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PAUL DICKSON Publisher-Editor
SAM C. MORRIS General Manager
MRS. PAUL DICKSON Society Editor
MARTY VEGA Reporter

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1976

Let's vote FOR someone Tues.

Next Tuesday, Sept. 14, is second primary day in North Carolina, and that includes Hoke County, where there are a couple of contests also. While there are several runoff races on the state level, there is not the knock-down battle for the Democratic nomination for governor which we often have.

Leading the statewide races is that for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor, and this one does set a precedent in that for the first time ever the leader in the first primary was a black man. He is Howard Lee, former mayor of Chapel Hill, and he is being opposed by Jimmy Green, Elizabethtown man who served as speaker of the last General Assembly.

Henry Bridges, North Carolina's auditor since 1948, is being opposed by Lillian Woo, who has achieved statewide identity in the past few years by her activities in the field of seeking better treatment for consumers of mass produced goods and services.

Jessie Rae Scott, wife of former Governor Robert Scott, was high in the race for commissioner of labor in the first primary, and is being opposed by John Brooks, who ran second statewide but was heavy winner in Hoke County on Aug. 17.

In the Republican runoff David Flaherty, leader first time, is being opposed by Coy Privette, president of the State Baptist Convention and most notable for his leadership of the successful battle against legalized liquor by the drink in North Carolina. There were 82 Republican votes cast in Hoke County in the August 17 primary.

While these state races don't have the red-hot aspect of some in the past, charges of sorts against some of the candidates are beginning to pop up as the day approaches.

The real dirt, racism and worse that we have seen in North Carolina, does not appear to be present this time, however, and we should be grateful. We should not, though, use the lack of something to vote against as an excuse for not voting. The kids are in school, now, and the spots haven't started running, and it's our state, so we might as well get there next Tuesday and vote for someone.

On the county side, the situation is more unusual in that we have two local races, and all are seeking the offices for the first time.

For county commissioner, Neil W. McPhatter was nominated in the first primary, being high in a field of five. For the other nomination Charlie Pendergrass, who ran second, is being opposed by Daniel DeVane, who is third. Pendergrass is a farmer of the western part of the county and DeVane is a Raeford merchant and auctioneer.

The other Hoke County race is for the office of register of Deeds and finds Della Maynor, who ran far ahead in a field of six in the first primary, being opposed by Frances W. Greene, who finished second. Maynor has worked for some time as an assistant in the register of deeds' office, while Greene's employment has been with the Raeford Chamber of Commerce and auto license agency.

As in the state races, there has been little dirt thrown here in the county, and most consider all candidates to be acceptable. The fact is though, that the winners will represent and serve us all, and it does seem that more than the 47 per cent who voted August 17 could find the time and energy -- and sense of responsibility -- to get to the voting place and take a minute to express ourselves next Tuesday. Let's do it. Our county and state deserve this much of us.

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, September 6, 1951

Robert Gatlin, chairman of the county board of education, said yesterday that he felt that the people of this county whose children will be busting out of the seams of some of the schools (particularly Raeford Graded) today were entitled to know why the buildings for which they voted \$280,000 had not been built.

Flora Macdonald College anticipated a great year with all of its dormitories filled to capacity.

The Raeford Kiwanis club elected its 1952 officers at the club's regular weekly meeting last Thursday night, and Marion H. Gatlin was elected president.

From Poole's Medley:

Children know right from wrong, but they do not want someone to direct who is not in authority. My little brothers refused to be obedient to me.

Battery A, 130th AAA Battalion North Carolina National Guard, Raeford and Hoke County's unit, rolled into Raeford from Fort McClellan, Alabama, at about 6:15 last Sunday afternoon, the first of their incampments they have managed to return from in the daytime in several years.

J. Irvin Hubbard, manager of Collins Department Store here for several years, and lately manager of Collins in Lake City, S.C., will again manage the local store, Thad Lowder, temporary manager, said this week.

15 years ago

Thursday, September 7, 1961

The County Commissioners, meeting Tuesday in the "Court-house Annex" (Board of Education Building), ordered the Hoke



by Marty Vega

Riders Make Decision

(Part II) While the group of riders out on the western trail milled around at the bend in the road, (not at the crest of the hill as was detailed in last week's chapter), discussing whether to continue their journey over the alien looking freshly paved road, lamps were being lit in the settlers' homes back in the village of LaGrange. (The settlement of Loch Lommond had been abandoned and the colony moved northward over the rugged route to be closer to Ft. Thunder-clap, more convenient for guerrilla action when it came time for the invasion and takeover of the fort)

As the lamps were glowing and supper cooking in the kitchens, the talk turned to the usual matters. How the crops looked, that bridle on the mare needed stitching, another sack of flour would have to be fetched, what was on TV that night.

But in one home the conversation turned to a matter which had been in the daily gazette for some time now, the matter of merging the telephone exchanges between the two villages of Raeford and Fayetteville, and with Ft. Thunder-clap, too.

