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THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1975

As We See It..... by Laurie Telfair

Have you driven down Elwood Avenue lately? When you do, be careful. If the traffic doesn't get you, the holes in the street will.

The crossing there of the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad is bumpy enough to rattle your teeth, and no telling what it is doing to your tires. The city manager told councilmen several weeks ago that he has tried to contact railroad officials to fix the crossing, but no improvements are visible.

Then there's the matter of the traffic. The problem lies not so much in the volume, but in the lack of control.

Two alleys, the post office and a couple of parking lots let cars out into the avenue in a hodge-podge of confusion. Then add the half dozen or so folks every day who still insist on stopping on the wrong side of the street to use the drive-up mail box, and you have a mess.

One solution is to make Elwood a one-way street going east and Edinborough a one-way street going west. That would control the traffic somewhat, and at least would make the mail box usable without tempting drivers to ignore the law.

This isn't a new suggestion, of course. It's been kicking about for years and one councilman is so committed to the idea, that there has been talk of renaming the street for him.

But something should be done.

"Big court", or the January term of Superior Court, has been going on with the Honorable James H. Pou Bailey presiding. He is probably the subject of more anecdotes than any other judge in the state, and has the reputation for being especially tough on persons who appeal drunken driving convictions from district court. This may have something to do with the fact that there are few DUI cases set for trial this term.

The county commissioners will meet Monday at 9 a.m. and the city council will meet that night at 7:30. If you can spare the time, attend one of the meetings. It is always good to sit in while your representatives conduct the public's business.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, January 26, 1950

Marshall Thomas, chairman of the Hoke County board of commissioners, said yesterday that a meeting of all people interested in getting telephones would be held in the courthouse next Monday night, January 30 at 7:30 o'clock.

Preacher Brown says he's not quite through moving but that Raeford Hardware Co. is now open for business in their new location next to Raeford Barber Shop.

Little Kaye McNeill 5-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Watson McNeill of near Duffie's Station was seriously hurt Sunday afternoon.

From Rockfish News:
Rockfish and Middouson had another spelling match this week. We do not know the outcome at this writing, but we heard it was a tie.

Guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Raeford Kiwanis Club at the high school cafeteria last Thursday night was Voit Gilmore, Southern Pines lumberman.

Raeford Furniture Company, Amos and Company, Hotel Barber Shop and Raeford Barber Shop announces in an advertisement in this issue that they will begin closing on Wednesday afternoons beginning next Wednesday.

Headline:
March of Dimes Is Getting
Plenty of Lip Service Here

From School News:

We are to report that the frame of the steeple on the new Methodist Church is in place and that the Superintendent's office and the Raeford Graded School can now pay better attention to business during the past few days.

15 years ago

Thursday, January 28, 1960

The influenza-type ailment has reached epidemic proportions in Hoke County with schools reporting heavy absences and doctors keeping all night hours for the last five days.

Miss Josephine Hall was named the "Citizen of the Year" at the annual Kiwanis Club Ladies Night Banquet Thursday.

Opening of the bids for the work that is to be done on the water system in the town of Raeford took place Thursday afternoon at the town hall.

Union Revival services will begin Monday evening and continue through the week at the Raeford Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. Guest minister for the week will be the Rev. A. Purnell Bailey.

Sale of both town and state auto tags is somewhat slower this year than last.

'Can't we just sit down and talk this over?'



by Marty Vega

Utility Bills Aren't Funny

I have to agree with the woman who wrote a newspaper about the proposed tax rebates. All the money will go to pay our electric bills, so why doesn't the treasury just send the cash directly to the utilities and save everybody's time, she asks.

There is really nothing very funny about this unfunny subject. When you hear of people whose electric bills are higher than the mortgage payment, it seems incredible.

There is no way I can accept the fact my small, one bedroom apartment used \$55 worth of electricity. Nor can a friend comprehend why her house which is empty all day can come up with a \$131 bill.

How is anyone expected to accept the fact that the bills keep getting higher and higher when less and less electricity has been used.

The latest shock in the mailbox is due to the fuel adjustment rate, a euphemism for the carte blanche the power companies have in jacking up their prices. Apparently because of a colossal blunder the management made in its coal buying habits, we, the customers, are facing these enormous bills.

So, the angry consumers are organizing. A lot of pressure is expected to be brought on the state assembly when it considers legislation to tighten controls on the power companies.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

As you know, first Congress and the President both came out for a tax rebate, then the automobile companies fell in line with their rebates. Buy a new car at whatever price you can wangle out of the dealer here in Raeford and the company in Detroit will mail you a check of \$300 or so.

I guess this is the first time in history we've ever tried to rebate ourselves out of a recession, but I'm in favor of it.

Only, it doesn't go far enough. If a car company will pay me to buy a new car, why won't the filling station pay me to fill it up with gas? What are the tire companies going to do for me when I wear out the first set?

