

The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
 ASSOCIATION FOUNDED 1882
 NWA SUSTAINING MEMBER - 1978

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

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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.
 (USPS 388-260)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1980

It may be a bargain

The Hoke County Board of Education will ask the county commissioners to approve a budget that will provide initial installment payment on a new business machine-computer.

The way government paperwork, from Courthouse to White House, has been and continues increasing, a better system appears to be a necessity for the school administration.

The State Department of Public Instruction, furthermore, wants county school systems to get Burroughs computers so they can tie into the state system, which has a new Burroughs. Seven school systems are using them.

Furthermore also, the state offers attractive assistance to local school administrative units which buy the approved model: for examples, it takes the responsibility of training operators, provides the programs, and relieves the local units of the burden of preparing time-consuming reports.

The units which continue with their present models get no such help. The expense of the Hoke system's going its own way, independent of the state's new system will be tremendous, the school board has been told.

The new model would cost about \$38,500, including the allowance for trade-in of the present machine.

The price tag is high, but it may be a bargain in the long run.

--BL

In people's interest

The Hoke County commissioners at their regular meeting for January adopted a resolution calling for re-enactment of federal General Revenue Sharing, which provides part of the revenue from the federal income tax.

The payments have been made annually since 1972 and automatically. The amount each county and city or town gets is based on a formula based on population and tax effort, among other characteristics of the individual locality. The payments are made automatically; local governments do not have to apply for them formally, as they do for funds in other federal programs. Essentially, revenue-sharing is returning to the people as a community some of their payments of their federal income taxes.

Revenue-sharing funds have become important fixtures in the yearly budgets of the nation's city and county governments, which are plagued continuously by insufficiencies of funds to take care of surpluses of necessities.

The revenue-sharing program has been particularly important for the local taxpayers, they have made it unnecessary for their local governments to raise property taxes any more than they have, or take the alternative of reducing services the people need.

The county commissioners statement issued at the January meeting says: "If the program is not renewed, some current services would have to be decreased or property taxes would have to be increased by 23 cents (per \$100 property evaluation) to maintain the current level."

That is a reason strong enough and sufficient to stimulate Hoke County people's approval of the commissioners' resolution, even to the point of telling the district's congressman and the state's U.S. senators to support the extension of the revenue-sharing program.

--BL

KKK endorsement (?)

If North Carolina Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon Virgil Griffin's endorsement of Gov. Jim Hunt's candidacy for reelection was made in a spirit of cynicism, it could backfire easily.

In fact, part of Griffin's statement would be a true, nonpartisan plug for Hunt: that the governor's promotion of industry had provided jobs for many of North Carolina's "poor white people."

The fact is, as thousands of voters know, many new jobs have been created for people of any color.

Furthermore, even if the KKK leader's endorsement is taken seriously by voters, it will serve to dispense any suspicion that Hunt has a liberal tinge, and the label of "liberal," whether applied honestly or not, has defeated North Carolina office-seekers with monotonous regularity.

Hunt's well-publicized and obviously honest opposition to all violence-prone groups, including the KKK, is known widely enough to the state's voters to make the Griffin endorsement appear as a cynical blow at Hunt's campaign.

--BL

Sensible statement

San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein gave a sensible statement about her selection by designer Mr. Blackwell as one of the 10 worst-dressed women of 1979.

Madame mayor said she was flattered to be on the list with such women as movie actress Bo Derek and England's Princess Margaret. She also said, however, she dresses to be practical and wears clothing "that will get me through the day."

Perhaps someone ought to make up an annual list of the world's worst-designed fashions and their designers to provide the other side of the coin of the "worst-dressed."

--BL

'Praise Allah, we didn't take any Russian hostages'



It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

When I was informed that Hoke County High School students had run Jan. 6 in a cross-country race at Toccoa, Ga., it was only natural for me to ask: "Did they run Curahee?"

The Curahee run was part of recruit training in January 1943 for the 511th Parachute Infantry. Curahee is a mountain that dominates the landscape around what was then Camp Toccoa, in north-eastern Georgia. It was a mile and a half from the barracks to the top of the mountain.

The training cadre men took it easy on us recruits since we were fresh from physically, if not mentally, un strenuous civilian living. So we ran some, and walked some to start with, till we got in fairly good shape. Even so we were introduced to the old paratrooper dictum: "The only way you fall out is on your face." We did find out the human can endure a lot more than he thinks he can before he loses consciousness.

