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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1981

Vocational cuts

With Hoke County's people having a per capita income of less than \$5,000 per year, close to the bottom among the state's 100 counties, it's unfortunate that four vocational education teachers are being cut off the county school system.

This is one of the actions taken to economize in the 1981-82 budget. This and other cuts were recommended by Schools Supt. Raz Autry, and the County Board of Education adopted the recommendations.

The proposal to cut off four of the 17 vocational teachers has brought adverse criticism from the public, however. Critics point to the county's low per capita income -- \$4,142 in 1978, and not much higher than that now, if there has been an increase since that year. That figure put Hoke 98th in per capita income among the state's counties. The sum was higher than the per capita income of the county of 1973 but only \$1,089 higher. In 1973, Hoke ranked 93rd in income.

This is strong evidence that most of the county's high school graduate will have to go to work right after commencement, and consequently they need all the occupational training they can get before they leave school. True, high school vocational programs do not turn out skilled professionals, but they do provide the basic training that tells an employer no time need be consumed in teaching the employee the rudiments of the job. Vocational training, of course greatly improves the graduates' chances of getting a job; without it, correspondingly, the chances are much less.

The instructors being cut off teach carpentry, electricity, electronics, and brick-laying.

The superintendent, meanwhile, places a high value of teaching of music and art. Such instruction certainly is valuable, but it obviously is more important for a student to be equipped to earn a living than to be able to sing or paint a picture.

In the financial squeeze that everyone is caught in, job training for students should be given the highest priority.

--BL

Remedy needed

The tragic and outrageous "shoot-out" of early May 10 outside a south Hoke County night club cries for a remedy, but what kind?

At this writing, two of the six people shot are dead. It's easy to cry for stricter gun control after any such violence breaks out, but there is still the problem of enforcing the present laws to say nothing of tougher ones.

Still, it would help, regardless of what the gun lobby says, but it should go with stiffer sentences for carrying loaded guns of any kind in public and for assaults with firearms, whether anyone is wounded or not.

The case of the Hour Glass parking lot leaves questions unanswered. One is what were that many people carrying firearms for at that time of night and at that particular place? The number of people who were armed and fired weapons there hasn't been made public, but it's quite clear they weren't stopping by on their way to or from a squirrel hunt.

Nothing but plain luck prevented the killings of many more than two people.

The next time, the luck may be somewhere else. Meanwhile, the Hoke County Sheriff's Department has the job of figuring out new ways of preventing such mass violence.

The law-abiding citizens' sympathy and hopes for success are with Sheriff David Barrington and his force of deputies.

--BL

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, May 17, 1956

The Hoke County Board of Education met Tuesday and approved plans for the construction of the West Hoke School on the Turnpike Road and for an addition to the J.W. McLaughlin's School in Raeford.

Fire destroyed the smaller store building of Dundarrach Trading Company shortly after six o'clock Friday afternoon.

"Portrait of a Class" is the play for class night exercises by the 1956 graduating class at Hoke High School to be held at 8:15 Friday. Mrs. J.C. McLean is director of the production.

Dr. A.L. O'Briant is in the process of having one of the store

fronts in the old Page Trust Co. building on Elwood Avenue converted into an office in which to resume his practice of medicine.

From Rockfish News:

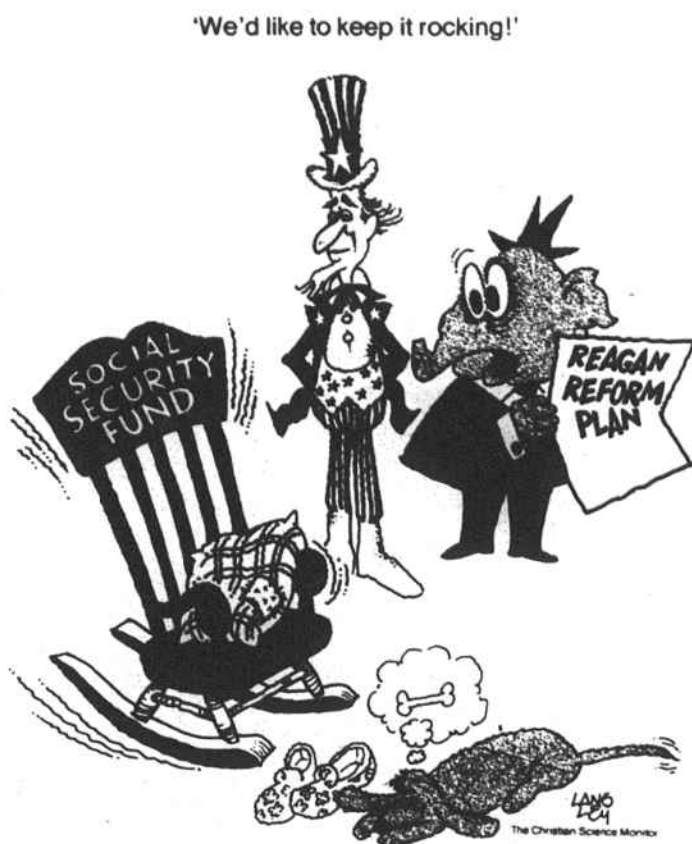
It's outdoors working weather now and there is not so much time for Nail Keg sitting, but they are a welcome retreat from the hot sun and are often patronized in the middle of the day.

15 years ago

Thursday, May 19, 1966

"Look at your back yard in new light realizing the opportunities, developing the opportunities right here at home." Charles F. Meyers, Jr., of Greensboro, president of Burlington Industries, told an audience of 175 here Monday night in the Hoke High cafeteria.

Don Prince, basketball coach of Hoke High School, has resigned



'We'd like to keep it rocking!'

It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

A history written by Joanna L. Stratton and published this year is unusual as histories go, as well as being very interesting reading.

In studying history, were you ever aware that the historians mention few women by name, that the books are practically all male?

Well, Joanna Stratton has come up with: "Pioneer Women: Voices from the Kansas Frontier," published by Simon & Schuster of New York and priced at \$16.95. It has 267 pages, not counting the bibliography, appendix and index.

I'm not from Kansas, have never been there, and don't want to go there, but I had a hard time putting the book down after I'd picked it up and started nosing around in it out of curiosity. I put it down before I finished only because Betsy also was reading it, and she had gotten to it first.

After reading only about 15 pages I began to wonder how Kansas got settled at all. Historian Carl Becker is quoted as saying, "Until 1895, the whole history of the state was a series of disasters." "In God we trusted. In Kansas we busted," became the sardonic farewell of retreating pioneers.

Kansas has been hit by the scourges of both man and nature: droughts, prairie fires, torrential rains, blizzards, cyclones, hot winds, locusts, rattle snakes, and gray wolves; and border wars of the 1850s, Civil War guerrilla raids, outlaws, horse thieves, "mortgage fiends," and a contracting currency. Among the scourges it produced was William Quantrill, who had a criminal record, and became a leader of nearly 600 local guerrillas for the Confederacy, operating out of the Missouri border. The most infamous of Quantrill achievements was the killing of 143 men and the burning of over 200 buildings in Lawrence, Kans., Quantrill's old home town, incidentally, on August 21, 1863.

The state also produced John Brown, "Old Brown of Osawatimie," who also caused great havoc but was a sincere if fanatical crusader with a cause: he had an intense hatred of slavery.

Then there was Carrie Nation, the old saloon destroyer, among other prominent Kansans.

Mrs. Stratton is Washington, D.C., - born and - bred but the home of one of her grandmothers is in Kansas, and, visiting there in the winter of 1975 she discovered in the attic a gold mine which inspired the book: autobiographies of hundreds of pioneer women.

Kansas and its neighbor, Nebraska, were opened to settlement by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. Pioneers had been passing through Kansas for many years before, however, heading for parts farther west, using established routes including the famed Santa Fe and Oregon Trails.

Now it can be told, since it was happening at least 37 years ago.

