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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N. C.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1975

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

With five years of effort behind them to organize a volunteer fire department, the West Hoke group has suffered another setback.

The truck they have gone into debt to buy and convert into a tanker-pumper will not meet the state standards for certification.

This is the second truck the department has obtained. The first, acquired as surplus through civil defense, is unrepairable, department officials say. So now, they must try for a third truck.

They estimate \$30,000 or more for a new truck and equipment.

West Hoke firemen came to the county commissioners this month for help and advice. They got plenty of advice, including the suggestion that they seek to enlarge the fire district to a four-mile radius.

This would increase the tax base to give the department more potential for re-paying equipment loans.

There are eight fire districts in the county. Five - North Raeford, Stonewall, Hillcrest, Puppy Creek and Rockfish - are in operation, while three - West Hoke, Pinecrest and Tyler Town - are still struggling for certification.

Some of these districts, Tyler Town in particular, encompass a very low tax area and receive far too little in revenue to meet the skyhigh costs of equipping a fire department.

In such cases, the residents of the area would be better served by a merger with the nearest organized district. It is certainly worth considering.

It is, of course, disappointing and frustrating for West Hoke firemen to work year after year toward certification and see the goal slip away each time. Hopefully, they will be able to overcome their difficulties and become certified.

The large number of gun thefts in the county prompts some thoughts on keeping weapons.

Since guns are obviously desirable to thieves, extra care should be taken to keep them under lock and out of sight.

Guns in the hands of responsible owners should pose little danger to the community. Stolen guns in the hands of thugs are quite a different matter.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, March 2, 1950

The Aberdeen & Rockfish railroad bus hit a Ford coupe being driven by Ben Townsend of the Rockfish section Tuesday morning at the railroad crossing between Rockfish and Arabia.

Dr. J.H. Hilton, dean of agriculture and director of experiment stations at North Carolina State College, will speak to Hoke county farmers and their wives at the Hoke County High School next Tuesday night as a guest of the Hoke County Farm Bureau.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Raeford Presbyterian Church at four o'clock this afternoon for Peter A. Webb, Jr., 27, who died at two o'clock yesterday in a Tarboro hospital.

From Poole's Medley:
Change and change again is almost everything, including people, but there is no change in righteousness nor good and bad.

Wright G. Goodman, a highly respected colored man of Antioch township, died February 22 and was buried Saturday afternoon at Bridgers Grove.

The Hoke High School girls basketball team, which has come

through with a very impressive record this year, winning 17 and losing 6, will go into the annual American Legion Invitational Basketball tournament as one of the top-seeded teams.

Mrs. Neill A. McDonald is Hoke census chief for 1950.

15 years ago

Thursday, March 3, 1960

Snow fell in most of Hoke County from mid-morning to mid-afternoon yesterday and was followed by sleet and freezing rain until sometime during the night, leaving a fairly general blanket of from four to five inches of snow with a thick crust of ice on top.

Sheriff D.H. Hodgins said yesterday that Dave Barrington had been employed as a deputy sheriff of Hoke County under the ruling passed last month by the county commissioners, and that Charlie Proctor, Raeford policeman, had been employed as jailor.

Mrs. Mary E. McKenzie of 310 Harris Avenue in Raeford, was advised this week that she had been named crew leader in Hoke County for the 1960 Population and Housing Census, to be taken starting August 1.

From Rockfish News:
It was so cold Tuesday a.m. the members of the Nail Keg Club were not out very early.

'Smells like he's burning the toast again'



by Marty Vega

Inside Dope On Rate Hike

So now we hear the price of postage stamps may go up again, but then maybe not, yet they claim they need increased revenue to meet their operating costs. How's anyone to know what to believe?

Well, you can believe me, I didn't let any grass grow under me. No, sir, not when my old friend Fern Fencesetter is now a highly placed White House aide. Fern would be sure to have the inside dope from the Oval Office so I put the call through.

"Fern, what is the President's position on the increase in postage from ten cents to thirteen cents? The public is fed up with rising prices, and this is going to be unpopular."

"Now, hold on. The media is distorting the overall view. I can assure you, and I have this on the very highest authority, the President is unalterably opposed to any plan which would ultimately raise the price of stamps."

"Swell, Fern, we're glad to hear it." "In fact, the administration is so firmly committed to this, it is proposing a 3c tariff on the barrel of stamps..."

