

# Editorials

## Congratulations

"Congratulations" is a weak word to use in addressing Raeford's City Council, individual citizens, and civic organizations such as the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce in this instance.

The occasion is the awarding, again, for another year, Gov. Jim Hunt's Community of Excellence honor last week.

The reason the word is weak is something stronger is needed to point to the great effort, selfless dedication, springing from the desire to make the community a better place to live that brought the award. The effort principally is aimed at making a community attractive as possible as a home for more industry to provide more jobs.

The award is given to a community which has established the following:

--A local development team trained to discuss available sites, facilities, and other local factors with industry representatives.

--A financial organization enabling the community to buy, sell and option property to or for industrial clients as well as finance the construction of industrial buildings.

--Adequate school, health care, and recreational opportunities.

--Clear and well-organized information about the community: its facilities, utilities and tax structure, among other things important to a business and industry.

The record which has brought Community of Excellence awards to Raeford shows the Raeford people keep working to improve the economy specifically with the consequent improvement in the quality of living, and this, of course, is a benefit to all of Hoke County.

--BL

## Educate drinkers

The drive to get drunk drivers off the roads by making it easier to revoke their driver's licenses can be backed up by getting people who have been drinking to stay out of the driver's seats.

The same can be said for people who commit other crimes while they are intoxicated.

Convincing people prone to violence, either by motor vehicle or other instrument, to stay home after they've been drinking will take a long, continuous education process. But it will pay off.

One point that should be hammered home to every drinker is that state law says voluntary intoxication is no defense of the commission of a crime. The law puts the responsibility for conduct squarely on the individual, where it belongs.

Nobody has to drink, and everyone old enough to buy liquor knows that drinking too much makes a person drunk, which, for some, brings commission of crimes.

The only exception to the law is the defendant who has demonstrated that he/she didn't know what he/she was doing and was incapable of forming a plan or carrying it out.

The recent murder conviction in Hoke County Superior Court is an example of how the law works: The defense tried to show the accused was too intoxicated to know what he was doing. The prosecution showed, to the satisfaction of the jury, that the defendant was capable of carrying out an intent. This was demonstrated by the prosecution's showing that the accused had to perform certain separate, deliberate acts to commit the crime.

The efforts of defense and prosecution were based on the state law eliminating voluntary intoxication as a defense.

Tragically, no one knew how to prevent the accused from going abroad in his alleged intoxication.

This preventive action is what is necessary to prevent everything from disruptive public drunkenness to driving under the influence to murder.

Everyone must be told over and over that drinking interferes with physical coordination and with judgment and disarms the inhibitions that prevent indulgence in dangerous misconduct.

If the education doesn't reach all drinkers, it will reach the members of the families of some, at least, so that they'll perhaps persuade the drinkers to stay at home and will keep weapons and car keys out of his reach.

--BL

## Private help

It will be interesting to see how much money the Raeford-Hoke County Humane Society can raise from private donations, to help the county pay for building a new dog pound.

The start of the campaign brought \$310 by November 22.

If the campaign proves through its course as successful as its start, the county can count a new force for helping with its animal control efforts.

--BL



## It's a Small World

by Bill Lindon

Raeford's Christmas parade was scheduled for December 11.

But Raleigh's parade was held November 21, which meant Santa had to wait four days before getting his Thanksgiving turkey.

Getting an early start on holiday promotion brought a sad reaction from one kid years ago in Asheville. In early October, signs and displays in store windows told of Thanksgiving coming.

After seeing all these things, the kid broke into tears and wailed, "What happened to Halloween?"

Fortunately, Mama could reassure him that he still had Halloween to look forward to, that it was just that nobody was talking about it very much.

...

So somebody sprinkled gofer dust in the Hoke County courtroom the other day, trying, no doubt, to influence the course of justice.

That's the kind of thing that would make a judge and a prosecutor watchful and perhaps, a little lonely.

They can, however, look at the bright side: it could have been a skillie instead of gofer dust.

A skillie can take on any shape it wants to. For instance, it could have taken on the form of the judge himself, or the prosecutor, or any witness, or even a bowl of soup. And it can do nice things for people.

A skillie is something the Cherokee talk about. It's really a human with those special powers (according to the Cherokee). A conjure woman is the only one who can tell whether a newborn baby is a skillie or not.

