

The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1981

Prayer for the new year

Like every year that has gone by, the new year naturally will have some good and some bad for all of us.

This prayer, however, seems proper for the beginning of the new year.

"Bless us, O Lord, and these, thy gifts, which we are about to receive...Amen."

--BL

Good example

The news story ran one day last week in a daily newspaper.

The story was only two inches long, under a one-column head of two lines of the smaller headline type, and was on the bottom of a column on an inside page.

But it told, between its lines, of a devotion that should be emulated.

The story says Marva Collins, the black Chicago teacher who reportedly has been under consideration as President-elect Reagan's choice for secretary of education, has taken herself out of the running.

Mrs. Collins, the report adds, said in an interview published December 20 that she is not willing to leave the school she founded. "My mission is still here...It was really the children. They matter the most to me."

She started her private school in a house in a Chicago slum and welcomed any elementary-school age child, regardless of ability to pay, who wasn't getting anything out of the public schools in that ghetto neighborhood or any other.

She has been grounding them in the oldtime basics -- reading, writing, arithmetic -- and in a way that makes them love and look forward to going to class every day.

Mrs. Collins's children showed, in a network television report about her school a few months ago, a familiarity with and interest in, for example, the classics of English literature that are uncommon for children their ages in other schools.

Perhaps Mrs. Collins would not have been appointed to the high federal position, with all the material and professional benefits it carries.

But for the sake of these children and their futures as well-educated citizens, she sacrificed without hesitation whatever chance -- one that comes once in a life time -- she had for the position.

It is fortunate for the country that she made this choice.

Qualified administrators are much easier to find for government agencies than Marva Collinses are for America's children.

--BL

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, December 29, 1955

Reports from the Hoke County rural policemen, sheriff and State Highway patrolmen indicate that residents of this county were fairly quiet and well behaved during the holidays, and that they were smart or lucky enough to have no serious highway accidents.

Mrs. Helen S. Barrington, secretary of the county American Red Cross chapter, reported this week that the response to the appeal last week for help for the five families in great need because of fires in their homes had been "just wonderful."

Wallace McLean died of a brain cerebral hemorrhage at his home two miles southwest of here at about 7:00 o'clock Tuesday night. He was 84 years of age, and died on the farm where he was born.

A/2C Eddie Allen spent the Christmas holidays with his mother, Mrs. Esther Teal, and will return to Barksdale AFB, La. Sunday.

W.C. Williford, county farm agent, this week announced that a school on tobacco income and social security taxes would be conducted for farmers of the county at the Hoke High School at 2:00 o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 2.

15 years ago

Thursday, December 30, 1965

A Raeford man, Ralph Cox, died early Wednesday in a Fayetteville hospital of burns he received Sunday in a mysterious fire in downtown Fayetteville.

Hoke County officials continue to negotiate this week with two brothers in hopes of buying a 30 acre tract of land for a new elementary school site adjacent to Hoke High School.

Starting in January 1966, customers of Carolina Telephone will begin paying far lower federal excise taxes on their communication services.

A&P was advertising Bone-in Chuck Roast for 37¢ lb.

A report shows that Hoke County's auto population has reached an all-time high. As of the beginning of this year, there were 86 passenger cars locally for every 100 families.

Myles Franklin Johnson, 38, died Sunday, December 19, at Duke Hospital.

The McLauchlin School fire was 1965 top news story.



The Christian Science Monitor

It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

The New Year's Day prayer suggested in an editorial this week is really the "saying grace" just before starting to eat a meal. The words, however, seemed so suited to the start of a new year.

It's in line with the old admonition, "Count your blessings." The difference is this "saying grace" does it in advance.

I learned it in school at the age of about 8. Before we got into an uproar about separation of church and state, I'll hasten to add that the school I learned it in was St. Clare's, on a hill surrounded by woods, about 13 miles north of New York City.

For \$40 a month (from 1926 to 1930), I got an education, a place to sleep, and three square meals a day. I also could have gotten clothes if I needed them.

I also got, like the 99 other boys, was corporal punishment when the occasion arose.

Speaking of prayers, some men went for a hike one summer day to High Top, a ridge of the mountains a few miles north of Black Mountain and behind the Blue

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

It's easy to criticize Congress but some people don't realize what a difficult job a Congressman has.

For example, recognizing that one way to offset inflation personally if you can't whip it generally is to increase your own income, Congress the other day tried to give itself a \$10,000 a year raise, from the present \$60,662 to a more inflation-fighting \$70,900.

