

The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION
Free Press
WNA SUSTAINING
MEMBER - 1973

North Carolina
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Raeford, N.C. 28376
119 W. Elwood Avenue

Subscription Rates In Advance
Per Year - \$5.00 6 Months - \$2.75 3 Months - \$1.50

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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N. C.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1974

As We See It... By Kay Piotrkowski

The primary election is over and according to the democratic process, the people have spoken. But in reality only a small portion of the people decided to exercise their right to vote. Roughly 66 percent of Hoke County's registered voters sat at home on their apathy and let a mere one-third of the voters speak for the entire county. This is a disgrace.

There are 6,634 registered voters in the county and all will have a second chance to vote on two important runoffs June 4. We understand second primaries usually draw fewer voters than first primaries, but we hope Hoke Countians will strive to change that. It strikes us that if citizen input to local governments between elections is as low as that voiced May 7, it is no wonder some governing boards appear to work in a vacuum. They do because they are forced to or because the people let them by abdicating the citizen's responsibility to participate in government.

With all the scandal in national government it should be apparent to the most apathetic individual that governments ignored by the people do not do a particularly good job of concerning themselves with the welfare of the governed, or with compliance with law. Such isolated governing bodies tend to become increasingly more secretive and self serving. And the people are as much, perhaps more, to blame than those who govern in secret.

We hope all Hoke Countians will exercise their right to vote June 4. All citizens who were registered to vote before April 9 may vote in the runoff election even if they did not exercise their voting privilege in the May 7 primary.

■ If every person who voted May 7 would locate two other registered voters who did not vote and convince those two to vote June 4 we could honestly feel the people have spoken.

In the county commissioners race the voters spoke resoundingly for James Albert Hunt who with 1,422 votes led second place Mabel Riley by almost two to one. But from that point on the next three candidates tallied with only a 75 vote spread between second and fourth place. Mrs. Riley polled 785 with Dannie Deloris McCollum 72 votes down, 713, for third and incumbent John G. Balfour only three votes out, 710, for fourth. Fifth place incumbent Ralph W. Barnhart was 90 votes lower with 620.

June 4 will find Mrs. Riley, McCollum, Balfour and Barnhart vying for nomination as Democratic candidates for two seats on the board of county commissioners in the November general elections.

With a second campaign at county level we repeat our message of last week for voters to beware of unfounded or unsubstantiated stories which will spring up about various candidates. Check the facts. Ask the individual candidates about the issues and about the rumors.

We mentioned two last minute campaign stories last week and hope they will serve to warn voters in the future. These stories often are started by a voter who feels strongly about keeping a candidate out of office or pushing a favored candidate in. There was no intent in last week's article, or in this one, to say that any candidate is the source of these stories. They are often the last to hear the rumors.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, May 12, 1949

Daniel Smith McKeithan, 87, died Saturday at 3:00 a.m. at Broad Oaks sanatorium near Asheville.

Funeral services were conducted in the Chapel of the Lentz Mortuary here at 2:30 Sunday afternoon for Private William C. Holland, 19, of the United States Army, who was killed by a hit and run driver on a highway near Campbell, Ky., on the night of Wednesday, May 4.

From Poole's Medley:

Because we have had a mild winter, we are a little more likely to have cool snaps this summer. We will see.

About 40 officers and men of Battery A, 130th Antiaircraft Battalion local National Guard unit, went to Fort Bragg last Saturday where they bivouacked on the range and where annual record firing of rifles was conducted on Saturday and Sunday.

Roads on the Fort Bragg reservation will be closed to all civilian traffic during the period May 11-20 inclusive.

Final phase of Exercise Tarheel will start at one minute after midnight tonight, according to public information officers at Exercise headquarters.

Tomorrow night, Friday, May 13, at 8:30 the senior class of Hoke High will present their play, "Aunt Tillie Goes to Town", a comedy in three acts.