What are the supermarkets hung on? What kind of rebate are they coming up with if you buy a sack of new groceries?

These are uncertain times and no half-way measures are going to get us out of our trouble. If I can get enough people sending me rebates, and they'll scatter them out so I've got an adequate amount coming in every month with maybe a few extras along about Christmas time, I'll figure I've done my part to whip the recession.

Speaking of rebates, the Soviet Union has beat us all hollow in that department. According to an article I read yesterday, in 1972 the U.S. agreed to cut Russia's World War II debt to us to \$722 million, although it was a lot more than that originally, in some sort of trade agreement giving Russia what's called "most favored nation" status, but Russia has now said the agreement has collapsed (I don't know who built the scaffold) and therefore she doesn't owe us anything. I'd call that a pretty sizeable rebate.

By the way, I've been studying the car rebate plan and I'm in favor of it but wouldn't the companies sell more cars if they sent you the rebate before you bought a car so you could use that as a downpayment?

Yours faithfully
J.A.

For many people, the horse may be gone by the time the lock is put on.

Young families who have already cut their budgets to the bone this year are now saddled with this. Some may have savings they can dip into, but for many affected by a layoff or reduced work schedule, savings have been exhausted.

Are people expected to go further into debt by borrowing at the bank to pay these bills? The utility companies are about the only business which does not offer a revolving credit plan, you know.

With the oil crisis, gas rationing is discussed as an alternative to higher prices. Why didn't the power companies give us the same choice when the coal situation came up? For those who can afford it, let them have all the electricity they want. Control the amount going into a home by some rationing system for those who would prefer this to higher prices. Maybe then, they wouldn't have had to buy all that expensive coal and could have waited until the time was right.

Let's hope our elected representatives take action to insure a situation like this doesn't happen again. And, let's hope they act as swiftly here as they did for that burning social issue, turning right at the red light.

STORIES BEHIND WORDS

By William S. Penfield

In the third century a group of Germanic tribes that lived along the Rhine and Weser Rivers united. The tribesmen, who were called Franks, overran Gaul (the area that is now France), but they were driven out by the Romans.

In the 5th Century, when the power of the Romans had diminished, the Franks again invaded Gaul. This time they conquered it.

The Franks, as conquerors, were the only free men in Gaul. The name "Frank," therefore, acquired the meaning of "a free man." Being free men, the Franks could afford to be open in their actions and speech. Hence, a person who speaks his mind freely is said to be "frank."

Bicentennial Notes

Those Were The Days . . .

(First of five parts)

By Pauline McFadyen

I guess few people have ever been more charmed with school than I was. Miss Ruth Gordon, (Ellen Currie's mother) my teacher, looked after the lot of us as a mother would. She put up a cretonne curtain across the back of the room. Behind this she put a table with a water bucket and dipper, soap and a wash pan.

Every morning when we came into the room, we spread our hands on the desk. She walked slowly along each row of desks and inspected neck, ears, face, hands, nails and hair.

My mother always scrubbed me so hard the night before and again in the morning that my neck and ears were red. But too bad for the boy with dirty finger nails or the girl with tangled hair. She dealt with that one behind the curtain. Many times she taught us with one child in her arms. If a child seemed feverish, he sat near the large heater. Too she kept a bottle of sweet oil in the desk drawer for anyone with ear ache.

We soon learned our A B C's and began printing. Everything was phonetic, so it wasn't long before I could spell and pronounce. I learned to spell words on box cars down near the depot. I learned to spell Philadelphia from our new Lester piano, and I picked up many words from our furniture store.

When school closed each day every class marched out and lined up. When the principal nodded his head that we were dismissed, I would tuck my blue denim book sack under my arm and run home. There, I would take out my pencil and my tablet with the picture of Uncle Remus and Br'er Rabbit on it and show Mother and my sisters what I had learned. I remember how proud I was when I learned to write the letter G. Our teacher taught us to make two loops at the top and then at the bottom she put another loop or curlicue. I had never noticed a G, like this so I practiced a lot.

On Saturday I walked up the street to play with my two little girl friends. I had my large pencil with me and before I realized what I was doing, I had made large G's all across the front of their

newly painted house. Of course my silly little sisters ran home and told; so it wasn't long before I was back up there with a pan and rag and Bon Ami washing the wall while all the children jeered me.

Finally I learned to write my whole name. But this got me in trouble too. One day I stopped by Father's furniture store on my way home from school. I wanted a nickle for a cherry smash. He was busy with a customer, so I walked to the back of the store where a lovely new brown leather living room suit had just been uncrated. I just don't know why I did it, but that leather just tempted me and I knelt and with a straight pin scratched my full name on it. I was mortified when I realized what I had done, but I just couldn't erase it. No matter how hard I rubbed. I forgot the cherry smash and ran home.

Along in the winter of my first year in school I began having all the childhood diseases - first measles, then mumps and finally chicken pox.

