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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1981

## Model of service

We hate to see Wendell Young retire, though he deserves a rest after devoting at least 30 years of his life and probably many more, to helping people.

The reason we hate to see him leave public service is he's a model of what a "public servant" should be. Wendell Young, in brief, illustrates the difference between a high-quality professional dedicated to helping the people he has been given the job of helping, and a bureaucrat. He has shown that dedication, in his 18 years as Hoke County Agricultural Extension Service chairman, and, before coming to Hoke County, in his 10 years as an assistant Extension agent for Sampson County. He also showed it in his two years' Army service. Mr. Young, in that, earned his veterans' benefits the hard way: much of his Army time was spent under fire in combat in Europe in World War II, as a staff sergeant with Patton's Third Army. Even then he showed, unintentionally, his concern for people by risking his life, without even being asked, to save the lives of several wounded soldiers: He carried them to the comparative safety of the American position from under Nazi artillery fire. For this act the Army awarded him the Silver Star, which is given for gallantry in action.

Young did his job as Hoke farm agent as a public job should be done: with the goal of helping people. In this, he was not concerned with personalities, personal advancement or personal profit or "security" and kept aloof from political nattering and twitching.

In short, his conduct in service makes him a model for other people in public life to follow.

We certainly hope more will.

The country needs all the Wendell Youngs it can get.

—BL

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

**Thursday, May 31, 1956**  
Commencement activities for the Hoke County High School reached their climax on Tuesday evening as 57 members of the senior class were presented diplomas by Principal W.T. Gibson, Jr.

The Hoke County board of commissioners met Tuesday night and approved a total budget of \$159,203.80 for the county general fund, courthouse and grounds, and health and welfare agencies.

Daniel Johnson Ray, well-known farmer and life-long resident of this county died Monday night at his home two miles east of Raeford.

Lt. Richard Coker left last week for Inchon, Korea for duty.

Furman O. Clark, who returned last weekend from a five-week course in Soil Conservation at the University of Georgia, was one of 19 conservationists from five states and Puerto Rico who took the course.

The graduation exercises of Upchurch High School was held May 30 with 67 students receiving diplomas.

County Agent W.C. Williford this week invited the attention of Hoke County farmers to Public Law 466, dated April 2, 1956, under which they are released of Federal taxes on the gasoline and special fuels used on their farms for farming purposes.

William A. Everett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tracy K. Everett of Route 2, Raeford, is scheduled to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy on Friday, June 3.

### 15 years ago

**Thursday, June 2, 1966**  
Funeral services for William Lona Alexander, 73, were conducted Sunday at 3 p.m. at Raeford Presbyterian Church by the Rev. C.A. Cooper and the Rev. R.E.L. Moser.

Thirty applications have been made in Hoke County by students who wish to take advantage of the "Pace" program.

Tired but happy, Judge Joe Dupree rested this week following a strenuous campaign which resulted in his being nominated as one of four Democratic Candidates for district judge.

Receiving certificates signed by President Johnson for having made a high mark in the presidential physical fitness program at Hoke High School were Judy Scott, Ronda Tanner, Ronnie Branch and Pam McMillan.

Hoke County Farm Bureau adopted a resolution at its May meeting to the memory of G.C. Lytle.

2nd Lt. Stephen Louis Phillips was awarded the post-graduate diploma from Carolina Military Academy during commencement exercises, Sunday, May 29.

Raeford Girl Scouts came home recently from their first camporee with a first place award.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. for Mrs. Harriett Norton at Raeford Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Cortez Cooper.

Funeral services for John B. Haire, 84, were conducted Sunday at 4 p.m. at Raeford Methodist Church by the Rev. R.E.L. Moser, assisted by the Rev. Kermit Wheeler.



## CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues

**JOHN LARKINS.** . . . I have been reading the rich memories of Judge John Davis Larkins, Jr. in his "Politics, Bar and Bench" which recently went on sale. Judge Larkins mentioned that the first time he saw television was in 1948, when he was attending the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. That was the year the Democrats nominated Harry Truman and Senator Alben W. Barkley for President and Vice President.

Barkley didn't think much of the vice presidential nomination, calling it "cold biscuits" if I remember correctly. However, that was the year most people and the political leaders were surprised at the results.

The night of the election President Truman and his close friend, General Vaughn, I believe, no doubt feeling that victory would not be coming their way, went to bed when Governor Dewey of New York was leading in the hours before mid-night. Between mid-night and day, Truman awoke and turned on the radio, to learn that he himself had been re-elected.

The report went that Truman was shaking Vaughn in his bed, telling him, "I have won! I have won!"

In our reminiscing, we got away from Judge Larkins, who has many things to be proud of—one being the new Federal Building in New Bern, which houses the U.S. Post Office and Federal Court House in New Bern, named in his honor.

