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THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1975

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

A band of enthusiastic supporters of public housing met last week with state and federal government housing experts to discuss ways of bringing low income housing to Hoke County.

The outcome of the discussion was inconclusive, although perhaps there were some gains made.

Neither official quite grasped at the beginning that here was an area with absolutely no provisions for decent housing for low income groups and, furthermore, with no working machinery for acquiring housing.

This situation is, I am sure, unusual in this day, even in predominately rural areas.

This is something Hoke Countians should face immediately. As more than one person at the meeting pointed out, there are people in the county, and relatively large numbers of people at that, who are actually suffering this winter for lack of a decent place to live.

Without getting in to the philosophy of welfare, it is a fact that there are people here who, for reasons that may or may not be their fault, do not have a large enough income to secure a decent house.

The rents they pay for the hovels they live in range from zero to about \$45 a month, plus heating and lights. As any homeowner or apartment dweller knows, this is not enough money to purchase a livable place.

And it won't be enough money to cover the costs of a low-rent unit either. In case anyone has missed it, public housing is subsidized by the tax payers at some level of government.

This is an unpopular concept. But it ought to be faced squarely before the public discussion proceeds.

There are two alternatives. Hoke Countians can accept the task of providing decent housing for their fellow citizens, even for those who can't afford it, and quite possibly even for some who don't deserve it. In doing so, they might hope to perhaps cut their losses in other areas, such as medical care or a reduced crime rate or school dropout rate.

Or they can reject the burden and let things go on the way they have.

In the short run, this may be the less costly. But it is probably more expensive in the long run.

If the decision is to proceed, then steps should be taken immediately. As one person said, if we're ever going to get started, let's get started now.

There will be federal money available during the next three years under the Community Development Act of 1974. Residents should insist that city and county officials take the proper steps to at least apply for aid.

Already \$67,785 has been set aside for Hoke for housing assistance, according to a Department of Housing and Urban Development announcement. This money will apparently be lost this year, since neither the city nor the county plans to qualify for funds under the act.

It appears that the first, and easiest step to take is to reappoint members to the Raeford Housing Authority. It is understandable that the city council would prefer not to take on the housing burden for the entire county. But the organization is there, already chartered, with authority to extend to a 10-mile radius. It seems a waste of energy to organize and charter another governmental body to do the same job.

At any rate, let's get on with it.

The additional courses at Hoke High are good news. Adding to the skill levels of the vocational courses and upgrading the college prep program seems to be a two-pronged attack at the same goal, to prepare students for advancement beyond high school.

The added variety should be popular and worth while also.

What probably won't be popular is the requirement that seniors stay at school all day. Yet, again, it seems to be the right answer. It is a relatively painless way to encourage students to get the most benefit from their school years, by learning as much as they can while they are there. This has never been particularly embraced by students at the time, but they usually change their mind as the years roll by.

## Stories Behind Words

By William S. Penfield

**Funny Bone**  
At the back of the elbow a nerve rests against the knob. A blow at this spot produces a sharp, tingling sensation.  
Although it is somewhat painful, a person often laughs after he has received such a blow. A pun on "humerus" resulted in the expression "funny bone," a common name for that part of the humerus where the nerve rests.

'We're in sad shape, but so far we look like a winner'



by Marty Vega  
*The Christian Science Monitor*

## Good Plan Crumbles

My neighbor, Sally, caught me at the wrong time Sunday when she knocked on the door. Particularly because she knocked on the front door. Usually she knocks on the back, see, then we know it's Sally. But when a knock comes at the front, well, it could be the paper boy, which is okay, or it could be the landlord, which isn't okay, because then a general alarm is sounded to hide the four cats inside somewhere, then scatter the three on the patio, so when the landlord waves the lease under our noses which says 'Positively No Pets', we just stand there with innocent looks, see?

But back to Sally. As soon as she came in, she handed me a paper with a long list of names and reached for her pen.

"Have we signed you up yet to support the ERA?"

"No, but I've been using that new detergent for equal rights they sent around."

"You mean Era? That's baseball soap, dummy."

"How's that?"

"Earned Run Average."

"Oh, my mistake. I won't use it anymore."

"So how about the ERA?" she persisted.

"Look, I haven't had time to study it. I'm working on the EIB."

"What?"

"Expert Infantryman's Badge. What do you think I'm doing with all these books?"

"I see the books. Why don't you throw out all these empty toilet paper spoons?"

"Those are NOT empty toilet paper spoons! That's an expended 60mm. heat rocket, the M-72 Lau. It's just collapsed now."

"Well, what about those rolled up newspapers? If you don't need them, I can use them for logs."

"I certainly do need them. That's a 40 mm. grenade launcher."

