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THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1975

As We See It..... By Laurie Telfair

It takes a pretty rotten sort of person to steal a bush that had been planted for the enjoyment of the public.

In the last few weeks, a patch of weeds and scraggly grass at the A&R depot has been turned into a landscaped garden in the midst of the business district.

It's just this sort of thing that Raeford needs. If everyone would try to make just a small portion of the city, especially the business area, cleaner and prettier, Raeford would be a much more attractive place.

So it is most discouraging when such projects fall victim to some louse's greed and criminal propensities.

Speaking of efforts to make the city more attractive, the city council's recent decision to proceed with a vigorous policy of condemnation to remove deteriorated buildings is a step forward.

There are a number of buildings—old homes, mostly—dotting the city, rundown wooden structures that invite fire. They also damage the homes around them, by making it more difficult for homeowners to make their places clean and attractive.

City residents, through their council, have passed ordinances to permit the removal of unsafe buildings. It is in the public interest to proceed with it.

The new program to investigate and prosecute consumer complaints and environmental law violations offers some interesting possibilities.

It is designed to fill an area that has been largely neglected, due to the need to direct law enforcement efforts to more pressing problems.

It remains to be seen just how much the program will affect residents here, as it is certain that much of the attention will be focused in the larger Cumberland County. It isn't even known how big a problem in those areas exists in Hoke County.

But the program bears watching in the future.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, April 20, 1950
"There will be an important meeting Monday evening, April 24, for all the people in Hoke County who are interested in getting a telephone," says Harry Greene, Chairman of the County Telephone Committee.

N.A. Barefoot, 60, died early Friday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Walter Brock, on Raeford, Route 2.

Clyde Upchurch, Jr., county chairman for the Red Cross fund drive, said yesterday that \$1421 had been received in the 1950 drive so far, of the county's quota of \$1750.

Congressman Charles B. Deane, of Rockingham, was a visitor in Raeford Monday.

From Poole's Medley:
The Morganton Road used to be a continuation of Hay Street in Fayetteville and in the fall of the year between October and Christmas, Fayetteville was just alive almost daily with covered wagons that had come sometimes more than 100 miles.

W.E. (Bill) Horner, candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress from the Eighth district, will speak at the Mildouson school Wednesday night, April 26, at 8 o'clock.

Mrs. Neill A. McDonald, census crew leader for Hoke County, said this

week that she and the 16 enumerators expected to complete the 1950 nose-count of Hoke County during the month of April, barring unforeseen developments.

15 years ago

Thursday, April 21, 1960
Real estate valuation in Hoke County increased almost a half-million dollars over 1959 valuations, according to figures submitted to the county board of commissioners last week by County Accountant J.W. McPhaul, as tax assessor.

Funeral services will be conducted at 4:00 o'clock this afternoon for Henry Biggs, farmer of the Antioch community who died yesterday morning at Veterans Hospital in Fayetteville.

Claude Jennings Benner, Raeford businessman who has been a patient at Moore Memorial Hospital for about three weeks, died there at about 7:30 Friday morning following a heart attack suffered on Wednesday.

The Jaycees will hold a Teenage Road-ee, the winner of which will receive an expense paid trip to the state finals and will be eligible to compete for a scholarship to the college of his choice in the event he wins.

The scrap for the Hoke County seat in the House of Representatives of the North Carolina General Assembly between Raeford Attorney Charles A. Hostetler, who has held the seat for the past two terms, and Neill McFadyen, Raeford farmer and real estate man, seemed to hold most interest for Hoke voters as the filing time for the May 28 primary passed at noon last Friday.

'Ooo, wow, tsk tsk, oh my...'



by Marty Vega

Taping Tags Taps Trouble

Last week's ruling from the Attorney General regarding the case of the man arrested for taping over 'First in Freedom' on his plates was sound. It's just too bad it didn't go far enough, and clearly define what you can do. But at least someone has recognized these catchy little slogans, which seem innocuous, have always caused trouble, somewhere.

People who plunk down good money for their plates, particularly those of us from states who compel you to display two just to fatten their treasuries, have a right to expect satisfaction, just like in any other consumer purchase.

Buying your license plates every year has always been annoying. Remember when you waited for delivery on your new car in that real sharp color you liked, and the same year your state changed their plate to some icky hues which clashed horribly?

Fortunately, most states are now keeping the same old plates and selling decals, and anyway, none of us can afford a new car. Funny how those little paper decals cost just as much as metal, isn't it?

So, it seems clear to me, all states should discard these slogans, or at least settle on one and keep it, and not change it every so often just for the heck of it, and that would put an end to this bickering. This Flowers case was not the first, you know. This columnist has researched this thoroughly, and here for the first time, are true, heretofore unpublished accounts of others who battled for their rights. Only the names have been changed.