I first learned about it back in the 1950s. It was in a time when

Unidentified Flying Objects -- flying saucers and the like -- were being reported here and there all around the country.

Our Cherokee correspondent called us one night. Said some policemen saw a large red cloud suddenly appear before them as they were patrolling a dirt road back near the headwaters of the Oconalufy.

When they stopped their cruiser the cloud stopped. When they got out and walked toward it, the cloud backed away a few feet.

I believe it also messed up their radio communication and maybe put their lights out before it just drifted off toward Newfound Gap.

Our correspondent said the policeman reported, "It's a skillie."

...

And if I find gofer dust sprinkled around my desk after people have had a chance to read this week's paper, I'll know the reason for it, though I won't know who was responsible (any one of the thousands of people who read this column, that's who).

...

We used to see some unintended humor in, of all places, long-standing dialogue in a Catholic Mass.

Toward the end of the service, the priest would say, in Latin: "Ite missa est."

And the congregation would reply, "Deo gratias."

What the priest was saying was: "It is sent (or it is over, or ended)," and the congregation was replying, "Thank God."

You have a service that runs an or to three hours, and you see relief in the congregation's reply.

I am writing this at the risk of falling down and breaking my leg or neck as soon as I get up from this typewriter.

Like the golfer who swore each of several times after he missed putts, and despite the warnings of a minister golfer who was playing behind him.

The layman would swear, "G....I missed."

After the third time he did this, the skies darkened, thunder rolled, and lightning flashed, and suddenly a bolt of lightning struck the ground only six inches from the cussing golfer's foot.

Then from above came a voice of thunder:

"Doggone it! I missed!"

...

This is a true story. Some men were hiking up the trail in the mountains above Blue Ridge Assembly near Black Mountain one summer day when the black clouds appeared, the thunder rolled, and it started raining hard, with lightning already.

so the men -- there were three -- stopped and took what shelter they could under a tree.

Since the storm was fierce, and unbating, one of the men, who was a minister, suggested, "Let's take turns saying a prayer that the storm will cease before we all get hit by lightning, or washed down the mountain, or something."

So he led off with a prayer, and when he finished a companion took it up and said one, and when he finished, he turned to the other man.

But the other man said regretfully, "Lord, all I know is a little old morning prayer, and it ain't gonna do a bit of good for a storm like this."

## Letters To The Editor

### Group Can Be Formed

Dear Editor:

In the November 18th issue of *The News-Journal* in a letter to the editor there was a request for the organization of persons with similar needs - divorcee.

Such a group can be organized if the person making the request and other interested persons will call Ellen Willis, Home Economics Extension Agent at 875-2162.

Strength and support can be received by persons getting together with other persons going through the divorce experience.

Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Ellen S. Willis  
Home Economics Extension Agent

### Thanks Extended

Dear Editor:

On behalf of my mother, Mrs. Frances Parks, who is a patient at Open Arms Rest Home, I would like to express thanks and gratitude -- both to Mrs. Joyce Jamison and to the Raeford branch of the International Evangelistic Women Workers.

Mrs. Jamison sponsored a birthday party on November 20, for her mother, Mrs. Leana Cook. With the assistance of her friends and local businesses, Mrs. Jamison served the patients hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, drinks, and ice cream.

Each of the patients and staff members also received gifts. I happened to be at the rest home after the party, and saw the joy on the patients' faces as they proudly showed their new gifts to each other.

My mother also enjoyed the delicious Thanksgiving dinner, assisted in preparation by the Open Arms staff, from food and special dishes brought to the rest home by the Raeford branch of the International Evangelistic Women Workers.

She also enjoyed the special singing presented by these ladies. One has only to visit the rest home to see what these special activities, such as the ones described above, mean to the patients.

Sincerely yours,  
Helen Parks Cox  
Rockingham

### Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

According to a psychologist, video games are harmful to young kids.

He said they spend so much time glued to those electronic machines they'll never get an education and be able to take their place in the grown-up world.

He may be right.

For example, the depressed, mis-managed condition the country is now in is bound to be due to the fact the present crop of grown-ups spent their youth playing marble machines.

The generation before wasted its youthful days spinning tops and playing mumblety-peg. And the generation before that...well, I don't know what the kids did wrong, but it was bound to have been something a psychologist could put his finger on.