"Have you completely lost your mind?"

"Mine? No, we've already done the Claymore mine, that's fairly easy to understand."

"Are you crazy?"

I closed my book and took a big swallow of coffee before answering.

"Look, you've heard of wives with husbands in law school, right, they stay up all night, making coffee, and drilling their husbands so they can pass the bar and land a big job for \$20,000 or so a year, right?"

"Yeah, so what?"

"Well, if Dave can pass his EIB, he'll get promoted to Spec. 4 and get a \$18 a month raise."

"Isn't that just peachy? What are you going to do with the \$18?"

"I dunno. Maybe buy a steak or fill the tank in the car."

"How long have you been at this?"

"What day is it?"

"You're wasting the whole weekend on this. What's really on your mind?"

"Okay, you know me too well. If I keep this up, I figure I might get nominated for Military Wife of the Year. The winner gets to go to Hawaii, I think."

"Forget it. You haven't got a chance."

"Oh yeah? How many other wives can max on the 50 caliber machine gunners test? Huh? Huh? How many?"

"I don't care if you can drive a tank and fire at the same time. You don't have a chance. You've been seen regularly going in and out of the Speedy Cleaners with fatigues."

"You mean..."

"Yep. Now when you start washing and ironing and starching, then you can think about your contest."

"I never wanted to go to Hawaii anyway."

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:  
While I've never been able to get a telephone I could call somebody else on but nobody could call me on -- something I have long desired -- I believe that if the telephone people set their minds to it they might develop such an instrument.

The reason I say this is because of an article I read in the news last week showing how smart the telephone people are. As I understand it, they have succeeded in reducing the rate on long distance calls and getting more money for them all at the same time.

Under a new rate schedule allowed by the Federal Communications Commission, the Bell system has announced that a call can now be dialed from coast - to - coast for as little as 22 cents.

Obviously that's a bargain. Where else in the world could you get somebody to string a wire from Raeford to Fayetteville and let you talk over it for 22 cents?

Of course there are some restrictions on this. You can talk for 22 cents all right, but for only one minute. Talk longer than 60 seconds and the rate goes up immediately. If cattlemen and car manufacturers were as smart as telephone people they wouldn't be losing money today. How many men are there -- we won't count women, everybody knows the answer there -- in the United States who can limit a long distance call to one minute? Garry Cooper is the only one I can think of and he's not here anymore.

The way it looks to me, this one - minute - for - 22 - cents deal is like selling an ice cream cone to a kid for a penny for the first lick, but charging 24 cents more if he eats the rest of it. I take my hat off to the telephone people. They know something about human nature, not to mention finance.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

## CLIFF BLUE ...

### People & Issues

**JUDGE VAN NOPPEN** -- Had a letter a few days ago from an old friend and one-time colleague in the State House, Leonard H. van Noppen, Chief District Court Judge of the 17th Judicial District whose home is Danbury in Stokes County.

Judge van Noppen gives a different angle to some of our comments on the court decisions which we are glad to print in our column this week:

"Dear Cliff:"

"The King Times-News carries the news commentary column which you write, and of course you are so familiar with the government and politician scene in North Carolina that it is interesting and widely read.

"You raised the matter of the Courts entering a 'nol pros' in a great number of cases in a county adjoining your own. You questioned if the officers had made that many charges which were without proper foundation or if the Courts were not doing the right thing about the cases involved. It is likely that neither is the case. Because of the fact that Highway Patrolmen must spend most of their time on the highway promoting safety the system they use is to give merely a citation to a motorist if the traffic violation is not of a very serious nature. Most of the motorists who receive such minor charges are given the opportunity to pay off in advance if they desire to plead guilty, and as a result the cases never come on for trial in a courtroom. Many of the motorists who receive such citations are from other States and over a period of time a number of them have failed to come to court, or to pay off by waiver on the citations, and the warrant cannot be served on the out of State motorists, and when the District Attorney has accumulated several of these cases he takes a nol pros at a particular court session -- on the recommendation of the officers involved. Sometimes a motorist is given a citation for failing to have his drivers license with him, and he shows up in court with the drivers and the State takes a nol pros. Often a wife will charge her husband with abandonment and non-support, and then they go back together before the date of trial, or else they enter into a deed of separation, and on the recommendation of the wife, as prosecuting witness the State takes a nol pros. It is a rare thing indeed if the State takes a nol pros when the person who has signed the warrant or citation is not willing for this to be done.

