

The News - Journal



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

Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1977

Floods: the need to prepare

The recent repeat of the Johnstown flood emphasizes the need for the United States to face up to the challenge of so-called "natural" disasters.

The intense rain storm that caused the flood was indeed a recurring natural event of which history has given ample warning. But the destruction and suffering that accompanied the storm were to a large extent man-made. These reflect a way of life which, careless of natural hazards, has permitted land development in ways that magnify, rather than minimize, the danger such hazards pose.

As reported in a recent series in this newspaper, geophysicists warn that such carelessness now exposes the United States to major, and needless, catastrophes. The American Meteorological Society, for example, has pointed out the disaster potential created by millions of people moving into coastal lands of Eastern and Southern states where hurricanes cause rare, but expectable, flooding.

Disaster researchers such as Clark University geographer Robert W. Kates point to three factors leading to this vulnerability: burgeoning population, which means more people are exposed to a given hazard; mobility of Americans, which means many people now live in areas where they are unfamiliar with the natural hazards; and a tendency to rely on simplistic measures such as flood-control dams rather than take the politically harder course of effective land-use planning.

In regard to flood protection, Dr. Kates says, dams should be part of a mixed strategy that also features an effective monitoring, forecasting, and warning system; a well-rehearsed emergency action plan; and above all land-use planning to prevent foolhardy development. Experts such as Dr. Kates fault federal disaster policy for emphasizing emergency relief rather than disaster prevention.

It is time to turn this misguided policy around, even though it means legislatures must tackle politically thorny issues. Congress took a small step in this direction by requiring land-use planning for states to qualify for federal flood insurance. Even that modest step is still under attack by real estate interests who claim it infringes their "freedom."

The Johnstown flood is one more warning that both Congress and the states must no longer neglect this issue. The country is being developed in ways which, heedless of natural forces, unnecessarily court disaster. This trend must be reversed. —*Christian Science Monitor*

Giving back a football bonus?

An old movie begins with one of those dark-night scenes in which a spotlight roams across the wall of a bank and stops on a furtive figure with his arms full of money. "But I was just putting it back," says the fellow, who turns out to be a good guy after all. The episode came to mind the other day when a football player was caught in the act of returning a bonus.

It was former Georgia quarterback Ray Goff who provided the startling contract with all the publicized grasping for the final million by those who sell their cleated soles to the highest bidder. Mr. Goff had received the customary \$1,000 bonus to sign on with the Denver Broncos. But after a few days at training camp he saw that he was out of his depth. He returned to Georgia, but not before giving back the \$1,000 and causing the general manager to say, "I've never seen a player quite like him." Who has?

Hurray for Ray! That's our cheer for the day. Now he expects to be coaching freshmen footballers. Obviously he has something to teach them. —*Christian Science Monitor*

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

15 years ago

Thursday, July 31, 1952

Airman Second Class John Franklin Niven, 18 - year - old Raeford man, died in an air crash in Japan on Wednesday of last week, July 23.

W.H. Neal, senior vice - president of the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, will speak before the Raeford Kiwanis Club tonight regarding the United States.

W.A. McDonald, operator of the Raeford Cleaners and Laundry Service, this week announced the licensing of his company as a "Sanitone" cleaner by the Sanitone Company.

The entire teaching staff of Hoke County High School has been filled for the coming school year according to W.T. Gibson, Jr., Principal.

Thursday, August 2, 1962

Hoke farmers carefully loaded their trucks during the night and slipped away during the early a.m. hours of this morning (Thursday) for the opening of Border Belt markets.

Hoke High's Larry Phillips played well in a losing cause Tuesday night as the East All-Stars dropped a 64-54 casaba tilt to the West in Greensboro.

The first truckload of legal liquor, carrying a wholesale valuation of \$33,000, arrived Monday at the ABC Store on U.S. 401.

Echoes of Raeford's past were revived this week by the announcement that \$100,000 worth of stock will be sold in a "development corporation" that will lease a deep freeze storage facility to Raeford Turkey Farms.

"I like the apartment generally. Could you do something about the ceiling?"



by Marty Vega

Prankster Out Loose

It is a very good thing that the practical joker who phoned the radio station last week with the "hot news item" about the county commissioners called the radio station and not the newspaper.

For if the prankster had called here with the same information, it would have caused untold anguish and worry for reasons we'll get into in a moment.

The facts, as we understand, are these: A man identifying himself as Neil Senter telephoned WSHB last Tuesday and told Deuce Niven that the county commissioners had got on the wrong plane on their return from their Detroit convention and ended up in Mexico where they were all arrested.

