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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1972

Opinion and commentary

by Paul Dickson

Any attempt to express the shock and dismay of this community at the atrocity which has happened to Rosemary Cameron Wray must suffer from understatement, as grief is great, and the hearts of everyone go out to her family in sympathy. There are many who know there can be no real comfort for them at this time, nor for some time to come, and lament this fact.

To understand why so often it is the young and lovely and promising to whom these things happen is not given to us. They do happen this way of course, and often, and we must count as a blessing the fact that we do not dwell upon it in our thoughts every moment of every day. Time passes, and our thoughts are more and more upon the world of the living.

As the news of atrocities has come to us, more and more often of late, it seems, we have sub-consciously been thankful that they have not touched us here. Now we have been touched, and we must be aware, as this young woman was aware, that there is a world out there, and here in Raeford, that needs help, and we must accept the obligation, as she did, to do something about it.

A couple of things about this political campaign seem to make it a little different from most. One is the intensity with which everyone is pursuing the voter, and the complete lack of time for any humor. I always figured that anyone who isn't big enough to feel that he can occasionally join others in laughing at himself isn't really big. No one in this campaign has shown me any signs of this except maybe Agnew on a rare occasion. ("The Spiro of '76")

Bill Mauldin's cartoon last week has got to be one of the great ones about this campaign. You know, the one where the two draft dodgers were sitting in Canada talking, and one tells the other that if McGovern is elected he is going back home and his old man is coming to Canada. To me that's funny, whoever your man is.

The other thing which seems to be making this election year appear to be different is the amazing success with which the credibility and honesty of people in high places is being attacked. I am just about convinced that the highest levels of the Republican campaign were involved, or at least aware of, the prowling and bugging at the Watergate headquarters of the Democrats, and further, that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the domination of the Republican administration, is pussyfooting around about investigating the matter. I guess I am shocked to learn that these people don't have any more principle than I would probably have, under the same or similar circumstances. However, I don't expect who bugs whom, or who tells lies on another is going to affect greatly anyone's decision of who gets his vote. Most of us, to tell the truth, are going to vote for the one we think will have the best effect upon our individual future. Whether we think him honest or crooked as a snake will not enter into the matter.

Not really related to the political campaign, and in a much more serious vein, is our concern for the damage to the credibility of some of our senior military leaders which is taking place in a congressional committee room from day to day. It is sad and a little surprising to learn that some, at least, of our four-star leaders have weaknesses like the rest of us. Almost makes one think that one of these days about the only way we are going to get anything done is to get involved personally and do it for ourselves.

And still in the general area of politics is the question I saw somewhere: "Just how long are Nixon's coattails?" That question would seem to have particular aptness here in North Carolina this year but the problem our Republicans are having is not with the length of his coattails, but just how to get their Democratic opponents firmly tied in the public eye to the campaign of McGovern and Shriver. The Democratic candidates here are turning out to be master squirmers when it comes to the national ticket, aren't they?

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 Years Ago

Thursday, September 18, 1947

Prospects on September 1 pointed toward a cotton crop of 460,000 bales in North Carolina for 1947.

Mrs. W.R. Barrington, who has been a justice of the peace and local Red Cross representative since the death of her husband some time ago was last week appointed U.S. District Commissioner for the Middle North Carolina District.

J.M. Pendergrass, well known farmer of Queahville township, passed away at 9:30 o'clock last Saturday night after a long and lingering illness.

Lt. Tom McLaughlin arrived home last week from El Paso, Texas and is on terminal leave.

Honesty is essential to the welfare of the community and a deadbeat is a hindrance to those who are industrious, for he eats the bread of illness.

Lacy Clark, chairman of the

membership committee of the Raeford Chamber of Commerce, reported to the board of directors on Tuesday night that there are now 58 members of the organization and that the group had something over \$1100 in the treasury.

Schools of the county got off to a good start last Thursday, opening day enrollment of 989 as compared to 904 for opening day last year.

15 Years Ago

Thursday, September 19, 1957

The tremendous size and future prospects of the company of which the Raeford Plant of United States Rubber Company is a part were impressed upon The News-Journal's reporter at the dedication of the company's new Research Center at Wayne, New Jersey yesterday.