"Fern, stamps don't come in BARRELS!"

"What? Oh, er, wait a minute. I don't have my notes with me. Call you right back."

Fuming, I drummed my fingers on the desk until the phone rang.

"Yes, I have all the figures here, you

are correct. Stamps are not presently available to the general public in barrels, however, as part of its continuing effort to improve service, the Department is closely examining the advisability of providing stamps in barrels, as an added convenience for its customers."

"Fern, I'm losing my patience with you!" I hissed.

"Of course. Now, as I was saying, the President's position remains unchanged. He and his top advisors have devoted careful study to this vital question, and it is his belief, after a thorough examination, that by imposing a 3c tariff now, the American people can avoid a big increase in prices later."

"You see, the President firmly believes we must find a way to reduce demand, thereby reducing our consumption, if we are to avoid a crisis. The tariff will discourage a lot of unnecessary stamp licking, which will conserve our present resources. Let's face it, we're a nation of stamp lickers, we love our stamps, but we're just going to have to revise our thinking", Fern said emotionally.

"The President has great faith in the American people when sacrifices are needed. People will see the wisdom of his decision, and show their support by not writing any more letters."

"Oh yeah? Why should we?"

"Well, you know, long distance is the next best thing to being there, ha ha ha."

"Fern, do me one more favor."

"Certainly. Always happy to be of service."

"Remind me never to call you again for anything."

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

I don't know what it is about going to Washington that robs a man of his knowledge of human nature, but something does.

Right now, with filling stations selling you all the gasoline you want, with oil companies' storage tanks brimful, with ocean tankers hanging around waiting to find some place to unload, and with the Arab oil countries cutting back on production because there's no place to go with the stuff and you can't store it in a tent, it leaks, a lot of people in Washington are worrying over the possibility of the Arabs' refusing once more to sell us any.

How can Congressmen, as interested as most of them are in their personal fortunes, think that the Arabs aren't interested in money also? When you can get \$12 a barrel for oil that cost you 25c to produce with somebody else doing the work, you aren't going to shut the door in the face of your best customer. Oh, you might shut it once just to get the price up from \$6 to \$12, but there's bound to be some Yankee horse-trading or you might say camel-trading sense under those flowing Arab robes.

And of course, there's still some old-fashioned ingenuity left in the U.S., outside of Washington anyway. Sooner or later somebody is going to work out a useable source of energy not dependent on oil, and the Arab leaders sitting there on their bountiful pools may wind up like a man I knew a long time ago.

This man, when he was young, was told by his father: "Son, you see that wood lot out there? Hold on to it. There's going to come a time when fire wood is gonna get scarce, people will have to have it to stay warm, and a man with a good supply can charge what he wants for it. Son, it'll make you rich."

Them sheiks better remember that times change.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Bicentennial Notes

Churches Founded Early

(Reprinted from the Hoke County Jubilee souvenir program compiled in 1961.)

"Within a few years after their arrival, the settlers picked out their meeting places for worship and later organized their churches. All of the pioneer churches in the county were Presbyterian.

Longstreet Church was started in 1758. The Yadkin Road, established before 1756 and located near Longstreet Church, was an old buffalo trail. It is said that buffalo traveled east to spend the winter and west to spend the summer each year. When the Rev. Hugh McAden, Longstreet's first minister, came to the area, the people had not had a minister for twenty years. Longstreet has had three houses of worship. It is now in the section of Hoke County acquired by Fort Bragg and is no longer active. It is perpetuated through a scholarship fund for ministerial students at Davidson College.

Bethel Presbyterian Church is the oldest active church in the county. It was organized in 1776. It has had three buildings. During the Rev. Hector McNeill's pastorate, General W.T. Sherman and his troops camped on the church grounds March 9-11, 1865.

Antioch Presbyterian Church was organized March 10, 1833. When the first church was built, a gallery was constructed for the more than thirty slaves who were communicants of the church. The church grew and a second structure was dedicated Feb. 19, 1882 and is still in use. It is in a splendid state of preservation and is considered one of the most beautiful churches in this area.

Sandy Grove Church was an outgrowth of Longstreet. It was organized in 1855. Its early mementos were destroyed by Sherman's raiders

during the Civil War. Sandy Grove was discontinued after its property was taken by the United States Government for the Fort Bragg Reservation. Most of the members moved to Raeford, many of them to be near a school."

