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THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1974

As We See It..... By Kay Piotrkowski

Simple Simon met a pumpman,
 Driving through the pass;
 Says Simple Simon to the pumpman,
 Let me have some gas.

Says the pumpman to Simple Simon,
 Show me first your coupon;
 Says Simple Simon to the pumpman,
 Indeed I do not have one.

Simon went to a white market,
 For to buy a chit;
 All the coupons he could find,
 Did cost him quite a mint.

Simple Simon set a program,
 For to stretch our gas;
 All the rules he has announced,
 Leave questions we must ask.

Since Energy Chief William E. Simon reports ration cards are to be issued to all individuals over 18 years old who hold valid drivers licenses and are to be honored for purchase of gasoline coupons only in state of issue, what will college students do? Suppose a student is licensed in and resides in North Carolina but attends college in Michigan. That student can't very well return to North Carolina every month to purchase a coupon book. It might be possible for the student to obtain a license in Michigan but wouldn't he also be required to license his car in Michigan? What would happen when he returns home for a summer job? Would he then be required to obtain a North Carolina license and tags in order to obtain gas in his home state? This would require the student pay for two separate drivers licenses and auto tags each year in order to qualify for gasoline coupons.

Much the same situation will confront military personnel. Most retain drivers licenses from their home states even though they may never be stationed there. How do they and their dependants purchase gasoline coupons near their duty station if their ration cards are valid for purchases of coupons only in a different state?

Traveling salesmen may also face undue hardship under current rationing plans. According to Simon, a salesman who is out of state at coupon purchasing time will have to purchase extra coupons on the so-called white market in order to return to his home state to purchase his monthly allotment of coupons. This could cause extra trips for the salesman resulting in increased gasoline consumption. Does this make sense?

Simon's plan has also created a white market which is supposed to be more palatable to the consumer than a black market. Profiteering by any other name is still profiteering, be the market black or white. What will prevent organized criminal elements from cornering the market on unused coupons and reselling them at exorbitant rates? The sad thing is they could do so with impunity. It would all be legal.

Why institute a plan which does not consider the needs of the individual driver? Why institute a plan which will, in all probability, price the working poor off the highways once their initial ration is used?

Simon spoke Friday of a "moderate form of rationing" in January because service stations will not have sufficient gasoline to meet demands. Moderate rationing in the form of shorter hours and limited sales at stations have been with us for some time, ever since the shortfall hit Hoke County last June. It appears we were hit earlier and harder than the rest of the nation. Why?

Simple Simon went to look,
 If chits grew on a thistle;
 He pricked his fingers very much,
 Which made poor Simon whistle.

He solved the shortfall with a sieve,
 But soon gas all fell through;
 And now poor Simple Simon,
 Bid us without do!

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, December 30, 1948
 The Raeford Methodist Church burned to the ground in about 40 minutes last Sunday.

The Hoke County Democratic committee met at the courthouse here Monday morning and chose J. Benton to succeed to the 12th district of the Senate of the North Carolina Assembly which was vacated by the resignation of Ryan due to his health.

Christmas Eve and Friday morning saw a very clear Sunday and Monday and

this section came out of the Yuletide in the grip of the coldest weather of the winter to date.

R.B. Lewis, president of the Raeford Chamber of Commerce, Inc., announced this week that the Chamber had been accepted for membership in the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America.

From Poole's Medley:
 I admire able leadership, but it cannot be considered wise to enforce our views upon others. Knowledge, even wisdom, cannot be forced upon people. The Democratic party is of more worth than any one member of the organization.

'Say Uncle ...'



The Midnight Oil

by Jama Chesser

To Resolve: (according to Webster) ...to determine; come to a decision. Decision: (Webster again) ...the act of making up one's mind.

In the light of the two above definitions, the wild statements my husband and I made on New Year's Eve could hardly be called New Year's resolutions. More aptly they could be called unmitigated rumors of what is a distant possibility for the coming year.

The first step in making New Year's resolutions is to determine just what each of needs to change. This year I decided not to make any resolutions since I had failed to keep last year's. That was a big mistake because Cap decided to think of a few resolutions for me.

First of all, he said I was too opinionated. You can imagine my consternation since being able to form an opinion was what I considered one of my assets. Certainly Cap should have noticed that while I usually did have an opinion on any given subject, that opinion changed frequently.

But, to humour Cap, I said I would form more opinions more frequently and change them more often so that I would not seem so opinionated. Cap wasn't satisfied with that, but it was the best I could do.

Next, he said I should stop spending so much money. Fine. I went to the budget book and cut my household budget ten percent. From now on the food budget allows for only half the usual number of steaks. Guess Cap will eat a hamburger while I eat steak. Why

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear editor:

Up to now I haven't had any fixed opinion about the tribulations of the Nixon Administration, but a statement by his Chief of Staff the other day has now convinced me that it's in deep trouble.

