



GETTING THINGS ROLLING--City Manager Ron Matthews huddles with Youth Council Vice President Amy Wilson in an effort to plan out the March 7 Student Government Day in which the students in the youth council will take the place of city and county officials for the day.

High Energy Costs Force School Cuts

By Sherry Matthews
The Hoke County School System is being nibbled away at, like most consumers, by escalating energy problems.

"The energy problems were eating up our budget and something had to be done," Hoke County School Superintendent Raz Autry said.

In the past four years, the energy bills for the Hoke school system have risen by \$100,000 and of that money the state only provides 30%; the rest has to come from the local budget.

It is because of the increased bills that an energy program was devised, Autry said.

"We are trying very hard to make these old buildings more energy efficient," he added.

Of the seven schools in the county only Hoke High, J.W. McLaughlin and Turlington use natural gas.

The others use oil. According to Autry, there are changes being made to cut back on energy use.

"We have changed some of the windows in the schools, set all the thermostats back to 68° in the winter and 78° in the summer and placed ceiling fans in all the school lunch rooms," Autry said.

Along with those improvements, the school system has also had every classroom's lighting tested and reduced to what the state had recommended.

The schools have also appointed energy coordinators for the purpose of keeping abreast of the energy problems and finding out which areas need the most immediate attention.

"While these improvements have not actually reduced our bills, they have kept them from going up even with the rate hikes," Autry said.

Of all the Hoke County schools, Hoke High is the largest user of energy.

About 60% of all the energy used in the school system is used by the high school, Autry said.

There has been an energy problem, and there still is, but its magnitude has been reduced, said Autry.

The real key to solving the problem lies in the cooperation that teachers and students are willing to give us, without that, it is really a wasted effort, added Autry.

"If teachers don't practice energy conservation and teach it to their students, then it is all for nothing," said Autry.



SWEETHEART BALL -- Upchurch Junior High School held its annual Sweetheart Ball on Friday evening, February 11. Kelly Calloway (center) was crowned the Valentine Queen. Rosalind Day (standing right) was first eighth grade attendant, and Sheri Bratcher (kneeling right) was second eighth grade attendant. Nikki Bratcher (standing left) was first seventh grade attendant and Sherry Beasley (kneeling left) was second seventh grade attendant. The event was sponsored by the Student Council.

Shoplifting Laws Pose Questions For Merchants

In 1957, the North Carolina General Assembly changed the law of shoplifting to make it very easy for a merchant to convict a shoplifter. Instead of having to wait for the shoplifter to go outside of the store without paying for his goods, the new law provided that if a person, without authority and while in the store, willfully concealed goods not already purchased about his person, then he would be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine, imprisonment, or both upon conviction.

This change of the North Carolina law on shoplifting was certainly in the merchant's favor.

Unfortunately, one drawback of the law made merchants hesitant to try to enforce it. The drawback ap-

Law For Laypersons

peared when a merchant tried to stop a person whom he suspected of shoplifting. Experienced shoplifters are naturally very good at quickly concealing goods on their person; sometimes it is difficult to be certain that goods have indeed been concealed.

If the merchant stopped someone, accused him of shoplifting, and it turned out that the person was not shoplifting anything at all, serious consequences to the merchant might occur.

An experienced shoplifter will ordinarily threaten a merchant with a suit for malicious prosecution, false imprisonment or false

arrest if he dares to detain or accuse him.

In 1971, another change was made in North Carolina's shoplifting law to remedy this drawback. The new law provided that a merchant, his agent, or employee, or a peace officer who detains or causes the arrest of anybody should not be held civilly liable for detention, malicious prosecution, false imprisonment, or false arrest of that person if the detention was done in a reasonable manner for a reasonable length of time, provided that the merchant, agent, employee, or peace officer had at the time of the detention or arrest probable cause to believe that the person committed the offense of shoplifting.

Merchants now have more pro-

tection in the event that they stop someone and then find out that the person is not a shoplifter after all.

