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LOUIS H. FOGLEMAN, JR. Publisher
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SAM C. MORRIS Contributing Editor
ANN WEBB Advertising Representative

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1982

Protection improved

The members of the North Raeford Volunteer Fire Department are doing a great public service in their fire district in installing so-called "dry" fire hydrants at edges of lakes and ponds.

When the installations are completed by the end of September, the firemen will have a water supply within a mile and a half of every house, barn, and any other building in their fire-protection district.

The result also will be another step toward improving the district's state fire rating, which, in turn, will mean, after all requirements are met, in savings of property owners in fire insurance premiums, the costs will be lower.

But the main benefit will be to fire protection. No longer will a tanker have to go to a Raeford city hydrant, perhaps six or more miles away, to get more water for fighting a fire. The Raeford hydrants will still be available to the North Raeford as well as other Hoke County volunteer fire departments. But the dry hydrants will save firefighters precious time in getting needed water.

Uncertainty of water supplies always has been a worry for firemen protecting rural areas throughout the state. When a pond or larger lake has been near the scene, a fire department tanker may not be able to get close enough to draw the water directly. This is where the dry hydrant is valuable; a pumper can stand as far as 49 feet from the hydrant and still draw water from the pond, then pump it into the tanker standing by.

We hope all the other Hoke County rural fire departments some day in the near future can install dry hydrants for the substantial improvement of fire protection for property owners throughout the county.

--BL

Preventing tragedy

Last week's tragedy at the IBM offices in the Research Triangle might have been prevented, but that's not certain.

A Durham County Sheriff's Department officer advised IBM representatives before the shooting occurred that they could have the man who subsequently killed one man and wounded another arrested on a charge of communicating threats.

Unfortunately, the warrant wasn't issued but that doesn't mean the effort wasn't made. A warrant charging communicating threats must state the name of the person or persons threatened. The news report of the fatal shooting says only that the suspect made a general threat but named one specifically he had in mind for injuring.

Even if he had named an intended victim and had been arrested, tried and convicted, however, this might have merely delayed his fatal action. The information available indicates the man was disturbed mentally.

Tightening security on admitting people to business property seems to be the best preventative to this kind of tragedy, though no system can be perfect.

--BL

LAW For Laypersons

The theory of precedent, by which judges and lawyers look to previous cases to decide new controversies, does not control the outcome of a new case if the facts of the new case are different in a significant respect to the facts of the older case. The rule, like cases should be decided alike, applies only when the facts of each case are indeed alike.

Despite the rule that like cases should be decided alike, a judge may still follow the precedent of a previous decision even when the facts of the previous decision are not the same at all. His decision will still be based on the theory of precedent.

Take, for example, the case of your next client who owns a motor boat and frequently uses it in the rivers and sounds of coastal North Carolina. One day he fails to keep to the right of certain buoys as required by state law, and as a result he has a head-on collision with another motor boat whose driver has, indeed, followed the applicable state law. Naturally, your client is sued by the driver of the other boat for his personal injuries.

The only previous case upon which the lawyer for the other side relies as precedent is one involving an automobile driver who drives his car through a red light at an intersection and crashes into a car going through the same intersection with a green light. The judge in that previous case held that the

driver who went through the red light was liable in damages for his negligence to the other driver who was proceeding with due care.

Your argument as the lawyer for the motor boat driver who caused the accident would be that the previous case involving an automobile and a stop light is not factually similar to an accident involving motor boats and buoys. After all, the theory of precedent provides that like cases should be decided alike, but dissimilar cases need not be decided alike.

If you think about the previous case involving the automobile accident and the present case involving the motor boat accident, you may decide that they are very similar cases although the facts are decidedly different. Indeed, the judge may well decide to extend the holding of the automobile case to the motor boat case, not because they are factually similar, but because both accidents were caused by a driver breaking a state law. Even though the cases are not factually similar, the cases are nevertheless analogous, and the judge may feel bound to follow the theory of precedent even though the cases are not factually similar.

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.

'When they said economic warfare I thought they meant us!'



It's a Small World

by Bill Lindau

One of the guys at Sandhills Youth Center tells me he needs a tutor to help him with a college English course he's taking, and a tutor is hard to find.

It seems he's taking the course without being able to take regular class work with it, and it takes a teacher to get him over the rough spots. He got a high school diploma through the GED program and missed class work in that, too, which adds to his present difficulty.

The Youth Center, incidentally, is for men ages 18 to 21. They have to earn their way to admission by maintaining good conduct in a regular prison at first. Then at the Center they have to earn their way up to higher levels of privileges.