When Rose Mary Woods was trying to explain how she may have punched the wrong button on a recording machine and accidentally erased five minutes of an important 18 - minute tape because she had to stop and answer the phone, she insisted that she had talked "not over five minutes," so couldn't possibly have damaged the rest of the 18 - minute segment.

It was at this point that the Administration plunged into deep trouble. The Chief of Staff, Gen Alexander Haig, pooh - poohed the idea that the telephone conversation lasted only five minutes.

"Some women," he said, "can talk on the phone an hour and think it's only five minutes."

I'm not interested in the truth of his statement, that's for the courts or Sam Ervin or somebody to decide. I'm interested in the reaction of women to it, which is simple: Gen. Haig has to go.

No woman talks for an hour on the phone. She may be on the phone for an hour, but the woman, it has to be a woman, on the other end is going to get in at least 30 minutes, not counting the time both are talking simultaneously.

You'd think a man with as important a job as Gen. Haig's would have learned long ago what the telephone company has known for years about women: you charge by the month, not by the mouth, or nobody could afford to pay his bill.

Gen. Haig has failed to learn the first rule of staying in office: never offend dog lovers, big contributors, or women. There are rough waters ahead.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

isn't that a good solution? Cap is the one who was unsatisfied with the budget.

Deciding I had better turn the tables, I offered that Cap himself might make a few resolutions, such as resolving to be more helpful around the house. Feeling guilty about 1973's neglected chores he marched straight to the hall and changed a light bulb. That task completed, he took off his shoes, and propped his feet up to listen to my opinion of how lazy he was last year.

And so the evening went. The one resolution each of us will carry out faithfully is the one we make every year. We promise each other that no matter what the new year brings, we won't ever dwell on the bad time of last year, but will face each day anew. And believe me, New Year's Eve and its resolutions are subjects we will not talk about during 1974, at least until December 31 at about 11:45 p.m.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

We have a problem. Possibly the seriousness of this gas shortage is now reaching the nation. But other problems are arising from it. Ill feelings and downright animosity are now in existence at the gas pumps in service stations.

I would like to know something though. Why is it that each station receives their gasoline allocation at the first of the month, sells it out and has none at the end of the month? This causes the longlines at the service stations that have gasoline.

The solution to the traffic fougles, long waiting and looks of hatred seems to me to be easy. Let me present an example: stations A, B, C, and D all receive their monthly supply at approximately the same time.

Station A should sell his supply out as quickly as possible. Station B should sell only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Station C should sell his supply of gasoline during the middle part of the month. And last but not least, station D would wait until the end of the month to sell.

Each station would know when to start selling by checking his books of the previous month. Toward the end of the month station B, C, and D would all be (more than likely) selling gas and the lines would not be long; especially if more careful planning were done and some agreements were made between the station owners and operators.

Perhaps this example is a little skimpy and there are those who might completely disagree with my way of reasoning, but it does seem to me that some type of planning among the gasoline retailers the area could be done that would bring about better feelings of security and brotherhood to everyone.

Sincerely,
 Wes Miller

Rural Fires

875-4242

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



A LANDMARK YEAR - In more ways than many would like to think, 1973 has been a "landmark year," a year that a good many Americans might well like to forget, President Nixon included. However, as Fitzgerald once wrote:

"The Moving Finger writes; and having writ,
 Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
 Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
 Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it."

James M. Barrie once wrote:
 "The life of every man is a diary
 In which he means to write one story,
 But writes another:
 And his humblest hour is when he
 Compares the volume as it is, with
 What he hoped to make it."

MAN OF THE YEAR - As of the writing of this column Saturday morning, January 29, I do not know who Time Magazine will pick as the "Man of the Year" for 1973. However, if I were picking the "Man of the Year" for 1973 - without hesitation, Henry Kissinger would be the man!

SUNDAY CLOSINGS - State Senator John T. Church, Board Chairman of Rose's Stores made a statement last week that many people will likely agree with when he said that "all retailers, except those needed to be open for health purposes, be closed on Sunday - We think the time has come for all retailers to take action to conserve energy by closing their stores on Sunday."

GRAHAM & NIXON - A few Sundays ago Dr. Billy Graham was invited to the White House to conduct a worship service, which he accepted. About that time Dr. Graham was interviewed by a representative of the evangelical weekly, Christianity Today, when he was queried about his stand on the charges being made against President Nixon. Dr. Graham said that Nixon's "judgments have been very poor." He also said: "Morally, socially, economically, politically and spiritually, we are in deep trouble." He also said: "Until there is more proof to the contrary, I have confidence in the President's integrity. But some of his judgments have been wrong, and I just don't agree with them."

Senator Sam Ervin Says

WASHINGTON--Since I have announced my intention to retire at the end of my term on January 3, 1975, it seems not amiss for me to give the people of North Carolina at this time something in the nature of an accounting of my stewardship as their Senator.