North Carolina's delegate to the Continental Congress, Joseph Hewes, played a decisive part in the signing of the Declaration of Independence, according to Dorothy Horton McGee in "Famous Signers of the Declaration."

Despite instructions to the delegation from the North Carolina Provincial Congress on April 12, 1776 to concur in any vote for independence, Hewes did not favor breaking ties with England.

John Adams, writing in 1813 to William Plumer, recalls: "The measure had been upon the market for months, and obstinately opposed from day to day. Majorities were constantly against it. For many days the majority depended on Mr. Hewes, of North Carolina. As described in the Prologue, while a member (Samuel Adams), one day, was speaking, and reading documents from all the colonies, to prove that the public opinion, the general sense of all, was in favor of it, Mr. Hewes, who had hitherto constantly voted against it, started suddenly upright, and lifting both hands to Heavens as if he had been in a trance, cried out, 'It is done! And I will abide by it.'"

Soon after, the vote for independence was taken and Hewes, as well as another North Carolina delegate, John Penn, voted in favor. They signed the Declaration of Independence on Aug. 2, 1776.

CLIFF BLUE...

People & Issues



JJ MEETING-The Democrats' Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner and other festivities in Raleigh last Friday and Saturday were quite successful from most every standpoint. The large banquet hall at the Royal Villa Hotel and Convention Center was filled with some 900 in attendance for the \$50 per plate dinner Saturday night.

Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia gave a rousing speech for the Democrats' program to bring the country out of the recession, but when queried at his news conference about deficit spending and the ever-increasing national debt in days of prosperity as well as in times of recession, his answer was that it would probably be three or four more years of deficit spending before we would have a chance to work towards a balanced budget, frankly, a meaningless answer!

LEGISLATIVE DINNER-The third annual meeting of former House and Senate members along with a goodly number of incumbents was held Friday evening with about 200 in attendance. Former Associate Justice of the N.C. Supreme Court could claim the record of legislative service reaching back the farthest - 50 years to the 1925 session when he represented Alleghany County in the State House.

CANDIDATES-Three of the potential candidates for governor were very active around the JJ festivities. Lt. Gov. Jim Hunt, Jr., regarded as the front runner, a coveted but sometimes a dangerous place to be, was very much in evidence. Two other gubernatorial aspirants, telling the people they were running, but that it was too early to announce were former State Rep. Ed O'Herron, Jr. of Charlotte and former Rep. and State Senator Hargrove (Skipper) Bowles of Greensboro. This brings to three the number of active potentials, each of whom for weeks has been letting it be known that they are ready to serve.

With the primary 14 months away it looks like a hot race is shaping up for governor.

Terry Sanford who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination had a hospitality room and received a standing round of applause when introduced at the JJ Dinner.

INTEREST RATES-Say what you please, but to my way of thinking the thing that would do more to curtail the recession in somewhat of a permanent way would be to lower interest rates to six percent for the little man, and the average man. Venturesome projects like the Investment Trusts have gone broke financing would necessitate a higher interest.

But the little man, and the average citizen, with a good reputation and character who needs to borrow to build a home, or venture out in a small way, available money at six percent interest is what this country needs.

If the banks and savings and loan associations are to lend money at six percent, they could only pay about 4 percent.

SENATOR PROXMIER-Senator William Proxmire, the maverick Democrat from Wisconsin, is sending tremors through the world of banking and finance in an attempt to bring about lower interest rates. We understand that Senator Proxmire has some of the big men in finance shaking in their boots. "I'm going to call Arthur Burns up to Capital Hill and ask him to justify what he's doing in keeping interest rates high," Proxmire said in a recent interview. "If we can drive those interest rates down, people will be able to buy houses and to buy cars, and that will help to create jobs - We're going to be aggressive. We're going to investigate. We're going to get down into the nitty-gritty. We're going to fight for competition and for consumers," said the Wisconsin senator.

BICENTENNIAL-As we prepare for the Bicentennial, it is well to note some of the events that led up to the signing the Declaration of Independence 200 years ago come July 4, 1776.

Two hundred years ago this month, March 23, 1775 to be exact, Patrick Henry, the young 39-year old Virginia agitator and champion of the common people made his famous speech at the second revolutionary convention, when he cried out: "The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? - I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

Sincerely,
Robert Taylor, Chairman
IEA Committee