

# The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1971

## Opinion and commentary

by Paul Dickson

These May days are finally the kind that make you want to see what's right with the world, rather than what's wrong with it, although the farmers will still tell you we've got to have warmer nights before things will grow.

And of course, the extremes are still around, too. It saddens your heart to read of the lack of water in South Florida, with the great Everglades dry, parched and actually burning for lack of water. And the ski people in Vermont who say their snow is the most beautiful of the whole year, but are closing their resorts because people just are not interested in snow and skis right now.

On our beaches and in our mountains, everybody seems to be getting ready for company. There is a great air of expectancy, and some of the company is already beginning to come. . . and to litter, but that's another subject.

For things to be concerned about, what about the dollar? Do you suppose what financial folks and money traders in Europe think about the value of our American dollar is going to have any great effect on us here? I have been reading some and trying to figure just what has been going on in this crisis of value between currencies, and about all I can come up with for an answer is that the various moneys - dollars, marks, francs, etc., are just seeking their level of real value in the world's markets and resisting, as it were, efforts to maintain arbitrary and artificial values. And as in every case of a sizable value change of a commodity, you have the rush of those who may see or think they see the way to make a fast buck.

There is some sort of irony in this situation, although it may be hard to describe. This dollar for the past 25 years has kept much of the world from starving, as we poured billion after billion overseas, year after year, to first this country and then that, until there is no place on the earth that has not felt its benefit, and now there are so many of them over there, everywhere, that folks are beginning not to want to see them any more. They are wanting something a little harder to get.

There are still plenty of people wanting dollars, but it might be that right now would be a good time for us to get a little smarter and start slowing down on this outflow, before it does get so no one wants to see a dollar. Right now they'll still buy plenty, even if not quite as much as they would.

With the relationship of the dollar to other currencies and to gold staying at the same level for several years, any American housewife could tell that there is no way it could last, because the dollar will not buy the groceries it would three years ago, nor the furniture, nor a hundred other items. So now a Volkswagen and a Leica camera are going to cost more too. So what, really, and the housewife could have told you it had to happen, couldn't she?

Now, before someone who claims to understand the international monetary system jumps down my throat for talking about something too deep for me, let me say that I do not understand the system, nor the forces which make the currencies behave as they do. I am convinced that some of these forces are contrived and artificial, and that contrived and artificial measures applied to economics leads to the same end whenever they are applied and this is crisis.

I remember reading in Margaret Coit's book on a great American business man, Bernard Baruch, native of South Carolina, a description of the "New Deal" with which Franklin Roosevelt and the Democratic Party kept a lot of us from starving 38 years ago. She said the New Deal was a "bloodless economic and social revolution, based on the premise that the economic balance could no longer be maintained by the functioning of economic law alone."

There were many people then, and there still are many, who feel that the New Deal started economic habits from which the economy of the country and the world will never fully recover. I couldn't really say about that, but I do believe the two situations relate in that neither then nor now has economic law alone been allowed to function. It could be that an attempt to allow it to do so by the Nixon administration is causing the dollar crisis in the world money markets, and this may not be bad in the long run. And certainly keeping us from starving 38 years ago was not bad.

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, May 16, 1946

The local REA Cooperation has received \$410,000 to finance the construction of its "C" project lines consisting of 235 miles of rural power lines in the counties of Hoke, Robeson, Scotland and Cumberland, C.A. Alford, President of the Cooperative, announced this week.

Lt. Julius F. Jordan has been separated from the Dental Corps of the U.S. Navy after 20 months service in Guam and Hawaii.

Lacy F. Clark, Raeford Postmaster, announced yesterday that effective today all mail addressed and delivered at Timberland, R-1, would be delivered from the Raeford post office. He stated that the new Raeford Route would be Route 3.

The Mildouson school committee had its meeting last week and re-elected the teachers for another year.

From Poole's Medley:

One thing is sure and certain; two rival governments cannot exist in the same place at the same time. "Unless, two agree, they cannot walk together."

In a recent issue the "Cotton Press," trade magazine of the cotton seed crushing industry published in Dallas, Texas, carried a write-up on J. Benton Thomas and his imminent retirement from the oil milling business.

### 15 years ago

Thursday, May 10, 1956

W.A. Crowley died early Wednesday in a Fayetteville hospital after a short illness.

"Sure, getting here was a barrel of fun, but if we don't get out of this dump we're through"



By LAURIE TELFAIR

## The Miles Change Customs And Words



My mother wrote me last week and said they were having blackberry winter there. On using that term around here, I find it isn't a familiar expression, but, as most folks around Tennessee and Mississippi know, blackberry winter is the cool spell that comes between Easter and summer. And, usually, the blackberries are in bloom about that time.

We had blackberry winter here last week too. I saw the blackberry bushes blooming in the woods behind my house.

Moving from Tennessee to North Carolina is not like moving, say, from Michigan to North Carolina. On a move from the south to the north, or vice versa, you expect differences in customs, climate and terrain. But Tennessee and North Carolina, neighboring states, are similar and by their very similarity, the differences stand out more sharply.

