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THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1978

## New manager selected

After reviewing nearly 100 applications submitted from across the country, the Raeford City Council has selected a new city manager. His employment won't become official until the board meets and votes on it, but it seems almost certain that Ronald Lee Matthews of Goldsboro will be Raeford's next manager.

A native of Winston-Salem, Matthews comes here with an impressive background in administration, having served with the Housing Authority in Winston-Salem and Statesville, and as director of the Redevelopment Commission in Goldsboro.

A graduate of Guilford College in Greensboro, he has done post graduate study at Appalachian State, Winston-Salem State University, and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He has held administrative posts since 1963, giving him, at age 37, a great deal of experience in city government. A family man with three children, he has also been very active in civic organizations and community projects.

Matthews has the experience and education to make the kind of city manager Raeford needs. His selection shows that the city council is doing its best to provide strong, effective leadership for the town.

## Mail box dilemma

Every day people are breaking the law on Elwood Avenue, right outside the Post Office. And they don't have much choice.

It isn't exactly a hanging offense, but if people want to use the convenient, drive-up mail box in front of the Post Office, they are forced to compromise city ordinance.

As you drive west on Elwood Avenue, the mail box appears on the right side of the street. "So what?" you demand, indignant at being bothered with such triviality. Well, it poses no problem if you have a passenger who can drop the letter in the box. But if you're driving solo, you'd have to have an arm as long as the law to make the play.

Consequently, people with an average reach have to put their cars in park, slide across the seat, and drop the letter in. There's the rub. The mail box is located in a No Parking zone.

Theoretically, a city policeman could stand by the box and exchange citations for letters all day long, if he didn't mind having his parentage questioned. The case would probably provide a good laugh for Judge Dupree if an irate citizen decided to take it to court. After all, the No Parking zone is there to allow people free access to the mail box.

But the situation is even worse if the driver is going east on Elwood Avenue and wants to post a letter. He has to come across a lane of traffic in order to do it. His erratic course tends to unnerv other motorists who are trying to anticipate his next move. It isn't very safe and it certainly isn't legal, but a lot of people are doing it.

Both situations could be solved if the box were placed on the island between the two entrances to the new city parking lot on Edinborough Avenue. The city is going to make these entrances one-way (one of them will be called, appropriately enough, an exit). Place the box there, so it's on the driver's left, and he won't have to strain himself or terrorize the populace in order to mail a letter.

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

**Thursday, May 14, 1953**  
Richard D. Arndt, who will manage the chicken processing plant here for the Priebe - Pietrus Company, who have leased the property from Turkalina Farms, Inc., said this week that operations are expected to begin at the plant by June 1 or a few days before.

Governor William B. Umstead this week announced the reorganization of the North Carolina Highway Commission and named Forrest Lockett, former Raeford resident who has been mayor of Aberdeen for the past 12 years, to be commissioner of the new Eighth Division of which Hoke County is to be a part.

From Addenda:  
Fellow brought a full grown cocklebur plant with fully developed burrs on it in here this week, saying he didn't believe he's ever seen such quite this early. I wouldn't know.

N.H.G. Balfour of Hoke County was elected chairman of the directors of the National Farm Loan Association of North Carolina as the organization wound up its annual conference Tuesday in Raleigh.

### 15 years ago

**Thursday, May 16, 1963**  
On Saturday, May 18, Raeford will be host to the U.S. Army in celebrating the 15th Annual Armed Forces Day.

Nobody can appreciate the conveniences in the modern day school better than Wesley Campbell, who upon retiring at the end of this school year, will have taught through nearly half a century of progress in the field of education.

Charles E. Morrison, Raeford town clerk, was elected vice-commander of the 11th District of the American Legion at a meeting conducted in Pinehurst Thursday night.

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners has passed a resolution requesting the State Highway Department to extend a proposed four-lane Highway 401 all the way through to the Scotland County line.

An estimated 1,000 Hoke County residents attended the open house and dedication ceremony of Raeford's new radio station, WSHB, on Sunday afternoon.

'He's not my responsibility.  
He takes after your side of the family'



## HOKUM

By Charles Blackburn

"The rich are different," said F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Yes," replied Ernest Hemingway. "They have more money."

Personally speaking, old man Vanderbilt and I may have had a lot in common, but our lodgings differed to an appreciable degree. This was brought to my attention last weekend when I visited the Biltmore Estate near Asheville.

As we were going up the front drive, I had a feeling it wasn't leading to a duplex.

For one thing, Vanderbilt's driveway was seven miles long. It frolicked over hill and dale, ran through meadows past grazing cattle, sauntered beside sparkling brooks, and snaked through cool forests. A young lad in the Vanderbilt home earned his hiking merit badge every day just by fetching the newspaper.

Another thing, Old man Vanderbilt had most of his trees and flowers labeled to avoid having to consult his nature book while strolling on the grounds. An appealing idea.

When I got home, I decided to do likewise. I made three small signs. One said: Oak. Another: Maple. And the third: Azalea. Had I undertaken the project a week ago, I would have had to make a fourth sign: Daffodil. But a neighbor's dog dug them up and saved me this labor.