Gus Antonio of Charlotte died Tuesday, September 10, as a result of injuries received in an accident on Highway 401 six miles east of Raeford.

A/2C Robert McNeill, who has been stationed at Thule AFB in Greenland for the past several months, has returned to Lincoln, Neb.

Some Year, let's change to Dodge-Ball



CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



COURT JUSTICE - According to an UPI newsmagazine with a Concord, N.C. dateline Cabarrus County grand jurors who compiled a special report in May criticizing the courts for leniency were discharged from the duty six months before their term expires.

The jurors were members of an 18-member grand jury that accused Cabarrus judges of being too easy on drunken drivers and drug law violators. According to the UPI report, senior resident superior court judge Frank Armstrong of Hills said in a letter that the jurors had exceeded the independence of the bench.

Commenting on the matter the Carter County News-Times had this to say, and we quote in part:

"Exceeding the independence of the bench" is an odd way to state that judges consider themselves above criticism. If we want to get down to the indignities of what words mean, some jurists can't exceed their own independence. In this case the grand jurors objected to the judges' leniency, especially the tremendous asset of leniency placed on them. The judges themselves revealed their independence by releasing their own verdicts of acquittal with independence.

"Things have gone to a pretty pass when citizens are all too ready to pay the only social insurance premiums in this land, carter, for the insurance of themselves."

"The grand jurors' independence they took probably in the hands of judges want grand jurors to deal with school funding and they are leaving what they have to their personal enjoyment."

We have no way to know if the Cabarrus situation, however, from the manner in which the counties to increase budgets for the nation, we suspect that a grand jury of the sort of grand jurors in Cabarrus county when it comes to the grand jurors come with this. The grand jurors judge are a little bit of a social conservatism. The grand jurors of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, by applying the same standards to the

RHETORIC... We don't recall who, a few years ago brought the word "rhetoric" into popular and everyday use. Maybe it was Spiro Agnew. It seems that the word made its grand debut in political debate about the time Spiro came upon the national scene. Now, when most everybody can have some idea about what the politicians mean when they say "rhetoric," we suspect that there will be a decline in its use.

BOB SCOTT... Governor Scott in his last year of his administration has caught more fire from the press than during his first three years put together. Bob, like his dad, seems to be able to take it pretty well.

KENNEDY & WALLACE? With the 1972 presidential election still six weeks away the columnists often take a break from what's going on now to glance into the future as to what may take place four years hence - in 1976 - the 200th anniversary of this nation.

The Christian Science Monitor of Boston, Mass., an international prize-winning newspaper editorializes on the subject, from which we shear a paragraph: "Our hunch is that by 1976 both Mr. Agnew and Mr. Connally will be identified with the past rather than the future, and that the two most interesting political properties will be Mr. Wallace and Edward Kennedy. The two have in common that most valuable of techniques in American politics, an ability to be financially and economically respectable without losing touch with the voting mass of plain people."

Should George McGovern just happen to pull off a Harry Truman victory on November 7, he and Mr. Shriver will certainly preclude Senator Kennedy from serious consideration in 1976. But, if Mr. Nixon wins reelection, as most polls indicate, then, Ted Kennedy and George Wallace just might be on the same ticket for president in 1976 - Kennedy for president and Wallace for vice president, and it just could be an unbeatable ticket.

FISCAL IRRRESPONSIBILITY... Fiscal irresponsibility is probably the weakest point in our Federal government from the White House through the Congress. Just think: The Federal government with a \$30 billion deficit this year passing an appropriation bill (evening sharing) without having the courage to levy the necessary taxes to underwrite it.

Passing Thoughts

By Elaine Symanski

Photo Fiasco



A common home entertainment fiasco is the impromptu monster home photography rally. It starts when a guest and your usually charming, but occasionally obnoxious spouse, engage in a battle of slides and home movies.

I only pity the poor man in the middle who has innocently wandered into the arena not armed with a single element of his own boring collection. The aged and wrinkled wallet-sized photos of offspring he carries are definitely no match for the mountains of slides and reels of film the others have brought, so he reluctantly resigns and becomes a helpless spectator.

Sensing what was about to take place the other evening at such a gathering and hoping to avoid it, I quickly suggested we just pass around our collection of snapshots neatly mounted in albums and get the ordeal over with. But the photo fanatics would not be deterred - so projectors, screens, countless reels of film and trays of slides were triumphantly

dragged from their hiding places high on dusty closet shelves.