For it seemed to some that one of the real issues was becoming clouded to those most concerned, just as clouded as the sun in a summer sky of thunderheads, or as clouded as the glasses as they come out of the dishwasher.

For the villagers who lived near to the phone company's central station, they paid only a little more than five crowns a month, yet the pioneers who moved away from the village to the outer reaches of the county, like tiny settlements like Dundarrach, paid eight or nine crowns a month for the same service.

"Why is this be?", cried one. "Do ye say it is fair?"

It seemed there was nothing that could be done, as the phone

County Board of Elections to call special election for Tuesday, November 7, at which time Hoke voters will decide whether or not to authorize a library tax levy of not more than five cents.

On Sunday members of the Gatlin family gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Senter for a picnic to honor Mrs. B.R. Gatlin. Mrs. Gatlin was 94 yesterday.

The old Jubilee costumes are being dusted off again in many Hoke homes, this time for a fashion show in Fayetteville set for tonight (Thursday) at 8 p.m. at a Fayetteville department store.

Duncan Lacy McNeill, son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. McNeill of Raeford, has enlisted in the United States Navy.

While neighboring Robeson County took it on the chin with eight traffic fatalities over the holiday weekend, Hoke "lucked it out" with only two routine accidents.

companies limited replied that the farther one is from the central station, the more equipment it takes to amplify a voice over the greater distance of the lines. And so, faced with that explanation, it became clear that the settlers in Dundarrach were paying the cost of amplifying the voice of a villager who called, whether they wanted to hear it or not, there being some pesty callers.

What came out of all this discussion? The group agreed that this idea could produce additional revenue which cities and villages everywhere needed as the people who lived farther from the water plant could therefore be charged more monthly for their water than a person living on the same block as the water plant, as they could claim the water had to travel over a GREATER DISTANCE THROUGH THE LINES.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear Editor:

According to an article I read in a newspaper last night, the government is going to build the biggest windmill in the history of mankind, with blades spanning 200 feet on a tower 140 feet high, to see how much electricity we can get from the wind. It'll cost 7 million dollars and, if the wind doesn't die too often, is supposed to generate enough electricity for 500 homes.

I have give this considerable thought and have run into a few stumbling blocks. For instance, the interest on 7 million dollars at 7 per cent is \$490,000 a year, which comes to \$980 per home if the windmill supplies 500, before any charge for electricity is added on. Whatever your electric bill is now, just add that on to the \$980. This of course does not include incidental maintenance costs for the rig, such as axle grease to keep the giant mill from squeaking and thus avoiding a noise-pollution lawsuit by the environmentalists. And also it doesn't allow anything for the repayment of the 7 million dollars, although with government loans that's sometimes not necessary.

But I was just thinking, the average windmill with an 8-foot blade span like ranchers use to pump water costs about \$1,000. I don't know how much electricity one would generate, but say you tripled its size. That ought to produce enough electricity for one home, if you live in a windy part of the country. So say one electricity-generating windmill per home cost \$3,000. For 7 million dollars you could get 2,300 such windmills, taking care of 2,300 homes.

So let's say the wind is the answer to the energy problem. Right now I want to announce that I have filed a claim in Washington for sole ownership of all the wind that blows in this country. The company will be known as General Wind, Incorporated, and while I have no notion a meter can be developed to measure the amount of wind blowing through a windmill's blades, there certainly is one you can put on the other side to measure the amount of electricity coming out.

Stock in this company will be limited to people who have well-established reputations as blow-hards. The board of directors will consist mostly of Congressmen.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

In an editorial carried in the August 26, 1976 edition of the News Journal, the question of how long will the sheriff have to face investigation was asked. I don't know, but I can suggest a few areas to be investigated. First, is the attention not paid to maintaining the peace in minority neighborhoods. Knifings, beatings and O.K. Corral type shootouts occur wholesale with the bare minimum of action taken by the sheriff's department. The attitude that "the only good Indian is a dead Indian" is still alive, well and prescribed to by the sheriff's department, and every weekend the bad Indians are making good ones.

Second, the sheriff's personal conduct toward Indians need investigation. On the night of the open hearing held before the Board of County Commissioners, the Sheriff showed pure, unadulterated contempt for the Indian Citizens assembled to hear his answer to my charges. When his turn came to speak, he pranced in, whipped out his statement, snorted his nose and said he cam to address the Board of County Commissioners and no one else. This attitude reflects the Richard Nixon attitude that the sheriff considers himself superior to Indians and that he does not have to account to the people he is supposed to serve and who pays his salary. He finished his statement, pirouetted and said over his shoulder that he was now going home to his wife and children. He feels that other good Indians are those who vote for him on election day, and those who kill each other, steal and generally terrorize law abiding Indians. They pay little for their crimes and are soon released to ply their trades again. Cat-houses, juke joints, and bootleggers flourish in minority neighborhoods. What legal reasons can the Sheriff give for the continuance of this situation? If the sheriff's department is notified about a disturbance, Indian citizens are told the department can do nothing. Would he do something if the disturbances occurred in his neighborhood?