This inmate I'm talking about works every day off the grounds and goes home on passes regularly. It takes a good record of behaviour to get those privileges of working away from the center daily and of getting passes home. So whoever gets to be a tutor need have no fear of becoming associated with an Al Capone or Jack the Ripper.

Anyone interested should contact J.P. Smith, Jr., the Center program director.

Speaking of the law, it was changed for the benefit of drunks a few years back. It used to be people could be jailed when found in public under the influence. However, the change in the law requires they be jailed only if they are causing a disturbance in public. Then they are charged with being drunk and disruptive and have to go to District Court.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

According to a prominent psychologist, a cluttered desk is a symptom of a cluttered mind.

I know lots of people who have a cluttered mind and they don't even have a desk.

When I read what that psychologist said I took a look at my desk in the office out here which used to be a smokehouse. Whether your mind is cluttered or uncluttered, you can figure out that a freezer now beats a smokehouse for preserving meat, although unsuitable for an office.

I have had an occasional visitor who has commented on the state of my desk, but not many because my office, only 8x12 feet, has no guest chair. A chair encourages visitors to stay longer than they have anything to say.

The occasional visitor though has asked me how I can find anything on that desk. It's simple. I merely reach for it. The system works smoothly unless I need a clipping or some notes more than a decade old. Those take a little longer to find.

The idea that a clean desk is symbolic of a clear-headed, clear-thinking mind runs into trouble when you wonder about the clean desks of the embarrassed and almost broke our manufacturers who, a few years back, couldn't see that smaller cars were becoming more popular than gas-guzzlers. A lot of them with clean desks have cars cluttered with thousands of un-sold cars.

And some of the cleanest desks in Washington are manned by some of the world's worst bungling

With some, consideration just doesn't work. One officer, complying with the law, would take this particular inebriate home.

Later he'd bring him home again.

One day he brought the same guy home three times. Each time the guy got out of the house and got back up town before the policeman did.

Finally, the guy had to be jailed. The officer was trying to take him home another time, and he didn't want to go home, so he started cussing and whatnot. So there was only one thing to do, and it was done.

We had a printer named Charlie like that on the Smoky Mountain Times in Bryson City once. He'd get juiced in Bryson City, and somebody would take him home to Cherokee, 10 miles away. And when the Good Samaritan returned to Bryson City, he'd find Charlie right back there again.

Over at Caledonia Prison Farm once they had a guy who might have had trouble with his conduct but certainly not with his logic.

A guard saw him at work one day, pushing a wheel barrow. But the wheel barrow was upside down. "Why are you pushing that wheel barrow upside down?" the guard asked him.

"Because when I push it right side up," the prisoner explained, "somebody fills it with bricks."

bureaucrats.

Nonetheless I intend to clean my desk off, and will the minute things on it begin to topple. The floor is no place to file valuable papers.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.



Three weeks ago my dearly beloved husband died suddenly. The shock and anguish remain, but I am deeply conscious of the prayer support of my family and friends. My daily reading has brought comfort and my scripture calendar has helped to remind me each day of God's promises.

Today's verse was, "For now we see in a mirror dimly," and I thought of a cupboard on my wall. Its doors are made of frosted glass, and on its shelves I store my treasured china pieces. I cannot see them clearly, but I know they are there. Today my way may be dark and it may be difficult to see through the "frosted glass" into eternity. But I can trust the assurance that Paul has given us: "Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully."

PRAYER: Dear God, help us in the shadows to trust and not be afraid, knowing that You are there. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: When I cannot see, I still can safely trust.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



UNEMPLOYMENT...One of the things that is causing unemployment today could be the minimum wage. Why blame the minimum wage, you may ask?

Well, according to Dr. Walter Williams, an economist at George Mason University, the minimum wage (now \$3.35) has priced many kids out of the market.

"Many supermarket owners would...hire teenagers at two or three dollars an hour to bag groceries, assist customers with their parcels, and sweep floors." There are many other jobs like these that kids could do but are prevented from doing by law or collective agreements.

Dr. Williams -- himself a product of the Philadelphia ghetto -- says quite correctly that the minimum wage tends to discriminate against anybody who can't produce \$3.35 worth of goods and services per hour. Common sense tells us that it is a losing proposition for an employer to pay an untrained street kid \$3.35 per hour when the kid can only produce \$2 worth of work per hour. Employees, more often than not, don't hire such marginal workers, especially in a recessionary economy. And the person in the labor force most likely to fall into this category is the teenager.

We might add, with a lower minimum-wage law, there would be nothing to prevent a higher wage if the employer saw fit to pay it.

