

Editorials

Good investment

Members of the Hoke County Commission did a good thing when they decided several years ago to financially back the Chamber of Commerce's efforts for industrial development here.

Even if one looks at the commission's continued support purely on its economic merits, it has been a sound investment.

Last year the almost \$34,000 spent by county taxpayers for the Chamber's industrial search program returned more than \$4.7 million from just one industry.

That is a return of approximately 138 times the annual investment.

The industry is Faberge, which probably would not have located here had it not been for the Chamber and the efforts of Executive Director Earl Fowler.

During 1981 Faberge returned to the county and the City of Raeford \$411,000 in taxes, paid over \$4 million in local salaries and purchased more than \$350,000 from local merchants.

The firm also employs 500 fulltime workers and about 100 part-time employees.

Faberge Corporate Vice-President August A. Zitzman said, during interviews last week with *The News-Journal*, when Raeford was selected, the firm had been looking at 12 other sites in North Carolina and locations in six other states.

The Hoke County Chamber of Commerce and Fowler made the difference, Zitzman said.

Had Faberge decided to locate elsewhere, the old Summerfield Inc. textile plant building could have been purchased by an out-of-state firm whose officials were considering the facility for a warehouse operation.

That company would have employed 16 persons.

Now, Faberge has filled the void left by textile plant's shutdown and replaced the jobs of the more than 500 workers laid off when the Summerfield facility closed.

The Chamber's efforts also opened the door to industrial diversity in Hoke County and lessened the community's dependence on the stability of the textile industry.

Beset by problems like a sewer moratorium and a sluggish economy, the Chamber has had little to show for its recent industrial development efforts.

However, the tangible benefits from Faberge continue to provide local taxpayers with an abundant return on their annual investments put towards finding new industries.

Now that sewer problems seem to be reaching a conclusion, and the current recession is apparently easing, perhaps the Chamber can do it again.

We hope 1983 will be another great year for Hoke County, which would be made even brighter if the Chamber's economic development efforts net another industry like Faberge.

Housing an asset

It is good news that ground will finally be broken in January on 78 units of income subsidized housing here.

Two projects, which will pump \$2.2 million in construction money into the local economy, will be architecturally designed and carefully managed by the Raeford Housing Authority.

Although the housing authority has been organized for several years, until now its board members have been able to do little more than talk about housing in theoretical terms.

Under an arrangement with the Hoke County Commission, the Raeford Housing Authority has jurisdiction over the entire county, and after the first of the year, authority board members plan to hire their first executive director as well as staff members to man a fulltime management office.

Raeford will be unique because no other housing authority in North Carolina has avoided the entanglements of ownership or has been able to concentrate its efforts entirely on management.

Officials hope the separation from ownership will provide strength to management, and help the authority maintain high quality developments.

The new housing developments will also be overseen locally and not by owners from other areas.

In addition, if projects are not being run properly, county residents can complain directly to elected officials to remedy problems.

Perhaps prompted by changes in federal regulations governing public housing and by tight money, developers plan to construct solid, high quality structures on nicely landscaped sites.

With the planning and thought that has gone into these first projects for the authority, it is apparent that the developments will be an asset to this community and a model for other areas of the state.

Properly maintained public developments will also let industries interested in locating here know that Hoke County citizens care about housing and about the quality of life for all its residents.



Letters To The Editor

Exception taken

Dear Editor:
 Since your editorial, "A Costly Move," (December 16), was not signed with a by-line, it was necessary for me to call *The News-Journal* in order to find out the writer.

I should have guessed it to be someone who was not familiar with the circumstances involved in my request for relief from what I believe to be an unfair water and sewer problem.

First of all, we are on three separate water meters. One serves the old boilers and bath house with commodes, showers and lavatories. Since sewer is a part of this, I do and should pay our fees. No argument with rates, service, or whatnot.

A second meter serves the office with water fountain, sinks and commodes, no argument there. The third meter serves the blockplant where we use raw water in our mixer for the batcher and water for the boiler to make steam. The steam condenses, and runs into a catch basin (not the City storm sewer), and is pumped onto our land via a sump pump, never going near the city storm sewer.

In fact, there is no storm sewer on our property, to my knowledge. The water used in the manufactured block is carried to the job site, each block having a moisture content of approximately 30.

Since nothing goes into the city sewer system, I'm simply asking for a variance to the statute that requires a sewer tax and a water rate. I know of several gardens, pools and lawns in Raeford that do not pay a sewer charge and I believe that we should have some relief. As you say, it may not amount to many hundred of dollars but in the depressed building economy, that's a lot.

It was mentioned in the meeting that service stations might fall in the same category that we do. I don't think so because that all must have toilet facilities and certainly those in town discharge into either the storm sewer or the sanitary sewer.

I do not think there will be a problem that the City Manager and I can't solve as to estimated charges since 1979 because of a defective meter. We will use the newly installed meter which they are reading weekly as an adjustment basis.

I hope this brings you up to date on a situation which some have attempted to blow out of proportion.

FIRST WOMAN MAYOR.
 Electing women to public office is not really a new trend. Back in 1887, the town of Argonia, Kansas, elected 27-year-old Susanna Medora Salter as its mayor.

A STIKING OMISSION.
 Believe it or not, one book of the Bible never mentions the name of God. The book is Esther.

NON-VOTING PRESIDENT.
 Gen. Zachary Taylor, 12th President of the United States, never voted in a presidential election, although he could have voted in ten of them.

Our Company has been in operation in Raeford since 1913 and we begin our 70th year soon. While not a large employer at the present time, only 20 people, for many years the Oil Mill was the industrial backbone of the City. Times change, economic conditions change and often it's necessary to look backward as well as forward in order to see things in their proper perspective.

