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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1976

Give us the right to practice your right!

(Editor's Note: National Newspaper Week will be observed October 10-16. This is the first editorial on Freedom of the Press before this special week.)

by William E. Branan
President

National Newspaper Association

Do you have a right to know?
Do you want to have the right to know?
Do you feel reporters and editors should be gagged?
Do you think the news media has prejudiced individuals suspected and being tried for a crime?

These are questions all of you must answer in the days ahead. You must decide if freedom is exploited, or if you are being cheated.

You were all interested in the Sheppard case. Not long ago it was depicted on TV in a dramatic presentation. This is the story, as you know, of the celebrated Cleveland, Ohio doctor who was accused of killing his wife and newspaper reports were said to have convicted him. It should be noted on the other hand that a newspaper woman was responsible for his eventual retrial and acquittal.

Newspaper reporters have been tossed in jail on contempt charges in the last several years; have served jail sentences because they refused to reveal sources. You read of the case in Boston, Massachusetts where a Superior Court judge told the reporters he did not want the case of a woman who allegedly killed a police officer five years ago reviewed in the newspaper again -- only the actual facts of the trial would be allowed. He said this was not a gag rule but newspapermen everywhere called it that because it told them what to write and what not to write.

I have heard it said many times in small communities that everyone knows what's happening and a newspaper only verifies it. It goes further than that.

How many times have you been at a basketball game and watched some local kid get real hot on the floor -- sinking baskets and free throws right and left -- and how many of you have kept an accurate, foolproof account of that total? After the game, you might go to the score table and irritate them. But, you do check the newspaper for the box score to revive that memory and have the correct facts.

The right to know is as fundamental as apple pie or baseball and you know all of us have dreams to be followed; a purpose, perhaps to build a better community for others -- a better world for others. This is true regardless of whether we are professionals, in business, in industry or in anything else.

How many times have people in your community told you that it is we who create the climate of the nation -- that if it were not for us (meaning newspaper writers) the gloom would be less and that we should print some good news for a change?

The answer to that, in my judgment, is that you, as a community and individual businessman and as a citizen of the community should give us good news. It is not for us to print the good or the bad news but ALL news. If there has been an area of wrong-doing, whether it be on Main Street or at the White House, the journalist should have to tell you about it.

Whether you are a banker, an industrialist, a merchant, publisher or editor, we all have one thing in common -- we are Americans. And as Americans, we subscribe to the document known as the Constitution, the greatest instrument of democracy ever written.

While the Magna Carta, the previous model of freedom, is no longer in direct use as an instrument of British government, our Constitution is still a viable document in daily use and continually updated to meet changing needs through the amendments.

Think of us newspaper people who have heard again and again from the superintendent of schools, aldermen, mayor or the police chief who answered the newspaper's inquiry by saying, "This is really classified information."

How many times have we in the newspaper business been given the paternalistic attitude of "this is not good to publish"?

Who is the judge? How many times have editors-reporters been asked, "We would appreciate it if you would refrain from using this item" -- whether it's a Main Street item, in the State Capitol or to some of our top reporters in the nation's Capitol?

This is a sign of the times and these are the days when we really need the help of the business community to make America work. If men who carry the free enterprise banner refuse to stand up and be heard, who will?

Give us the right to practice your right!

"Our American press traditions run so deep that I'm fundamentally optimistic in spite of current concern with readership, credibility and judicial extremism. However, I'm greatly alarmed by what is happening abroad as country after country continues to lose a measure of its press freedom, and we have to recognize that it could happen here if we're not extremely vigilant in protecting the people's right to know."

—Rod Beaton
President
United Press International

'Vote?!?!? Whaddya take me for? Some kinda radical?!



Cartoonist Le Pelley is on vacation

by Marty Vega

Life Returns To Normal

(Part 39) Life in the colony slowly returned to normal. The stage-coach passenger - ex - rider - on - horseback told his story of the ten week delay, leaving out no detail, and when he finished, he waited for the decision. He was hanged.