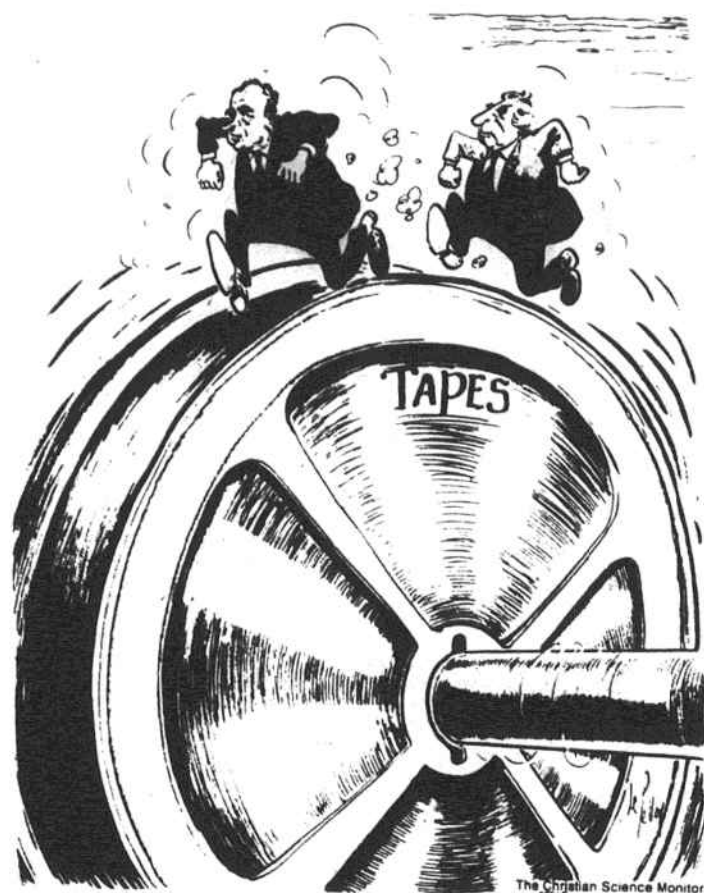
15 years ago

Thursday, May 14, 1959

Letters were received here last week from Rep. Charles Hostetler concerning his action in the General Assembly on the question of zoning within one mile of the corporate limits of Raeford.

Announcement was made Tuesday from the office of W.T. Gibson, principal of Hoke High School that after 1961 an average scholastic grade of 77 (C) would be required on 18 units for graduation from the high school here.

Treadmill



The Midnight Oil

by Jama Chesser

Let's hear from one of the special groups of society, a group that, while seemingly tireless, absolutely must rest sometime, although anyone not belonging to the group knows when.

Actually, I don't want to hear from the group, but let's take a look at them. I'm referring to those folks who always have something to say on any given subject, the talkers.

Lots of well known names are listed among the ranks as well as some of us less popular talkers. See if you belong.

1. Do you often catch yourself talking about things you don't understand and find you are not asking questions?

2. Does your spouse often call you the marvel mouth of the century?

3. Has your tongue been suffering from mild to formidable cases of muscle cramps lately?

4. When you go to dinner, do you order for two people even when you are alone?

5. Did you join a weight loss club just so you could tell one of your own experiences?

6. Do you fall asleep during the sermon and enjoy the responsive reading?

7. Has your pet gotten to where he answers only to "my little bitty uggums wuggums buggums snookums creature with the spots on his nose"?

8. Did your phone bill last month include a \$10.70 charge on a call to a nearby radio opinion poll?

9. Is there a clause in your job contract insuring the boss will be

entitled to request information on any subject from you?

10. Do you read cereal boxes and milk cartons aloud when there is no one else at the breakfast table?

11. Do your children insist on putting tape over your mouth when you chaperone the school dance?

12. Does your barber or beautician know about your Aunt Harriett who likes to take her false teeth out when she rolls her dyed brown hair on bobby pins once a month?

If you discover you are suffering from any of the above symptoms, you may decide to do one of several things. You may learn to refer to your over-exercised vocal chords as a sign of friendliness and enjoy yourself. Or you may try the reform route.

