

Opinions

From the Superintendent's Desk

by Rex Arvey

School Boards

You have to live a lifetime before you get the opportunity to do some of the things you have always wanted to do. I had to announce my retirement before I could evaluate school boards.

I will thoroughly enjoy it because while past and present board members are reading this they are preparing to curse me out or have a guilty conscience about all the evil thoughts they have had about me.

D.R. Huff, Bobby Gibson, Bill Howell, Riley Jordan and Wilton Wood served on the board of education when I was appointed superintendent. Mina Townsend, Ruth McNair, Walter Coley, Bill Cameron and Bobby Wright make up the present board.

The board that preceded the present board had a combined service to our Hoke County Schools of 87 years: Huff 23, Wood 15, Gibson 15, Howell 13, Jordan 21.

The present board has a combined service of 22 years: Townsend 6, McNair 6, Cameron 4, Coley 4, Wright 2.

Each board has had a different philosophy and reacted to situations differently.

The board of Huff, Gibson, Howell, Jordan and Wood believed that all decisions should be unanimous.

They did their arguing before the vote to try to persuade each other that theirs was the best for the school system. Once a majority was established on an issue, they made it unanimous. I never saw them vary in the years I worked with them.

The present board very seldom has a vote that is unanimous. Their thinking is that this is healthy and shows the public that each is doing their own thinking. If the public truly accepted that philosophy, I could agree with it, but the public is more apt to accept it as a sign of weakness and seize the opportunity to practice the oldest lesson in social studies and that is to divide and conquer.

That opinion is strictly my own and I have no basis to make that assumption except my observance of public reaction to decisions.

My association with each member of the two boards can only be evaluated on my personal relationship with them and how they looked at the decisions I made.

D.R. Huff could always explain an issue to me in Marine Corps language so I could understand it. He could get my attention real fast. He was an outstanding board member. He was open-minded but very determined when the decision was made. D.R. was not only one of my bosses, he was, and is, one of my friends.

Bill Howell is not only very intelligent, he is a common-sense man. Bill wanted to do what is right. Once he had made up his mind that he was right and fair, a bulldozer couldn't move him. Bill gave me some of the best advice I have ever received when he told me that for my personal and health's sake, I had to learn to accept less than I expected. I am thankful that I had a chance to work with Bill. He has been a good friend.

Bobby Gibson was easy going and most cooperative. He is a fine

business man. I had to really be on my toes when I presented the budget to Bobby. He knows the budget process, and I appreciated that in him.

Bobby was the board member who tried to keep me out of trouble. If I had followed his advice, I wouldn't have received so much adverse publicity.

Wilton Wood was my tormentor, and he did it on purpose. Wilton would constantly probe me on issues to see how I would react. He was a solid board member.

If he was convinced that an issue was best for the school system he stayed with it, and the superintendent could count on his support. I watched him fight hard against an issue and lose. Once the vote was cast he would support it and never mention it again. It was a pleasure to work with him and I regretted the day that I lost that privilege.

Riley Jordan was not only one of the most outstanding board members I have known, he is one of the best friends I have ever made.

There is an old expression that sums up a true friend. A friend is one who will not leave you soaking in the rain. Riley would not leave me soaking in the rain. His word is his bond.

When he took a stand on an issue you could rest assured that he had studied it and knew it well. He is not afraid to call a spade a spade and always stood behind what he said. I would have missed a very warm understanding human being if I had not had the privilege of serving with Riley Jordan.

Mina Townsend has always done what she thinks is right for the school system. This lady stuck with me through some very tough issues. No two people have such a contrast in philosophies. I often kid her and tell her that we just tolerate each other. Mina is open-minded and once she commits herself the superintendent can depend on her.

Ruth McNair was the first and is the only black member of the board of education. I only refer to her race to make a point. Ruth looks at all people out of the same set of eyes. She is one of the most fair-minded people I have ever known. I have never known her to judge a person on the race issue. This lady is open-minded and even-tempered.

Walter Coley has as much compassion for people as any individual I have ever known. He is open-minded and extremely fair. Walter does have a temper when aroused. I have enjoyed my association with him. The superintendent who replaces me will get a fair shake from Walter.

Bill Cameron and I, believe it or not, are friends. I have often told Bill that once I step down as superintendent, he and I will become personal friends. Our personalities clash too much as superintendent and board chairman. Bill has the interest of the school system at heart and as time passes he will increase in stature as a board member. I wish him well.

Bobby Wright is the only member of our present board that I haven't served with for a length of time. Bobby replaced Riley Jordan when he resigned but has now been elected to his own term. Bob-



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by is very open-minded and will listen to all sides of an issue before making up his mind. Bobby Wright will become an outstanding board member.

Bill Moses is the only school board attorney I have served with. He is a fine, dedicated individual. He has been an excellent attorney and a good friend to me. I will miss him.

Even though I have tried to deal with each board member fairly, as I am sure they would with me, and the opinions I gave are strictly mine, I would be less than honest if I said I related to all board members alike.

I did not. I have had conflicts with some of them at various times. The conflicts have not interfered with the operation of the schools. We worked hard to see that that didn't happen.