The caller claimed he had heard this information "uptown".

Although it sounded pretty wild, Deuce was obliged, as any good reporter would be, to check it out, so he phoned the Detroit Plaza and reached Danny DeVane's wife, Alice, who was thoroughly baffled by it all and told Deuce it was completely unfounded.

Now, the question is, who was the joker? Senter told us he did not call the station, it had to be somebody using his name.

The investigation is still pending. Buddy Blue has been ruled out as a suspect, along with Clayton Buoyar, and suspicion is now centering on Glenn Wood, unless he can come up with an alibi for Tuesday night.

As for the pain and anguish this stunt could have caused -- the plane which was carrying the com-

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear editor:

As everybody knows, land prices have been going sky - high and as a result what a piece of land will produce and what it'll sell for have no connection. It's sort of like it is with some Congressmen.

This has been caused in part by the awakened desire of city people to own some land in the country, although after they get some I've noticed their enthusiasm frequently plays out. I'd say that on the average it takes about three or four years for a city dweller to find out that owning a second home in the country isn't as much fun as he thought it'd be. It takes some city people a while to figure out that paying two sets of mortgages and two sets of utility bills doesn't come out to being twice as much fun as paying one.

But what got me off on land was an article I read the other day revealing an absolutely new standard for selling the stuff. The city of Philadelphia, trying to recoup some of its lost industry, is offering to sell 1,300 acres of land valued at \$35,000 an acre for only \$3,500 an acre, a 90 per cent discount.

The terms of the sale however are that a buyer must agree to put up some kind of factory or business that'll produce 15 to 30 jobs per acre.

Selling land on the basis of jobs - per - acre is an absolutely new wrinkle and may be all right for Philadelphia, but I hope the idea doesn't spread. It certainly would reduce the market value of my farm and some of my neighbors' farms out here.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

missioners back home had some very valuable cargo on board, you see. (Besides the commissioners) I had been promised copies of the Detroit newspapers and if the commissioners had gotten on the wrong plane, what would have happened then?

The State Department would probably have been able to obtain the release of the commissioners, but could they have gotten my papers back, too?

It would have been a bitter pill to swallow, for sure.

CORRECTION....The girls from city hall phoned last week to correct a mistake in this column concerning the city manager. Linda spotted the error of referring to the man as Drumstick. The correct name is The Stick.

A glaring error for which we apologize.

While on the subject of city hall, we might have a suggestion to help defray the costs of the planned improvements to the building.

Since Elvis Presley is going to be in Fayetteville on Aug. 25, why not see if he couldn't agree to a concert in Raeford the next day?

The city council could use the \$160,000 they already have budgeted for city hall to pay his fee and then sell tickets to the concert. If they sold 5,000 tickets at \$20 apiece, they would make \$100,000. If they sold 10,000, they would make \$200,000.

If they sold a ticket to every person in Hoke County, they would sell 18,000 tickets and have the \$360,000 for the building! Sounds like a sound idea.

Letters To The Editor

I would certainly like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Hoke County Health Department for the help and cooperation they have given to the Title III CETA Program this year. The Health Department personnel has given ninety physicals to the workers who have been employed under the Summer Youth Work Program at no charge to the participants. It is my understanding that in some of the surrounding counties money is appropriated at fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per participant at the cost of the program to pay for these services.

I hope our citizens realize what a fine and efficient staff Hoke County has in its Health Services.

Sincerely,
Donald D. Steed.

To the People of Hoke County: Just a note to express my appreciation for the kindness and support given me the past year. It has been a good year and one which I will never forget. I have made many friends here and I will never forget you. Raeford will always be a special place for me.

If any of you are ever in Asheville, N.C., please let me hear from you.

Again, thanks for a super year that I will never forget.

Sincerely,
Rodney Johnson



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

The Senate has been debating the Senate Campaign Financing Act, which its supporters hope will limit the contributions the wealthy people may give to those running for the Senate. What the bill proposes is public financing, out of the tax check-off fund, of Senate races.

Something should be done along these lines, but this particular bill is disappointing. There are just too many loopholes in it.

Public financing has been tried in the Presidential elections, with partial success. Gone was the previous financing system, under which individuals gave hundreds of thousands of dollars, leading to the charge that contributors to Richard Nixon's campaign were buying ambassadorships.

But what public financing of presidential elections did was to expand the influence of the political action committees of special interest groups of all political persuasions. The size and number of these contributions increased, as did contributions to the national party committees. This is a very serious development.

The bill to finance Senate campaigns shares the same defect, and it has some others to boot.