Unfamiliar figures of speech, like blackberry winter, make you remember that here is an alien. One such expression that I have heard nowhere else is "get up with," meaning to see or to confer with. In Memphis, we'd probably use the verb "see" or "contact."

The terrain and vegetation is similar, yet different here also. Raeford and Memphis are almost straight across from each other on the map, though separated by about 800 miles, but the climate and hence, the vegetation, is much different.

I had never seen tobacco growing until I came to North Carolina. Oh, I know that tobacco grows in Tennessee, but in the mountains, and contrary to popular opinion, most of Tennessee is flatland.

Pine trees and magnolias are not native to the profusion that it does around here. There are some pines and magnolias, mostly transplanted from a more Southern region. And some dogwoods grow wild in the woods, but most are planted in yards and tended like other shrubs. The woods are not as colorful as North Carolina woods. And, of course, there isn't very much left to call woods around Memphis. Most have been cut years ago to make room for houses or highways.

The cardinal is rare enough in Memphis to be immediately noticeable here, where they are more plentiful. I see two brilliantly colored males as I go home each day. They are always around Rockfish Creek and must nest nearby.

We don't have that pretty red-topped grass or weed that is growing in the fields and alongside the road now. Ann Webb tells me its called sour grass. I didn't notice it last spring, although it must have been there.

Customs are similar but different also. The holidays observed in the two states are not the same, although both were Confederate states.

In Memphis, we don't observe either Confederate Memorial Day or Memorial Day (except for federal employees.) And, of course, there was no Mecklenburg Independence Day. The schools and some offices closed for Good Friday, but Easter Monday was unheard of. The schools also got off a day in spring for the Cotton Carnival, the big celebration in the city.

Some of the questions that are being hauled in the legislature now have already been settled in Tennessee (and vice versa, of course) so I view some of the changes proposed from a different position than do North Carolinians.

Take the matter of having elections on Tuesday. Since we have always, as far as I know, had elections on Tuesday, I thought Saturday voting was odd. Tuesday elections don't cause any problems, as employers are required to allow employees time off to vote, if the working hours span the voting times and there is a bonus for the school kids and teachers. Since some of the schools are used as polling places, school is let out for election day, thereby causing the kids to think kindly of that civic duty.

Liquor by the drink is also an old battle. Not too many years ago, the local option passed in that brown-bagging state, but the dries were always able to defeat the mixed drink question in Memphis. Finally, on the last vote, the police enforced the liquor laws with great vigor for about 18 months before the election, drying up the country clubs and all the "private" clubs, and the drinkers became thirsty enough to vote. Mixed drinks have been sold in Memphis for about two years now and have been a disappointment to all concerned. The money envisioned by the restaurant owners and motel operators from increased revenue and conventions didn't materialize and the doom and destruction imagined by the dries didn't come to pass either.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

## Letters To The Editor

I wish to disagree with the view of Mrs. Williams. I think The News-Journal owes the people of Hoke County an obligation to print all the facts in a case of this type. We need a full report not a brief back page article. It concerns everyone. I high commend The News-Journal for printing all the facts in the article. How can The News-Journal be ours if they don't print the truth. Here's to full details always.  
Mrs. Gerald Pittman

We, the members of the Professional Women's Club of Raeford, being concerned with the moral, spiritual, and educational standards of our community, would like to take this means of protesting the blatant reporting of the open meeting of the Hoke County School Board in a session held recently. Whereas we vigorously support open meetings to discuss public business and freedom of the press, we oppose irresponsible journalism. Irreparable damage has been done to two lives; educational progress has been hindered; and the entire community has been tainted largely through the publication of your news article.

A newspaper can be the bulwark of a community; but when sensationalism becomes the criterion for reporting news, the newspaper has lost its usefulness.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Phyllis C. Duncan, Pres.  
The Professional Women's Club  
Of Raeford

I certainly agree with a great part of your editorial concerning our school case. It was something we all regret very much, and it made those of us in the teaching profession realize that we are as human as everyone else. One part I disagree with, and perhaps this is what got us hot under the collars was that all of the facts didn't come out. When you said you told it like it was, my friend, you didn't tell all there was to tell, and I realize you couldn't, because you didn't know all the facts. Not once was I asked by The News Journal for additional facts, other than those heard at the hearing.