Serving as a member of the Hoke County Board of Education is a civic duty, but it is also a thankless task. I truly hope that the citizens of Hoke County realize that good board members are as essential to good schools as good teachers are essential to learning.

Two Raeford Students Given Wingate Honors

James Michael Bundy of Rt. 2 Raeford and James Anthony Clark of Rt. 2 Raeford are among those students being named to the Dean's List at Wingate College for the fall semester.

Students must have carried 12 or more hours of academic work, have had no grade below a C, and have made at least 3.3 grade point average [g.p.a.] to qualify for the Dean's List.

Royal formality brings chuckles

The British have a healthy respect for their royalty, past and present. But they are not reluctant to enjoy a good chuckle at the expense of royal and noble personages whose humanity has, on occasion, shown through the trappings of splendor.

For instance, there is a carefully preserved story about the first meeting of George IV with his bride-to-be, Princess Caroline, at St. James Palace in 1820.

Her well-known aversion to bathing made it a bit difficult to ignore her presence under any circumstances. But, at close quarters, the aroma could be overpowering.

On this occasion, so the story goes, George embraced his intended bride, then turned to his ambassador and said, "Harris, I am not well. Pray get me a glass of brandy."

The coronation banquet of George III, in 1760, produced a classic story. On such occasions, it was the custom for a knight in full armor to ride in, fling down his gauntlet, and challenge to a fight any man who disputed the right and title of the new Sovereign.

As a rule, the most difficult thing about this was getting the horse to back politely out of the hall after the heroics were over.

At the banquet for George III, the Champion had trained his horse very carefully. The great moment came. The trumpets sounded. The Earl Marshall and the Lord High Constable stood ready to usher the knight and his prancing steed into the hall.

Then they entered--backwards!

The horse had spent so long learning to go backwards, he had forgotten now to go forward.

The stories don't all come from ancient history. One of the early stories related to the reign of Queen Elizabeth II had to do with the swearing in of the new members of the Privy Council before her Royal Highness. It was a formal occasion, clothed in solemnity, in which the Minister knelt, Bible in hand, along with his entourage.

Somehow, these distinguished gentlemen got themselves kneeling on the wrong side of the room, and they had to crawl on hands and knees to the other side of the chamber.

One of them, as he crawled, knocked a book off the table. It had to be retrieved by the Queen, who, according to an observer, "looked blackly furious."

Later, though, when the Minister apologized to the Queen, she confessed that her stern appearance was but a cover up. She had been hard put to keep from bursting into laughter.

In 1940, during World War II, two bombs fell on Buckingham Palace, only yards away from where the King was sitting.

One of the policemen outside the gates was impressed when he saw the enemy plane bravely piloted straight down the Mall toward its target.

With little attempt to conceal his enthusiasm, he exclaimed to the Queen, "A magnificent piece of bombing, Ma'am, if you'll pardon my saying so."

NOTICE

ALL HOKE COUNTY RESIDENTS PROPERTY TAX LISTING N.C. STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT YOU LIST PROPERTY FOR TAX PURPOSES AS SHOWN BELOW:

WHEN TO LIST:

Beginning at 8:00 A.M. January 4, 1983 through 12:00 Noon Jan. 31, 1983 at the locations noted below.
(Extensions of time to list may be granted upon written request and for valid reason.)

WHO MUST LIST All Residents: Military and Civilian

- All persons owning Real or Personal Property in Hoke County must appear before the tax listers for their township during the period of Jan. 4, through Jan. 31, 1983 to list their property for tax purposes.
- FAILURE TO LIST will subject taxpayer to a fine of \$500.00 or imprisonment not to exceed six months.
- All mobile home owners must list and obtain a registration decal.
- All mobile home park and aircraft storage facility operators, must furnish to the tax Supervisor the name of the owner of each aircraft or mobile home and a description of each by Jan. 17, 1983.
- NOTE: Military personnel may be exempt from personal property tax if they submit proof that their "Home of Record" is other than North Carolina.

WHAT TO LIST - All Real and Personal Property.

- All property owned as of Jan. 1, 1983 must be listed.
 - All real property including buildings and improvements, and machinery permanently affixed.
 - Household furniture, appliances, T.V.'s, air conditioners, fans, diamonds, and jewelry, typewriters, boats and motors, trailer, etc.
 - Farm equipment, livestock, poultry, supplies and products in storage, etc.
 - Motor vehicles; all automobiles, trucks, airplanes, motorcycles, campers, etc.
 - Business Personal Property: merchandise, finished goods, equipment, furniture and fixtures, goods in process, raw materials, samples, etc.
 - Inventories are reported as of the latest completed fiscal year if the business year ends on a date other than Dec. 31.
- ALL OTHER TANGIBLE PROPERTY NOT SPECIFIED

WHERE TO LIST - By Township

Raeford - Courthouse Annex - Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and Saturdays - 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, Jan. 31, 1983

Allendale, Antioch, Blue Springs, McLauchlin, Stonewall and Quewhiffle - in the Hoke County Library, Main St., Raeford, N.C. Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and Saturdays 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, Jan. 31, 1983.

Larry J. Holt
Tax Supervisor

For further information call: 875-8751

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