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Hoke-Scotland District

The U.S. Justice Department should let the 21st State House District be composed of Hoke and Scotland counties.

A letter addressed to the chief of Justice's Voting Section gives convincing reasons for it. The present plan for reapportionment of the State House in the General Assembly calls for Scotland and Hoke to be left in the present three-county district with Robeson.

The letter was signed by officials of both major political parties and city and county officials of Scotland and Hoke.

One reason the signers give in opposing the three-county status is, it doesn't "comply with the one person, one vote requirement, because it denies the citizens of Scotland and Hoke the opportunity to elect a representative from either one of those counties since the population of Robeson is almost twice as much as the combined populations of Scotland and Hoke Counties." The district's three current representatives are all residents of Robeson County.

Another reason given, even more important than the first, is "it does not dilute the vote of minorities, but, in some instances, actually enhances their voting power..."

In the spirit of fairness, the two-county district should be established.

--BL

Up to Congress

From The Christian Science Monitor

Who says that citizens are helpless in the face of a poor White House decision? As a result of a swift public outcry, President Reagan has shifted his view on tax exemptions for private segregated schools. His aides clearly failed to think through the consequences when the Treasury Department recently reversed a 12-year-old policy of denying such tax breaks to private institutions practicing racial discrimination. The new policy opened the President to a charge of promoting racism, and it is therefore to his credit that he has moved quickly to assure Americans that is not the case.

However, the new IRS policy of granting tax exemptions to nonprofit institutions which engage in racial bias will remain in force until Congress outlaws it. The President says he favors such a ban and will submit appropriate legislation. Splendid.

The administration maintains, justifiably, that the Internal Revenue Service should not have the authority to make social policy without legislative mandate. One can only imagine the mischief the IRS might get into if it began operating more and more solely by executive order.

It is now up to Congress to legislate guidelines for the IRS. This will not be easy, given the political pressures and the legal complexities of the issue. But the worthy goal warrants pushing ahead. Surely private schools and colleges should not be given tax benefits when they flout national policy. Church-related schools, above all, have a moral obligation to be responsive to antidiscrimination laws. They are free to practice racial segregation as a matter of religious principle if they choose, but in that event why should they be given government support in the form of tax exemptions? All Americans in such case would then be asked to pay for maintaining racial bias. Let's not forget, too, that individual contributions to nonprofit institutions are tax deductible; so segregated organizations benefit already even before being allowed tax exemptions.

President Reagan promises to work with Congress to disallow the latter type of tax benefits. Those who worried about the IRS decision can ask him to apply all the determination which he exhibited in getting his tax program through. The national goal of racial equality can use his proven political skill.



It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

Last week's snow recalls the Big One of 1960 and one of the stories that came out of it.

The snow was so deep in the North Carolina mountains that many families couldn't get out to buy food. The situation was so bad that Army Aviation at Ft. Bragg was needed to drop supplies to stranded mountaineers.

The American Red Cross, as customary, got busy on foot when a team couldn't get to stranded people any other way. One team made it through deep drifts to a little mountain home up in Watauga County (I think that's where it was, or maybe it was in Avery County). The leader knocked on the door, and a little old lady answered.

"We're from the Red Cross," the man informed her. But before he could explain the team's mission, she said sadly: "I'm sorry but we can't give anything this year, because we couldn't sell any milk on account of the snow."

The story was published far and wide. So far and wide, in fact, that Evangelist Billy Graham read it in a newspaper in Africa where he was conducting a Crusade at the time.

The weather can make strange paradoxes. In West Asheville one night an outdoor swimming meet had to be cancelled -- because of rain.

I wish somebody would tell me what "gonzo" means. I see it every now and then in print and heard it on television once as a nickname (for the younger doctor who's a colleague of "Trapper John, M.D."). I'm guessing it came out of the Vietnam War, as "honcho" came out of the Korean War, and "GI," "SNAFU" and "Sad Sack" came out of World War II.

Then there was a few other words which I see and hear only in entertainment reviews and critiques -- "smarmy," "kissy-kissy," "kissy-face," "schloch," "shtick," and "schmaltz."

Anybody know what they mean? Or, to put it another way, does anybody care? If anybody cares and knows, please advise.

The snow and ice kept me on foot, and sometimes nearly off foot.

in Southern Pines last week, but I got a lot of reading done and saw a lot of TV soaps, which I hadn't seen since two years ago when I was stuck in Moore Memorial Hospital.

One fascinating book I got involved in is a collection of shortstories, titled "African Stories," by Doris Lessing. But the stories aren't nice and simple, like the ones in the Alfred Hitchcock Magazine. I found them downright baffling, but the author gives absorbing descriptions of the landscape, of the huge farms of southern Rhodesia.

