

# The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER  
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY  
1978  
MEMBER - 1976

North Carolina  
PRESS  
ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Raeford, N.C. 28376  
119 W. Elwood Avenue

Subscription Rates In Advance  
Per Year—\$8.00 6 Months—\$4.25 3 Months—\$2.25

PAUL DICKSON ..... Publisher—Editor  
SAM C. MORRIS ..... General Manager  
CHARLES BLACKBURN ..... Associate Editor  
MRS. PAUL DICKSON ..... Society Editor  
CASSIE WASKO ..... Reporter

Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1978

## Downtown project

Peter Batchelor, professor of architecture at N.C. State University, told a group of local residents recently that a project to rebuild and improve the downtown area of Raeford will have to be financed largely with local funds.

There just aren't any federal grants available for this purpose, he said.

It doesn't come as much of a surprise. It would be difficult to justify the use of public money to improve private property, which is mainly what the project seeks to accomplish.

But the revelation underscores the necessity for 100 percent cooperation by downtown merchants. It's going to take an all-out effort if this revitalization project is to work.

Many good ideas were presented by Batchelor at the meeting here. While attendance was fairly good, more people need to become involved in this project. Nothing can be done without community support.

With the large shopping malls in Fayetteville, and others scheduled to be built in Lumberton, Red Springs and Southern Pines - Aberdeen area, Raeford has been placed in a do or die situation. A lot of dollars are going out of Hoke County and into these places. The economic drain can only get worse unless action is taken.

## McCain to stay open

State officials announced last week that McCain Hospital will not patient continue to operate but will become the state's major in-patient tuberculosis center. The news comes as a great relief.

For more than a year now the fate of McCain, the state's first sanitarium, has been in question.

After allegations that the state's three specialty hospitals were too costly to maintain, a legislative task force was appointed to determine if any of them should be closed.

During a public hearing at McCain last November that question was answered by area legislators, health officials, city and county officials, and former patients with a resounding "NO!" Everyone who spoke that day let it be known that McCain is vital to the health and economic well-being of a large part of North Carolina.

It was a heartwarming and often moving appeal and couldn't have failed to impress the task force.

If nothing else, state officials learned that McCain has a lot of loyal friends and supporters who would not sit idly by and see the hospital closed.

## Satirical Prophecy

We never thought of H.L. Mencken as being a prophet, but read the following, which was written in 1928.

"When I fear the Republic has trotted before these weary eyes every carnival act in its repertoire, I cheer myself with the thought that some day we will have a President from the deserts of the Deep South. The President's brother will gather his loutish companions on the porch of the White House to swill beer from the bottle. The President's cousin, La Verne, will travel the Halleluyah circuit as one of Mrs. McPherson's soldiers in Christ. The President's daughter will record these events with her box camera. The incumbent himself, cleansed of his bumpkin ways by some of Grady's New South Hucksters, will have a charm comparable to that of a leading undertaker of Dothan, Alabama."

Whatever you may think of the Carter Presidency, Mencken's vision has a certain photographic quality.

## LAW FOR LIVING

Manufacturers and distributors of defective (harmful) products can be sued for damages by the injured user or consumer. Such product liability now results in liability if the plaintiff shows merely that (1) the thing was defective when it went into the market for sale, and (2) the defect caused the injury to the plaintiff, and (3) the plaintiff was using it in a reasonable way.

But this stern rule of "liability without fault" is very harsh. It means that the defendant can be held liable even if he proves that he was not negligent at all. The justification for such a tough law is the need to protect the average consumer, who cannot be expected to carefully test and check everything he buys in our modern mass-production world. But some say that it also encourages sloppy carelessness in purchasers and consumers.

Yet, the courts do permit exceptions to this harsh law when it clearly would be unjust to enforce it. For example, if the defendant is a retailer, and had no way of knowing that the product he sold was harmful, the law will excuse him.

A good illustration is a 1977 North Carolina Court of Appeals case, *Batiste v. American Home Products Corp.*, 231 S.E. 2d 269. In that case the plaintiff got a

prescription for a tradenamed product, from a physician, for a widely used oral contraceptive drug ("the pill"). She bought the pills in a sealed container made and distributed by a pharmaceutical company. The box and label carried no warning of danger.

After taking the pill for a while the plaintiff suffered a stroke that caused partial paralysis. Also, other women using this pill reported serious side effects. Then, after all this, the drug was known to be dangerous.

The plaintiff sued the physician, the druggist, and the drug manufacturer, for damages. She claimed breach of implied warranty of fitness of the product for use, plus "strict liability."

The court threw out her claim against the physician, as he had not sold any product to her, and had not been negligent nor unskilled at a time when nobody realized the danger of the product.

The pharmacy also was excused, because it had no way of knowing the danger, and only had the duty to give to a purchaser the correct packaged product called for by the prescription.