Here's where the job becomes difficult, voting yourself a raise without letting anybody know how you voted. Some spoilsport demanded a recorded vote but his motion failed. By voice vote, in which everybody shouts "aye" and nobody can tell how you voted, the \$10,000 raise passed easily.

But before the raise becomes effective the Senate has to concur and the measure failed there because some complicated parliamentary procedure required a recorded vote and the Senators were too bashful to do it. All Senators and Congressmen will have to get along the best way they can on \$60,662 a year.

On the other hand, the Supreme Court is not bashful. After examining the Constitution carefully and judiciously, it decided Congress violated it by withholding previously enacted pay raises for Federal judges. Therefore, calling upon the wisdom of the Founding Fathers, the Supreme Court ruled the Supreme Court members are entitled to a \$10,000 a year raise. Only a man with the far-sightedness of Thomas Jefferson could have foreseen that 200 years later a judge getting \$72,000 a year and free office rent needs a \$10,000 raise.

You can see why being a Congressman, serving at the mercy of voters, is difficult. A Supreme Court judge is appointed for life.

Thomas Jefferson, Madison and those other guys made only one mistake. They forget to put it in the Constitution that farmers along with Federal judges would be entitled to raises in 1980.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Ridge (Southern YMCA) Assembly, when a storm broke out.

The hikers immediately took what shelter they could find under trees and large rocks and waited for the storm to pass.

The thunder rolled, the wind blew, swaying the tops of trees so even their large trunks creaked ominously, the lightning flashed, and the rain came down as though thrown by a giant hand.

That was all rather frightening for the hikers, so one of them, who happened to be a vacationing minister, suggested, "Let's all say a prayer we know. That sounded like a good idea, so, one by one, each said a prayer out loud, till it became the turn of a man I'll call George.

But George remained silent, and after waiting for a while for George to begin, the minister asked what was the matter, didn't George know a prayer.

George replied, "All I know is a little 'ol' morning prayer. And it won't do a bit of good in a storm like this."

Speaking of Black Mountain reminds me of one of its citizens, John Burnette, a true patriot if there ever was one.

If he's still living, he's close to 100.

When the United States got into World War II, and men from 18 to 35 were to be called up, John was about 45 years old, which made him ineligible.

But John was determined to serve his country and as an infantryman at that. So he volunteered, lying about his age, and was accepted. He was in great physical condition as he had worked regularly since childhood with his muscle as well as his brain, and hiked the mountains and camped out.

So he went through the toughest of the infantry training, hardly panting when men half his age were falling like flies from sheer exhaustion.

But, unfortunately for John's dream of fighting in the war for his country, and also unfortunately for the Army, the truth caught up with him before he could make it overseas. John raised all kinds of fusses, letting the officials know his opinion of the rules, but rules were rules, so John was given an honorable discharge and was sent home.

Aside from that lapse from the strict truth, John also was an honest man.

One time, he was caught 'coon hunting at night out of season with his hound by a game warden and was cited to come to Recorder's Court.

A well-meaning Black Mountain citizen who liked John (who didn't?) decided to help John out, so when John's case came up he appeared in court beside him.

The witness told the judge that John didn't know it was a 'coon that was treed, that he thought it was a 'possum.

John immediately and indignantly retorted, "Any darn fool knows the difference between 'possum and a 'coon." His honesty, of course, convicted him, but the judge let him off easy, with a small fine and a gently talk about hunting 'coon out of season.

CLIFF BLUE...

People & Issues



FORMAL WEAR? -- We can't believe that Reagan's suggestion that Congressmen and U.S. Senators and the other dignitaries wear a certain type of formal wear at the inauguration fits well with either a majority of the "dignitaries" or the common people watching over television.

We feel that the great majority of people may reason that Reagan has his hands full in facing the major government decisions which confront him rather than suggesting the type of clothes which the people wear out in the open on inaugural day in Washington!

PAPERWORK -- From the "Washington Report" -- the U.S. Chamber of Commerce weekly newspaper: "The federal paperwork burden imposed on businesses and individuals may begin to ease next year. President Carter has signed the Paperwork Reduction Act, which is designed to reduce reporting requirements by 25 percent over the next three years."

Well this sounds good, but if it takes three years to cut down on the government's paperwork we are quite leery of much good coming out of the act. Many may well be afraid of this new Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980!

ONE HUNDRED DAYS -- When the late Franklin D. Roosevelt had been in office for 100 days in 1933 he had accomplished as much as some do in four years to save the nation!

HUNT AND THE ROAD NEEDS? -- The Moore Highway Study Commission has come up with a suggestion to raise the gasoline tax by four or five cents on each gallon. The money could well be spent, but many question the amount when government cost is now out-stripping the increase in private income on a relative basis.