By the time I returned to school there were two first grades and I was assigned to Mrs. Margaret Black's room upstairs near the old auditorium. We all must have loved Mrs. Black (Margaret Dickson's mother) for I remember one day a child walked up to her desk with a gift of part of his lunch. Then every child in our room took out his lunch box and walked up with a gift. The desk was stacked high with food.

She gave me a little pearl handle nail file for reading perfectly "The Mountain and the Squirrel". I cherished this for a long time.

Now that I could read, what was there to read? Over and over I read my school book. I got a little picture post card with a short story on the back at Sunday School. I would read this in Church if Father didn't see me and thump my forehead.

When Father went to Baltimore on business he brought me four children's books, the first I had ever seen.

Then a room at the courthouse opened as a library. I walked there one day and browsed a while, finally choosing a book. I ran every step of the way home to have Mother read me the title. I had chosen a cook book.

(Continued next week)

CLIFF BLUE . . .

People & Issues



HOLSHOUSER -- Gov. Holshouser's recommendation to eliminate the sales tax of food beginning July 1, 1976 caught the Democrats in the General Assembly off guard.

Politically speaking, Holshouser's recommendation was pretty smart whether it was thought up by the governor himself or one of his advisors. If the tax on food is still on come election time 1976, Holshouser can point to his recommendation that it be eliminated. If it is off he can claim the credit for its repeal.

But if Holshouser really believes the food tax should be eliminated it should come off this July 1, 1975 rather than wait a full year. There is considerable fat in "big government." We suspect that there is sufficient fat in state government to trim off 10 percent and you would have a more efficient operation all around!

Soon after Holshouser was inaugurated governor he named an efficiency committee to recommend paring state expenditures. The committee did a pretty good job of recommending cuts in expenditures but this didn't help the taxpayers one red cent. The money was simply spent somewhere else in big state government.

The tax on food will be an issue that the General Assembly will have to face

in a more serious way this year, and Jim Holshouser whose stock dropped pretty low following the November elections will not be hurt whichever way the ball bounces.

MORGAN -- Home from Washington and visiting in Fayetteville, Senator Robert Morgan said he was "quite frankly concerned" about deficit spending in Washington. "If we are going to give a tax break, where are we going to get the money from?" asked Senator Morgan, adding, "As long as the government continues to operate in the red, it seems to me we may just be postponing the day of reckoning." Morgan was simply voicing sentiments that most people with their feet on the ground have been thinking during these years of postponing.

GOP CANDIDATES -- Who will the Republican nominee for governor be in 1976? Even though the fall election doesn't look too appealing at this stage of the game, they will have to put up some one. David Jones, Secretary of the Dept. of Corrections has been making sounds like a would be candidate. When Bill Stevens was running for the U.S. Senate it was felt that he might be the favorite of the Holshouser group if he made a good showing, but Stevens like most other Republicans candidates made a rather poor showing. Others being mentioned include David Flaherty, Secretary of Human Resources who is regarded as an able man who might be interested in making the race. Jim Harrington, Secretary of Economic Resources is another possible GOP candidate.

Come 1976 there is but one way the GOP candidates can go after having hit rock-bottom last November, and that is up!

TOM WICKER -- Tom Wicker of the New York Times made a thought-provoking speech at the Duke meeting of the N.C. Press in Durham Jan. 17. Wicker, a native of Hamlet, North Carolina, discussed possibilities through which he said the people might lose our democratic form of government. Wicker, a liberal-himself, credited the liberal Democrats as creating the powerful presidency which resulted in Watergate.

DEBT LIMIT -- With President Ford asking Congress to raise the national debt limit to \$604 billion it looks like we may be in for another round of inflation!

PRIORITY -- With the wanton killings that are taking place across the state and nation it seems that top priority should be given to proper punishment for the guilty and the safety of the law-abiding citizens.

For years we have heard talk about court reform and court improvement. More than improved facilities, the courts need to firm up to the need for justice in these wanton crimes.



Read Philippians 1:3-11

I pray that your love will keep on growing more and more, together with true knowledge and perfect judgement, so that you will be able to choose what is best. (Philippians 1:9-10 TEV)

What is a vaccination supposed to do? This small invasion of germs causes a mild reaction. An immunity is developed which prevents that person from catching the real thing.

Once I heard a bishop say, "Some people are vaccinated against Christianity."

I think I've seen some people who have been vaccinated against Christianity. At some point, they were exposed to Christ, but their response was a mild one, of little consequence. It

called for no real change or growth. This mild dose of Christianity "took," and they have developed an immunity to the real thing.

Can this account for the church member who feels no need for deep commitment? Is this the one whose personal qualities match the world around him, not those which Christ calls for?

PRAYER: Dear Lord, may nothing keep me from seeking You with my whole heart. Help my love to keep on growing more and more until my life possesses the self-giving qualities of Jesus. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Have I been vaccinated against the real thing, or does Christ live in me?

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-Doris Stubblefield Kirg, Indiana

Rural Fires

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