I have endeavored to practice on all occasions the concept that a public office is a public trust. I have sought to make life more abundant for the farm families of North Carolina, who produce the food, fiber, and agricultural crops essential to our existence and comfort; to support the free enterprise system, and promote the economic interests of those who invest and labor in North Carolina's industries; to promote the development of worthwhile projects in North Carolina's river basins and harbors; to preserve constitutional government and the blessings of liberty for all Americans; to secure to those who labor freedom to join or to refrain from joining unions in conformity with their own desires; to compel the Federal government to balance its budget, stop deficit financing, and terminate its wasteful foreign aid programs; to maintain armed forces sufficient to insure our national survival in a precarious world; to further education, medical research, and the public health; to conserve our natural resources, reduce pollution in our atmosphere and waters, and make our highways, parkways, and parks toll-free to all our people; to secure reasonable benefits to disabled veterans and their dependents and to the aging and handicapped; to obtain the enactment of laws to protect Federal employees against tyrannical treatment by their government, and to obtain the enactment of laws establishing procedures for Constitutional Conventions called on the petition of two-thirds of the States.

At the same time I have fought, as sinful and tyrannical, proposals that Americans be taxed to support religious institutions in violation of the First Amendment; as incompatible with freedom proposals that State right-to-work laws be repealed and that compulsory unionism be forced upon those who do not wish to join unions; as inimical to justice, proposals to enact "no knock" and preventive detention laws; as inconsistent with our system of government, the use of the military to spy on civilians exercising their First Amendment rights of free speech, assembly, and petition; as intolerable, governmental efforts to intimidate individuals, newsmen, and broadcasters for exercising their rights of free speech and a free press in a manner displeasing to government; as rank tyranny, unnecessary governmental invasions of the privacy of our people, and governmental collection and computerization of data concerning their political and religious thoughts, beliefs, and activities; and as unwise,

Many people will agree, we suspect, with Dr. Graham's statements.

MIZELL - With U.S. Senator Jesse Helms' nod in the direction of Congressman "Vinegar Bend" Mizell for the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate our thinking is that the Davidson County Republican will be in the race before February rolls around, even if Jim Holshouser prefers someone else.

While Helms says he would not become involved in a primary battle within the party for the nomination, Helms' nod in this instance could have more bearing than did his nod in the direction of Frank Rouse in the recent State GOP chairmanship battle.

SOUTH CAROLINA - In neighboring South Carolina a young Democratic Congressman from Charleston, Mendell Rivers Davis, namesake and godson of the late Congressman Mendell Rivers is talking about switching from the Democrat to the Republican party in seeking reelection in 1974. Evidently Davis feels that Watergate has not damaged the GOP Party too much in South Carolina, which only a few years ago was oftentimes without candidates to half-way fill slots on the ticket.

CRIME - A recent report stated that serious crime in the nation during the past nine months was up one percent over 1972, whereas here in North Carolina, crime in Charlotte was up 15 percent, in Winston - Salem up 12 percent, in Greensboro up 4 percent, and in Raleigh up 2 percent.

RATIONING - Our observation here in North Carolina is that people are cooperating in the energy crisis, lowering the temperature and doing less driving at a slower speed, which we hope and believe will delete the necessity of official rationing. Most service stations which we have observed are already rationing gasoline, and to our way of thinking, they are doing a pretty good job at it.

CONGRESSMAN RUTH - Congressman Earl Ruth says: "At long last, Congress is recognizing the need to take steps to prevent the federal government from spending money, it does not have." Congratulations to Cong. Ruth on his optimism. We want to see the proposed law enacted, and in force before becoming optimistic!

Stories Behind Words

By William S. Penfield

Pluck

A "pluck of lights" is an old name for the heart, liver and lungs of a small beast.

The word "pluck" in the phrase refers to the fact that these organs were jerked or plucked from the carcass and fed to the dogs. "Lights" refers to the lungs, which have little weight in proportion to their size. A "pluck of lights" was shortened long ago to "pluck."

In medieval times the heart and liver were considered the seat of heroism or courage. Since two of the organs in the "pluck" were the heart and liver, "pluck" became a synonym for courage or determination in expressions such as "He has a lot of pluck."

Schooner

A great deal of interest centered on the ship that Capt. Andrew Robinson built at Gloucester, Mass. He masted and rigged the sailing vessel in a manner different from any other.

A sizable crowd was on hand for the launching in 1713. The blocks were knocked aside and the ship slipped down the ways and slid smoothly into the water.

"Oh, how she scoons!" exclaimed an excited spectator. "Scoon," meaning to skim, was derived from the Scottish word "scon" - to skip stones across water.

Capt. Robinson took his cue from the bystander and called his vessel a "schooner." The spelling was later changed, probably through Dutch influence, to "schooner."