

The News-Journal



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1975

Next Tuesday

Your Vote . . .

A right? A privilege? A duty?

. . . or just showing some sense?

Most of us, of course, look upon our right to vote in city, state and federal elections as a precious right, as much a part of our American heritage as our right to say what we think, to come and go as we please, to own property. It is true also that this franchise we hold so dear is a privilege when compared to the voice in government exercised elsewhere. You know that there are more countries in this world where the people have no voice in their government than where they do, so from that view voting is certainly a privilege.

We are so notorious for not caring enough about our right to vote in this country that we have the habit as election times approach of shouting to each other about voting being our duty. There is merit to this argument, too, for if the people are going to run the country, as they at least theoretically do here in the USA, then it follows that it is the duty of each to do his part.

Another thing we are notorious about, though, in this fine land, is our ability not to be too greatly motivated by the word duty. Most of us look upon doing our duty as an unpleasant task, and something to be avoided by any legal means. Think of our attitudes toward jury duty, and our income tax returns, and obeying traffic and liquor laws, just to name a few.

What happens about voting is that we do intend to vote, usually, and we will do it if we happen to think of it at the right time, and don't happen to be on a fishing or some other kind of business trip, or if we happen to feel upon occasion that we have a direct personal interest in the persons or issues being voted on.

There, at last, is what will get us to do it, personal interest. We'll not vote or not do jury duty, or not do a lot of things if we have personal irons in a fire somewhere that need looking after. We won't miss a directors meeting if we have stock in the company, and we won't miss the cash checkup if some of the money belongs to us, but we can't usually see this self interest in just going to cast a vote for some characters who can't be so great. Why, we've known them all their lives. (A great man or an expert has to be a certain number of miles from home to assume his greatness or expertise, you know)

Well, the self-interest is there in this town election next Tuesday. It's a right fair-sized business in which the voters and residents of Raeford have a considerable stake, and it's nothing more nor less than good sense to be one of the twenty or thirty per cent who are going to choose those who will run it for the next two years. You see, whatever a man (sorry, ladies, not "person" in this case) - whatever a man is running for in this town election, he'll get a lot of his friends to vote for him, and the people who think they may benefit from having him run the town will vote for him and get their friends to go along, and the relatives of those who might stand to benefit from him helping run the town will vote for him to reduce the risk of having to help them out if things get tough ... My Goodness! I'm afraid I have already named the twenty or thirty per cent who usually vote, so I don't know who will vote purely on the basis of who among the candidates may do the best job for the rest of us who have no interest but owning the town and paying the taxes.

And the point, of course, is that we each need to figure out these people running, try to figure why they want to be on the town board and what each of them will do when and if he gets there. Then, not on the basis of who is the best fellow or who can best take care of his friends from a position on the town board, but on who we think can do the best and fairest job for the whole town, on that basis alone we really need to manage to be in Raeford next Tuesday and make it a point to go vote. Not to do it is not too smart, in my opinion.

- Paul Dickson

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, October 26, 1950

The "State" Magazine, published and edited by Carl Goerch, which carries interesting facts and stories about various North Carolina people and places each week, last week carried an article on Raeford and Hoke county.

15 years ago

Thursday, October 27, 1960

Success seemed just around the corner Wednesday morning in the United Fund drive, as Chairman William Lamont reported less than \$400 needed to make the goal.

Edwin Raymond Pickler, prominent farmer and former county commissioner of the Ashley Heights section of the county, suffered a fatal heart attack near Pittsboro Monday morning while on his way to Danville, Va., with a load of tobacco.

A large number of grown-ups went "back to school" Sunday afternoon, visiting every room in the new Hoke County High School building, peering into every corner and cranny and expressing their pleasure at all the modern fixtures they saw there.

'The Supreme Court has just decided that any corrective process can involve a spanking'



by Marty Vega

Reader Help Asked

Not all of you may realize that a newspaper like the NJ cannot function without a thoroughly knowledgeable farm editor and, of course, no one here is more qualified than I, but many people don't seem to realize this (or appreciate it).

You see, a tremendous amount of agricultural news comes in the mail every day and it takes someone who has the ability to rapidly digest all kinds of facts and information and comprehend all of it with no difficulty with terms and phrases used in modern farming operations.

Of course, it is necessary for me to keep up with the technical journals from time to time, but for the most part, I have such a broad background in the subject that I can quickly grasp the significance of new developments, whether it be cotton, soybeans, corn, or whatever.

But from time to time some new wrinkle comes up and I find myself ignorant, as just the other day when I was discussing at length some common problems facing breeders

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

Congress no doubt will -- as it has in the past for England, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Portugal, Sweden, Belgium and many more I could name if I knew more geography bail New York out of its financial crisis, but the thought that it might not open up a lot of interesting speculation.

For instance, say the city did go under, was abandoned when it was finally realized there really wasn't much point in having 10 million people stacked on top of each other on such a narrow strip of land where nobody has room to keep a milk cow. Can you imagine where all the brains would scatter to?

Take television. I can hear it now: "This is the NBC Nightly News with John Chancellor in Washington and David Brinkley in Raeford.