Some feature which is descriptive, but does not necessarily have anything to do with the official motto or state nickname, is put on the plates arbitrarily. Some slogans are misleading, ambiguous, or downright lies.

For years Michigan proclaimed itself 'Water Wonderland', a seemingly innocent enough phrase. But Minnesota sniped at this by declaring itself to be 'Land of 1,001 lakes' at the same time, and a small band from Ishpeming, Mich., planned a Saturday night raid on Duluth to settle things with their fists. Trouble was averted though, because everyone up there is snowed in for six months of the year, and when spring came, the matter was forgotten. Anybody from the Upper Peninsula is a little off, anyway, so local lawmen were not greatly concerned.

However, when the slogan was changed to 'Great Lake State' later, the first reported case of taping over occurred.

Gertie Glick, 25, of Detroit, with the aid of a \$2.89 artists brush and careful application of 3M tape, (all-weather), altered her plates to spell 'Lakes Stink', foolishly leaving a big space where 'Great' was, which did not go undetected for long.

Testimony at her trial revealed Gertie, an avid swimmer, had become angry because Lake Erie was too polluted to swim in, Lake Superior was far too cold, the waves anywhere on Lake Michigan were always very high, and Lake Huron was just too sandy.

Gertie presented no evidence about Lake Ontario and she was convicted and fined \$100.

Fred Flingerhaus, 28, of Tucumcari, N.M., almost made headlines in 1973 when he disavowed 'Land of Enchantment' and publicly declared he was 'Disenchanted and Disgusted' on his plates.

Fred, who had been absent from his home state while in the service six years, became disenchanted when he crossed into New Mexico at Glenrio, Tex., and found "they still haven't finished the d-- interstate in all this time", he testified.

Under tricky cross examination, Fred blurted out "the scenery is pretty nice, yes, sort of enchanting", and he was found guilty and fined \$50. A final decision in Fred's appeal is expected in about six more years.

Lola LaRue, 36, of Cheyenne, Wyo., carefully blacked out the figure of the cowboy on the bucking bronc on her plates and inked in the words 'Follow Me', the meaning of which was not entirely made clear.

Miss LaRue argued in her defense every citizen was entitled to a message, not just a picture, on their plates, and she was only exercising her right. Miss LaRue testified "they'll never be able to put a motto on them until Wyoming state troopers can learn to read".

She was acquitted.

Stories Behind Words

by William S. Penfield

Brand-New

When one speaks of something as being "brand-new," he is not referring to the mark or label of the manufacturer.

"Brand" in this instance is an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning torch. "Brand-new" originally meant "fresh from the fire" or "fire-new," and was used to refer to a piece of metal taken from the fire and forged into shape.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



JOE PINKSTON - Joe Pinkston, Fayetteville native, and for many years a citizen of Aberdeen has been a dedicated worker in the field of alcoholic rehabilitation. For a while he headed the alcoholic rehabilitation work in West Virginia, but for the last two or three years he has been doing the same type work in Randolph County. We observe from the Randolph Guide that Joe says a "Detoxication Unit" home rather than a jail cell would be the best road to follow.

Pinkston says that a "Detoxication Unit" or "Dry - Out - House", or whatever you want to call it, would serve those persons picked up for public drunkenness and would also afford a place to go for "an intoxicated man who is locked out of the house by his wife."

We read that only 25 percent of those taken to a Detoxication Unit come back again with 75 percent only one-time visitors.

With Joe Pinkston's knowledge of the drinking problem we feel due consideration should be given to his views.

GEORGE ROSS - John F. Walden of New Bern gave us a call a few days ago. Mr. Walden used to live in Jackson Springs in Moore County where the late Mr. Ross lived. Ross, a former State legislator, agricultural official and C&D Director under the late Governor Kerr Scott was a man of vision and a great promoter. Mr. Walden who lives at "Willis Landing" near New Bern was calling to suggest that the State name a park for Mr. Ross who passed away last summer. We second Mr. Walden's suggestion and hope in the near future our conservation and recreation authorities will give consideration to naming a park for George Ross who did so much to promote parks and conservation in his many years of service with the State.

TALMADGES - Editor John Moore of the Laurinburg Exchange captions one of his editorials: "Too Few Talmadges." Editor Moore points out that "Senator Talmadge is one of the few congressmen who are able to talk without hypocrisy in such a manner," referring to the liberal staff allowances which congressmen and U.S. Senators

get. "He has never hired the number of assistants allotted his office, and each year since becoming a senator he has returned some amount of unspent office expense money to the treasury," says Editor Moore.