I find it does no good to make New Years resolutions, so I just try to write down as much of what I'd like to say as possible instead of saying it. You'd be surprised where the written words turn up, or would you?

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

According to an article I read in a newspaper yesterday 374 of the nation's leading economists are divided on whether or not we have a recession.

Some of them say they believe we're in a recession, others say they don't believe so. Those who say we're in one believe we'll be out of it by the third or possibly the fourth quarter of the year. Those who don't believe we're in one didn't say when they thought we might be.

I have thought this over and have concluded the only way to find out if we're in a recession is to vote on it.

It's hard for a \$50,000-a-year economist to have any personal knowledge of whether or not we're in a recession. He can look at the oil companies whose profits are up about 75 percent and say, nope, no recession. He can look at steel profits up 100 percent, and say times are booming. But if he's an economist on the faculty of some university not getting enough financial help from the ex-students and he hasn't had a raise in five years and has five kids, he can detect all sorts of signs of a recession.

I tell you, recession, like appliances, aren't what they used to be. In the old days nobody had to take a poll of the economists to find out if times were hard. In the first place they didn't have the money to hire them. In the second place it'd have been like hiring a weather man to tell you whether or not you were in a drought.

I'm no economist and I know nothing about witchcraft, but anybody who has to depend on somebody else to tell him how he's doing financially doesn't need an economist, he needs a keeper.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



THE PRIMARY. . . It was a quiet primary, one of the quietest, with little interest being manifest outside the candidates and their close supporters.

Some things stand out in the primary results:
It's hard, almost impossible to defeat a first-year congressman who has done a fair job.

Charlie Rose's big win over Hector McGeachy, Jr., in the Seventh District and Ike Andrew's win over Robert Wynne in the Fourth District were good examples. Neither Rose or Andrews, with some 15 months of service in Washington, has been there long enough to bring forth a great deal of ill will, except disappointments of people wanting jobs on their staff.

ROBERT MORGAN. . . Robert Morgan's victory proved again that the polls are often right. The big question was whether he would be able to get a majority in the first primary, or would be lack just a little. Winning in the first primary will give him a stronger position from which to face William F. Stevens in the November election.

If Robert Morgan goes on to win big in the November election, it is possible that he might emerge as a contender for the Democratic Vice-Presidential nomination-or even Presidential, further on down the road.

However, oftentimes, when a Southern senator becomes interested in a place on the national ticket, his representation in behalf of his own state lags. Oftentimes, with an eye on support from other states, they don't do a very good job in representing their own state.

GEORGE WALLACE. . . George Wallace won big in Alabama, as was expected. Wallace has let it be known that if the Democratic party treats him unfairly, he will bolt and run on a new third party ticket. With the GOP limping badly and the liberals in command of the Democratic party, a middle-of-the-road party headed by George Wallace would probably command widespread support. Wallace has mellowed and changed considerably since the early 1960's.

JUDGES. . . For the first time, we believe, since the late Chief Justice R. Hunt Parker was elected Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court, the people have chosen in a primary two

candidates, J. William Copeland of Murfreesboro and James Exum of Greensboro, who may well be chosen in the fall election. Exum is without opposition in the fall election.

We feel that the people's judgment in this matter is certainly equal to that of recent governors in their judicial appointments.

To our way of thinking, the late Chief Justice R. Hunt Parker was a great judge, one that Copeland and Exum would do well to emulate if they move on to the highest court in the state.

INCUMBENTS WIN. . . Another thing that the May 7 primary indicated was that Democratic incumbents need not have any unusual fear over the Watergate scandal turning the voters against them.

In the three congressional elections over the country in which the people elected Democrats to succeed Republicans who had died or had been appointed to higher office, it was simply indicated that the Republicans are in pretty low cotton these days. With the Watergate hearings going on, it is not reasonable to expect that sentiment will turn against the Democrats unless something unusual happens that is not indicated.

GOP CONGRESSMEN. . . Some of the Republican congressmen in North Carolina might well feel the sting of Watergate, and it wouldn't surprise us to see a net gain for the Democrats in the 1974 congressional elections in the Tar Heel State.