Curahee introduced me to jogging, as it is known now. I've disliked it ever since, though I think it's the best way to get in condition if you don't have much time for other exercise.

A few weeks ago I was reminded of another experience of training days. After I'd gone to McCain Hospital to take a picture, someone told me the hospital is on the old Camp Mackall-Ft. Bragg road. The trip a few weeks ago had put me on it for only the second time. The first time was the night of Aug. 2, 1943. It was hot, the road was unpaved, covered in places with soft sand, and is hilly. Carrying regular weapons and light field pack, we covered the 26 miles from a Ft. Bragg maneuver area to the barracks at Mackall in 6 hours and 40 minutes. The time included the customary 10-minute breaks every hour. I heard later the regimental commander was trying to set a marching record.

I don't know whether we did. I really didn't care. Experiences like that are best kept out of memory.

This idea about scorning pain reminds me of a story from Ft. Bragg.

A company of paratroopers was out on the daily run when one of the men fell down. His platoon leader, noting he didn't get up though he was conscious, asked him what his problem was.

"Broke my leg," the trooper replied calmly.

"Okay," the sergeant said generously, "you can quit the run. Just do a hundred pushups and crawl back to the barracks."

Speaking of soldier stories reminds me of another I heard around the 82nd Airborne Division during a visit a while back.

Jim Backus and Tony Curtis were making a movie in the Southwestern desert about Romans and ancient Egypt. It was a hot day and when a halt was called to the shooting they decided to go to the nearest town for some cold beers, and not bother changing. So, wearing their movie Roman soldier uniforms they entered a bar.

The bartender, apparently unaware of the movie business going on 20 miles away, stood motionless staring at them.

"Couple of beers, please," Backus told him.

But the man just kept staring.

not moving.

Backus repeated his order, but still the barkeeper kept staring open-mouthed, without moving.

So Backus in irritation asked him: "What's the matter? This place off limits to servicemen?"

And speaking of Afghanistan, I wonder what ever became of the king and queen?

I saw them one sunny day back in the 1960s watching a parade in their honor at Ft. Bragg.

I took a picture of them, or at least exposed some film of them. But then an 82nd Airborne officer kindly offered to have the film developed for me.

I never saw it again.

The officer told me the picture wasn't any good.

It hadn't been a great day for me at the parade ground. To get into the seating area where the king and queen were I had to show an identification card. I had one, but it didn't have my picture on it. The American civilian, a government security man, wasn't happy about this and admitted me only after the 82nd public relations office assured him I was who the ID card said I was and I was harmless, or words to that effect.

I had no connection or interest in Afghanistan affairs after that till the Russians moved in. I haven't seen anything in the news report about a king and queen, though.

We were talking the other day about strange things on government application forms.

During another Democratic administration in Washington, a man answered "Yes" to this question: "Do you belong to any organization dedicated to overthrowing the government of the United States?"

One applicant sent an interviewer into shock. The question on the application was: "Are you a member of any organization dedicated to overthrowing the government of the United States?" The answer he wrote was "Yes."

When the interviewer recovered enough to ask him: "What organization?" the applicant replied: "I'm a Republican."

This was during another time of a Democratic administration in Washington.

A state employee, laughing, showed me a federal form several years back. One query instructed the question to mark under "Sex" the appropriate square. A square each was next to the words: male ... female ... other.

Upper Room

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

WE took it to our home in Missouri -- the huge knobby rock from Indiana. It was a valued souvenir, and it was anything but beautiful. It was a geode, uncommon in our area. The rock might be beautiful inside; then again, it could be solid rock.

I moved it here and there, finally relegating it to a corner of the stairway in our house. I passed it each time I climbed the steps. Sometimes I touched the rough surface, wondering what might lie inside. At last, curiosity got the better of me -- I toted it off to the rock shop where I left it to be sawed in half.

How beautiful it was, with crystal

CLIFF BLUE...

People & Issues



TOM WICKER -- Tom Wicker, Associate Editor and noted columnist for the *New York Times* is a native North Carolinian as many people know. Tom was born in Hamlet in 1926 where he attended the public schools and then the University of North Carolina.

Last Friday evening Tom was guest speaker in Southern Pines before the Sandhills Area Chamber of Commerce.