Seems like the Georgia Senator is setting a good example for other senators to follow, but we are afraid that Herman is almost a loner in this respect in Washington.

We have read that the average earnings of federal employees exceed earnings in private industry by 46 percent and have increased faster than earnings in any other major sector of the American economy!

SPENDERS - We note that the proponents of "big government spending" seldom if ever seem concerned over the great debt they are piling up for future generations to shoulder. When a spending project comes up, they seem never to consider, "do we have the money?" or "how will we meet the bill?" They just go ahead and vote for it as if nature will take care of the situation. This philosophy or practice is largely to blame for the predicament in which we find ourselves today.

WAR AND PEACE - We have heard it said that the United States never lost a war and seldom won the peace. This seems to have been the case in World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

Well, in the Vietnam civil war in which we had no business at all, we have lost the war and also the peace despite the fact that the U.S. has spent over \$150 billion in money, over 50,000 lives and many thousands of injured. The U.S. involvement in the Vietnam civil war will be far from a bright and shining light in American history. Maybe it will be a warning light. We hope so.

PRESIDENT FORD - While we don't agree with President Ford's strong attitude in support of more financial aid for South Vietnam's faltering war effort, we respect him for his stand in this tragic matter.

Neither do we like to see South Vietnam over-run by the communists, but there is a limit, and we have reached it, yes passed it.

Bicentennial Notes

And That Reminds Me

By Louise McDiarmid

From Kay Piotrkowski and the May 31, 1973 edition of The News-Journal are these words:

Hoke Countians have made progress. The schools and library feed their brains, the food stamp program helps fill empty stomachs, churches tend the spirit and the health center cares for and helps prevent illness.

But there should be more—in this day and age, recreation must consist of more than an old tree branch, a piece of string and a bent safety pin.

And that reminds me—of how many safety pins were lost in those summer, fun-filled days, in local streams that have long since become overgrown with spring willows, undergrowth of all kinds and in some instances completely done away with in lieu of progress.

Thinking doom to the catfish,

crayfish and some old swamp bass, we gathered our fishing gear, consisting of a can of worms, a broken bamboo pole, broken limb or just a plain old tobacco stick and twine from Granddaddy's tobacco barn and, of course, Mama's last big safety pin.

Off to a quiet, lazy stream with a biscuit, a piece of meat and a pint jar of plain, good country water for lunch and help from the farm hands to show us where to fish. It was always upstream from them—Now I know why!

Kay says in this brief clipping from almost two whole years back - "But there should be more."

It's kind of easy to look at today and say there is more, much more, but in looking back at the moment with loving memory—the sunlight on a lazy stream, slapping a "skeeter" once in awhile, trying to thread a wiggy worm on your safety pin hook and scooping up a bait can, empty by now, full of tadpoles to take home, you felt it was quite enough at the age of seven or eight.

Report To The People

By Senator Robert Morgan

The world this week is watching one of the great tragedies in history unfold in Southeast Asia.

The Communist takeover of Cambodia and South Viet Nam, with all of the attendant death and misery, must be regarded as a major disaster to the Free World.

Certainly the news accounts and pictures of the dead and the homeless must arouse a sense of great sadness to any person who cherishes liberty and who has any degree of compassion.

The fall of Saigon, which seems certain at this writing, will bring to a close a long and bloody struggle which actually began in 1946 when the French sought to regain control of the country. It had been under French control prior to World War II, during which Japan seized it.

The French left in 1954 after their forces were soundly defeated and the country was divided into North and South Viet Nam by the Geneva Treaty that same year.

Two years later, the Communist North Viet Nam began increasingly strong attacks upon the South, which had been established as a republic.

Under President Eisenhower, South Viet Nam began to receive aid from the United States. This aid increased steadily, with military "advisers" sent there at first along with money and arms.

The increasing commitment, with thousands of American troops

committed in 1965, is well known recent history.

In retrospect, no one can view our role in Viet Nam with anything but regret.

We lost 50,000 fine young men who fell during our stay there and we spent \$150 billion of our national treasure. And during all of those years, Viet Nam was an issue that brought a deep division in this country, causing a deeply emotional trauma which drained our nation of its unity.

It has been my position as a member of the Senate that if we had commitments to South Viet Nam, then those commitments should be honored. I realize that this was not a popular political stand, but our national honor and credibility mean much to me, both as a citizen and as an elected official.

But now the end is near and it is too late to save the situation militarily in any manner that would be acceptable to this nation.

More military aid will not reverse the tide at this late date, and certainly we are not going to return there with our troops.

This country has too great a history and too much heart not to relieve suffering, to the extent that we are able to do so, and efforts to do that will have general support.

What we must do now is to re-examine our entire policy in that section of the world and try to chart a course that will be in our best national interest.