The contest began as the host gave the first turn to his guest and the lights were extinguished. I hoped the competition would draw to a rapid close by his presentation of 20 faintly, perfectly exposed, interesting photographs that could not possibly be topped by any of ours.

Had that happened he may possibly have been declared the winner by default. But as luck would have it, he subjected me to 20 boring, out of focus, poorly exposed photographs of babies' feet birthday.

With a confident chuckle that he was about to win round number one, the challenger then took over and presented 20 travel slides. The subject matter was definitely more interesting and the focus slightly better, but each of the slides bore the mark of an amateur - an image of the photographer's thumb in the corner.

Round two began with the presentation of 20 underwear slides by contestant number one. The short narratives of the first round concerning place and subject matter of the slides, were now supplemented by technical information: "I used F28 at f12, f16, high speed ectochromic ASA 100 and 50 mm with a teleconverter" and on and on through rounds three, four and five.

The exasperating dullness of both sets of slides was surpassed only by the interminable movies which followed. Captured on super 8 mm film, complete with sound, were endless scenes of a girl enthusiastically waxing with one hand while otherwise standing it attention.

The evening ended in a peculiar manner to the relief of the weary audience - the projector finally jammed, frenetically spewing forth noise of light and the whole mess was again shunted off to its proper place in the closet.

Hopefully when the next battle of pictures arises, the projector will never demise right at the beginning.

Just One Thing After Another

by Carl Goerch

RECALL - I can recall a race in Larrystown, New York when the speed limit was eight miles per hour. My brother at that time was a tester for the Maxwell-Briscoe Company. Every automobile, after it had been completed, was given a thorough road test to make sure that all parts were functioning perfectly.

William Rockefeller, whose large estate located a main highway, had a series of bumps made in the road so that autos would have to slow down while passing in front of his place.

My first automobile ride was in an Indianapolis Roadster (about 1904) which had a curved dashboard and was steered with a handle. The motor was under the hood.

I can't recall the days when a dollar had less purchasing value, but prices of automobiles were much higher than one could have expected. I recall, for example, that a Packard touring car sold for \$2,500.

Now, Springfield a week or so ago we caught up with a large oil truck. On the back, painted in large letters, were the words: **NO PUSHING**.

Part of a conversation at lunch the other day:

"To you know what makes a man a man?"

"He's poor because he doesn't have a job."

"That isn't it at all. It may apply to some of them, but the majority of them are poor because they can't resist buying things which they really ought to resist."

SENATOR SAM ERVIN

WASHINGTON - A new era of Federal revenue sharing with the States and cities may be almost at hand. The Senate has overwhelmingly passed its version of a \$33.5 billion authorization to these governments over the next five years at a time when the House is still debating proposals.

President Nixon's major domestic proposals, is expected to get final approval before Congress adjourns.

The temptation to vote for this bill was great. The needs of the States, the cities, and the units of local governments are great, notwithstanding the fact that most of them are unlike the Federal Government in that they are self-sufficient. Moreover, the governors, mayors, and officers of units of local governments are politically powerful. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of Congressmen support the measure. Consequently, I was strongly tempted to disobey the injunction of Exodus 23:2 which says: "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil," and vote for the bill. But, to enable myself to do this, I would have had to find a spiritual surgeon to amputate my conscience, and permit me to vote for a

bill that has already been asked to raise and extend that ceiling before October 31st.

If the President and the Congress want to give any new sums to the States and cities, they ought to exercise the political courage to insist that old taxes be raised on new taxes be imposed sufficient to cover the cost of the program. Anyone who expects that to happen is about as foolish as King Canute who commanded the ocean waves to be still.

Apart from these considerations, I have other serious doubts about the wisdom of extracting this bill. They can be summarized as follows:

1. To divorce the responsibility of raising public revenues by taxation from the power to spend such revenues is exceedingly unwise. Nothing is more certain to encourage inefficiency and waste in government.

2. To make the States, the cities, and units of local government throughout the United States dependent upon Federal handouts for defraying of general expenses will rob the States, the cities,

and units of local government of their ability to take care of their own people.

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