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THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1979

Acts of kindness

Several unrelated things that have happened in the past month remind us that many people are willing to give time and money to help a man, a woman, a child, a bird, or an animal, despite the pressures of modern living.

The most recent and largest in scope was the Special Olympics scheduled for Wednesday with 200 mentally handicapped people, most of them young people from age 8 through teens.

Two public agencies -- the Hoke County school system and the county Department of Parks and Recreation -- participated, with Mrs. Rhenda Cameron, director of the special education program for the school system, and Don Slaughter, director of the recreation department, in general charge.

Many volunteered to help, without pay -- school students and working people out of school -- to make the day special for the athletes.

Before the Special Olympics came the generous public response to volunteers' appeal for donations to help pay the medical expenses of treating Doug Baker for the cancer that eventually took his life. By slightly more than a week after the campaign was started, people had given \$3,750, and more donations were being made afterward.

In help for non-humans, there is Mrs. Eros Tillet, raising the baby Great Horned owl left accidentally homeless when the tree containing its nest was cut down.

And Danny Locklear of Ashley Heights taking care of the baby pig he found in the garbage container where somebody had thrown it. He took it in not to raise it for sale for meat but because it needed taking care of.

Then, too, there's a 13-year-old David Ray finding a wallet containing \$200 -- and reporting that he had found it.

These are only the incidents that come to mind without long, deep, thinking. There must be others which have happened or are happening.

These are the things we should recall when we read and hear the latest news reports telling of greed, death by violence, and other forms of ugliness.

The acts of kindness, we should recall not only for the comforting reassurance they give that much kindness lies in the many, but to maintain our perspective about the society we must live in.

They should help us remember that the violence and cruelty make the news reports because they are still news, besides being much more interesting to hear and read about than the acts of kindness, which are far more common, but, in most instances, are not exciting enough to make the newspapers or the radio and television news reports.

But the influence of an act of kindness, we should also remember, is far more extensive and important.

--BL

Chore help for elderly

One of the sound programs produced by the federal government is the one which employs people to do the essential chores for elderly people who can no longer do them.

The program has at least three benefits, judging from the explanation we heard the other night at the mid-month meeting of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners.

It has the humanitarian benefit of allowing elderly people handicapped by infirmities which often accompany advanced age to keep living at home. This brings a public financial benefit: it takes less tax money to pay a chore provider (\$180 per month) than to pay the expenses of nursing-home or rest-home care for physically handicapped elderly people who are financially strapped.

The cost is \$6,480 for employing 12 chore providers for the remaining three months of the present fiscal year. (\$1,620 of it will be in county and the rest in Federal Title XX funds).

The program also provides paying work for unemployed people. It's not enough to support a family by a long shot, but it will buy some groceries.

A chore-provider job given an unemployed mother, also, will eliminated public payments she gets as aid to indigent families, though still leaving her eligible to receive public financial help for her dependent child or children.

Paying public money for doing chores for the elderly instead of paying it as welfare to help unemployed, impoverished people make ends meet is taking money out of one pocket instead of another in the same pair of britches, but with a great difference. Paying money for doing chores is paying for giving an essential service.

The public is getting something for its money.

The chore-provider job gives a mutual benefit; the chore provider gives something the elderly needs, and doing the job gives back the chore provider self-esteem lost when he or she had to start taking public charity. We always have refused to believe that more than a handful of people feel comfortable about living on charity given by any source, public or private.

The rebuilding of self-esteem revives the hope that he or she can still become independent.

Then, too, doing the job can lead to other work, public or private, for the chore provider.

The cost to the county treasury is now 25 per cent of the total. The federal government pays the balance. The General Assembly may cut the county's rate of the payment of having the state pay 12 1/4 per cent of the nonfederal payment.

--BL

'If you don't like this, I'm expecting something from the Mideast.'



The Christian Science Monitor

CLIFF BLUE...

People & Issues



CATASTROPHE ILLNESS...

We are for government medical insurance that will cover Catastrophe Illness when the situation requires hospitalization that runs into several weeks where the family has no reserves to pay without mortgaging himself or herself into a lifetime debt.

With the high hospital and medical cost today a person without insurance, can find himself (or herself) without any personal fault if catastrophe illness hits. In these days of prosperity and high prices we still have many people who could compare with the "one-gal-us" farmer of another day.

Yes, we are for reduced spending and a balanced budget, which can be had by greatly reducing the budget for grants to the states and communities, as well as cleaning up the corruption and wastefulness in the General Services Administration.

BUYING PEACE? ... The United States Government, head-over-heels in debt and unable or unwilling to pay its own way, seems willing to step in and undertake to shoulder up the needs of other nations to get them to "hit the sawdust trail" for peace as witness the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

However, if the treaty will head-off a war, in which the U.S. might become involved, we would much rather spend it on keeping the peace than in killing people. After Anwar Sadat made the historic move last year, we hope and pray that many years of peace will crown the efforts of President Carter who persuade the two nations to take a big step toward "peace in our times."