But through-out his public life John Larkins acquitted himself with distinction and honor first as State Senator and Senate Leader, as a Democratic Party leader and Chairman, as well as a candidate for governor in 1960. Although he did not win for governor, President Kennedy named him Eastern Federal Judge in North Carolina, a position with which he acquitted himself with honor and distinction.

**REMINDER.** . . . This recalling the 1948 election—32 years ago, reminds me that at the time of the Truman Inauguration in Washington in 1949, I saw my first television in the hotel I stayed in there. At that time I was a member

of the General Assembly and President of the N.C. Young Democrats. A group of us were in Washington to attend the Inauguration and we also attended one of the balls. We noticed Truman, Mrs. Truman and Miss Truman in the box seats. Theresa Shipp of Trenton, N.C., was in the group. We didn't think we could get to the presidential box but our Tar Heel group led by Theresa met President Truman and his party shook hands and talked to them as if we might have been royalty.

**REMINISCING.** . . . While reminiscing, Capus Waynick was chairman of the Democratic Party in 1948. Mr. Waynick was a strong chairman and had been picked to run the campaign by Kerr Scott, the Democratic nominee for governor, who was elected.

President Truman visited North Carolina that fall. He spoke at the State Fair, and also at the State Capitol where three former Tar Heel natives were being honored with statues on the capitol grounds, they being Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson. Jonathon Daniels was Democratic National Committeeman and I remember talking with him on election eve. He, like most others, felt that Truman's candidacy had little chance of victory.

Truman's campaign had most of the Democrats feeling that he had little chance to win. Gov. Thomas Dewey of New York conducted a high type campaign not wanting to stir up anything that might be detrimental after his victory, but he lost!

**JUDGE McLELLAND.** . . . Recently Superior Court Judge March McLelland issued a written apology to the *Times-News* of Burlington for blocking the newspaper from printing information from the personal file of a suspended elementary school principal.

Issuing a public apology is something that judges seldom do. However, for a judge, or just a citizen, to do so once he knows he was in error does not mark him as a "little man" but as an honest man willing to admit when apprised of the facts.

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

As I understand it, the difference between a nuclear power plant and a fireplace is that ashes from the latter can be disposed of wherever it's handy without endangering future generation or blowing onto your neighbor's yard, but with nuclear waste it's a different matter.

You leave that stuff lying around and you may build up a world full of freaks who spend two-thirds of their money preparing to exterminate each other.

On the other hand, since nuclear bombs can't be un-invented and other countries now have them, I'm in favor of us having some too.

But the problem of nuclear waste still hovers over us and nobody has come up with a handy place to put it. It's like the M-X missiles. People argue we need those underground weapons but we need them in some other state, not North Carolina. You build the system in our state and it'll become

the most bomb-worthy spot the Russians have their eye on and their guided missiles aimed at.

I have given this matter considerable thought. And this is no time for petty selfishness. Any of the 50 states has as much right as any other not to want the thing within its borders, and the matter calls for level-headed cooperation.

The answer is simple. We need a 51st state designed solely for storing nuclear waste, the M-X missile system, chemical waste, old pesticide cans, city garbage, etc.

I can hear somebody saying, "Yeah, but where are we going to put that new state?"

That's out of my province. I just think up the main solution and leave the details to others. It's like the Federal budget. Once you point out it needs cutting, it up to somebody else to find out where. That's where that 51st state could come in handy. We could chop off aid to it.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

## It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

Gov. Jim Hunt's proposal to raise the tax on motor fuel 3 cents a gallon to provide money to maintain the roads and build roads that need building recalls a proposal made about 30 years ago to stretch the highway dollar.

State highway Commissioner Dale Thrash of Lake Junaluska called for building roads 12 feet wide, instead of 18 feet wide, then the standard width of pavement for a primary highway. Thus, he reasoned, the state could build a lot more roads for the same amount of money.

Thrash's proposal didn't get anywhere, and, as developments in the following years showed, it wouldn't have been a good idea, what with the double-wide house-trailer hauling and the increase in big-truck traffic.

But it was an idea.

Then there was another idea that might have saved money on road construction: the cotton road. State College researchers came up a modification of cotton back in the mid-1930's and successfully tested it as a base for the regular paving in the place of the material then being used. They tried it out on a stretch of road around Faison near Goldsboro, but for some reason or other the idea wasn't adopted officially, though it would have provided a new market for North Carolina cotton as well as a cheaper road-building material.

Maybe the change in cotton prices had something to do with the failure of the idea to get official approval.

At the time, the country was beginning to come out of the Depression, and maybe even by then fewer cotton farmers than before were saying, "Six-cent cotton, and 40-cent meat; how's a poor man gonna eat?"

I can feel superior about the popularity of gymnastics and jogging.

I was jogging in 1946. At that time anybody running by a roadside except in an emergency was a curiosity and got stared at.

I tried to popularize gymnastics in Chapel Hill starting about 1935, in my freshman year at UNC. The sport was a routine part of physical education and in intercollegiate athletics in the North, where I'd gone through high school. Our high school PE teacher was a gymnast in the traditional German Turn Verein (gymnastics association) manner.