The question of whether or not the manufacturer had adequately tested the drug, before selling it wholesale, remained to be decided by a trial.



## HOKUM

By Charles Blackburn

Since we have a story in this week's paper about Carl Goerch, written by his granddaughter, *News-Journal* reporter Cassie Wasko, I thought it appropriate to reprint a couple of anecdotes for which he was famous. The following were taken from issues of *The State* magazine, which Goerch founded.

### Innocent Meeting

The other night a group of married couples were sitting around the fire enjoying a nice quiet evening. The subject got around to circumstances under which the couples met. Finally one

of the group turned to a husband who evidently wasn't enjoying the conversation too much and asked, "Who introduced you to your wife?"

The man promptly came back, "We just met. I don't blame anybody."

### Take Your Choice

Superior Court Judge Chester Morris once tried a new wrinkle in jurisprudence. In Wayne court, after the testimony was related on a larceny charge, the judge turned to the defendant and asked a question:

"What do you think this sentence ought to be? You've been thinking about this for some six weeks, haven't you?"

"Yes, sir." "Well, I'd appreciate any suggestions you have to make. I've been thinking about it for ten minutes. Surely you can give me a good idea."

"Which sounds best -- six, twelve, fifteen years?" "Don't neither one of them sound so good to me," the man said.

### Whose Statue?

U.S. Marshal Charlie Price drove me around Asheville one day last summer. As we cut across Pack Square, he called my attention to the Vance monument which stands in the center of the square.

"Not long ago," said Charlie, "A tourist was wandering around town and he saw the monument. He was standing where he couldn't see Vance's name on it."

"A native of Buncombe County, from out in the rural sections, happened to come along. 'I say,' said the tourist, 'can you tell me whose monument this is?'"

"The native looked at the monument, then looked at the tourist and said: 'Hit's our'n.' "And with that he calmly proceeded on his way."

### Did It Hurt?

One of the legendary figures of Caswell County was Sheriff Jesse Griffith, a giant of a man with huge hands. With all his strength and heartiness, the sheriff was a kindly man. One time it was his duty to hang a prisoner.

But when the trap was sprung, the rope broke and the condemned man plunged to the ground.

The sheriff rushed down to the victim, and cried out in distress and anxiety: "Did it hurt you, John?"

John assured him it had not. "Thank goodness!" said Griffith in a greatly relieved tone of voice. "Well, get up, John, and we'll try again."

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor: "Finally," a man said to me the other day, "we're going to get some tax relief."

"You think so?" I asked. "Of course. Look, everybody is running on a platform of cutting taxes. Republicans, Democrats, Independents, you name them and they're all committed to reducing taxes. Regardless of who gets elected, we're bound to get a tax cut."

Maybe so. There's a saying, "those who are ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it," but that's only half the story. Those who are familiar with history keep on repeating it too. Frequently on purpose.

Never in the history of man has anybody ever run for office on a platform of increasing everybody's taxes, and never since the invention of elections have taxes come down to where you could tell it.

A tax-cut platform has been used so often by candidates it's as worn down as the hollowed-out marble steps at an ancient cathedral trod upon by millions of visitors over the centuries.

Not only are all the candidates in favor of cutting taxes, the people already in office with the power to do it are in favor too.

Why, some Congressmen who've been in office 25 years or longer and have continued to raise taxes are still running on the same platform they first got elected on -- cutting taxes.

But a lot of people say this time it's going to be different, taxes are going to be cut.

Come back a year from now and let's see what happened.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

## Letters To The Editor

To the Editor: I have convened a "Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services" for next week, October 19-21, at Raleigh's Civic Center.

This conference is enormously important to North Carolinians -- to give citizens an opportunity to say what they want and need in library services. We want every North Carolinian to become more aware of the services presently offered and to consider how they can be improved.

At the conclusion of the two and one half day conference, recommendations will be forwarded to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services planned for next fall.

I wanted to make sure that you are aware of this conference, and I

invite you to consider its far-reaching implications for the entire state, and most important, for your own community's library service needs.

My warmest personal regards,  
Sincerely,  
J. Hunt

To the Editor: I want to comment on The Rockfish News.

I think Mrs. Watson did a splendid job reporting it. It just made my day. As I am a shut-in and can't get out and visit my friends just reading about them helps alot.

I am sure you have other readers who enjoyed it especially our college students and former residents who have moved away.

Thanks again Mr. Dickson and Mrs. Watson.  
Mrs. N.J. Ritter

## CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



**SCHOOL FUND RAISING . . .** According to an article in the September issue of *N.C. Education*, the professional journal of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), Dr. Keith Hudson and Dr. Maylon E. McDonald point out that fund raising has reached what they term "epidemic proportions." According to their report students and teachers in North Carolina schools raise an estimated \$30 million yearly through fund-raising projects such as candy sales, carnivals, raffles, suppers and king and queen contests.