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ... We agree with Rep. David H. Diamond's presidential primary bill which would set the date at March 6, 1980 rather than May 6th as the law now stands. The change will cost additional money but the people's early participation in the selection process of our president is mighty important.

CHURCH SCHOOLS ... We note that the State Senate by a vote of 47 to 1 voted to pass a bill that

would exempt church schools from most state regulations. Our observation is that the church schools are probably doing a better job than the public schools in educating our children, without cost to the state. With this in mind, it would seem that very little supervision from the state is necessary.

LIVES RUINED ... As we read the newspapers daily and we see the charges brought against leaders in government and business, we wonder what made these leaders lose their sense of uprightiness and responsibility. Well, some people have weakness in one way and others in another way so it well behooves the rest of us to stand firm and straight lest we too, fall.

As a little boy, I often heard my mother say: "Doubt not, doubt no little sins, are but the beginning for bigger sins do follow fast, and deeper sorrow bringing."

DALLAS HERRING ... Dallas Herring, a long time chairman of the State Board of Education was honored last Friday evening with some 750 people from all over the state in attendance at the James S. McKinnon Center in Raleigh. Governor Hunt, who had declined to reappoint Herring to the State Board of Education, called him a "giant in the history of this state in education;" also terming him "own own renaissance man."

In responding to the "Dallas Herring Professorship in Community College Education" given in his honor, Herring recalled the day his parents carried him to Davidson College for enrollment many years ago when they went by Old Bethesda Church at Aberdeen to visit the grave-site of the late Walter Hines Page, who Herring came to admire as one of the greats in public education.

Governor Hunt and other speakers credited Herring with being the principal architect of the community college system in North Carolina. Recalling statement by Page and the late Governor Charles B. Aycock, Herring asked that education be carried to the "old man learning to read for the first time," which is one of several features of the community college system.

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, March 25, 1954
Claudine Hodgin, Hoke County High School junior and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David H. Hodgin of Raeford, was named by the *Greenboro Daily News* to its 1954 All-State Schoolgirls basketball team by the paper in its issue of last Sunday, March 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert McLean, operators of the McLean Flower Shop, off the Red Springs road one-half mile south of Raeford, have entered the Chinchilla business and have opened McLean's Chinchilla Ranch.

Pfc Jack Baker, of Fort Jackson, S.C., is spending about two weeks with his mother and family, Mrs. Mattie Baker, after which he is to leave for the Far East.

15 years ago

Thursday, March 26, 1964
Sheriff Dave Barrington, Hoke County's youthful law enforcement chief, Tuesday night won the Distinguished Service Award of Raeford Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Thousands of Hoke County citizens turned out Sunday to deliver massive knockout punch to polio.

Funer services for Mrs. Pearl Gillis Howell, 74, who died Friday, were conducted Sunday at 3 p.m. in Raeford Baptist Church.

Hoke County Farm Bureau will sponsor a two-bale cotton contest in Hoke County this year.

It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

I'm planning to take a look at the Arts and Crafts Festival at Sandhills Community College April 1. Some Hoke County entries will be displayed with many other articles.

For one thing I want to see what's in it, and for another I want to see the reaction of the visitors to the Hoke County entries. My interest was aroused by my taking news pictures of Ethel Mae Wilson's knitting students at the Cameron Heights and the South Hoke Neighborhood centers last week.

Mrs. Wilson said work of her students -- all senior citizens, incidentally -- would be among the festival exhibits.

All the work I saw looked good to me, both useful and attractive. None of it was like things they make jokes about -- a sock six feet long, or a sweater that looks like it was made for a piglet with the arms of a 500-pound gorilla.

They were all good-looking things -- hats, scarfs, lap robes, and cushions, among others.

This chore provider system helps keep the older people living in their own homes and out of institutions.

That's a good thing not only for the elderly but also for the community in many ways. It not only saves tax money for institutional care and unemployment and welfare payments, the latter by providing jobs for unemployed, but also keeps talent in the community.

The talent apparently isn't used much but is there. Many elderly can teach others, in meetings outside the schools, what they have learned in their life times.

The elderly also have in their heads much local history passed on to them in childhood and learned from things experienced while they were growing up and working in the days were many of today's middle-aged were still in high school.

At a meeting many years ago, county historians were told that the elderly in their counties were important sources of local history that wasn't yet in writing.

For example, what was happening in a Hoke County family when war was declared in 1917?

Or what was going to school like out in the country, for one child, in 1910?

We didn't get a personal report about school life in 1910, but we did get some information about life at the Methodist Orphanage in Raleigh while Mrs. Edward Manning, now of Raeford was there from 1943 to 1951.