The militiamen who had been camped on the fringes of Ft. Thunderclap mapping strategy for the battle had run out of necessary provisions and were forced to return to the colony, disgusted, and they were severely criticized for leaving behind their food supplies. Although they contended that no militia man worth his salt could fight without whisky, a defense which was borne out by activities on Hay St. almost nightly.

And, lastly, the search party out on the western trail which was stopped cold by the strange new paved road had thrown caution to the wind and decided to proceed into dangerous territory -- they turned off onto what was known as

Melody Shaker Heights and attempted the perilous crossing over the last 75 yards of no man's land leading to Ft. Thunderclap. Casualties were high - one third of the party was hit by flying gravel, another third suffered internal injuries attempting to ride over the trail, and the other third, well, their mounts reared up and bolted at the sight of the sorry looking road.

So, with all these misfortunes, it was easy to understand the settlers' rage at the latest injustice. With summer over and a nip in the air, the only source of entertainment in those rugged days was the Cablevision. Without it, the colonists surely would have perished. They depended on it just as they depended on the sun to rise every morning and the rain to fall and nourish the crops. "Right as rain", is what they used to say.

And, it should be noted, the settlers were paying dearly for their Cablevision (and their only link to civilization) as the greedy imperialists had just raised the rates by 50 pence a month, up to an unheard of \$6.50.

But, they were able to endure this. What they couldn't endure brings us to the subject of this chapter.

Who decided to take "Cannon" and "Joe Forrester" off the air? And put on such nauseating productions as Captain and the Toenail? Who, huh? Without an elected vote of the people! What sort of democratic rule was this? (Next week, Otto Glurg devises an ingenious attachment to his set which automatically fetches a cold beer from the fridge when a commercial begins, which allows his inventive mind to roam the possibilities of perfecting a device which will allow the television viewer to remain seated while heeding nature's call.

This Is The Law

By Robert E. Lee
Sponsored by The Lawyers of
North Carolina

LICENSES OF LAND

When a person invites another into his home a "license in land" is created. Legally the person who extends the invitation is the "licensor" and the person who accepts the invitation is called the licensee."

You may invite a person to dinner, but this does not imply that once he is there he can continue to stay for several days and nights.

If you grant permission to the children in your neighborhood to play ball on a vacant lot that you own, that is a license.

A license may be revoked at any time by the owner of the premises at his pleasure and without cause.

If the licensee does not leave when requested, the licensor may use such physical force as is necessary to eject him.

The fact that a license is paid for does not make it irrevocable. The licensor may still terminate a license, however, in such a situation the licensee may sue for breach of contract which in most cases is not a substantial sum.

If a person wants to acquire enduring or enforceable rights on the property of another, he should create a lease or an easement.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



DOCTORS NEEDED -- We read in a recent report gotten out by some commission or committee that there is not a doctor shortage and that the proposed East Carolina University medical school is not needed. We can't believe that there is not a great need for more physicians in North Carolina when many people find it hard to get an appointment without a delay.

Being in the newspaper business we have numerous weekly, bi-weekly and daily papers coming across our desk. Recently we have taken note of communities where Physician Recruitment Committees have been formed in an effort to attract a physician.

Last week's Montgomery Herald headlined a front page story: "Hospital Launches Effort To Find More Doctors." In The Franklin Times last week there was a front page article announcing that a "Physician Recruitment Committee" had been named to secure a physician for the Bunn community. Recently, Roseboro through the efforts of a local committee erected a new clinic building to secure a doctor for that community.

As long as small towns have to form committees to secure physicians for these communities, there is a scarcity of doctors and we need more being trained to take care of our aged, sick and dying. Most people of affluence can receive treatment without a great deal of delay, but the pain and agony that besets our poor people who may not be able to secure the services of a doctor can be just as deep and painful as that of the more affluent!