We feel that the General Assembly might be able to vote another one or maybe two cents per gallon tax, but four or five cents increase might bring about strong repercussions, which sounds as high as the joke about beef steak when the "cow jumped over the moon."

THE LITTLE RED HEN -- With many of us, or at least some of us, having read about the "Little Red Hen" back in early school days, we submit this story with some changes and modifications.

"Once upon a time, there was a

little red hen who scratched about the barnyard until she uncovered some grains of wheat. She called her neighbors and said, "If we plant this wheat, we shall have bread to eat. Who will help me plant it?"

"Not I," said the cow. "Not I," said the pig. "Not I," said the goose.

"Then I will, said the little red hen. And she did. The wheat grew tall and ripened into golden grain. "Who will help me reap my wheat?" asked the little red hen.

"Not I," said the duck. "Out of my classification," said the pig. "I'd lose my seniority," said the cow. "I'd lose my unemployment compensation," said the goose.

"Then I will," said the little red hen, and she did.

At last it came time to bake the bread. "Who will help me bake the bread?" asked the little red hen.

"That would be overtime for me," said the cow. "I'd lose my welfare benefits," said the duck. "I'm a dropout and never learned how," said the pig. "If I'm to be the only helper, that's discrimination," said the goose.

"Then I will," said the little red hen. She baked five loaves and held them up for her neighbors to see. They all wanted some and, in fact demanded a share. But the little red hen said, "No I can eat the five loaves myself."

"Excess profits!" cried the cow. "Capitalist leech!" screamed the duck. "I demand equal rights!" yelled the goose. "And the pig just grunted. They painted "unfair" picket signs and marched round and round the little red hen, shouting obscenities.

When the government agent came, he said to the little red hen, "You must not be greedy."

"But I earned the bread," said the little red hen.

"Exactly," said the agent. "That is the wonderful free enterprise system. Anyone in the barnyard can earn as much as he wants. But under the modern government regulations, the productive workers must divide their products with the idle."

And they lived happily ever after, including the little red hen, who smiles and clucked, "I am grateful. I am grateful."

But her neighbors wondered why she never again baked any more bread!

Letter To The Editor

The News-Journal

This letter is in regard to one of your editorials titled "Aid to government" which appeared in your newspaper December 11, 1980, on the editorial page.

One of the basic objectives of social security benefits is to partially replace those earnings lost due to retirement. If a beneficiary keeps on working full-time then he really is not retired. By having a "retirement test" the tax rate over the years has been kept relatively low. The tax rate on earnings from 1937 through 1950 was 1% on a total taxable wages of \$3,000 or \$30 per year.

I am not aware at the present time that the government makes retirement mandatory at age 65 or any other age. It certainly isn't mandatory for workers covered by social security. A worker may optionally retire at age 62 with a 20% reduction in his monthly benefit or he may retire at age 65 with no reduction or he may wait until age 72 (age 70 beginning 1982) after which earnings will in no way effect his benefits. Of course, the worker should apply for Medicare coverage at age 65 even though no benefits will be payable due to high earnings. And in addition, for the person that continues to work after age 65 and does not receive benefits, will receive a special credit of 1% added to the worker's benefit for each year from age 65 to age 72 for which he or she did not get benefits because of work.

The retirement test for social security beneficiaries for 1981 under age 65 will be \$4,080 and for age 65 and older \$5,500. In both cases if the beneficiary earns over

that amount \$1 for each \$2 of earnings is deducted from benefits. Actuarial studies have shown that the social security tax would have to be greatly increased and the earnings taxed would have to be broadened for social security benefits to be paid to a worker still working full-time. If we are to adhere to the objective of social security benefits to partially replace earnings lost when a person retires.

Social Security benefits were never intended to be the only retirement program. It was thought by the time a worker retired at age 65 his home would be paid for, children educated, etc. and combining benefits with investments, insurance, savings, etc. and expenses would be less, that the amount of benefits would not have to be a significant part of the worker's income. Inflation and cost of living increases were not in the original Act but have been added to the depletion of the social security trust funds. If we, the people, decide the best way is to pay everyone their full benefits when they retire regardless of their earnings then we need to approach the financing of social security benefits in a different way than we have in the past. I am not sure the additional or continuing contribution to the system made by retirees who are receiving their full salaries would make up for the difference in the elimination of the "retirement test".

Thank you for allowing me to make these comments.

Sincerely,
Lawton Rogers
Assistant District Manager
Fayetteville, N.C. Social Security District Office