"You feel that the courts in recent years have been falling down on their

responsibilities, and that the courts do not enjoy the respect of the people as much as formerly. I will not argue the point, but I do suggest to you that the State courts are bound by the decisions and rules of the United States Supreme Court, and as you know during what has been called the "Warren Years" the Supreme Court had a decided tendency to overly protect the rights of the individual and at the expense of society as a whole, and of the victims of the crimes. The present court seems to be making decisions which recognize the right of the general public to be protected from criminals. Recent decisions have been favoring the work of law enforcement officers, and this will help to promote the image of the courts.

"You are concerned with the bill in the General Assembly to take away from the people the right to elect judges. If this passes I doubt that it will personally affect me, because I only want one more term. But I suggest to you that by losing the right to elect judges that the people would gain the right to have judges who have the education and training to serve. And the measure would retain for the people the right to vote out a judge who is not responsive to the will of the people. Judges without legal education are not qualified to pass on civil litigation with the complicated rules of civil procedure and rules of evidence, and all of our judges ought to be able to preside over any type session of court. Some politics will be involved in any type selection of judges, but the so-called "Missouri Plan" has very little politics -- this being the plan which is being considered. I feel sure that you favor the merit selection of Justices of the Supreme Court, and the Court of appeals (Judges of Court of Appeals), but I suggest to you that it is better for the judges of all courts. All judges should be learned in the law."

**ASSOCIATE JUSTICES** -- In last week's column we speculated that N.C. Court of Appeals Judge David M. Britt might be a candidate for Associate Justice of the N.C. Supreme Court in "1976" when Justices Lake and Moore would be stepping down due to mandatory age retirement for Supreme Court Justices. We were in error in that Justices Lake and Moore were elected for eight year terms in 1970 and their terms will not expire until December 31, 1978. The only two Justices whose terms expire in 1976 are Justices Huskins and Branch, and their ages are such that they would be able to seek re-election in 1976.

## Raleigh Report

### School Boards Invited

By David Parnell

Members of local school boards from across North Carolina have been invited to meet with the House Education Committee in Raleigh April 3-4.

Board members will meet with the committee at 3:00 p.m. April 3 in the legislative building. The next day they will meet in three study groups.

The Education Committee is seeking input from local board members for its deliberations on future educational needs in North Carolina. Committee members want to hear directly from the people who know firsthand the needs and problems of local school systems. They also want to hear about the strengths of the systems.

year. Producers received \$3 million for their 1974 crop.

The Fraser fir, considered by many to be the finest Christmas tree, is well suited to our mountains, and this gives North Carolina great potential for large scale commercial production.

A bill introduced in the House would give our producers a competitive edge by seeking to make fine trees better through research. The bill would appropriate \$84,604 in each of two years to the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station to enable the station to expand its Fraser fir research efforts.

Purpose of the research is to develop trees "genetically superior in quality, growth rate, and pest resistance," and to develop practices which "enhance quality and reduce production costs."

A lot of people bought North Carolina-grown Christmas trees last

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, March 16, 1950

W.P. Saunders, president of Robbins Mills (N.C.) told The News-Journal yesterday that the old White Tex plant was at present being readied for operation as a throwing mill next month and the plant would employ more than 100 persons in the activity.

Samuel R. Smith, 64, merchant and former town commissioner of Vass, died at the Chase convalescent home in Southern Pines Thursday night where he had been a patient for several weeks.

From Poole's Medley:  
Any good business man is justified in making a debt when it is to his best interest. It is better to do business on borrowed money than not to do any business at all.

Operating revenues before expenses of \$29,481,753 for 1949 were reported

### 15 years ago

County School Superintendent W.T. Gibson, Jr., said yesterday that he had received a petition for the board of education from residents of the Mildouson School district asking that the school there be closed after the end of the present term and that the children be brought to the J.W. McLaughlin Elementary School next fall.

Miss Linda Phillips, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Phillips of Raeford and a member of the rising senior class at Flora Macdonald College in Red Springs, was chosen in the recent elections president of the Christian Association.

Another proposed House bill may put North Carolina among the leaders in the search for inexpensive heating and cooling systems powered by the sun.

The bill would appropriate \$55,000 in research funds to North Carolina State University at Raleigh for development of more economical solar energy systems. Present solar energy systems are too expensive for the average homeowner.

Plans call for a model system to be on display at the state fair in October.

Some of the finest engineers in the world are within 30 miles of the General Assembly, at the three universities and the Research Triangle. The state has sunshine more than 50 percent of the time. We ought to be taking advantage of this enviable situation.

This bill would provide seed money to begin the job.

Copper has become a valuable metal, and the nature of its use by utility companies makes it susceptible to theft. Copper wire has been stolen from storage areas and even from operating lines.

A House bill would make it unlawful "to purchase copper wire, copper pipe or scrap copper from certain types of vendors without recording certain information..."

The "certain information" required by the bill would permit law enforcement officers to trace the seller if the copper proved to be stolen.