Third, the integrity of the sheriff's word needs investigation. He stated that he would resign if any citizen other than me asked him to resign. A petition with many names was presented, but the sheriff still clings to his job. He further stated that he would not seek office again. Is he a man of his word?

Now for the judge. What ruling other than the one handed down did anyone expect in this citadel of plantation politics, especially from a judge who had stated before the trial that Barrington was one of the

three best sheriffs in North Carolina? If Pou Bailey were Indian (God forbid), if he lived in Hoke County, if he experienced the neglect of just law enforcement as an Indian, he could not still hold the same opinion of the sheriff's department. Pou Bailey's attack on me for bringing charges against Barrington for his admitted wrongdoing was typical of what Indians expect from Southern judges. Charges brought by a thousand Indians would not have been sufficient to remove the sheriff from office.

As for being vindictive, this too is a typical characterization of minorities who seek justice or bring charges against public officials. We've endured hundreds of years of such negatives. It still goes on; we still endure. However, we seldom bring charges and almost never get justice. In Hoke County, where is justice? Is it reserved only for former sheriff's daughters?

Sincerely,
Elisha Dial

EDITOR'S NOTE--The writer of the above letter served as deputy sheriff in Hoke County until discharged by Sheriff David M. Barrington in January of 1976.

Dear Sir:

Why should Mr. Autry have not fired Mr. W. Ronnie Branch who is out on Bail for Stealing Tobacco. This is not to mention what happen last year with the stolen tractor that he bought.

My concern is that if he is given permission to continue to work with our children in Hoke County, what type of influence will this have on them. I personally don't want my children to be taught by this type of a person. Had this been an Indian or a Black teacher they would have been fired last year when the tractor deal came up. No they continue to let him teach our children. The FBI and the SBI is in on this investigation maybe all the facts will come to the light. Most of the people didn't even know about the tractor. This was a cover up by our so called politicians in this County.

Sincerely,
J.J. Jones

EDITOR'S NOTE -- W. Ronnie Branch, assistant principal of Scurlock Elementary School east of Raeford, was among six persons charged in connection with the theft of \$35,000 worth of tobacco in Robeson County recently. He was to be on leave of absence from his teaching duties until a hearing on the charges, to be held in Lumberton on Wednesday of this week.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



SUNSET LAWS -- In recent weeks we have been hearing right much about "sunset" laws. In the recent Tar Heel gubernatorial primary, George Wood advocated "Sunset" laws. "Sunset" laws would terminate practically all spending programs every five years, unless renewed by Congress or a State Legislature.

This would give the State Legislature or Congress the opportunity to discard out-dated and useless bureaucracy which had served its day and purpose. Senator Muskie of Maine has expressed the belief that "sunset" laws which he calls, "most radical," will pass because it offers a "neutral process to focus our energies on the important task of making government more productive. This is an undertaking in which every one of us -- liberals and conservatives alike -- has a vital stake," says the Maine senator.

MARYLAND -- The state of Maryland refused a \$60,000 grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for a consumer education program because costs of completing forms would have approximated 75 percent of the grant, Reports the Commission of Paperwork!

TOBACCO OBSERVER -- The Tobacco Observer is a brand new publication just off the press with an introduction by former Congressman Horace R. Kornegay of Greensboro who is president of The Tobacco Institute. "Our new publication will, in newspaper style, report on government activities, research results, industry activities, and other public events of interest to those whose livelihoods are in some way associated with tobacco," says Mr. Kornegay. Paul Knopick is editor of the 12-page tabloid printed on book paper. The mailing address of the new publication is: 1776 K. Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20006.

TWO WEEKS -- South Carolina held its first primary on Tuesday,

August 31, two weeks after the Tar Heel primary, but in two weeks time it will hold its second primary on Tuesday, September 14 -- the same day as the North Carolina second primary. If South Carolina can do it in two weeks -- why can't North Carolina.

TOO MUCH AND TOO LITTLE! -- Recently in this column I discussed the acute problems that arises when we have too much rain and then the problems that beset us when a dry spell comes along. With this in mind I was interested to receive a letter from Frank H. Jeter, Jr., public relations officer for the Soil Conservation Service of the USDA from which I quote:

"I was very pleased to read your comments, in your column the first week in September, on paving, development, runoff and flooding. You are absolutely right in saying that such activities do cause more flooding; it's not raining more than it used to, you do read more about flooding in various parts of the country -- and the floods are often caused by the conditions you mentioned. By conservative estimate, we believe that 200 acres of rural land -- forest, pasture, row crops and the like -- are converted to 'urbanization' each day here in North Carolina. Since you are so widely read across North Carolina, I appreciate your bringing attention to an important matter."

LAW AGENCY -- We were interested to note that the House and Senate in Washington have voted to put the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration on trial by voting to give it another year to show if it can do something about crime by spending federal dollars. The Judiciary Committee report on the bill said: "The committee has found no evidence that the program has helped to reduce crime or isolated specific programs that reveal why the crime rate increases and provide guidance on what to do to reduce it."

The House last week voted 324 to See CLIFF BLUE, page 13