At Chapel Hill, I found Dr. Robert Baker Lawson of the UNC physical ed department a devoted believer and teacher. UNC didn't have a gym team then, but a student could earn a UNC monogram in the sport. Dr. Lawson had drawn up a list of routines for the apparatus and the tumbling mats. The student got his monogram if he satisfactorily performed each of the exercises to Dr. Lawson's satisfaction.

Those exercises made a test that was very difficult to pass, a fact in which Dr. Lawson took some pride. A student named Wardlaw, in becoming one of the relatively few who passed it, demonstrated that gymnastics was a sport for practically everybody. Wardlaw was blind. He became a successful lawyer, incidentally.

Other sports the blind can participate in, however, include wrestling and judo (which has a lot in common with wrestling).

Gymnastics, like those two and some other sports, is something anyone with basic sound health can play: boy, girl, man, woman, 50-pound child or a 250-pound linebacker, 5-footer or 7-footer.

Dr. Lawson also pointed out that it's a lifetime sport, and he was living proof of that. He was in his 60s when I met him, but he was still working out regularly in gymnastics, demonstrating routines personally for his instructors.

I also saw more proof, in the

1939 National AAU Championships at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. The winner of the free floor exercise was a 65-year-old man. The next oldest competitor was in his early 20s.

Intercollegiate gymnastics was unknown in the Southeast and Southwest in those days, and regular gymnastics wasn't much better known or practiced, either. Dr. Lawson believed that it was not only an enjoyable sport in itself but also a developer of all-around physical fitness and coordination, and, as such, good basic conditioning for any other sport. Even a ballet teacher, Foster Fitzsimmons, worked out on the parallel bars for a while to improve his dancing performance. In return for some instruction, he let me into one of his half-hour classes. That was the first and last ballet instruction I ever took. All next day I was totally stiff from the waist down, moving as though I were in a plaster cast.

I did get a Carolinas AAU gymnastics tournament organized. It was held in Woolen Gym at UNC one day in 1938. It had six entries—three from UNC, and one each from State, Duke and Davidson. The Duke entry was the "official" Blue Devil for that year, a short but muscular guy who was great at tumbling. I was the State entry then, doing my one year there before returning to Chapel Hill.

A couple of years later, we got the first Carolina man into a national tournament, the AAU championships at Annapolis. He was Ed Winstead of Roxboro.

Unfortunately, he didn't compete. He showed up in his regular gym shorts and sneakers. Then he saw all these guys in the slick gymnastics uniform which was standard wear for tournaments and intercollegiate and club meets—long pants held up by suspenders, sleeveless shirt like an undershirt, or "muscle shirt", and ballet slippers. The pants were held smooth by the suspenders and by elastic bands attached to the bottoms of the trouser legs and running under the shoes, like stirrups on horse saddles.

Not being one who enjoyed standing out in the crowd, like a sore thumb, for example, Ed just withdrew.

Later, after I explained by letter to the AAU gymnastics committee chairman why our man hadn't competed, he wrote back that that was too bad, because if he'd known the reason, he would have loaned Ed a regulation uniform.

Ed would have done well in that competition, though he maybe not have won any event.

Navy men gave gymnastics a great boost at Carolina early in World War II when they arrived at the campus to run the V-12 officer-training program. The Naval Academy gymnastics team always has been a source of pride for the academy.

Then, as everybody knows, the television coverage of the 1972 Olympics at Munich gave gymnastics, especially for girls and women, a tremendous nationwide boost, though Carolina had a varsity gym team before then. In this area alone, your boy or girl can get excellent gymnastics instruction regularly in Southern Pines or Fayetteville, and in the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Department classes held periodically.

A few years ago, I read a newspaper report saying that UNC's gymnastics coach was named national Coach of the Year in the sport.

Dr. Lawson, incidentally, also was a very smooth golfer. His daughter had some gymnastics in school, but she preferred golf.

She was over at Pinehurst the other day for a special golf program, as she was one of the celebrities. She's Estelle Lawson Page.

She was 1937 national women's amateur golf champion.

## This Is The Law

### RENTAL AGREEMENTS

An agreement between a landlord and tenant for the tenant to live in a dwelling owned or managed by the landlord in exchange for the payment of rent is called a rental agreement.

Some agreements are for automatically renewable periods, such as week-to-week or month-to-month. Unless the landlord and tenant agree otherwise, a week-to-week agreement can be ended upon two day notice, and a month-to-month agreement can be ended upon a seven days notice.

Rental agreements that last for more than three years must be written to be legally binding, and they should also be recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds. Written agreements are usually called leases.

Leases may provide that the occupancy period will end on a specified day. However, they may contain an option to renew.

Some of the rights and duties of landlords and tenants are set by law. These are summarized in a free pamphlet available at public libraries in North Carolina and furnished by The Lawyers of North Carolina.