robert Morgan are being discussed now for the 1972 Democratic gubernatorial nominee. Many doubt that all three will pay their filing fees.

LIQUOR - BY - THE - DRINK -- While we have talked with only a few legislators on the matter, we feel that the climate is more attuned to the passage of liquor - by - the - drink this year than heretofore.

But still, don't underestimate the influence to Marse Grant.

TRAFFIC FATALITIES -- One bright ray amid gloomy reading is that traffic fatalities, for the first time in a decade, has declined in the nation, and in North Carolina, for the second year in succession.

It would appear that automobile inspection should be given some of the credit in North Carolina.

WELFARE -- The nation's welfare program was started with the administration of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt in the midst of the "Great Depression" and has been growing ever since. Mayor Lindsay of New York says the cost of welfare is leading his city towards bankruptcy.

President Johnson talked about abolishing or eliminating poverty. It appears to us that under our present system we are encouraging people to look to the government for the necessities of life rather than for a job.

Clint Fuller, editor of the Franklin Times stated the situation pretty succinctly when he wrote: "It is definitely more difficult to call a halt to these fabulous outlays than it was to start them in the beginning."

Concerning President Nixon's welfare proposal, many feel that we can't expect to solve or reduce the burden of welfare by guaranteeing able - bodied persons a standard of living without work.

15 years ago

Thursday, March 1, 1956

Charles Hostetter, Raeford attorney of the firm of Gore & Hostetter, today paid his filing fee to Elections Board Chairman W.L. Poole and became a candidate for the Hoke County seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

CWO Joe A. McBryde is now attending the Armored School at Fort Knox, Ky.

TV Gets Blame For Rude Conduct

By LAURIE TELFAIR

I think audiences at plays, movies and the like are ruder than they once were and I assign the blame partly to television.

In movies lately, it seems that more and more people feel free to comment on the action appearing on the screen or, even worse, start a separate conversation during the show. This sometimes reaches the point where it is difficult to hear the movie.

This unseemingly state of affairs comes, I think, from long years of watching TV at home. Many young people have had television all their lives and many oldsters have watched it so long they only barely remember how life was without it. At home, viewers are free to comment on the show or talk as they please, at least up to a point where another family member bops them on the head. So now, too many folks are carrying their television manners into the movie theatre with them.

I object. If I want to comment on the action, I'll read a review, or discuss the show later. If I had wanted to talk about something else altogether, I wouldn't have gone to the theatre.

I have always felt that the audience has an obligation to be entertained, particularly at a live performance. This has led me to sit to the bitter end of some fairly awful performances rather than leave at the intermission.

We went once to a nightclub on the Gulf Coast to see a strip show and the poor dancer was so bad people were standing in line to get out during her act. We sat to the end, clapping as she shed each garment so that she would think somebody cared and appreciated her efforts. She was dancing on the bar to the tune of a scratched record and each time the record ended she would stop wiggling, change the record and take something else off. People sitting at the bar never even looked up, unless she stepped on their hands. I might add that this was ten years ago and that strippers, at least in Biloxi, Mississippi, ended their act wearing considerably more than do the dancers on the Tom Jones Show on television now.

As I said, we sat through it, clapping for her like idiots. But, obligation or not, we couldn't take the stand - up comic that followed and joined the line at the door trying to get out.

Dinner theatres are a favorite in our family but the audience is a critical factor in the entertainment. To begin with, the selection of plays is limited to rather light fare, suitable for after dinner entertainment. Folks who go out to a dinner theatre don't want to have their evening spoiled by having to think about difficult problems. Secondly, especially in a brown - bagging state where the bottle is available throughout the course of dinner and the play, the audience can become boisterous.

Dinner theatre actors must learn not only to act with skill but also to handle their audience with precision. A couple of drunks, bent on having their say, can ruin a play. We drove to Wilmington to the dinner theatre there on the night that most of the audience were members of the Social Security Commission on convention. Refreshment had flowed -- from their actions for the last several days -- and the group was in high good humor. The play was such that audience reaction and, to a point, participation, was

important. The actors were masters at using the audience and at the same time controlling it, that the high spirits never quite got out of hand. However, by the end of the evening, I felt as if I had been sitting at the edge of an explosion just waiting to happen. It was nerve - racking and effectively spoiled the evening for me.

Another gripe I have with audiences involves those, including the king of our household, who leave right before the end "to beat the crowd." This isn't a problem in plays, of course, or even movies, but unless I go alone, I know I won't get to see the last ten minutes of a circus or sports event. As a matter of fact, when the kids and I went to the circus in Greensboro, we stayed through the finale and found it much easier to leave the building then because most everyone else had poured out ten minutes earlier to beat the crowd.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor
I wasn't listening to the radio at the time so wasn't aware of the "national emergency alert" that went out over the country when somebody fed the wrong tape into the networks, but according to the newspaper account I read a lot of people got pretty excited and more would have if more radio stations had believed what they were being inaccurately told.

I'm afraid the government's going to have to get a different system, because like it is nobody believes much of anything anybody says anymore.

It seems to be a national trend. No matter what a law says, practically any politician in violation of one can explain how he didn't violate it, taking so long to do it by the time he's through you've forgotten what the question was.

This seems to work for politicians, and what I object to is that it won't work in other areas.

For example, if my banker says "Your note was overdue last Tuesday," I'd like to be able to say, "Now look, it was a year ago I promised to pay that note by last Tuesday and I'm a man of my word, the record shows that, but the world doesn't stand still. What's true today is not necessarily true tomorrow. Life is vast and complex. I made that promise in the light of what was happening twelve months ago, and in that time as we all know the Indo - China situation has changed, we've had an earthquake in California, the cost of living has gone up, man has walked once more upon the moon, and the airlines are losing money, not to mention the pollution problem, and while it's technically true that note was overdue last Tuesday, you've got to remember for the 12 months prior to that it was under - due. You've got to look at this from the over - all viewpoint. On balance, the note was under - due 12 months and is now over - due by only six days. That's not such a bad record, is it?"

You try this, and judging by what the banker will say, you'll figure somebody has fed the wrong tape into him.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.