We suspect that it's the possibility of defeat at the polls in November and not any great shock over President Nixon's conduct -- tape language or otherwise, that is causing Republican senators and congressmen to make public statements calling for the President's resignation or ouster.

We wonder how other presidents during the past quarter of a century would have stood up under the public scrutiny and investigation that Nixon has undergone, including private conversations, etc.?

History, we suspect, will give the Nixon Administration as a whole a much better place in the annals of time than contemporary writers accord him. At least that is what happened in Andrew Johnson's case.

Senator Sam Ervin Says

WASHINGTON -- After 32 months, the national experiment with wage and price controls appears to have run its course. The Senate has rejected an amendment to provide standby economic controls, enforce decontrol commitments, and continue monitoring

of inflation.

Business, labor, and the general public have grown tired of controls that have not worked well since early 1973. As administered by the President's Cost of Living Council, Phase III and Phase IV controls became less and less effective as the months went by. The only visible effect of late was a serious distortion in many sectors of the economy and a rash of shortages. So, statutory wage-price restraints are likely to be shelved at least until the Administration, Congress, and the public can determine what to do next about the monthly increase in the cost of living.

No one is immune to this problem. Paychecks and savings are being robbed by higher prices. Millions of people who have enjoyed the "good life" now see this challenged in the onrush of price increases for clothing, food, gasoline, shelter, and essential services.

The Commerce Department has just reported the effects of this economic situation. For the first quarter of this year, there was the sharpest economic downturn since 1958 -- a lessening of the gross national product of 5.8% -- and a price increase of 14.3% for the same period. All this means is that jobs are harder to find and a dollar buys less.

This is well-known to the working family. The more difficult questions arise out of the cause of inflation and what we can do about it. Without any doubt, the most important change needed is for government itself to adopt sensible fiscal policies. It has been said before, but it must be emphasized again, that our government has borrowed money in all but seven of the last forty-five fiscal years to pay its expenditures. While most Americans are aware of the fact, they are not aware that federal deficit spending is costing them as taxpayers and is contributing immensely to the inflationary pressures that have weakened the dollar.

There is some hope that things will improve. For the first time in more than 50 years, Congress is likely to adopt a bill which I originally introduced on April 11, 1973 and which was reworked in the Senate Government Operations and Rules and Administration Committees. This bill would modernize Congressional Budget Procedures and would require Congress to act in a business-like manner in controlling spending and revenues. Senate and House conferees are working toward a legislative agreement on this vital issue. Hopefully, this action will be completed soon. This would be a major step toward an improved fiscal policy -- an essential tool in the battle against inflation.

Not all of the problem lies in fiscal reform. The energy crisis has contributed greatly to inflation. With gasoline costs soaring due to a heavy reliance on imported oil, the family

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

of his mouth: "Honey I forgot to duck!"

In the crowd that followed him into the room were newspaper reporters, and the good sportsmanship of the man struck them. The next morning's papers carried that word of Dempsey's: "Honey, I forgot to duck!" And from that day on everybody liked Jack Dempsey. They had found that he could take it.

New Bern is one of the few old towns in North Carolina that has not undergone a change in name. Most of the early communities in the eastern part of the state, had other names than the ones they now possess.

The most powerful man from a physical standpoint ever to have lived in North Carolina was Peter Francisco, in whose memory there is a monument at Guilford Battlefield, not far from Greensboro.

Across the Cape Fear River, west from Wilmington, there are five historical markers, within a distance of about 200 feet. Nowhere else in the state are there so many markers within so short a distance.

Several years ago this little story about Roger Quillen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Quillen of Sanford came to us.

Roger went to church Easter Sunday morning, and the church was crowded to the doors. When he got home from church he went over next door to see his uncle and aunt. When his aunt asked him about the crowd at the church, the youngster said: "You know, Aunt Maude, there was so many people there that they had to put some of them up on the shelf."

Roger, of course was referring to the balcony of the church.