In defense of my teachers I must once again disagree with you, because a confidence between a teacher and a student is not easily broken. Sure they erred in keeping anything this serious a secret so long, but the frustrations that are associated with anything this serious could cause a teacher to do some investigation before he reported it to the proper authorities. Mr. Abernethy and I erred in not reporting it to the sheriff. Mr. Barrington has been very patient and fair with us in explaining the law, and from now on we will know. I also realize that ignorance of the law is no excuse, but it is a pretty tough job to run a high school, and anyone that wants to be where the action is should come out and spend a day with us. You see Paul, we are ignorant of the law because we are principal, teacher, preacher, counselor, banker, coach and janitor. It is pretty tough to fit the hat of the lawyer along with the other hats, and over the years I have become a skeptic in dealing with the public, because we are criticized greatly over the bridge table, and at the beauty shop, and in the barber shop. We hear very little about the good things we do. When you have a patrolman in the county to stand around the stores and criticize your rules, and question your dress code, and you have another group to tell how they would run the school, and the coaches they would fire, and the teachers that are incompetent when you know full well they wouldn't last ten minutes in your job, and you have a merchant up town offer to pay the lawyer's fee if one of your girls wears a pants suit to school, it makes it pretty hard to love the public. You spend half your time defending your faculty, and the other half defending your students. What I really feel like doing is telling the patrolman how to write a ticket, and the group sitting around how to run their business.

When the school case is settled, I will be the goat, just as I was on the Marshalls last year, but I have been the goat before and survived and I will survive this one.

Sincerely,  
Raz Autry

## Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

Recently we read in the papers of the death of a woman in the western part of the state who was 108 years old, and this resulted in a discussion with some friends about the oldest person that ever has lived in North Carolina.

We don't know for sure, but we wouldn't be surprised if this distinction didn't belong to a native of Ocracoke who died a long time ago. Her tombstone is in the Ocracoke cemetery and the inscription on it reads like this:

In memory of  
ANN HOWARD  
Wife of Geo. E. Howard  
Born .., 1724  
Died, Nov. 2, 1841  
Aged 117 years.

Perhaps the North Carolinian with the least curiosity was one William C. Jackson, who is said to have been a silent man, who seldom smiled and was never known to have laughed. When the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad came to town, everybody flocked to the tracks to see the novelty except Jackson. He lived the rest of his life without enough curiosity to walk to a few blocks to see it.

About 20 years ago Jesse Jones of Kinston was running for the office of District Governor of Lions Club.

Mr. Jones was in the S&W Cafeteria in Raleigh and proceeded to sit down at a table at which another man -- a stranger to him -- already was seated. Mr. Jones saw a Lions club emblem in the lapel of his coat and immediately introduced himself.

"Jesse Jones," he said as he extended his hand.

The other man shook hands and said, "Yes, that's right."

That nonplussed Mr. Jones for a moment and then he said: "And what's your name, please?"

The other man showed signs of confusion but finally came out with, "Jesse Jones."

"That's right," said Mr. Jones, smiling brightly, "I'm Jesse Jones from Kinston, And you?"

Well, there's no use in dragging it out any longer. The upshot of the business was that Mr. Jesse Jones of Kinston and Mr. Jesse Jones of Fuquay Springs were talking to each other.

It would never do, of course, to mention names in connection with this little item: all we can say is that it's the truth.

A married man in Raleigh told us last Wednesday afternoon that he and his wife had been invited out to play bridge. "And I'd rather take a beating than go," he added.

Thursday morning we saw him again and asked him how he had enjoyed his bridge game the night before.

"I had a lucky break and didn't have to go," he said.

"What happened?" we inquired.

"My wife got sick," he said.

## STORIES BEHIND WORDS

by  
William S. Penfield  
Canter

When Thomas A. Becket became Archbishop of Canterbury he opposed King Henry II in many matters. In 1170 some of the king's followers, upon a hint from him, assassinated the archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral. The king was required by the Pope to do penance at Becket's tomb.

Becket was canonized and it became fashionable for the people of England to make pilgrimages to the saint's shrine at Canterbury.

Many of the pilgrims traveled great distances, and those who were mounted rode their horses at an easy gallop so as not to overexert them. The gait was called a "Canterbury gallop," a name that was shortened to "Canterbury" and finally to "canter."

## People & Issues

### CLIFF BLUE ...



ANNEXATION -- For weeks, yes months, the Fayetteville Observer has been hammering away almost daily in its editorial columns and with news articles in an attempt to get Seantors John Henley and Hector McGeachy to enact the bill sponsored by Representatives Bryan and Jernigan to bring Cumberland County under the statewide annexation laws.

Henley, chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee and McGeachy, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a former president pro tempore of the Senate have been standing like a wall refusing to be pressured by "North Carolina's Oldest Newspaper" or any other group. It looks like a fight between the city dwellers and the out-lying areas. People in Cumberland say it is a very emotional issue and how they will decide it nobody knows -- except they appear to be standing like "Stonewall" Jackson against the Observer's onslaughts.

VIOLENCE -- Our opinion is that the violence in Washington last week by the demonstrators for peace hurt the cause of peace if it had any effect on national policies. Many people do not believe that the demonstrators have much serious interest in the Vietnam War one way or another. It is simply an issue which gives dissatisfied people something to demonstrate about and if the war were over it would be something else. There are thousands of people on the "dove" side who are greatly interested in immediate peace but who want no part of the demonstrators of the kind who tried to stop the wheels of government in Washington last week.

Throughout the land the longing is for peace in Vietnam and quiet and order here at home.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE -- You hear a lot of talk about the high cost of automobile insurance but regardless of the laws which are enacted we doubt that

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