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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1973

As We See It.... By Kay Piotrkowski

Editor's Note: Since this editorial was written Hoke County Clerk of Superior Court E.E. Smith received a memorandum from the Administrative Office of the Courts that Governor Holshouser's edict closing state offices for an eleven day period during the holiday season applies only to state employees working in "state government buildings, therefore, you and your employees are not affected." Smith says his office will be open December 27, 28 and 31. The office will close the normally scheduled holiday dates from December 22 through 26 and New Year's Day.

In several ways Governor Jim Holshouser's edict last week giving state employees an additional three days off during the holiday season to conserve energy is typical of so many "hurry up and do it yesterday" moves in government circles. At first glance it seems a very patriotic and fuel conserving action. But a closer examination brings to light flies in the honey.

The new plan calls for releasing state employees from work during the period December 22 through January 1, thus closing state offices, dispensing with need to heat state buildings and therefore conserving heating fuel and electricity. So far, so good! But a number of state employees work in buildings other than those owned and maintained by the state. We are thinking of offices of clerks of court and courtrooms which are located in municipal or county buildings. If local governments keep these buildings open during the holidays, it is unlikely there will be much energy conserved by closing state offices in the buildings for three additional days.

In Hoke County these facilities are in the county courthouse which, it appears, will remain open during the holiday season. The structure will be heated and according to County Manager T.B. Lester turning off heat in portions of the building may result in water damage because of the type of heating system. Closing the court clerk's office for an 11 day period will also create problems and work hardships on those least likely to afford it. If the clerk's office closes, people who make weekly payments will be prevented from doing so. Recipients of these payments will be unable to collect their court ordered allowances.

Children who depend on child support payments will be forced to go without for a period of time. Granted, according to reports from the clerk's office "only seven or eight families will be affected", it is too many if only one family is deprived of support by closing the offices. Many of the payments are "small"; only eight or ten dollars. But this is all relative—eight or ten dollars may be mad money to the a more affluent but it is a veritable gold mine to the poverty stricken.

Another can of worms which may grow to serpentine proportions if these offices close for such a lengthy period relates to the new involuntary commitment law. Individuals involuntarily committed must have a district court hearing within at least ten days of incarceration or be released from the hospital. The ten day limit may be difficult or impossible to meet during the 11 day closing period.

Rehearings must be scheduled within 90 days of the first hearing and at least every 120 days thereafter. If these can not be held on schedule, the law requires the hospitalized individual be released. Seriously ill and dangerous individuals could be released because offices were closed and hearings could not be held on time. All this in the name of conserving energy and heating fuel by releasing employees from work in offices that will be heated whether the employees are at work or not.

One bit of good may come from releasing state employees for the 11 day period - perhaps Chief District Judge Derb Carter will use the time to compile procedural tables for those working with the new commitment law. He promised in September to do so, but to date, he apparently has not produced such written instructions.

Speaking of closing offices, one point keeps nagging at us. Why do some county offices with more than one employee close during lunch hour? It would seem that in offices with two or more employees, lunch hours could be staggered to allow the office to remain open to serve the citizenry. We have frequently noticed people trying to enter offices during lunch hour only to find doors locked. The two departments that jump most readily to mind are tax collection and register of deeds, although there may well be others.

With county offices closed on Saturdays and lunch hours it probably is most difficult for many citizens to comply with laws requiring they conduct business with certain offices. It has always been our belief that government offices should exist to serve citizens and not for the convenience of government employees.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, December 9, 1948
Memorial Services for Doctor Paul P. McCain were held at the Central North Carolina Tuberculosis Sanatorium at McCain on Tuesday.

deputy sheriff of this county, died at his home in Blue Springs township at 12:30 o'clock last Friday morning.

Word was received as the paper went to press that Mrs. D.P. Andrews of Rockfish passed away at a Fayetteville hospital yesterday afternoon.

Luther Clark, farmer and former

Seven Pillars of Wisdom?



The Christian Science Monitor

The Midnight Oil

by Jama Chesser

It is time to begin that Christmas madness called "shopping". If you haven't already begun the task, I will offer a suggestion for putting a method in your madness.

It seems you can do your Christmas shopping in one of several ways. If you are inclined to plan ahead, you can shop the after Christmas sales this year for next year's gifts. The trouble with this plan is that after one Christmas, most folks can't afford another one for at least a year.

Another approach would be to make a list of the people you want to give gifts to and then decide what to get each one. If you compile the list a couple of months in advance you can usually find items in correct sizes and colors, if you wait until December to shop, it will take twice as long to find the same item.

