

# The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1981

## Thefts from cars preventable

The Christmas shopping season is upon us, a cheerful time of the year.

It also, however, has its dark side: it's a time of an increase in thefts -- stealing from cars and shoplifting in stores.

Police every year warn shoppers to lock their cars when they have to park and leave their newly bought Christmas gifts. People who drive cars with trunks are advised to lock their packages in the trunks.

Officers say most thefts from unlocked cars are made on impulse: purses and packages are in plain sight on seats, no one is watching, so the thieves grab the things and walk away.

Nearly every week the Raeford Police Department receives complaints that purses and other property were stolen from unlocked cars while the owners were in stores. Leaving a purse or anything else of value in an unlocked car is inviting a thief to help himself.

A determined thief can get into a locked car, to which complaints filed every week with the Hoke County Sheriff's Department or the Raeford Police Department testify. Consequently, property isn't safe from thieves, if it is left in a car parked outside the house during the night.

When food stamps are stolen, the holder suffers only a temporary inconvenience. The stolen stamps are replaced. But there are victims: the people whose tax payments help provide the food stamps. The food stamp program is in enough trouble already, without carelessness contributing fresh ammunition to its opponents.

The simple act of keeping cars locked when they are unoccupied if packages have to be left in them will prevent a lot of unnecessary expense in cash and time.

--BL

## Supply and demand

Reagan administration and other economists have been emphasizing the importance of increasing industrial productivity as a major cure for the country's economic illness.

They seem to be saying that productivity all by itself will do the job.

The purpose of productivity, is to meet consumers' demands for a particular product. If consumers quit buying a product, then, of course, there is no reason for "productivity" to keep producing it.

When productivity slackens, then productivity workers are fired. When workers are fired, they have less money to buy products of productivity at prevailing prices.

The same is true when prices of products are increased (inflation), and people do not get raises in pay equal to the raise in prices (Cost of Living Adjustment). People will buy what they want, no matter how high the price of it is, if they want it badly enough -- if they can afford it without giving up something else they want.

Enough consumers are getting cost-of-living raises high enough to permit them to keep on buying what they want, in spite of the increase in prices. On the other hand, many do not get cost-of-living raises, or COL raises high enough to meet the increases in prices. The result is sales have declined, and, consequently, production of the things not bought. Increasing productivity of those things won't bring back the lost sales -- unless the prices are cut to the level at which the people with un-raised salaries can afford to buy them.

A glut of petroleum products earlier this year was caused by a falling off of sales. The decline was caused by the high prices. When prices of gasoline were cut, sales increased.

Auto manufacturers have reported heavy losses caused by falling off of retail sales. High prices again compelled many people who traded their cars for new models every year or two to get along with the ones they had for a while longer. The fact that the high cost of a new car was caused partly by the increase in costs the consumer had to pay for financing is immaterial: regardless of what caused the high prices, sales declined, and, consequently, automakers' losses rose.

The same thing has happened to home construction, and the blame has been laid on high interest rates charged for buying homes. Increasing productivity won't increase sales of cars, or homes.

The only thing that will increase sales, and, consequently, increasing productivity, is lowering prices. Government controls would be necessary to do this. Manufacturers would cut prices to their distributors, who would do the same for their retailers, who would reduce them for their customers, if all the suppliers wanted to keep making profits, avoid laying off workers, or just stay in business.

--BL

DON'T SPEED...DRIVE AT 55 mph!

KEEP OFF  
THE GAS



## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:  
On Sunday, December 6, The Raeford Junior Woman's Club sponsored a successful tour of homes here in our community. An afternoon filled with Christmas spirit was experienced by those participating. Each of the five homes was decorated in the finest manner and friends and strangers alike met to enjoy the late afternoon event.

We, of the club, would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people kind enough to open their homes for our Christmas Tour. We also especially thank each participant in the Tour. We were pleased with the number of people participating and we hope the afternoon created a bit of community spirit for the Christmas season.

Again, special thanks are extended to the Mr. & Mrs. Neil McFayden, Dr. & Mrs. Riley Jordan, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Wither-spoon, Mr. & Mrs. John Leandro and The Austin's for exhibiting their homes and decorations. These homes are certainly a superb example of Southern hospitality at its finest.