Mrs. Manning, then Evelyn Smith, was one of the "true" orphans there: both her parents were dead -- her mother died when Evelyn was 10, and her father died about a year later.

Mrs. Manning said there are guards at the orphanage now, and about 65 children are there, but they don't stay long, just till other arrangements are made for them.

"We didn't have guards," Mrs. Manning said. "Once in a while we'd see a peeping Tom (around the girls' dormitory). We'd just call the football team."

The girls and boys were segregated in those days, too.

Cameron Village shopping center is across the road from the orphanage's grounds now.

Back when Mrs. Manning was a student, she used to pick wild plums there. She said she had to sneak across the road to do it, because the students weren't allowed to.

The orphanage property, which covers 62 acres, is planned for sale by the North Carolina Methodist Conference. The land lies in a valuable business area, and the church has a different arrangement of taking care of its children who cannot live at home for one reason or another. It plans to put the money from the sale into several child-care homes in various parts of the conference area, which generally is Eastern North Carolina.

The cottage system is the modern way of taking care of children who need the kind of care the old orphanage once provided. Essentially, it attempts to duplicate a home as much as it can: instead of housing children in large dormitory buildings and feeding them in a large dining hall, the new system has a few in a separate house.

Graduates of the old orphanage, who lived there before the changes came about 15 years ago, are upset about the plans to sell it. Mrs. Manning said she feels that "economically it's the only thing for the conference to do" but "I hate to see it sold. ... see the heritage erased." She added, "I would like to see one building saved for X number of years, till the alumni die out."

The orphanage's alumni reunion for this year will be held on Easter Sunday, and probably more alumni than usually attend the annual reunion will appear at the orphanage for this one because of the pending sale.

From the alumni reunion the

conference officials may get suggestions of what they should do other than selling the property.

Mrs. Manning is a graduate of the orphanage's high school. She received her diploma when she was 18, nearly 19.

Sheriff Dave Barrington's injury to his hand in the scuffle with the prisoner who became violent at the county jail a few weeks ago wasn't the first he's suffered in line of duty.

The possibility of injury on duty always exists for any law enforcement officer.

Incidentally, we learned last week that stitches weren't taken to close a wound jailer George McGuire suffered. Our report said they were but the information we received had been incorrect. The stitching wasn't needed.

A scuffle we heard about in the mountains was essentially a team match between one couple and another.

The lady jailer of Mitchell County was news correspondent for the *Asheville Citizen* back in the 1950s, and I was responsible for handling the news in the mountains outside Buncombe County, the *Citizen's* home county.

I hadn't heard from our Mitchell reporter in a couple of weeks before she called one night.

She said she just wanted to let me know why she hadn't given me any news in all that time.

"Ah busted muh fist," she explained. She said it the same way she would have said "It was a nice day today."

"How did that happen?" I asked.

She replied with these details. One night a couple drove up to the jail house where she and her husband, the chief deputy, lived.

The man was just off the roads. The chief deputy had done the police work that had put him there.

The jailer said he told her husband he just stopped by to say he had no hard feelings.

They were all at the visitors car at the time, and suddenly the visitor and his wife both jumped on the officer.

Hearing the sounds of combat, the jailer ran out of the house to the car. She promptly engaged the visiting woman in a tussle, leaving the deputy free to handle the visiting man.

What broke the jailer's fist was the landing of a punch the jailer applied to the other woman during the action.

Once more, the visitor was back in jail in Bakersville, though this time he had his wife for company, if in a separate cell.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

If there's one thing everybody's agreed on, tax payers and politicians alike, it's the need to reduce government spending. But the joker is, Where?

Ask any politician and he'll tell you he's four-square in favor of cutting spending. Ask him where, and he starts stuttering. If he's for reducing grants to cities he makes the cities mad. If it's whacking the farm program, he makes the farmers mad.

Ask nearly any citizen and you'll find he's in favor of cutting spending anywhere except around him and his area.

Clearly, the place to cut government spending is where it'll make the fewest number of people mad. After long and hard thought I have found it.

I don't know off-hand how many office-holders there are in this country but let's call it a million, give or take a few hundred thousand. Whatever it is, not a one of them pays the utility bills in his office.

The answer: install separate meters in every government office in the land and send the utility bills to its occupant, not to the government.

If the average bill for heating, cooling, lighting and telephoning in the average government office from top to bottom, from county to state to Washington, runs no more than \$100 a month, and if there are a million such offices, that's a tax saving of 100 million dollars a month. If it's \$200 a month, after you figure in what those 14-foot ceiling offices in the new U.S. Senate building require, the figure comes to 200 million dollars a month, or nearly two and a half billion a year, which is half enough to pay for the next peace treaty, or to patch up the last one after it's broken.

Of course this is only a rough estimate and the figure no doubt would come down considerably after office-holders began paying their own utility bills.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.