REAGAN & MOON ... The Reagan Administration is warming up to the Washington Times. The Times is the new Washington newspaper started by the Rev. Moon. President Reagan has granted the paper an exclusive interview, something not every newspaper gets!

RATE INCREASE...Carolina Power & Light Co. has filed for a rate increase. If approved, the increase means over \$35 million in revenue to C.P.&L. The South River EMC in Dunn is one of 18 electric membership cooperatives in the state facing rate increases.

With bank rates coming down, it would appear that good business people would hesitate to be expanding right now.

The North Carolina Utilities Commission, in its first ruling

under the state's new utility law, has slashed Virginia Electric and Power Co.'s requested rate hike just about in half -- to \$11.8 million.

BUSINESS...Economists and politicians are still analyzing the dramatic stock market turn of a few weeks ago. President Reagan's speech the night before and the Federal Reserve Board also get some credit for producing the optimism of August 17. How long will the new hope last? The new mood on Wall Street, and among bankers, seems to be that rates will decline generally, over a long period. That's what really refueled the stock market eruption August 17, and also the bond rally in recent weeks.

One of the cures of economic recession is confidence in the future. In the Great Depression of the 1930's there was little confidence until President Roosevelt was elected and in his inauguration speech called for courage -- "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself," said the new president.

REAGAN AND O'NEILL ... One of the few times that President Reagan and Tip O'Neill were together was on the crucial budget vote. It was to both's credit that they stood together like statesmen.

BUSINESS & TAXES ... Federal taxes paid by the largest U.S. Corporations declined to 20.5 percent of their earnings in 1981, and dozens of highly profitable firms -- particularly banks, railroads and paper companies -- paid no taxes at all, according to an independent tax study.

CIGARETTES ... Cigarette smoking increases the incidents and severity of deafness, according to a new study from the Egyptian National Cancer Institute. The researchers found that smoking had a more damaging effect on hearing than did growing older.

BUSINESS FAILURES ... With the N.Y. Stock Market picking up, we note that business failures have hit a 50-year high! Through mid-August 15,333 businesses have been forced to close or reorganize, up 44 percent from the 10,492 failures in the same period a year ago. At this rate, the post World War II peak of 17,075 failures, recorded in 1961 will be surpassed by the end of September!

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, September 5, 1959
Raeford District Principal W.T. Gibson reports that both schools in Raeford showed sizable increases in opening day today enrollment over opening day last year.

With whole-hearted cooperation from stores, performers and models the "Harvest of Fall Fashions" to be presented by the Fine Arts Department of the Raeford Woman's Club at the High School next Tuesday night promises to be a fine start in the first venture of this kind attempted locally.

R.B. Lewis, treasurer for the Hoke County Recreation Program, this week released a report on the activities and financial standing of the undertaking which showed a total of 8,120 child-days of attendance at the program.

At a meeting of the Hoke High Booster Club at the school Monday night, plans were made for the club to sponsor the sale of season tickets again this year.

Equipment of Hoke Rural Department was present on Monday morning, August 26, when tobacco barn on James Quick farm just north of Raeford was destroyed.

The 200th anniversary of Long-street Presbyterian Church will be observed on Sunday, September 7, with a morning service and a picnic on the grounds.

John Morgan, Jr; manager of the Raeford Plant, Pacific Mills, announced this week that the company will have a barbecue and Brunswick stew dinner on the grounds of the plant from 6:00 to 8:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon for about 800 of the 1500 employees.

15 years ago

Thursday, September 7, 1967
North Raeford Fire District has completed its fire house, bought a fire truck, and in the near future will organize volunteer personnel to operate the rural fire department.

Funeral services for Dean C. White, 58, who died Sunday, were conducted Thursday at 4 p.m. at Raeford Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Cortez Cooper, Jr., and the Rev. Charles W. Worth.

Enrollment at Hoke County schools, collectively and individually is holding up to about the same number as last year's total for the same time of year.

Thieves paid a visit to Armory Park here Friday night during the Raeford-Stedman football game and made off with five bicycles, according to Police Chief L.W. Stanton.

Organization Day activities October 1 will climax 80 years of hard work and dedication in the life of Piney Grove Baptist Church, two miles south of Raeford.

They haven't been getting a big splash in the newspapers, but Jimmy Hollingsworth and his son Kenneth, 13, have been winning a pile of trophies and ribbons with their three-quarter horses.

Mrs. Archie Howard, organist at Antioch Presbyterian Church, was recognized for her dedicated service in the church choir Sunday afternoon, following a concert presented by the choir under her direction.