A third way to shop is to give gift certificates. It isn't a very personal gift, but it usually fits.

My method is really the easiest and requires only a minimum of planning. All you need to do is write the names of the men and women on your gift list on slips of paper. Then go out and buy the correct number of men's gifts and women's gifts. Make sure your presents are general in appeal, like shirt jackets in a size medium, golf putters, or chrome

wheels for men; and ill fitting bathrobes, music boxes, cook books or small appliances for the ladies.

The next step is to wrap all the packages. Then you simply draw a name from a hat and attach one to each gift. This method sounds perfectly logical to me, however, I have never been courageous enough to try it. If anyone does try it and it works, please let me know. I intend to patent it as the "Minus Migrain Method".

Choir Credits

The Raeford United Methodist Church's handbell choir recently performed at the second annual Cumberland Singing Christmas Tree. Although they appeared late in the program, they proved to be one of the highlights of the show.

The Cumberland Chorale lit the tiered Christmas tree first with candles and then with their voices as they appeared as decorations robed in red and white on the greenery. During the second song the tree came alive with thousands of tiny bulbs. Giant stuffed animals and gift-wrapped boxes piled at the bottom of the tree provided the setting for two hours of Christmas songs and stories.

Choirs from Fayetteville State University and Methodist College took turns with the Cumberland Chorale providing songs of the season throughout the first half of the program.

Several changes and surprises in lighting effects kept the audience's attention during the second half since the performance lacked physical action.

Even the LaFayette Singers, a group of rosy cheeked children in choir robes, stood uncommonly still as they sang out joyously.

The only action relief was given by Raeford's handbell choir, directed by Mrs. Lewis Upchurch Jr., as they finely rang out their special selections.

For the finale, all choirs joined in traditional carols to sing and ring in the holiday season.

Senator Sam Ervin Says

WASHINGTON - In a major move to coordinate Federal energy policy and allocation programs, President Nixon has established a new Federal Energy Office under the direction of Deputy Treasury William E. Simon.

Simon replaced Governor John Love as the President's energy advisor, and hopefully will be able to do what seven other energy policy makers have been unable to do in the Nixon Administration. The President, on December 4, requested legislation implementing his Executive Order creating the framework for the new agency to provide for the coordination of all Federal energy activities. On the date of the White House announcement, I stated, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, that public hearings on the President's proposal would begin two days later. At the opening of the hearings on December 6, I announced my cosponsorship of S. 2776, the Jackson-Ribicoff bill which embodies the President's Federal Energy Administration request.

In brief, the Federal Energy Administration coordinates under one agency the development of domestic and foreign policies relating to energy resource management; the implementation of programs dealing with energy production shortages, such as fuel allocation and possibly rationing; the administration of voluntary and

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



PARI-MUTUAL BETTING... Jim Douglas, Greensboro native, now living in Moore County is attempting to lay the groundwork to get the 1974 General Assembly to name a study commission on pari-mutual betting to report back to the 1975 General Assembly which he hopes will legalize pari-mutual betting on horse racing. With a half dozen names on a petition, Douglas presented his cause to the Moore County Commissioners Dec. 3, but none of the commissioners grabbed for a pen to sign, saying they would have to "think about it" and discuss it among themselves.

WALLACE... It's hard for some to learn that North Carolina is not a liberal-oriented state. They are concerned about Skipper Bowles and Jimmy Sugg going down to Alabama and inviting Governor Wallace to come to North Carolina for a Democratic fund raising dinner on February 16. However, Bowles and Sugg have not forgotten the big vote Wallace received in North Carolina in the May 1972 presidential primary when he carried the state with 488,785 votes to 304,397 for Terry Sanford with Muskie receiving 30,293, Rep. Chisholm 61,359 and Senator Jackson 9,323. Also, that Governor Wallace was leading all the candidates with popular votes received throughout the nation when the assassination attempt was made on his life. Bowles and Sugg no doubt realize that no Democrat is likely to carry North Carolina in the 1976 election without the support of the majority of people who voted for George Wallace in 1972.

CAMPAIGN FUND... Instead of asking Congress to appropriate money, which it does not have, to provide funds for presidential campaigns, the legislators' time might be better spent if they would get behind legislation to shed light on what goes on in political fund raising, before the election is held. If Congress wants to clean up politics, it can take a major step by authorizing a strong "watchdog" spending commission made up of Democrats, Republicans and Independents with a strong and able Independent as chairman. It should give the commission

ample authority to move and to move fast with subpoena power such as the Ervin INVESTIGATING Committee has, and provide that the candidates make full and complete reports each month until a month before the election, then a complete report each week.