At the close of 1948 when I was getting ready to go back to Raleigh for my second term in the N.C. General Assembly I secured Tom as news editor of *The Sandhill Citizen* which I still publish. When I returned from the General Assembly as summer approached, Tom joined the *Daily Robesonian* staff in Lumberton. From there he became information director of the N.C. State Board of Public Welfare; then to the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

In August, 1959, he became Associate editor of the *Tennessean* in Nashville, Tenn., and in March, 1960, he joined *The New York Times* in Washington and covered the White House, Congress and national politics. He became Chief of the Washington Bureau of *The N.Y. Times* in September, 1964 and began to write the editorial page column entitled "In The Nation." In 1968 he was appointed Associate Editor of *The N.Y. Times*.

Wicker holds honorary degrees from a dozen universities and colleges throughout the nation and is now the author of seven novels and four non-fiction books. His articles have appeared in some 18 of the top magazines in the nation.

His column is now syndicated in newspapers throughout the nation, and is carried in the major North Carolina dailies.

CONFERENCE -- On last Saturday morning from 7:30 to 9:30 at a breakfast meeting, a small group of newspaper people met with Tom

Wicker at the Sheraton Motel to get a "behind the scene" report of what is going on regarding national personalities in public life.

Regarding President Eisenhower Tom said many people may have thought he was somewhat out of his game in politics, but Tom pictured him as deeply knowledgeable in the great game of politics.

Humphrey, the Minnesota Democrat, who had served as Johnson's vice president felt that LBJ did little if anything to help him, feeling that had Johnson done certain things that Humphrey would have won over Nixon in 1968.

He pictured Richard Nixon as never forgetting whenever a columnist wrote something critical. Tom knew both Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey well, but said when opposition to the war in Vietnam was growing so unpopular that Johnson was seldom available as had been the situation when public opinion was favorable.

In an interview with George Wallace since Wallace left the Governor's office, Wicker said that Wallace felt strongly that had he not been shot that he would have been the next President. Wicker was of the opinion that Wallace might, possibly have been Humphrey's running mate for vice president in 1968, had he not been shot.

About the Kennedys, Tom felt that when prepared, using their able assistants for research, and handy, they were really on the ball when subjects came up.

Evidently when interviewed by Roger Mudd some weeks ago Ted Kennedy was lost without assistants to have prepared answers when asked about Chappaquiddick!

Tom said nobody could defeat Strom Thurmond in South Carolina with the South Carolinian having won on the Democrat ticket, Dixiecrat ticket, write-in ticket and Republican ticket!

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, January 13, 1955

J.H. "Jake" Austin, local insurance man and secretary of the chamber for the past two years, was named president of the Raeford Chamber of Commerce for 1955.

The Hoke County High School girls basketball team, paced by All-State performer Claudine Hodgins, added two more victories to their string in the past week, beating Lumberton 73-62 there last Friday and beating the Maxton girls in Maxton on Tuesday night 58 to 48.

Total assets of The Bank of Raeford were \$3,303,054.47 as shown by an advertisement of the Statement of Condition.

Chief Petty Officer E.L. Baker of Germany is spending a fifteen day leave in the home of his brother, Alex Baker.

Cooper's Super Market was advertising bacon for 45 cents lb.

With only two weeks remaining in which to purchase 1955 vehicle license plates prior to the January 31 deadline, only about one-third of the vehicle tags estimated to be sold in Hoke County have been purchased by car and truck owners.

according to Martin Baumgartner, Chamber of Commerce manager for the local AAA tag outlet.

James H. Irby, who lived here before going to Wilson eight years ago, has returned with his wife, the former Dorothy Currie, and their daughter, Marjha Ann.

Cpl. Thomas A. McNeill is now stationed at Camp McCauley in Austria, where he is attending Military Intelligence School.

15 years ago

Thursday, January 14, 1965

W.T. Gibson, Jr. will continue as chairman of the Raeford Planning Board.

Jesse A. Baucom, 71, long-time Raeford merchant, died at his home early Monday morning of an apparent heart attack.

Joseph Fullford McMillan, Jr. of Raeford has been nominated for a Morehead Scholarship at the University of North Carolina.

Franklin Teal was named an assistant vice-president by Southern National Bank.

Lumbee Production Credit Association will erect a new office building on Harris Avenue in the near future, it was announced this week.

Mrs. Ralph Barnhart of Raeford has been appointed memorial gifts and requests chairman of the local Heart Association.

Hoke High School wrestlers won their fourth straight victory and remained undefeated for the season Monday night by downing McColl, S.C. 42-18.

Sheriff Dave Barrington this week urged Hoke citizens to lock their homes when away from home to help stem a rash of break-ins which began during the Christmas holidays.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Look for beauty everywhere. --copyright -- THE UPPER ROOM