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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1976

Hunt on right track: reading

There are many ideas about what the purposes of our schools should be, and many more about how they should be accomplished. To parents and children in Raeford and Hoke County, as well as the rest of the nation, these range from free child-keeping services while parents work, to expecting the schools to change unmotivated youngsters into well-mannered, literate human beings with high earning capacities, without parental assistance.

Some analysts of the local situation would read into the recent changes on the county board of education a feeling of dissatisfaction about how schools here are being run, since voters rejected two board members who had served the county for many years and replaced them with persons inexperienced in the field of elective public service generally and school board service in particular. At the same time another candidate with long previous service also failed to win a seat.

The facts that both the new board members are women, and that one is black, tends to weaken to us any theory of great dissatisfaction on the part of our people with the performance of our school system, and it is also a fact that there was no "throw the rascals out" campaign waged, that we ever heard of. Like the campaign for mayor of Plains, Georgia, it was more a campaign of personalities than of issues, and here we feel that more of our people just wanted to see these two ladies have a chance.

We do feel that the people hope and believe this fresh infusion to the board will result in progress, and that an already creditable system will show continued improvement. We would like to see our system take Jim Hunt's ideas and money on the teaching of reading and really implement them. There are many people with diplomas who can't read the directions on a new appliance, and the government just can't take care of us all, however noble the effort.

This talk of "career education" we hear from some educators strikes us as wasting time when what people need in this world is a working knowledge of how to read, write and figure. This world is complex, and getting more so every day, and the only real place for a person to learn is from his ability to read. He's got to be able to read to know the problem he needs to figure, and the history, geography, morality, current events and culture he needs have a hard time reaching most minds any other way. One who can and does read will learn enough about careers, and other things, too.

We also like the achievement testing part of Hunt's program, and we would hope that one of these days our schools would reach the point they have in the schools of Greensville County, Virginia, where students who don't pass a grade stay in it until they do. Remember the old saying about the person who "knows not and knows not that he knows not?" This person is not going to get very far, and we are not being fair to him to put him out into the world in this condition.

So, Jim Hunt's on the right track, and it's our guess that Hoke County Schools, with their fine history of progress in the past couple of decades, will be right on the track with him.

We will close with a word of thanks to D.R. Huff, Jr. and Wilton Wood for their fine service for many years, along with their colleagues, Dr. Riley Jordan, Bill Howell, and Bobby Gibson, who remain on the board. We would encourage Ruth McNair and Mina Townsend in the challenge and opportunity for service which they face.

We don't think the practice of close relatives of school board members working for the school system is particularly good for school administrators who may have to supervise these people and work under the board members. We haven't heard any school administrators mention it, but it might not be good business for them to mention it if they felt like doing so, would it?

Now if you like, or don't like, what we say here, get it off your chest and sign it. We'll be glad to print it.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, December 6, 1951

The coming of Santa Claus and the big Christmas Parade planned and arranged by the Raeford Chamber of Commerce are all set for next Wednesday afternoon and indications are that it will be the biggest such affair ever held here.

The Sunday morning worship service at the Baptist Church will be a dedication of the present building which was created in 1947.

From Poole's Medley:

Travelers who have seen the great overgrown Texas, say the country between Raeford and Aberdeen is just exactly like that part of Texas where oil is found.

"Whip Wilson" badges will be given free to the first 50 kids at the Raeford Theatre for the show Saturday afternoon, J.B. McIntyre, manager has announced.

Carlton Niven, president of the Lions Club, this week expressed the appreciation of the club for the generosity of the public in the toy drive conducted last Thursday night.

Mrs. J.M. Baker, clerk to the Hoke County draft board, said this week that she had calls on hand for seven men to report for induction.

At the court of honor next Tuesday night boys to be advanced include Joe McLeod to life and

'After January I hope it's not just peanut butter and grits'



by Marty Vega

Tale Of One City

The subject this week is Bala-Cynwyd, Pa. It is a distressing subject, for reasons which will be outlined. For now, how many of you have heard of this city? All right, the rest of you pay attention anyway. There will be a quiz later.

For those of you who answered 'yes' to the first question, you are either extremely well-informed, shameless liars or holders of Exxon credit cards. If you belong to the last category, you recognize the name because that is where you send the payment for your bill every month.

So, you recognize the name. But can you pronounce it? Do you say, 'bah-lah sin-weed', or do you say 'bay-LAH-s'n-wid'. Or do you just obediently drop your payment in the mailbox and say nothing, ashamed to display your ignorance?