The descriptions belong in the stories, since the daily living on the farms and the atmosphere of the county influences the thinking and conduct of the white owners. "African Stories" is about white Englishmen who came by various circumstances and routes to the land, and some, about their relations with their native workers. The author writes from her experience of years of living in southern Africa and tells of the rough and the beautiful in the people and in the country.

One story, though, "Winter in July," a long one, gave me fits of exasperation. Julia, the wife of the older of two half-brothers seems to be searching for the basic cause of their common problem. The problem isn't detailed, for one thing, and through the narrative she comes up with what looks like an answer, then decides that's not it, then comes up with another, but then rejects that, and this goes on, it seems, a few more times.

I grimly kept right on to the end, as her writing is so excellent, and the heroine came up with an answer. I didn't understand it, the answer, but I settled for the heroine having found what she believed was an answer.

All this immersion in literature reminds me of a flub an actor made in a performance of one of Eugene O'Neill's plays.

"How like a serpent's think," he sighed sadly, "is a toothless child."

Then there was the suspicious man who announced grimly, mixing his metaphors: "I smell a rat. And I shall nip it in the bud."

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



EL SALVADORAN TROOPS...I have been reading in recent days about the El Salvadorans in training at Fort Bragg. I am not steeped in El Salvadoran history but from what I can read and hear it is a pretty unsettled nation.

In Fort Bragg Tar Heel demonstrators were protesting the training of the 1,000 man infantry battalion set for mid-February at Fort Bragg and the 600 Salvadoran officer candidates at Fort Benning, set for January 25.

El Salvador is the smallest country in the Western Hemisphere. This tropical republic lies along the Pacific Ocean on the West Coast of Central America. It is about one-fourth the size of N.C. Its government is somewhat like that of the United States, but some Salvadoran presidents have become dictators and remained in office after their terms ended.

In November 1960 six leading leftists were abducted and killed. In December 1980 the U.S. interrupted its aid program for two weeks, following the murder of three American nuns and a lay-worker.

CRIME...From newspaper and radio reports it appears that we are having more murders than before. Some years ago when there was a murder everyone was talking about it. Now, it is becoming so common that little is heard about it.

While we cringe at the thought of anyone having his or her life taken by the state, we feel that the fear of electrocution might result in saving more lives than it takes.

Yes, personally, we do not like to see a person's life snuffed out, but we suspect that reverting to the law of God, "Thou shalt not kill," might well stop so many useless killings.

COLD WEATHER...We suspect that 50 years from now, old men and women will be recalling that 1982 was one of the coldest winters they ever witnessed.

We can remember the "big snow" on March 1, 2 and 3rd in 1925, or was it 1927?

BILL HORNER...Bill Horner, publisher of *The Sanford Herald* in his regular column a few days ago discussed "All the news that's fit to print." Here is what he had to say:

It's interesting to hear most radio and TV announcers, when giving a newscast, orate they have "All the news, coming up next. Stay with us."

Interesting because this isn't true, and in fact it's a nearly stupid speech. Nobody has all the news, and this includes newspapers.

The *New York Times* had a box on its front page which said "All the news that's fit to print." Note that even this prestige newspaper itself qualified "all" the news by adding "That's fit to print."

Those who have spent a lifetime in the newspaper business never (to my best knowledge) lay claim they have all the news.

What all the media offer is a selection of the news. This is arrived at by writers for the announcers on radio, and TV and writers and editors of newspapers.

It would be nice, if all these well meaning folks would quit saying "all" the news and substitute something like "Here's the major news," or "the most important news," or better still, "Our selection of the news."

CLARENCE STONE...One of my favorites while serving in the N.C. House of Representatives was Clarence Stone of Rockingham County. He served seven terms in the House and five in the Senate. In 1963 Lt. Governor H. Cloyd Philpott, had died and Stone was elected president of the State Senate, actually serving as Lt. Governor.

In his early days in the House he was very much opposed to "commissions" and would speak out against them, saying, "It's the same old coon with another ring around its tail."

However, in his latter days in the Assembly following the death of his daughter in an automobile wreck, he softened up on commissions and voted for the auto inspection law, which he had previously opposed.

Senator Clarence Stone was a crusader for what he believed in, and North Carolina is better for his straight-forward leadership.

Letter To The Editor

Editor, *The News-Journal*

On behalf of the American Lung Association of North Carolina, Mid-State Region, which serves Hoke County, we wish to express sincere appreciation to the many people who contributed to the 1981 Christmas Seals Campaign. The response was very good; however, according to recent information from the central office in Raleigh, the state-wide campaign, including our region, is behind eight percent of what it was this time last year.

It is never too late to make a contribution to the Christmas Seals Campaign. Contributions are needed throughout the year to help in the fight against crippling lung diseases that affect both children and adults.