Now that might be all right but there are more serious problems. Take those Broadway plays. I'm not sure some of them would go over here in Raeford. Or take Wall Street. The last thing we'd need around here would be a bunch of financiers who were so busy handling money they didn't know their city was going broke. New York reminds me of the young man who woke up one morning and realized his monthly payments for his car, television set, furniture, boat and power lawnmower totaled more than his monthly salary, with nothing figured in for groceries. No. Wall Street would be more at home in Washington.

What to do with all those tall buildings has me stumped. The only thing I can think of is to just let them stand for a few hundred years till they become a tourist attraction as puzzling as the pyramids. In fact they'd beat the pyramids. You could stare at them without getting sand in your eyes.

What to do with all the editors, publishers and writers now stuffed into the city is another problem, but scattering them out over the country might be beneficial. It'd give them a chance to find out how different the country is from what they thought it was.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

This past week the Senate Banking Committee, of which I am a member, took up the proposal for federal aid to New York City in its financial crisis.

And there is no doubt that the nation's largest city, is in a crisis. New York is broke. She has been badly managed and gone deeper into debt each year to finance the most expensive programs in America.

New York's garbage collectors, for instance, are paid more than are high school principals in North Carolina. Policemen there make higher salaries than do sheriffs in our state. A student can attend college there without paying tuition. Welfare payments are among the highest in the nation and are reportedly loosely administered.

To finance all of these extravagant programs, New York City has borrowed steadily, principally by issuing bonds, even though the laws of the State of New York say that the city must live within a balanced budget. Now the bonds are due and there is no money in the city's treasury to redeem them.

The city first turned to the state but New York State, unlike North Carolina, has been doing some deficit



CLIFF BLUE . . . People & Issues



break-off from the State Board of Education similar to the break-off of the Wildlife division from the Board of Conservation and Development in 1947.

PFEIFFER REPORT -- While most of the privately operated institutions have found the going quite hard in recent years and particularly so during the past 12 months, Pfeiffer College, a Methodist operated College at Misenheimer in Stanley County has a record to be proud of. Here are some salient facts pointed out by William S. Reasonover, director of public relations for the college:

1. Pfeiffer enrolled an even 900 students for the 1974-75 year but this fall 1975-76 enrollment hit 1,034. Here are some of the factors Reasonover points out that could attribute to the upped enrollment:

2. A reorganized recruiting approach utilizing a professionally produced sound 35mm colored slide show and a first rate staff.

3. A high degree of personal contact and follow up with prospective students using non-duplicating records kept on the college computer.

4. An exceptional degree of cooperation with referrals from alumni, present students and their parents, ministers and other friends of the college.

5. The expansion of the college's minor sports program with added emphasis on such areas as women's field hockey, women's tennis, women's basketball, coeducational swimming, and a reorganization of men's soccer, the college's only contact sport. This, we are told, attracted many students.

6. The fact that the Pfeiffer basketball team claimed the 1975 Carolina Conference Championship generated broad news coverage and helped to reinforce a highly positive image the college's public relations office was projecting.

In an attempt to reduce expenses this fall, the College's energy conservation committee is striving to reduce costs by \$25,000 the usage between the peak periods of 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. By further monitoring heating controls, Pfeiffer officials believe an additional \$25,000 in cost can be saved. Good luck to Pfeiffer. We'll be watching!

Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

My husband and I polled the candidates for city council, except Mr. Hestel Garrison who could not be contacted, and asked each of them if he was elected would he vote "YES" or "NO" for reinstatement of John Gaddy as city manager.

Robert Weaver: "I made the motion to accept his resignation."

Graham Clark: "I just don't know whether he could be reinstated . . . the attorney general's office has not ruled on it."

Crawford Thomas: "Legally I don't think he could be city manager."

Carlton Niven: "I can't make an honest answer to that."

Danny Morrison: "I don't know."

Sam Morris: "I'd vote no."

Benny McLeod: "I voted to accept his resignation and I would remain with that position unless some new evidence was presented that would completely resolve the charges that were brought against him."

David Lovette: "Under the circumstances, I would vote no."

As we feel very strongly that to suggest that a man convicted of misappropriation of public funds should even be considered for reinstatement as city manager is ludicrous, our telephone interviews with the candidates were very enlightening for my husband and me and helped greatly in making up our minds as to how to cast our votes on Nov. 4th.

It is appalling to us to think that a city council, which might move to rehire a man who made no defense against charges of having wronged the community he served, could be elected. Thus we are sharing the above information with the other citizens of Raeford in hopes that it will be helpful to them when they go to the polls on election day.

Mrs. Reginald L. Harris

Last Thursday night 16 youths of the Second Baptist Church sat around on the floor of their fellowship room listening with interest to Mr. Charles Campbell, our new juvenile officer.

He gave of his own time to speak to us about Halloween safety and other law enforcement interest. For an hour, he held the close interest of our group from age 7 to 18! That's saying a lot for any adult! To the people of Hoke County who don't know Mr. Campbell -- you should really take the time. He knows the hows and whys of our laws and our youth -- including the teenager!

Thank you Mr. Campbell for caring about us.

Youth of Second Baptist Church