Do you feel resentment toward that company for making you feel inferior, a useless being, every month? (Do you resent this column for bringing it to your attention?)

For the record, Bala-Cynwyd is a suburb of Philadelphia with a population of 9,500, according to the 1975 Rand McNally Road Atlas-U.S., Canada and Mexico-price \$4.95. (The price explains why this column isn't consulting the 1976 atlas).

What is the mystery of Bala-Cynwyd? The best clue is to begin by testing an old trick. Spelled backwards, Bala-Cynwyd is ALAB-DYWNYC and the message becomes instantly clear. Finding the secret, we could drop the matter. But unanswered questions persist.

Can this Bala-Cynwyd be Main Line Philadelphia, the genuine article? A name to be spoken with respect, as would the Schuylkill River, Bryn Mawr, Villanova, Swarthmore, all nearby on the map? Will characters out of a John O'Hara novel leap to life in Bala-Cynwyd? Or does the name more suggest images from Alabama and 1,000 thieves and the Persian Nights?

Or does it seem to fit with a vast desert facing the Persian Gulf, filled with 1,000 Arab sheiks counting their oil millions?

The only real explanation is to

look at things backwards. Bala-Cynwyd backwards is simply A lab Dyw nyc.

A lab, don't you wish, in New York City.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
 Although I understand it's nearing completion except maybe for fixing some leaks, the Alaskan pipe line is still causing concern among the ecologists and environmentalists. They're afraid the thing is going to upset nature in that frozen land.

They're afraid the wild animals for example like caribou will shy away from the pipe, refuse to cross it, and be shut off from wherever they were headed. Of course they may have a point and you can see in your mind's eye a heard approaching the pipe, stopping in puzzlement, and turning and fleeing in fear, although you can't help wondering what has happened to a shy caribou heretofore when he came to a fallen log.

Understand, I'm not kidding all environmentalists. Their positions frequently are well-taken, and I personally have a problem I'd like to enlist their help on.

You see, there're these telephone wires out here near my house. For years birds have been using those wires to light on and rest a while. Sometimes you can see 40 or 50 in a row, sitting there enjoying the scenery and bothering nobody. Not only has the current bunch of birds been resting on those wires, their forebears, or should I say fore-birds have too.

In fact, the birds have come to consider those telephone wires as their own domain. But now what's about to happen? Why there's some talk that the telephone company some day may take those wires down and bury them, deep underground.

I call on the Environmental Protection Agency to put a stop to the idea. Those wires are part of the birds' natural habitat and man has no right to come in and destroy it just in the name of progress. You can't make me believe you can get any more intelligent conversation over underground wires than you can on wires strung on poles. Nature knew what it was doing when it grew trees shaped like telephone poles. Bird-watchers, unite. Write your Congressman, Mr...uh, what's his name.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

Marcus Smith and Younger Snead, Jr. to the rank of star.

15 years ago

Thursday, December 7, 1961

A string of Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad freight cars lay sprawled across the tracks straddling the Hoke - Moore County line Wednesday morning, after a McNair farm truck smashed into the right rear wheels of the locomotive.

Hansel B. Pate, son of Mrs. Ada Cooper Pate of Raeford, climbs another notch in the service ladder with a promotion to Sp6.

A quarterly report from Town Hall shows the Raeford Police Department handled during the months of Sept., Oct. and Nov. one hundred and seventy-six cases.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

President-elect Carter will take office next month pledged to balance the budget before his first term ends and to reorganize the federal bureaucracy.

Both will be difficult tasks, and he will need the help of Congress if the goals are to be met. There has been a great deal written recently about how entrenched the bureaus are, and how their employees are used to seeing presidents come and go. It was President Franklin Roosevelt who said dealing with them was like "punching a feather bed."

However, with the urgent need to get a handle on government spending, it is likely that Congress will move quickly to make reforms possible.

The Sunset Bill, which has been discussed in previous newsletters, is likely to be called up soon after the next session convenes and will probably pass by a good margin. This is the bill requiring government agencies to review their actions and to justify their existence periodically. The ability of Congress to really evaluate the agencies will be of great importance.

The President-Elect has said he favors zero-based budgeting, which means agencies would have to justify their budget requests every year. This can be handled in the Executive Branch.

This approach would fit very well with the new Congressional budget process, which establishes budget

priorities, sets ceilings on spending which cannot be exceeded without a majority vote, and keeps a running account of the cost of bills passed.

Taken together, these three new management processes should give us an unprecedented advantage in our attempt to control federal spending.

