

The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1981

County picks up another cut

The Hoke County commissioners last week ran into another situation in which they were asked to use money from the already strained and modest county treasury provided by the county's taxpayers to pick up a program which was losing the support of federal funds provided by the nation's taxpayers.

This is the County Parks and Recreation Commission student work program which has been providing a mutual benefit though for just a few students (two to four a year). The commission has been getting the parttime school year help it needs to run its athletics programs for children, and the two to four students employed for the jobs -- at the state minimum, \$2.90 per hour -- have been getting working experience in recreation that will be valuable to them later in life, and earning some money they need, as well.

The amount the commissioners decided to provide is little compared with other expenses of public services -- \$3,621 for October 1 through next June 30. It will come from the contingency fund, since nothing was provided last spring in the 1981-82 regular budget, though what county pot it comes from doesn't matter to the county taxpayer, since he and she contribute to all the county pots, as well as the state and federal pots.

There seems to be a chance that the state will contribute most of the cost of the program.

On the next round, however, the commissioners and the state staff will have to decide whether the money should be used to continue the program or whether a more valuable use exists for it.

Though this layout is small, so was each of the straws that finally broke the camel's back. Another straw was larger -- \$5,000 for the Hoke Reading/Literacy Council, to continue its valuable job of teaching Hoke adults with little education how to read and write. That layout became necessary when the federal funds were cut. Then, as with the recreation student-work program, it was up to the county -- and the City of Raeford, in this case -- either to fill the gap or see the program die.

As things are going with the budget-cutting process in Washington, the commissioners can expect to be asked to take up the loads the federal and/or state governments will drop, leaving other programs to sink, if the county can't give them a life jacket to swim in.

The commissioners will, of course, have to decide whether each jeopardized program is valuable enough to the people to save. But they also will have to decide whether the county treasury has the money to support each that is considered worth saving.

This brings us to the point that the federal budget cutting, followed by state budget-cutting of cost-sharing programs, is leading back to the days before the federal aid programs were born in 1930s.

The pot to finance these programs contained money contributed by the affluent as well as the lowest taxable income people and institutions. Consequently, the poor, rural, unindustrialized, high-unemployment -- and consequently low public revenue -- counties and towns could get the programs their people needed. These, of course, were the communities that needed them worst -- the federal work and education programs, for examples.

The federal and the state government people have the responsibility of informing themselves what the programs nominated for cutting are doing for people and for how many, and what longrange as well as shortrange effects eliminating them will have. They also have the responsibility of analyzing, even briefly, the validity of the arguments thrown up for cutting a program by opponents of the program.

--BL

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
It used to be that anybody who could come up with an idea for a new source of revenue for the government was welcomed with open arms in Washington, but now just the opposite is in style. Anybody who can figure out where to cut spending and stay elected is in demand.

The Pentagon has tried it. For example, it has cut the price of meals served officers in the building's private dining rooms. They can get a good meal there for about half what they'd have to pay elsewhere. Who says military spending can't be cut?

Another department wants to cut the amount of milk served in school lunches.

If the situations gets desperate enough, somebody may even suggest cutting the amount of bourbon in a Congressman's mixed drink. His welcome in Washington won't be open-armed, but the budget has got to be balanced even if Congress isn't.

There's another suggestion that shows more ingenuity. Seeing that a balanced meal for school kids call for at least two vegetables, somebody has suggested that if you analyze it catsup is essentially a vegetable, so french fries and catsup meets that requirement.

This line of thought contains the germ of an idea for balancing the budget. Everybody knows a dollar coming in is more appreciated and therefore more valuable than a dollar going out. So, the way to show a balanced budget is to declare one tax dollar collected is worth two spent. There you have it.

When people talk about cutting spending they refer mostly to government spending, but cutting in the private sector ought to count too. For example, I read just last night that Americans spend one and a half billion dollars a year on cat food. I don't know what the figures are for dog food or food for canaries, parrots and pet coons, but there are all sorts of opportunity there for belt-tightening, or would be if manufacturers would stop making belt-less pants with stretch waistbands. Tightening your belt in that gear is like trying to pull yourself up by your boot straps when you're barefooted.

I have a notion I ought to leave budget-cutting to somebody else.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

(Share a ride with a friend.)

'Who's that knockin' at our door?'



Bus driver's age

Anybody who calls for replacing student school bus drivers with people considerably beyond high school age on the belief that teenagers' judgment and emotional stability is inferior to adults' should consider the car-school bus accident of September 22. Fortunately, the worst that resulted was five students suffered minor soreness.

The investigating officer, State Trooper K.W. Weston, praised the school bus driver for his maintaining order among his 60 young passengers following the collision. He also said the bus driver was "in no way in error in driving."