**GEORGE LITTLE . . .** Rumors are that George Little of Southern Pines who served during the last year of the Holshouser Administration as Secretary of Natural and Economic Resources, is being mentioned by friends as a possible candidate for the Republican nomination for governor in 1980. When asked about the possibility, George smiled and indicated that he deemed it pleasant to be thought of for a possible governor of North Carolina.

**JESSE HELMS . . .** While Senator Jesse Helms campaign contributions have climbed to \$6.2 million, with about half of it going for expenses in the fund-raising drive, it could dampen volunteer help who might feel that there are plenty of paid workers to do the job. We suspect a dedicated volunteer is worth the price of two paid workers.

We suspect that Senator Helms may have been too busy with Senate obligations to have given proper attention to his re-election campaign.

According to Helms' campaign manager, Tom Ellis, about 180,000 people have made contributions to Helms campaign, about half of them from outside the state with the contributions averaging between \$10 and \$20 with 2,170 of the contributions being for \$100 or more.

**INGRAM . . .** Ingram's latest report shows he has spent \$141,339.22 and that he has debts of \$20,800 at the end of September. Ingram won the primary with little money and with little organized help. The insurance industry's fight on Ingram and the General As-

sembly's reducing his authority brought many auto owners and plain citizens to his support.

**CLOSE RACE . . .** The recent poll of the Senate race by the *Raleigh News and Observer* showed Helms leading, but when the votes are counted it could be a real close race.

**PATTY HEARST . . .** Many people may feel that Patty Hearst, who is serving a 7-year prison sentence in California after having been kidnapped on Feb. 4, 1974 - more than four years ago, should be paroled without delay in view of the ten years to life given her kidnappers -- William and Emily Harris.

To be sure, Patty seemed to have turned against her people and society in general while with her kidnappers, but she certainly did not cooperate in her kidnapping.

She went through much turmoil and we believe the young heiress should at least, be paroled. If she hasn't learned a lesson about snuggling up to criminals, she will never learn it.

**CC PRESIDENT . . .** Last Friday and Saturday I attended a meeting of Trustee Chairmen of the community colleges and technical institutes of North Carolina in Burlington. Interest has been manifest among the community college and technical institute trustees as to who will be named to replace Ben. E. Fountain, Jr., who served as the N.C. Dept. of Community Colleges until recently. Several names were mentioned. However, I came away feeling that the new president will come from one of the three, to name them alphabetically: Dr. J.F. Hockaday, President of Central Carolina Technical Institute, Sanford; Dr. Gerald James, President of Rockingham Community College, Wentworth; or Dr. Raymond A. Stone, President of Sandhills Community College in Moore County.

**EMERGING . . .** President Carter seems to be emerging into presidential stature as he vetoes bills and lets the Congress and the people know that he is determined to slow down deficit spending. Our thinking is that the people feel more secure when the man in the white house is a person with his hand on the throttle.

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, October 15, 1953

The North Carolina cotton crop for 1953 is forecast at 460,000 bales by the State - Federal Crop Reporting Service.

More than 60 Raeford residents will appear next Tuesday night in the spectacular Minstrel revue and Follies sponsored by the Ellis Williamson Post No. 20 of the American Legion.

Congressman C.B. Deane was a visitor in town today and will address the Kiwanis club tonight.

The remodeling program which the Raeford Presbyterian Church has been planning for a year or more started this week, and officials estimated the work would take about four months.

From School News: Beginning next Monday, October 19, the first grade pupils at the John W. McLaughlin School who have been going home at noon will go on regular primary schedule and will remain at school until 2:00 p.m.

The assets for the Town of Raeford as shown in a Statement of Financial Position were \$594,244.86.

Several people here attended the Sandy Brothers program Friday night at the 71st auditorium and reported a nice time. Leslie Sandy played with the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn. some time back.

15 years ago

Thursday, October 17, 1963.

Raeford Airport Commission today stood more than a thousand dollars short of its \$10,000 goal to build a new airport here.

Hoke County United Fund kicked off its 1963 - 64 fund campaign Monday night and during the next two weeks expects to raise more than \$18,000.

Finander Bederry Sexton, Raeford civic and church leader for about 60 years, died in a Moore County nursing home Saturday night after an illness of several months.

Merchants of Raeford are sponsoring the Halloween contests this year for all the youngsters who care to enter and compete for cash prizes.

Raeford's Bucks finally put their offensive machine in high gear Friday night, grinding out a 45 - 12 victory over hapless Rohanen.

The Upchurch Eagles made it two in a row, defeating the Person County Panthers of Roxboro, 14 - 6, at Armory Field last Thursday night.

Mrs. R.E. Neeley will leave tomorrow for Raleigh where she leaves by bus for the meeting of the National Council of Home Demonstration Clubs in Little Rock, Ark.

The annual Community Development Awards Night will be held Wednesday night at the J.W. McLaughlin School Cafeteria.