The person detained, of course, may still insist that any detention must be in a reasonable manner and for a reasonable length of time and that the person who detains him must have probable cause to believe that he actually committed the offense of shoplifting.

If the person detained under this new law happens to be a minor, 16 years of age or younger, North Carolina law also provides that the merchant must call or notify the parent or guardian of the minor during that period of detention. In this manner, the very young person is protected by quickly requiring the notification of the parents or guardian.

Cattle Used In Many Ways

By John Sledge
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation

The good things from cattle go far beyond the table.

According to the Beef Industry Council, the average 1,000 pound steer yields about 432 pounds of steaks, roasts, and beefburgers. What happens to the rest? "Very little of the animal is wasted," the Council points out.

"Of the remaining 568 pounds, the majority yields a vast array of edible, inedible and pharmaceutical by-products. Most consumers are totally unaware of how many important products rely on some cattle by-product for their existence."

Of the many by-products, the edible are by far the most well known. Livers, kidneys, hearts, brains, tripe, tongue -- all are highly nutritious foods, esteemed by many as delicacies.

Some of the inedible by-products also are well known, especially leather, felt and hair from the hide. But, few are aware of the wide variety of life-saving, life improving drugs derived from cattle -- the best known of which is insulin, needed every day by hundreds of thousands of American diabetics.

Other pharmaceuticals used every day make childbirth safer, help settle upset stomachs, prevent blood clots, control anemia and assist in cancer research.

Still other by-products prolong the life of automobile tires, hold plaster on walls and asphalt on streets, or insulate homes.

Although it's hard to attach a dollar value to the contributions of cattle by-products, the very real monetary value of these by-products helps keep the price of beef well below what it might otherwise be.

State Should Keep Out Of Religion

by Lucien Coleman
Religious freedom in America has withstood the onslaughts of enemies for the past two centuries. Whether it can survive the good intentions of its friends remains to be seen.

To their everlasting credit, some of our more illustrious forefathers had the good sense to believe that religion was a matter of personal conscience and that government had no business subsidizing or promoting any particular religious views. This sentiment led to the adoption of the First Amendment.

This amendment guarantees, on one hand, that the state won't use your tax money to support my religious views.

On the other hand, it assures us that no one is going to use a gun or the threat of jail to keep us from worshipping in our own ways.

Thomas Jefferson spoke on the First Amendment as a "wall of separation between Church and State."

James Madison was so devoted to this principle that he was against paying congressional chaplains out of public funds. Instead, he urged the members of Congress to pay

Things That Matter

their chaplains out of their own pockets.

From time to time, though, leaders of state have been unable to resist the temptation to get their fingers into the religious pie.

A case in point is the congressional resolution, passed with the President's blessing, that has proclaimed 1983 "The Year of the Bible."

Now, I happen to believe the Bible with a passion. But I also believe that it is the business of the church, not the state, to promote biblical faith. And it is the business of both to promote religious freedom.

Some supporters of this resolution claim that it is entirely in harmony with our nation's historical antecedents.

This simply isn't true.

For example, Thomas Jefferson steadfastly refused to proclaim a day of fasting and prayer in commemoration of the Revolutionary War on the grounds that "religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God," and that

"he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship."

The same principle is at stake in the controversy surrounding the proposed "prayer amendment," which keeps coming back like a song.

One of the purposes of this amendment is to leave school teachers free to conduct religious exercises in the classroom.

Advocates of the amendment insist that it would merely allow "voluntary" prayer and Bible reading in public schools.

But how free is a child not to participate in such exercises if he happens to be the only kid in his room who doesn't want to?

He might be free to leave the room, but he won't be free of social pressure.

And don't forget that public funds are paying for the teacher's time while he or she conducts the religious exercise.

Several years ago, James Bryce wrote, "Half the wars of Europe...have arisen from theological differences or from the rival claims of church and state. This whole vast chapter of debate and strife had been avoided in the U.S."

May it ever be so.

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