The school bus driver in this case was Kenneth Marvin Purcell. Purcell is a student and is 17 years old.

The evidence shows a 37-year-old or a 57-year-old could have done no better.

In choosing school bus drivers, age should count for little, if anything, if the prospect's traffic record is clean.

To paraphrase an old proverb: It's not whether you're elder or 'teen, "it's the way you play the game."

--BL

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



STATESMEN -- We have often heard it said that "Statesmen are dead politicians," because they follow their conscience and not the clamor of the crowd. This is often true. U.S. Senator, Furnifold M. Simmons did that in 1928, and two years later was defeated by Josiah W. Bailey, Simmons, a U.S. Senator for 30 years, dared to oppose Al Smith for President that year and went down to defeat in 1930. Bailey, if we remember correctly, did just about the same thing as did Simmons, oppose his President -- Franklin D. Roosevelt in his "court packing plan." Some elected officials are strong enough to vote their convictions against the will of the people and still get elected. However, not many are willing to try it.

HAVELOCK PROGRESS -- Eugene P. Smith, publisher of the *Havelock Progress* for 28 years, lacking one month, appears to be turning the editorial duties to Eddie Ellis, new managing editor of *The Havelock Progress*, which was established in 1951. In turning over the duties to Ellis, Smith, a native of Hoke County says: "It will be a tough transition, but we think it will be in the best, long range interest of the new progress we are trying to give to the community." Smith will resurrect his "Personally Speaking" column "which will return to the pages of *The Progress* on a weekly basis for his volcanic commentary."

REAGAN'S SPEECH -- I listened to President Reagan's speech to the nation last Thursday night. I thought it was a good, solid speech, just what the nation needed to hear and follow. We have to get back to a balanced budget and he leads in a most practical way. We hope that Congress follows his suggestions. He asked that six from the Senate, six from the House and six appointed by himself be named to come up with a solution to save the Social Security, which is now going into the red each day.

DAVID FUNDERBURK -- David Funderburk, 37, a native of my home town, Aberdeen, a fine citizen, and a professor at Campbell College, acquitted himself well before the Senate Committee in Washington last week. I believe he will serve with distinction as Ambassador to Romania, and will distinguish himself along with Walter Hines Page, a former ambassador to Great Britain who is buried in Old Bethesda Cemetery one mile from Aberdeen; and

Josephus Daniels, who served as Ambassador to Mexico under President Roosevelt, and Capus Waynick who served as Ambassador to Nicaragua under President Truman.

Dr. Funderburk has the background and education to serve well as Ambassador to Romania.

PARIS TRAIN -- I have been reading in the newspapers about a new train in France. It runs 160 miles per hour. It serves the principal cities of France; Paris, Lyon, Geneva and the major cities in between. Work on the train was started in 1976. It runs 30 miles per hour faster than Japan's Bullet.

REDOXX ENERGY -- The Redox Energy Corporation of Sanford, N.C. appears to be well along the way towards providing a battery to power electric vehicles. In these categories:

- a. In 1985, 1.6 million electric automobiles and 85,000 electric vans per year.
- b. 1990, 1.7 million electric automobiles and 90,000 electric vans per year; and
- c. In 2000, 1.9 million electric automobiles and 104,000 electric vans per year.

It would appear that Redox Energy Corporation would be a good one to keep your eye on.

O'CONNOR -- Well, our first lady has been appointed and approved by the U.S. Senate to the U.S. Supreme Court. We hope and believe that she will serve well as the first lady on the U.S. Supreme Court.

DEMOCRATS -- Gov. Jim Hunt heads a Democratic committee to limit precinct caucuses and primaries to some three months, but Democrats as usual, seem not to agree, which is typical of the party. Was it Will Rogers who said: I am not of any party, I'm just a Democrat?



It's a Small World

by Bill Lindau

I was informed the other day that Jeff's in Chapel Hill, on Franklin Street, the main drag, still serves Cokes the old way -- mixed by hand: syrup and the accessory soda poured into a glass. Presumably you can still get lemon, vanilla, orange, or ammonia in your coke, if you want one or the other, or all of them.

A vanilla coke, incidentally, was considered a "lady's" drink back in the 1930s.

One Sunday this past summer, I noticed Jeff's looked just the same as I remembered it in the mid-'30s -- a narrow, one-man aisle between the serving counter, or "soda fountain," on the left, and the magazine racks.

A man who worked there nights, and may still do, would cheerfully take on anyone in a game of chess on the asking.

Another place I recommend is the Sub, a sandwich shop across the street from Jeff's. It serves huge sandwiches of thousands of varieties, including exotic ones, but to be taken away. It has no tables, just a serving counter, with no chairs.