One of the boys in the old outfit, then in training on New Guinea, had a friend who was an Air Force pilot. When the infantryman managed to get some beer he'd have his friend take it up in his plane and fly it around in the subfreezing air at about 10,000 feet for a while.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

The U.S. Census Bureau issued some figures the other day showing that 93 million people said they voted in the Presidential election last year, when actual voting figures showed only 86.5 million really voted.

In other words, 6.5 million people were putting the Census Bureau on. I don't know why, unless they figured it wasn't any of the Census Bureau's business. How or whether you vote is like your bank balance, it's private. I know a man who, walking down a street in his home town, glanced up at the bank's time and temperature sign and noticed it read "10.39." He rushed inside and demanded to know why the bank was advertising his bank balance.

But what I'm getting at is the splendid possibilities offered by the frame of mind of those 6.5 million citizens who misinformed the Census people. It's the answer to the smart-aleck TV networks.

You'll recall they announced the winner in the Presidential election before all the polls closed, by asking people as they came out of the voting booths how they voted. This outraged some people and they want a law prohibiting the networks from doing it again.

That's the trouble with this country. The only answer some people can think of to a problem is to pass a law.

The networks can be stopped from prematurely announcing election results if more people will join the 6.5 million who misinformed the Census Bureau. When you come out of the polling place and some TV reporter asks how you voted, tell him wrong. The network will rush the results out and wind up hilariously fooled. One or two tailspins like that and the networks will go back to waiting like the rest of us. This procedure is not recommended when you're making out your income tax.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



POLITICAL OUTLOOK -- I was talking with a well-known politician and public official out of Raleigh a few days ago about some of the Politicians and would be candidates come 1984. Here are some of his thoughts, and we shall not mention the man's name:

1984 Governor's race: Asked who was ahead in the race for governor at this time: Jimmy Green, ahead and Rufus Edminston, second. Primary time is three years off and anything can happen before primary time, 1984. He mentioned a man that we hardly thought was giving serious consideration to running: Commissioner of Agriculture, Jim Graham. He thought Graham might run, and win. He reasoned that he might the "Kerr Scott" of 1984 just as was the case in 1948 when Scott won over Charlie Johnson, the front runner for many months, but who lost out in the second primary.

In the first primary in 1948, in the Democratic primary for governor, the vote was: Charles M. Johnson, 170,141; W. Kerr Scott, 161,293; R. Wayne Albright, 76,281; Oscar Barker, 10,871; W.F. Stanley, 2,428; Olla Ray Boyd, 2,111.

In the second primary Scott led with 217,620 votes, to 182,684 for Johnson.

Going on a little further, he mentioned John Ingram. He felt that the legislators, desiring a three-man insurance commission, rather than John Ingram, were unwittingly setting up John to run for governor, and that John just might win the top spot if such took place by the legislators. Remember, John came from behind with little financial backing in 1978 to win over Luther Hodges, Jr. for the U.S. Senate by 244,469 to Hodges' 206,223.

Hodges had led in the first primary by 260,868 with Ingram trailing with 170,715. However, in the general election, Ingram lost to Jesse Helms 516,663 to 619,151 for Helms.

"I don't believe Hunt will run against Helms in 1984," said our

well-versed Democrat. He seemed to think that Hunt might have a better chance at the 1984 Democratic Presidential nomination.

Well, three years is pretty far ahead to be nailing down anything in politics. It's dangerous to count almost any formidable candidate in or out this far in advance.

In North Carolina politics, the Republicans must be taken into serious consideration, particularly so if Reagan is still riding high in the White House.

THE POPE -- The attempted assassination of the Pope last Wednesday, brought sorrow and sadness around the world. Coming only six weeks after the attempted assassination of President Reagan makes the feeling more poignant.

We regret to see any person put to death; but we can not sit by and ignore killings here and there, and with the passing of only a few years find them killing again. Mehmet Ali Aaga who is charged with killing a noted Turkish newspaper editor without reason. Murdering can't be stopped completely, but we believe sure and certain punishment, justified by the crime, would certainly have its effect!