Appreciation is also extended to this newspaper for its exceptional advertising of this project. Without this major contact, we could not have reached the number of people who responded so cordially yesterday.

The Raeford Junior Woman's Club is a service organization dedicated solely to the growth of the Raeford Community. When we receive support such as was exhibited yesterday, we can intensify our efforts towards helping our lovely city in many ways. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Raeford Junior Woman's Club  
Betty Williamson  
Sonja Falls

Editor, The News-Journal:  
It is with gratitude and joy that

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, December 6, 1956  
James H. Woodhouse, general arrangements chairman for the community Christmas parade set for next Wednesday, said yesterday that final plans for the second annual such non-commercial affair were taking shape and that participation and interest throughout the county appeared good.

Resident Superior Court Judge Q.K. Nimocks, Jr. of Fayetteville announced Monday that Hoke County Superior Court Clerk John B. Cameron was retiring due to his health and that he had named M. Donald Yates of Raeford to serve the remaining two years of the term expiring the first Monday in December 1958.

Search of McNeill's Pond, in the southeast section of the county near Shannon, for the body of Hoover Bullard, 30-year-old Indian missing since Monday, November 26, continued this week without success.

Two more deaths in Hoke County from traffic accidents in the past week brought the total for the year to 13 fatalities in 11 wrecks, two having killed two persons.

### 15 years ago

Thursday, December 8, 1966  
Hoke County had the honor of having one of the first sessions, if not the first, of district court among the state's six "pilot" districts in the court reform program.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at Raeford Presbyterian Church for Mrs. Irma Coble Poole, 72, who died Friday in Moore Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Hoke High School's defending conference champion Bucks scored a decisive 68-48 victory over Union Pines here Tuesday night to notch their second straight win of the young basketball season.

Dr. Raymond A. Stone was formally installed as president of Sandhills Community College and the college dedicated at special ceremonies at the institution during the weekend.

Postmaster Charlie Morrison today rang the warning bell, reminding residents of Raeford and Hoke County that this is the last round for Christmas mailing.

## It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

Bob Terrell's column in *The Asheville Citizen* of November 25 shows the importance of the Fifth Amendment and also volunteering information, especially when your spouse is on the spot.

Terrell tells this story.

A woman and her husband were riding to town in a battered pickup truck with her husband driving, when the husband saw the whirling blue light of a city policeman, so he drew his truck to the nearest curb.

The officer approached him, then advised, "Sir, your license plate is about to fall off."

"See?" the woman told her husband, "I told you to put it on tighter. If you'd lost it, Uncle John would have been fit to be tied."

"Uncle John?" the policeman asked.

"Well," the woman told him, "he borrowed the tag from Uncle John."

"Do you mean you're driving an unlicensed vehicle?" the officer asked the man.

Before the man could answer, his wife said, "He had to. He had to come to town to get some insurance for this truck."

"You're driving an uninsured vehicle?" the officer sounded incredulous.

"He had some other things to do, the wife said. "His driver's license has expired, so he had to come to town. This trip was necessary."

"You don't have a driver's license?" the policeman asked the man.

"Sir," replied the man, "I can explain..."

"Don't pay no attention to him," the woman broke in. "He's so drunk he don't know what he's saying."

Bob closes the item with this sound advice:

"Next time you get the urge to talk too much, remember the woman in the pickup truck who talked her husband into spending the next 30 days in jail."

Actually, Bob is an excellent example of the fact that there's no such thing as a hopeless case.

In his early youth, he fell in with evil companions and became a sports writer. But some time later, something happened. He got religion, saw the light, went straight, and became an editorial writer.

Maybe one of the things that happened was that about 7 a.m., when he was a sports editor, a correspondent came by his apartment, woke him and his wife up, then demanded to know why his story about the putt-putt golf tournament hadn't been published in that morning's paper.

Speaking of telling too much reminds me of the story of the little boy who went to the library and asked for a book about frogs. The librarian cheerfully went to the shelves and chose a book for him. It had about a thousand pages in it.

The boy looked at it silently for a moment, slowly looked at some pages, then closed the book and returned it to the librarian.