And this country is not alone.

The English are experts at playing croquet, and I guess you know they have one of the highest rates of unemployment in the world, and a Prince who likes movie stars.

I don't know what the French youths are doing to fortell the ruin of France, but any psychologist good enough to get his name in the paper could find something.

I don't know what the present Russian leaders did when they were young but my guess is they mis-spent their youth playing toy soldiers, and locking each other up in make-believe jails.

I tried playing a video game once, and I wish I had my quarter back.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

CLIFF BLUE...

## People & Issues

**NURSING HOMES...**The high cost of Nursing Homes has caused Dick Brown and Bill Wright of the *Fayetteville Observer* to write at length about the problem.

People operating these homes are in it for the money, and if they were not, somebody else would be, or the government would have to step in.

It seems to me that private enterprise will have to operate on a most modest basis or government will be forced to move in, which would be just as costly as free enterprise.

We hope that Dick Brown and Bill Wright find a solution to the problem, which according to an April 1981 audit is North Carolina's "largest medical expense."

In bygone years kin-folk would take the elderly in, but that problem seems to be out the window now unless it's a father or mother, brother or sister.

In this socialistic time we simply have to look after our kin-folks in a tender-hearted way as did our grandfathers and grandmothers 50 years ago.

We are sure that these people don't want to bother grandchildren any more than grandchildren want to bother them.

Poor treatment and high cost seems to be the problem with nursing homes. But, these problems go with almost any project today.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES...** Being a member of the State Community College Board it was my privilege to visit the Wilson County Technical Institute last week.

The State board of Community Colleges will sponsor a series of small conferences to elicit the views of business leaders on the impact which new technologies and economic changes will have on their employment needs over the mid to long range. Special attention will be given to developing a scenario of needs for trained workers in technical and other occupations for which community colleges train.

Business leaders will be asked to review and comment on the role of the community colleges in meeting these needs.

The conferences will result in a series of reports on training needs by industry and possible strategies to address them. These will serve as background for policy-making by the State Board of Community Colleges and local institutions.

**WILSON...**Wilson County was formed in 1855 from Edgecombe, Nash, Johnson, and Wayne counties. It was named in honor of Louis D. Wilson, many times a member of the Legislature from Edgecombe County, a soldier of the Mexican War who died near Vera-Cruz of Fever, and the benefactor of the poor of his native county. Wilson is in the east central section of the state and is bounded by Pitt, Greene, Wayne, Johnson, Nash and Edgecombe counties.

The present area is 375 miles and the population is 61,200. The court was organized to be held at Benjamin Barden's store in Wilson, a village already established, until a courthouse could be built. Commissioners were to acquire a site within one-fourth of a mile of the town of Wilson and erect a courthouse. The captain "corporate Tisnot (Toisnot) Depot, and Hickory Grove in the county of Edgecombe into a town by the name of Wilson." Wilson is the county seat.

**NATIONAL DEBT...**Recently I wrote to Senator Jesse Helms, asking how much the National debt was increasing a month; also, the present National debt was at the end of the month. Here's his answer:

According to Arnold Barnes at Treasury, the amount by which the national debt increased in the month of October 1982 was \$790,721,268.89. The total national debt as of 10/31/82 was: \$1,142,825,151,055.71.

The national debt increased in fiscal year 1982 by \$144,179,906,573.12. The total national debt at the end of fy 1981 was \$977,854,523,213.70. Total national debt at the end of fy 1982 was \$1,142,034,429,786.82.

Think of it: The US National debt in one month increased by \$790,721,268.89!

### Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by *The News-Journal* by 5 p.m. on the Monday of the publication week.

## The News - Journal

**NNA**  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Raeford, N.C. 28376  
119 W. Elwood Avenue

Subscription Rates In Advance  
Per Year—\$8.00 6 Months—\$4.25 3 Months—\$2.25

LOUIS H. FOGLEMAN, JR.	Publisher
PAUL DICKSON	Editor
HENRY L. BLUE	Production Supervisor
WARREN N. JOHNSTON	News Editor
BILL LINDAU	Associate Editor
MRS. PAUL DICKSON	Society Editor
SAM C. MORRIS	Contributing Editor
ANN WEBB	Advertising Representative

Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.  
(USPS 388-240)