Each of us is affected, directly or indirectly, by a respiratory disease at some time during our lives. You are indeed fortunate if you are not one of the 47 million Americans who now suffer from a chronic lung disease.

The American Lung Association, founded in 1904, is the oldest voluntary health organization in the United States. The Mid-State Region of the American Lung Association of North Carolina, which included our local area, retains 70% of all Christmas Seals contributions to be used locally. Some of the current projects now underway include a new self-help program for children with asthma, called SUPERSTUFF; the free loan of portable respiratory equipment for home-bound lung disease patients; health education programs and materials for school children, including the recent distribution of "Lungs Are For Life" education modules to all third grade teachers in Hoke County; smoking cessation programs, and advanced medical education training for those who administer to the lung patient and research projects now being conducted in our leading state medical center.

Twenty percent of the contributions is shared with the state association in support of state-wide education and research projects and may be shared with the local region as needed. The remaining ten percent goes to the national association which provides local units with up-to-date educational materials and support for nationwide research projects.

We urge those who have not yet responded to the Christmas Seals appeal letter to do so promptly. Remember, it is never too late to help in the fight against such lung diseases as Emphysema, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, Lung Cancer and other related respiratory problems. Memorial gifts to your local

Lung Association are also a tangible way to remember loved ones and to help others.

Please send your donations to ALANC, Mid-State Regional Office, P.O. Box 726, Southern Pines, North Carolina 28387. "It is a Matter of Life and Breath" for everyone.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stone
Co-Chairmen
1981 Christmas Seals Campaign
for Hoke County

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear editor:

I was reading the letters to the editor in a newspaper the other day and ran across one that asked a question.

Why, the writer asked, would a millionaire holding down a big government job paying \$60,000 a year with limousine furnished accept a thousand-dollar-stuffed envelope when it's against the law?

I know the answer: it's on account of human nature.

The fact that a man has a million dollars doesn't mean he's not interested in picking up more. There's something about cash in hand that practically all of us find very satisfying. Not all of us however are in a position to get it from under the table, or would take it if the chance arose.

I knew a young boy once who, while walking home from school along a dirt road, found a shiny new 50-cent piece. He held it in his hand and admired it happily, feeling like the whole world was on his side.

Then he pitched it forward and walked up and picked it up again, recapturing the fine sensation of spotting a half-dollar on the ground. He did this several times, just for the sheer fun of it.

I don't care how rich a man is, you won't find one who, on spotting a \$5 bill on the sidewalk, won't stop to pick it up. It would be a violation of human nature not to. Face it, money is fascinating.

This explains why politicians accept cash handouts in envelopes. Some then put it in an office safe and claim they forgot about it. What they mean is they hope everybody else will forget about it. They're unable to recognize that money under the table is different from a half-dollar found on the way home from school.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.
P.S. I sure enjoyed spending that half-dollar.

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, January 17, 1957

Hoke County's first traffic fatality in the year 1957 was William McPhaul "Paul" Clark, 31-year-old weave room employee at the Raeford Plant of Pacific Mills.

Mrs. W.T. Gibson, Jr., treasurer of the Hoke County Tuberculosis Association, reported this week that \$1200.00 had been received from the sale of 1956 Christmas Seals.

Several activities for the benefit of the March of Dimes, of which J.D. McMillian is county chairman have been planned, and others will be announced later.

In Wadesboro Friday night the Hoke High girls basketball team

kept their conference record of no defeats intact with a comfortable victory over the Wadesboro girls, 69-52.

N.H.G. Balfour, R.E. Neeley, and Furman O. Clark attended the State Soil Conservation District Supervisors meeting in Asheville this week.

The 10-room house of Quincy Wilkerson, on the 211 cutoff just off U.S. 401-15A at the end of Fulton Street North of Raeford and less than 100 yards east of the county school garage, caught fire in an unknown manner at about 5:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon and was completely destroyed.

15 years ago

Thursday, January 19, 1967

More than twice as many building permits were issued at Raeford Town Hall in 1966 than in 1965, a comparative summary, completed recently, revealed.

A public hearing has been set for February 6 on possible annexation of another area adjoining the Town of Raeford on the north side. The section under consideration is on North Main Street Extension.

Funeral services were held here yesterday for Julius Judson Niven, 56, a retired Army sergeant who died Monday at his home.

James R. Attaway, Hoke County

coordinator for Sandhills Community Action Program, has been named SCAP "Employee of the Month" for January.

Hoke High wrestlers lost a heartbreaking decision to Fayetteville, 27-26, to topple from the ranks of the unbeaten Monday night at Fayetteville.

Hoke High Bucks topple unbeaten Stedman behind the outstanding play of Gilbert McGregor here Friday night. McGregor netted 34 points and 31 rebounds.

Walter Coley, Raeford pharmacist, has been named to the local board of managers of Southern National Bank, according to C.D. Bounds, vice president.