"Is something wrong?" she asked. "I thought you wanted a book about frogs."

"Sure," the boy said. "But this book has more than I want to know about frogs."

Then there was another kid who had an assignment from his teacher to write a paper on a subject. He could find the information about it in the library.

So he went to the library shelves, found a book and started to check it out. It was titled "Expectant Mothers."

The librarian sensing that this wasn't what the boy really wanted, questioned him. The teacher told him to do a paper on moths, he replied. So, naturally, he picked out this book. "Expectant Mothers."

Another kid asked a librarian for the book "The Cross-eyed Bear." What the child really wanted, the librarian found, after searching unsuccessfully for the bear book, was the book, "The Cross I Bear."

Still another kid told a librarian his mother asked him to get the book, "Forty Ways to Amuse A Dog."

The librarian knew that one wasn't on the shelves, and it took quite a bit of questioning to find out what book the kid's mother really wanted.

It was "The 40 Days of Musa Dagh."

"When the press and any public official lie down together too long, it is the public which rises up with fleas." -- Hodding Carter, former Mississippi newspaper publisher and former State Department spokesman in President Jimmy Carter's administration. "I have been reading the morning paper. I do it every morning --

well knowing that I shall find in it the usual depravities and base-nesses and hypocrisies and cruelties that make up civilization, and cause me to put in the rest of the day pleading for the damnation of the human race." -- Mark Twain, quoted in *The Asheville Citizen* November 25.

A few years ago when some business people were getting off to as fast a start as possible promoting the coming holiday seasons, some started off promoting their pre-Thanksgiving sales in late October. Store windows were full of reminders of the coming of Thanksgiving.

Seeing all these things, one little boy started crying and asked his mother, "What happened to Halloween?"

Buddy Blue just came by and gave me some information about where to find detailed information about Kiffin Rockwell of Asheville, the LaFayette Escadrille pilot who was the first American killed in action in World War I. He said the *State* monthly magazine several years ago published an article about Rockwell, who was flying for the French forces when he was killed, before the Americans got into the war.

Blue also mentioned that the "Balloon Buster from Arizona" who also was a Escadrille flier, was Frank Luke. Luke's parents, ironically, were Germans who emigrated to the United States.

I did hear from the State Division of Archives and History, which I had queried. The application form I received indicates the division has quite a lot of records about Rockwell. It lists: Military Collection, World War I Papers, 1903-1933. V1...Private Collections, Kiffin Rockwell, Box 67... North Carolina Booklet, Vol. XIX, No. 4, April-July 1920, pp. 150-155; Kiffin Yates Rockwell by R.B. House.

House, incidentally, was chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill while I was there in the 1930s. He was a historian by education. He also played the harmonica regularly at student gatherings, including some of the freshman assembly periods in Memorial Hall on class days.

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:  
I heard a Congressman use a phrase the other day on television that caught my attention.

Faced with the fact that he's a strong advocate of tax cuts and a balanced budget and the fact that it's not working, that the budget may be more out of balance than ever before, he said he is now in favor of "revenue enhancement."

It sure sounds better than raising taxes.

And it has wider use. If the telephone company ups your phone bill \$2 a month, it hasn't raised your rate, just enhanced it.

I tried to enhance the price of a steer I had for sale, but the people who control the cattle market have a limited vocabulary and apparently have never heard of the word. They paid me 42 cents a pound instead of the 60 cents I was trying to enhance it to.

Another word that's come into use by politicians is "goal." If a candidate solemnly promises to balance the budget and gets in office and finds it's impossible, he explains it wasn't a promise, it was just a goal.

This too should have wider use. If a promissory note you signed at the bank comes due, go in and explain re-payment wasn't a promise, it was just a goal.

By the way, speaking of revenue enhancement, did you notice that of all the Federal offices shut down for one day when the government ran out of money recently, one in particular was ordered to stay open?

It was the tax collecting office. Yours faithfully, J.A.

## DID YOU KNOW?

IF YOUR PETS FREEZE, DON'T TRY TO WASH THEM WITH A BUBBLE BATH OR OPEN FLAME. USE HOT WATER OR RINSE A FIRE.