Old man Vanderbilt didn't have to contend with the neighbor's dog, stray pets and children that wan-

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:  
Something happened to me the other day that reminded me how short a distance it is between heavy global thinking and purely personal things.

You watch a Secretary of State on TV bearing the world's hopes for peace on his shoulders as he thinks long and hard before answering a question, making sure he gets the right words because one slip of the tongue, according to him, will un-hinge all his work flying from one country to another engaging in what is always described as "useful talks."

A useful talk is one that got nowhere, and if it did get somewhere it probably doesn't matter because whoever you were talking to may change his mind tomorrow.

Well, here I was out here at my desk which is stacked with letters I maybe ought to answer, old newspaper clippings, scribbled notes and stuff, struggling over the problem of how many, if any, F-15 jet fighters we ought to sell to which countries. If we sell to one country alone, the others get mad. If we don't sell to anybody, the Russians will, which leaves our plane manufacturers facing bankruptcy because you know they can't make a living turning out B-B pellets.

It's a brain-racking problem and I was nearing what I thought might be a useful solution when suddenly a mouse leaped out from under that stack of papers on my desk and landed in my lap.

I went one way, the mouse the other, and the F-15 jet fighters another.

This taught me a lesson. A person should stick to what he's capable of doing and I intend to clean off my desk just as soon as I get around to it. I don't want a mouse coming at me any more than I want a jet fighter.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

dered onto his property were promptly eaten by bears. His front yard was a wild 10,000 acres. It covered 125,000 when he was alive, but the family sold off a few dozen mountains because they couldn't get anyone to prune the bushes or cut the grass.

The house itself was bigger than any two tobacco warehouses I've ever seen, and that included the ones in Wilson. It was a castle from the ground up, and for a moment you felt like you'd washed ashore in England or France. But all around it were the mountains of North Carolina. There were any number of guards stationed about the premises to make certain all the fabulously expensive bric-a-brac remained on the tables.

Evidently old man Vanderbilt wanted to save his kinkfolk the trouble of going abroad. Like a New World Viking, wielding a checkbook instead of a broadax, he pillaged the galleries of Europe, carting off wood and stone. He distributed the artistic wealth of the centuries throughout the rooms of his house, giving it the air of a museum.

In the Great Hall, for example, he had weapons from the 13th century and two thrones. The table there seated 28 people and the logs in the fireplace, which covered nearly an entire wall, were as large as whole trees. Against another wall, the pipes of an enormous organ extended up into the rafters of the ceiling, two or three stories above the floor.

Room after room was filled with paintings, furniture, sculpture -- centuries old. One of the guards said Biltmore had four acres of floor space. It was hard to take it all in.

In fact you weren't allowed to gawk at it all. More than half of the house is closed to the public. Members of the Vanderbilt clan are still holding forth among the upper stories, counting the gate receipts, or whatever it is rich folk do to amuse themselves.

On the tickets (\$6 each) you are informed that Biltmore is open year round, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. On those days the remaining Vanderbilts descend from their upper floors, like the gods descending from Mount Olympus, and romp around the estate, quaffing wine from large ruby goblets, reveling in the absence of tourists.

You were right, Fitzgerald. They are different.

Today is  
the first day  
of the rest  
of your life..

Give  
blood,  
so it can  
be the first day  
of somebody  
else's, too.

Red Cross  
is counting  
on you.

## Letters To The Editor

Editor:

It is our opinion that Raz Autry is the most competent, effective and innovative educator in our area of North Carolina. Mr. Autry has been concerned with the nitty-gritty -- he wants our children to learn not only the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic but also how to be good citizens in today's society. His insistence on qualified and dedicated teachers is a measure of his devotion. Because of Mr. Autry's adept management, not once have Hoke County schools been embroiled in racial confrontation as averse to some in the counties surrounding.

Upon reading Mr. Autry's letter in the *Charlotte News and Observer*, we feel that the school board of Hoke County should consider this man's outstanding record of performance and integrity and what this has meant to the education of our young people. We hope that the board's recent failure to support his administrative judgment is not indicative of a trend. We believe that a truly effective administrator must have the support of the board and the authority to make decisions.

We speak as citizens who have known of Mr. Autry's achievements for many years, one as a mother of four children who have attended Hoke County schools and one as a teacher (retired) in a neighboring county who has taught transfers from the Hoke County school system.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleonor E. Scull  
Sue G. Owen

Dear Sir:

As of April 1, my duties have been centered in Cumberland County and I feel that I must commend and give much appreciation to a great deal of people with whom I have worked closely during the past sixteen months.

I would like to express my gratitude to Sheriff Dave Barrington and his fine staff for the professionalism they have shown in working with juveniles; also to Chief Wiggins and his staff, for both of these law enforcement agencies have proven their concern within the juvenile delinquency area. At Raeford Elementary, many thanks to Mr. Turlington and Mr. Richards; at Upchurch Junior High, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Jordan and John McNeill; at Hoke High, the list is

long: Mr. Oxendine, Mr. Williams, Shirley Gibson, Eleanor Gentry, Joanne Moses, Gloria Williams and others, like Don Steed, Mrs. McPhatter and Joe Soles.