In a way the Sub reminds me of the old Harry's which was on the same side of the street but a little farther west. Harry's served all kinds of sandwiches, too -- Yankee as well as Southern favorites. It also served all kinds of beer and ale, including foreign-made.

Harry's moved east and across the street sometime after the '30s, near the post office, into swankier surroundings, but I couldn't find it when I was there last summer.

Harry's wasn't just a place to eat. It was a place to eat and to have bull sessions in which students offered and discussed solutions to the world's social and economic problems.

Maybe that's why we still have social and economic problems in the world--Harry's is gone.

They weren't solved while Harry's was still open.
But I think we were getting close.

Definition: Holy Roller--preacher in a crap game.

Headline in the *Fayetteville Observer Times* September 20: Finding Petite Shoes No Small Feat.

There once was a group of singers who called themselves The Uppa Trio.

Here are some excuses offered to policemen by drivers they stopped for traffic irregularities.

One had been weaving his car from side to side. "I just had a little gas left in my tank," the offender explained, "and I was sloshing it around to make it last till I got to a gas pump."

Another gave the same purpose as the reason of speeding. He was driving fast to get to a service station before he ran out of gas.

A woman gave this explanation to an Asheville judge. She tried to stop a car from passing her because the street was wet and muddy, and the car had just been washed, so her husband had told her not to let anybody pass so the car wouldn't get splattered with mud. The car she tried to prevent from passing was a State Highway Patrol cruiser

There are some people who still would rather read a book than watch television. Now I know two personally. Wife Betsy is one, and this I have known since we got our first TV set about 25 years ago. The other I discovered only last week: Alice Lancaster, Hoke County 4-H agent. The revelation came by accident, when I asked her if she watches channel 4, and she said no, that she hardly ever watches television, because she prefers to read. She says reading relaxes her.

Letter To The Editor

Editor, *The News-Journal*

Dear Citizen,

I recently sat on jury duty for the first time.

Due to my own ignorance, I knew practically nothing about the law and courtroom procedure.

As I left the courtroom, I was embarrassed and very disappointed in myself as a citizen and a person. I made the wrong decision. I did not do justice. I am guilty.

As a juror you hear what is presented in the courtroom only and you make judgment on this. In many cases every juror is not going to agree. If this happens this is called a hung jury and can be retried.

Not knowing this I gave in to the

majority, and a guilty person was found not guilty.

The reason for this letter is so that other citizens will understand that they need to learn more about the law before they enter a courtroom as a juror.

I look forward to being called again sometime as a juror and think everyone possible should have this opportunity.

As a citizen you have the right to go and sit in the courtroom and observe what takes place. I urge you to take advantage of this so you will know how our court of law is run.

See you in court.
Experienced or
Knows Better Now
Wanda Monroe

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, September 27, 1956

At a meeting of the Hoke County board of education Thursday night Charles Hostetler, Democratic nominee for representative from Hoke County in the next General Assembly, told the board of a meeting he had attended at the Little River community house on Wednesday night at which there was much talk of this township being annexed by Moore County.

The board of directors of the United Fund of Hoke County met Tuesday with the budget and admissions committee of the fund and approved a budget of \$7844.87 for the 1956 fund drive, to take place October 9 through 13.

W.J. McQuage submitted his resignation as chief of the Raeford police force last week because of ill health. The town has since employed L.W. Stanton, now a member of the county rural police force to become chief on October 1.

J.D. McMillian, associated for some time with Raeford Cleaners and Laundry Service and more recently employed by Raeford Oil Co., announced in an advertisement this week that he will open a new cleaning and laundry business in Raeford.

Hoke High school football team took the field at Armory Park Friday night against Sanford High with each team seeking their first victory in three games of South-eastern Conference play. The Sanford team decisively whipped the Hoke outfit 26-6.

15 years ago

Thursday, September 29, 1966

A public meeting of civic business and industrial leaders will be held here tonight to discuss "Total Community Development."

Clyde Upchurch Jr., Raeford businessman, was elected lieutenant governor of Division 4, Carolina Kiwanis International, at the district's 46th annual convention in Asheville this week.

Upchurch High School's Eagles scored a 12-0 victory over Mt. Olive here Friday night with touchdowns in the second and third quarters.

Committees for Quewhiffle Community Fair, which will be held Saturday, October 6, at Ashley Heights Community house, were named last week by the general chairman, Mrs. L.R. Cothran.

Army Private William T. Cox, 21, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. B.L. Cox, and wife, Annette, live on Route 2, Raeford, completed a light vehicle course at Fort Jackson, Sept. 16.

Awards for community service projects will be presented to 99 local Granger in the state, including Wayside and Ashmont granter of Hoke County, at the 38th annual Grange convention October 14 in Winston-Salem.