It would be very wrong to get the idea that this bill would limit the amount an individual or a group could give to a candidate. Those limits are already set by law at \$1,000 and \$5,000 respectively. All that the bill would do is match, out of check - off funds, a \$100 contribution or the first \$100 of a \$1,000 contribution. The idea is that this will somehow encourage small contributions. It is

difficult to see how.

The bill does one positive thing, but even this can have bad side effects. It sets a limit on what a Senatorial nominee may spend in the general election.

But if the experience of the Presidential elections repeats, the fund raising and spending by the parties and by the special interest groups will increase to offset any gains here, and one of the results will be that a great deal of campaigning can be going on outside the candidate's control. The bill in effect limits the candidate's ability to direct the campaign, and places more power in other hands. This is dangerous, and actually increases the leverage of special interests. They may well be spending a bundle "on their own," either on behalf of a candidate, or against him.

I am exploring the possibility of an amendment to limit contributions to committees of the political parties. This would remove one, but not all of the bill's weaknesses.

And there are two other problems. First, the bill as it stands at this writing will not cover primaries. Heavy campaigning, and a great deal of fund raising goes on at this stage. Second, the bill would create an army of bureaucrats to supervise the contributions process. I strongly favor reforming campaign financing, but it is very, very hard to vote for something which will cost millions every two years, unless there is going to be a significant contribution to good government as a result.

I am afraid there would be no such benefit.



CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues

JUDGESHIPS -- Governor Hunt has come up with a 34 - member recommendation committee to assist in the selection of superior court judges from which he will make his appointments "except in rare cases." Hunt will select 13 of the laymen on the committee; Chief Justice Sharp will select 13 lawyers; and House Speaker Carl Stewart and State Senator John T. Henley will each pick two laymen and one lawyer to make up the 34 - member recommendation committee. This method should take some of the heat off the governor with no doubt many of his campaign "patriots" willing to serve as superior court judges.

BUMPS FOR HUNT -- With the General Assembly out of Raleigh, it might be imagined that Governor Jim Hunt would have an easy life during the next several months with scores of appointments to hand out to friends and supporters.

With every major appointment, there will likely be triple the number disappointed, because they were passed by.

The Fayetteville Times of which Roy Parker, Jr. is editor says: "We are not impressed, nor should the public be, the way Governor Jim Hunt went about selecting members for his version of the policy-making body for transportation in North Carolina...We can only pray that the performance of the new Board of Transportation will be more effective and fair than the process for choosing it."

In the Raleigh News and Observer, we read: "At least a dozen high - ranking state mental health officials have left their jobs in reaction to the personnel policies of the Hunt administration and a power shift in their agency."

UNEMPLOYMENT -- We suspect John Henry Moore, editor of the Lenoir County Exchange put his finger on the truth of unemployment figures pretty well in an editorial when he wrote "Of all the polls taken, the signpost read, the fact sheets considered, the ones having to do with unemployment are among the most unreliable." Editor Moore also said: "Most people in managerial positions, people who have had much experience in the marketplace

know there are many jobs waiting on the many people out of work. One way of looking at the jobless picture is that there is unemployment because the jobless refuse to accept the available jobs...Young people out of high school and college, in particular, are being more selective than ever over the jobs they accept. And consequently many jobs, some with good compensation, are going begging."

SOCIAL SECURITY -- Reports out of Washington is that President Carter might favor using social security funds for welfare reform. We suspect that among the teeming millions digging deeper and deeper into their pockets for social security and other taxes that a resounding "no" will soon be heard on this suggestion.

MALCOM P. McLEAN -- Malcom P. McLean, Robeson County native who started out after World War II with a "filling station" and one truck on a shoe-string in Red Springs has long ago become a multimillionaire. In the last few years McLean has turned to farming in eastern North Carolina with headquarters south of Creswell, pumping millions of dollars into his 372,000 - acre superfarm that spreads into four counties.

ALAMANCE -- From "The City - County Newspaper" in Burlington we note that the people are wondering ... yes wondering what the county is going to do with three district judges with only two district courtrooms! And on the expense side, the extra judge's salary will be \$28,500, at least one assistant clerk added to the clerk's office, and the district attorney is getting a third assistant! Concludes the editorial in the City - County Newspaper: "Regardless, it is done now. All that awaits is for Governor Jim Hunt to appoint a new district judge. It's going to be a cushy job for whoever gets it."

JUDGE BRITT -- Judge David M. Britt of the N.C. Court of Appeals is letting friends over the state know that he will be a candidate for a seat on the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1978 when the terms of Justices I. Beverly Lake and Dan K. Moore will terminate due to age limitations.

Energy Conservation Now