Surely I have missed many, including many secretaries, but the one fact that still remains is that these faculty members truly care about "their kids." Hoke County should commend these folks, for they go beyond their duties within the education system.

At Sandhills Mental Health, George Barber, Beth Royal, Kathy Rudecka, Virginia Highsmith, Ed McCarthy, and Hazel Niven compose a unique group who are always willing and able, sometimes on very short notice, to lend their hand in many helping ways. At Social Services, Martha Smith, Wanda Roberts and Katherine Brown have proven their great concern for the neglected and abused child in Hoke County.

Last, but by no means least, the staff in the Clerk's Office and especially to Evelyn McMillian, who not only had to keep records straight, but sometimes had to keep me straight!

Again, a sincere thank you!  
Sincerely,  
C. Richard Allgood  
Juvenile Court Counselor

Dear Editor:

Last week, the Health Occupations Students of America Club at Hoke County High School had the opportunity to visit and observe the Hoke County Rescue Squad. Before the demonstrations were over, many of us realized the importance and necessity of the rescue squad. I must admit that several of us had been taking the Rescue Squad for granted. We never knew that the members on the squad were trained Emergency Medical Technicians who really care about what they are doing.

Hoke County has a Rescue Squad they can truly be proud of. I would like to take this chance to encourage every citizen in Hoke County to support their Rescue Squad. I would also like to thank Bobby Conoly and Johnny Nichols for their time and efforts in giving us the demonstrations and for helping us to realize how vital the Hoke County Rescue Squad is.

Sincerely yours,  
Linda C. Taylor  
Health Occupations Students  
of America  
Hoke High School

## CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



**BILL JOHNSON...** Many people over the state will applaud William A. Johnson, chairman of the UNC board of Governors, for refusing to cave in with the 19 members who voted to ratify the agreement with Califano's HEW representatives over control of the studies at the UNC system. In the 19 to 3 vote, the other members of the Board of Governors were, Laurence A. Cobb of Charlotte and Jacob H. Froelich, Jr. of High Point.

There is such a thing as paying too much for your whistle, which Neville Chamberlain found out in making peace with Hitler.

**CARTER AND LABOR...** In pledging to throw his weight behind passage of the controversial labor bill now in before congress, Carter appears to be again turning his back upon his native South, where opposition has been strongest against rigid union laws as indicated by the "Right to Work" laws in the South.

With Califano and his insistence on UNC programs to stop Federal Funds, and his crusade against tobacco under one arm and supporting George Meany's labor bill under the other, Jimmy has a mighty big load to carry in North Carolina and Dixie.

**STUDENT LOANS...** Uncle Sam lends lots of money to students to go to college, but uncle is finding that many are not paying the money back. The government estimates that 344,000 persons have failed to pay back the funds made through the federal Higher Education Act of 1965. The U.S. Attorney's Office at long last is beginning to file suits against some of the delinquent borrowers.

**ACCT MEETING...** Along with a number of other community college and technical institute trustees, I attended a Southern Regional trustee meeting in Florida last week. We heard a number of issues pertaining to the institutions discussed, in which the delegates from North Carolina participated.

One of the speakers at one of the workshops was Harold L. Hodgkinson of Washington, D.C. He made an excellent address on the subject "Productivity Changes Necessary in Postsecondary Education," a sub-

ject in which he is very knowledgeable. But one simple statement stands out that too many of us overlook. He said that research had shown, that if the professors and teachers at the institutions would learn to call their students by their first names each day, it would limit the drop-outs by 20 percent!

The more we think about this simple statement the more wisdom we can see in it. In school or elsewhere when you just become a number or a nameless person, the desire to continue is certainly lessened. This is not only good for holding students in college, but good in business as well. Mr. Hodgkinson pointed out that when a person went into a restaurant and the waitress called him by his name it was mighty good for business. And it is mighty good in most any line of business or contact.

**TOM WICKER...** Tom Wicker, syndicated writer for the *New York Times* is a Tar Heel native, born in Hamlet, a graduate of UNC at Chapel Hill who did his first newspaper work for *The Sandhill Citizen* in Aberdeen which I operate. I make this personal mention for the reason that Tom has now written another book entitled "On Press." Tom is the author of seven novels -- most recently, "Facing the Lions" -- and three books of non-fiction, including "A Time to Die," his eyewitness account of the Attica Prison uprising of 1971. Tom Wicker is a highly regarded writer, and I am proud to say he first worked on *The Sandhill Citizen* back in the "hot metal type days."

**TOM JONES...** We glean this from a Washington dispatch: Tom Jones operates the White House vending machines. When a change machine ate a dollar bill deposited by Attorney General Griffin Bell, "He got a little upset to say the least," Jones says. "His language was definitely on the down home side."

**DIDN'T LIKE IT...** Speaking of the coal strike settlement recently, Robert Strauss, the President's chief inflation fighter said last week: "The President didn't like it, the Labor Department didn't like it, the industry didn't like it, but that was the best they could get under the circumstances."