REAGAN'S PROGRAM -- Generally we are for Reagan's program to cut deficit spending, but some things we question. We believe that to balance the budget, a five percent reduction would have been much more in his line than the 10 percent which he is advocating. And remember, his program does not balance the budget, and if it's carried out as he insists, we doubt it will be balanced come January 1, 1985!

In the main, we say he is on the right tract, but we seriously doubt that if his program is enacted as he has requested, that the budget will be balanced before the 1984 election, which is his goal.

TOM BRADSHAW -- Tom Bradshaw has announced his retirement as Transportation Secretary to make a bid for the 4th District Congressman, a seat now held by Rep. Ike F. Andrews in 1982, or for lieutenant governor come primary time 1984.

Letters To The Editor

Editor, The News-Journal

To Whom May Concern:

I am looking for the Edward's descendants. I, the great granddaughter of Robert and Harriet Singletary Edwards. Their daughter was Anna Florence Edwards also Sallie and Nina. Ann Florence married John Winston Sykes; Sallie married Ottis Davis and Nina married Henry Bryan. The Sykes were my grandparents. My mother is Marie Sykes Andrews. My uncles were Luther and Hemon Sykes.

Listed of the Edwards:

Allen Edwards	b.1808
Penelope children	b.1808
Haynes	b.1830
Calvin	b.1834
Gilmore	b.1836
Mary E.	b.1839
Wright	b.1841
	b.1841

Margaret A.	b. 1845
Robert J.	b. 1847
John W. Sykes	b.1867 d.1939
Anna F.E. Sykes	b.1873 d.1954
Sallie E. Davis	b.1872 d.1962
Nina E. Bryan	b. ? d. ?

(Need informations of Allen's & Penelope's parents.)

Gilmore enlisted 1861 for the war. He was a N.C. Confederate Soldier at the age 25. He was out 1862 due to his illness. Born in Bladen County, I need informations of this families also the Sykes. I have no information of my grandfather, John W. Syke's parents. I appreciate any information about them.

Sincerely,
 Mrs. Barbara A. Purifoy
 2805 Old Cherry Pt. Rd.
 New Bern, N.C. 28560

LAW For Laypersons

North Carolina's General Statutes § 75-1.1 very broadly prohibits unfair or deceptive acts or practices in debt collections. It thereafter specifically sets out that a debt should not be collected by (1) threats and coercion, (2) harassment, (3) unreasonable publication, (4) deceptive representation, or (5) unconscionable means and then sets out in detail many of the acts and practices which are prohibited under each of those topics. Both the debtor and the debt collector, then, know with some specificity exactly what should or should not be done under the broad term "unfair and deceptive acts and practices."

Of course, it is always easy to say that some acts or practices done by another person are unlawful or illegal, but what happens to the person who commits the unlawful or illegal act? How do you punish the debt collector who oversteps the bounds of proper behavior in collecting a debt?

The Attorney General of North Carolina has the right to bring a suit against the offending debt collector for unfair or deceptive

acts or practices in debt collections, and the General Statutes provide that a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 may be imposed upon the offending debt collector. If the unfair and deceptive acts and practices of the debt collector are not widespread and do not affect a lot of people, the Attorney General probably would not be inclined to prosecute. In such a case, however, the person who is injured by those acts and practices may institute a suit in court against the debt collector and seek to prove the damages suffered as a result. A private person who brings a suit against a debt collector, however, must pay his own attorney's fees and cannot ask the court to make the debt collector reimburse him for those fees.

"This article is written as a matter of general interest only. It is not to be construed as legal advice, and you should not rely on the statements made in the article to govern your actions in any specific case. If you have a particular question or problem, you should contact an attorney."

WHAT'S YOUR "PAIN IN THE NECK?"



- RED TAPE?
- DUPLICATIONS?
- DELAYS?
- POOR PLANNING?
- WASTE OF MATERIAL?
- INFERIOR PROCEDURES?

Suggest A Better Way!