Still, it will not be easy. The new administration will be besieged by requests for new social programs and the expansion of existing ones. But unless efforts to get the economy off dead center and moving ahead are successful, it is not likely the Carter Administration will propose costly new programs. A sounder business climate and sounder fiscal policies in the government must come first.

The Congress, I believe, will work with the new President as he seeks to balance the budget. With the President and the majority of Congress members of the same party, there should be a workable government.

I don't want to sound unreasonably optimistic, but I am hopeful the political situation in Washington, and the moderate mood of the people, will mean we can return to fiscal responsibility and establish control over the hundreds of bureaus which have been allowed to grow without adequate oversight or accountability.

This is worth another try, and now is the time to make it.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



GILL DINNER. . . Last week we commented on the upcoming dinner to be given in honor of Edwin Gill, retiring state treasurer and longtime public official. One of the speaker's at the dinner, I forget whether it was former Governor Dan K. Moore or Archie Davis, termed Gill the "greatest living North Carolinian." Chancellor Joab L. Thomas of N.C. State University, former State Senator Edwin Pate of Gill's native Laurinburg and Gill himself added much wit and humor to the occasion.

Moore said that following his election as governor Gill's advice to him was to "ask for Divine guidance and praise the legislature!"

It was an outstanding occasion for "a great and good man" as one of the speakers termed Gill at the dinner.

BILL FRIDAY. 1. Dr. William Friday's chances being selected as Secretary of Health Education and Welfare should be much brighter with Carter having announced that he expected to select his Secretary of Agriculture from the west. Bob Scott had been regarded as a possible choice for Secretary of Agriculture and many felt that North Carolina would not be favored with two cabinet members. Now, with Scott out of consideration for a cabinet post, Dr. Friday should have a much better chance of being selected for Health, Education and Welfare. At the Gill Dinner last week, Gill paid high tribute to Friday, saying that when the General Assembly voted to merge the 16 institutions of higher education into the Greater University of North Carolina he was asked whether or not it could be accomplished. Gill said his reply was: "If anybody can do it, Bill Friday can." Well, Dr. Friday has measured up to the expectations of those who successfully be accomplished.

EDUCATION. . . Last week I attended a meeting of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators at Pinehurst. The NCASA is a new education organization, less than a year old headed by Moore County Supt. Robert E. Lee, who is one of the top school administrators in the state. State Supt. Craig Phillips was the guest speaker at the session I attended. Phillips emphasized eight words, each beginning with the letter "P", they begin Planning, Program, People, Preparation, Places, Process, Politics and Purpose in his address which was well received. Phillips indicated his approval of changing the law to provide for the State Board of Education to be elected by the people, and with the Board of Education selecting the State Superintendent, who is now chosen by popular vote.

FEDERAL PAY. . . We are hearing groans about the alleged low level of federal pay with

particular reference to the judges. We have never thought that the best public officials were overly concerned about more than a reasonable salary. Money is not the proper lure for government officials anyhow. The thought should be to serve one's country.

Federal employees enjoy many fringe benefits that private employees do not in general have, like longer paid vacations, more paid holidays and better retirement plans. At a time when the federal budget is already heavily in the red, with a terrific national debt for future generations to face up to, the call for higher pay levels appear questionable to say the least.

DECEMBER 7. . . Tuesday of this week is Pearl Harbor Day and most people 45 years old and older will hardly forget where they were and what they were doing when the news came over the radio that Pearl Harbor had been bombed by the Japs. President Franklin D. Roosevelt called it "a day to live in infamy." Time heals many things and despite the hatred toward Japan, now 35 years later, the United States and Japan enjoy good cordial relations. Look also at our good relations towards West Germany. Yes, time is a great healer.



"While he was still some distance off, his father saw him and his heart went out to him." -- Luke 15:20 (Phillips)

I will never forget the late Albert E. Barnett's commentary on the return of the Prodigal Son. Dr. Barnett used to speak of a father who arose early in the morning and looked out toward the horizon — hoping to see a familiar figure. "He had to or he would never have seen the lad at so great a distance," Barnett would say.

This thought came home to me not long ago in an interview with a young man who had been separated from his parents soon after birth. He had never had an occasion for contact with them over the years. Bu when the young man reached maturity, married, and became a father, he was determined to find his parents.

When an answer came to his knock upon the door, the young man said, "I'm sure you don't know who I am, but..." Before he could go any further, the old man said, "I know, you are my son."

What a thrill to have been recognized as a son by the one with whom he had had no contact over the years. And yet, if this can happen between two human beings, think how God welcomes His children when they come to Him.



Take
 stock
 in America.
 200 years at the same location.