For the Federal Government to finance presidential elections would be another major step in the direction of socialism, doing for the people what the people ought to do for themselves. It was the late President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." North Carolina's two Senators, Ervin and Helms voted against the bill.

COURT RACES... Rep. Gerald Arnold, Harnett County Democrat, has announced his candidacy for the seat on the State Court of Appeals now held by James M. Bailey, Jr., Asheville Republican, appointed by Governor Holshouser. Arnold's opposition to "no-fault" auto insurance in the General Assembly could become an issue in the campaign unless he gets a reasonable bill enacted in the 1974 session.

Judge Bailey is reported to be eying a seat on the State Supreme Court in the event he does not seek to retain his seat on the State Court of Appeals.

With Superior Court Judge James C. Exum of Greensboro having decided to oppose Earl Vaughn rather than Judge J. William Copeland for a seat on the State Supreme Court, Copeland can relax until new opposition develops. Copeland was appointed to his superior court judgeship by Governor Sanford.

CHICAGO JUSTICE!... Last week Judge Edward Gignoux in Chicago let 1st lawyer William Kunstler and three of the "Chicago Seven" defendants off without a sentence after convicting the four for their behavior during the 1969-70 riot-conspiracy trial following the 1968 Democrat convention.

What puzzles us is this: Why spend months and months in court proceedings with great cost to the taxpayers and when you find the defendants guilty, let them off without sentencing? Have our courts become a publicity circus rather than a house of justice?

Just One Thing After Another

by Carl Goerch

In looking back through our files the other day we found an account of a tree that was grown in Florida called a "fruit salad" tree. The item appeared in 1948 and since we have heard no more about it except that it fits into the class of Devil Baby fiction. However, at the time it was plausible.

One E. J. Ard, who lived in Florida is said to have owned the tree on which 17 different varieties of fruit were growing. He had carried on a budding process over a period of time, the result of which process was that the tree at the time the newspaper article appeared was bearing four different types of grapefruit, five different types of oranges, three types of limes, limequats, lemons, kumquats, tangerines, and the ponderosa lemon!

Sent in by a thoughtful friend:
INCOMES: the amount of money that no matter how large it is, you spend more than.

Last May I decided that I needed to have my eyes checked so I wrote Dr. Sam McPherson asking for an appointment. He gave me one the day

after Thanksgiving at 10 a.m.
At the same time, unbeknownst to me, my son-in-law Judge Harry Horton was writing Dr. McPherson from his home in Pittsboro for a similar appointment. He received a card back notifying him to come the day after Thanksgiving at 9:45 a.m. Some coincidence!

A friend of ours recently showed us one of the cards which he carries on his person and which he distributes when someone accosts him for a loan. Here's a copy of it:

YOUR STORY HAS TOUCHED MY HEART

Never before have I met anyone with more troubles than you.
Please accept this token of my sincerest sympathy.

Referring to an item we ran some time ago (about Mr. Redd living in Durham, Mr. White living in Raleigh, and Mr. Blue living in Aberdeen), we received a letter recently from a Mrs. Sprinkle, in which she calls attention to the names of some of the folks with whom she is acquainted.

For instance, in Charlotte she knows Mr. Finger, Mr. Hand, Mr. Knee, Mr. Hare and Mr. Foote. Also Mr. Hipp, Mr. Hyde and Mr. Head.

In Raleigh she knows Mr. Rainey, Mr. Snow, Mr. Hale, Mr. Storm and Mr. Cloud.

She puts our mention of "Redd, White and Blue" to shame, because she knows folks by the name of Redd, White, Blue, Green, Gray, Black, Brown, Rose and Lavender.

When it comes to birds and animals, she knows people who are named Sparrow, Partridge, Buck, Moose, Hogg, Fox, Hart and Robin.

That's fine Mrs. Sprinkle. And now, on top of all that we want to tell you that we know folks by the name of Sprinkle, Waters, Rivers, Pool, Lake, Pond and Branch.

Bill Mason of Oriental was in our office the other day and during the course of our conversation he said, "Do you know how Oriental got its name?" "Oriental", he said, "is the only town in the United States by that name. It was named for a ship loaded with railings that was wrecked on the beach right at the site of the town."