Sincerely,
 Hoke Concrete Works
 Clyde Upchurch, Jr.
 President & General Manager

Greetings from Beirut

To *The News Journal*,
 I am currently assigned to the Hm 263, which is the marine squadron on duty at Lebanon. We are part of the 24th MAU detached from Camp LeJeune, North Carolina and New River Marine Corps Air Station.
 I recently received a copy of the November 18 edition of *The News-Journal*, and being away from Raeford, off and on since 1979, I was amazed to read how much the town/city has grown.
 The paper brought a flood of past memories, and a long awaited opportunity of contact with old friends.

Alton Ray White Jr.
 4cpl USMC
 Beirut, Lebanon

Share Your Christmas

Dear Editor,
 Please allow me to publicly thank the people of Hoke County who made our Share Your Christmas wonderful again this year.

This community's caring folks gave generously of their resources and enabled Share Your Christmas to help over 180 families in some way.

This means that hundreds of people were touched by the true spirit of Christmas.

I could never thank personally all those who gave. Many gave money (it was used to buy new toys, books, socks, fruit and candy), others gave of their precious just-before-Christmas time, and others shared clothing, toys, canned goods and household items.

If only our loving, generous spirit can go on all year long...

Our community has made a good start towards "Peace on earth, good will to men."

Sincerely,
 Kay Thomas

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
 Some people are criticizing Congress for giving itself a raise of \$8,138 a year during the lame brain, I mean lame duck, session, making a member's salary now \$69,800.

With the country in the shape it's in, the critics say, with high unemployment, inflation, lots of bankruptcies, more lay-offs feared and the government head over heels in debt, doesn't this seem like an odd time for Congress to be voting itself a pay raise?

The critics don't understand. Congressmen are fighting inflation in the only way they've figured out.

You see, nation-wide inflation is something Congress doesn't know what to do about, other than refer it to a committee.

But on an individual basis, Congressmen have discovered that there are only two ways of combatting inflation; either spend less or earn more.

Choosing the latter, Congress is thus setting an example. To spend less means further drying-up of consumer buying, which causes less manufacturing, which means more lay-offs, more firms going out of business.

But to earn more, that's the key, and Congress has decided to lead the way by giving itself an \$8,138 raise. Have you stopped to think what a boost it'd be to the economy if everybody got an \$8,138 raise? Why that's enough to make the downpayment on a new car.

Some people will say, "Yeah, but that Congressional pay raise comes from borrowed money, borrowed from us tax payers who're already faced with a 150-billion-dollar deficit."

Such people should go stand in the corner. They should choose their corner carefully because some Congressman may be there ahead of them.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

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 3 p.m. on the Monday of the publication week.

It's a Small World

by Bill Linden

I was writing cutlines for the picture of the Hoke High and East Lee freshman girls' basketball game of the week before the holidays started when I thought about the business of Women's Lib and some of the things that go with it, like changes in names to make them gender-less.

For examples, policemen are now police officers, firemen are well, firefighters, and chairman is chairperson. The latter, incidentally, is wrong for people who follow the rules of parliamentary procedure, Mary Evelyn DeNisoff informed us in one of her Pinehurst columns published in *The Pilot* of Southern Pines.

The parliamentary procedure rule says it's "chairman," and if a distinction of sex is to be made in case a woman holds the position, she's "madame chairman," not "chairwoman," or "chairperson."

Anyway, I was tempted, but not for very long, to write "freshperson" instead of freshman. But this would have been going to extremes, like calling mankind "personkind," or a manhole a "personhole."

Christmas time always reminds me, for some strange reason, of incident, but a very small one, that happened about 55 years ago.

We were living in the Bronx, a borough of New York City and a very high percentage of the families living in the Bronx then were Jewish.

One evening my mother and I went to a butcher shop, a common institution then in the days before the supermarket arrived. When the butcher gave her package of meat, she said, "Merry Christmas."

Immediately, a woman standing nearby, her face lighting up, said, in surprise, "Ah! A Goy! She said 'Meddy Kadissmiss!'" Goy is the Hebrew word for "gentile," a non-Jew.

A comedian told this joke about his mother on a Johnny Carson show a while back.

She and a friend were talking about honesty. The argument got around to powerful temptations.

"So what would you do if you found a million dollars in the street?" the friend asked skeptically.

"I would give it back," mother replied solemnly, "if I found out a poor person lost it."

A recent newspaper story struck another blow at the old myth that practically everybody over 60 can't do anything but sit in a rocking chair and watch the world go by.

The story reported a senior citizen has been passing his regular physical required every two years by the FAA to renew his pilot's license.

The pilot has been flying regularly since 1926.

He is 90 years old.

As another old saying goes, "Just because there's snow on the roof that doesn't mean there's no fire in the furnace."

I also could mention the men and women in their 60s who ride on fox hunts around the Moore County Sandhills, which is very strenuous for anybody. I also heard that one man in his early 70s from the Virginia Hunt Country actually rode—and completed—the Grand National steeplechase at Aintree, Scotland. That's six miles of the hardest kind of riding, and horsemen consider it an accomplishment just completing the course, even if the rider comes in last.

There are loads of stories about strenuous activities indulged in by senior citizens. Like Buster Crabbe, the 1932 Olympic swimming champion and later star of an adventure film series. He works fulltime as a traveling sporting goods salesman—and swims three miles a day just for exercise. He's about 73 now.

For more, you can watch the Senior Olympics held every spring at North Carolina State University.

AULD LANG SYNE



Here's a quartet of wishes for your health, joy, wealth and love.

Happy New Year!

The News - Journal

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