DR. LEO JENKINS -- Along this line of the need for more doctors, Dr. Leo Jenkins, Chancellor at East Carolina University has been an indomitable leader in Eastern North Carolina for a medical school at his institution to help provide the extra physicians which are so badly needed in the rural counties of our great state. It has been a long and tough fight by Dr. Jenkins for a Medical School at ECU, but Dr. Jenkins is not a person to give up easily. Remember his battle for the name change of East Carolina College to East Carolina University. The leadership from the

governor on down were against him and defeated his bid in the 1963 session of the General Assembly, but two years later, he came back with steam-roller support to win. Jenkins' medical school fight has been harder than the "name-change" battle but while he has lost some battles for the medical school, he is winning the war because the cause for which he leads and fights is right.

THE DEBATE -- With the first Ford-Carter debate behind us, our feeling is that it was pretty much of a draw. While the debate was interesting, and informative to many, we don't feel that either Ford or Carter was hurt much, if any, and further, we doubt that if either gained much, if any over the other.

In 1960 John F. Kennedy was the clear winner in the first debate with Nixon but on the third time around, our recollection is that it was pretty much of a stand-off, but the damage had already been done. Before the first debate Nixon had been in the hospital for several days and was no match for the fresh-looking Kennedy.

The third debate found Nixon hale and hearty and appearing to be the match for Kennedy, but the Massachusetts senator won the race for the White House in a close election in which Kennedy received 34,221,531 votes to Nixon's 34,108,474.

Indications remain that Ford has a lot of catching up to do before November 2 if he expects to maintain residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. during the next four years.

GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE -- It now appears that Jim Hunt and David Flaherty will stage a debate in North Carolina. The last Democrat vs. Republican gubernatorial debate in North Carolina took place in 1960 between Terry Sanford and Dr. I. Beverly Lake. Sanford didn't want the debate just as it now appears that Jim Hunt would rather be out on the streets carrying on his own campaign. Preceding a debate it's usually the candidate who is running behind who challenges his opponent to a debate.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, September 27, 1951

Postmaster Lacy Clark said this week that a lease had been signed with C.L. Thomas, J.L. McNeill and Younger F. Snead for a building to be constructed on their lot on Main Street just south of the town hall for use as a post office.

Coach Bob Rockholz's gridiron charges journeyed to Mount Olive last Friday night and came home with a victory over their favored Class AA opponents, 7-6.

Pfc Daniel Ellerbe, whose grandmother Mrs. Maggie McClain lives at Route 2, Raeford arrived by air evacuation from California at Percy Jones Army Hospital on Sept. 17.

The board of commissioners of the town of Raeford this week authorized the issuance of \$30,000 in bonds for the purpose of providing funds for enlarging and extending the waterworks of the town.

From Poole's Medley:
The first thing we bought after coming to Raeford apart from food was window screens. There were numerous house flies. There are almost none now.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:30 o'clock last Thursday afternoon at the Raeford Methodist church for Miss Mary Norton.

15 years ago

Thursday, September 28, 1961

The Hoke County United Fund begins its annual fund-raising campaign this year with a goal of \$17,000 at a kickoff dinner Monday night.

Clyde Upchurch, Jr. was elected Saturday to the post of president of the N.C. Concrete Masonry Association.

Mrs. O.B. Israel has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as postmaster of McCain.

Mrs. P.P. McCain, widow of the late physician, will speak Tuesday night at the Sanatorium on her recent trip to the Soviet Union.

From Rockfish News:
Rockfish gin is running full time during this dry weather.

"Old Leed just won't give up!" says owner Howard Lucas of Route 3, Raeford. Old Leed is a 3-legged, 12-year-old hound which led a pack of fox hounds in a "chase and tackle" capture of a 20-pound bob cat early last Friday morning.

A special meeting of the Town Board Monday night authorized Town Engineer Richard Moore to draw up plans for a conventional sewage system.

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