

# Editorials

## Newspaper has new look

After 22 years, we have changed our banner. Because the banner is the newspaper's identification and point of recognition, it is a major event to change it. It is not a move to be taken lightly or to be made whimsically. It is one we gave careful consideration.

Unlike some newspapers which change their banner every week like dirty laundry, the move in this week's *News-Journal* is only the third in the history of the newspaper.

The last change of the banner was made 22 years ago almost to the day of this week's edition. That change came when Publisher Paul Dickson converted the printing process from "hot type" to offset on August 17, 1961.

Prior to the shift in 1961, *The News-Journal* banner had remained unchanged since Paul Dickson Sr. bought out D. Scott Poole and merged the *Hoke County News* and the *Hoke County Journal* on November 8, 1929.

The change today from the old Rondo type to the new Artcraft style represents a continuing effort to make *The News-Journal* more readable.

However, the change does not represent a shift in this newspaper's policies or procedures.

We feel that we have a responsibility to keep our news stories objective, and we will continue to present all sides of an issue.

At the same time we will present the newspaper's views about subjects in the "editorials," individual writer's opinions in our columns and your thoughts in the "letters to the editor" section.

In the August 17, 1961 edition, Paul Dickson noted in an editorial

### CLIFF BLUE . . .

## People & Issues

AT AGE 70... At age 70, Mrs. Sadie Bye Hall of Lumberton is an enthusiastic junior at Pembroke University and is looking forward to the day she marches down the aisle to receive her B.A. degree in history.

A widow with no children she retired from the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad in June of 1981 and after 38½ years of service, she says: "I never got it out of my head that I was going back to school. The young people at Pembroke State treat me like I'm one of them. I don't feel any different. They call me Sadie."

She is proud of the fact that in the fall semester of 1982 she made the Dean's List at PSU.

N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY... The North Carolina General Assembly's 1983 session commenced at noon January 12.

The lawmakers assembled in Raleigh talking budget austerity and no new or increased taxes.

Many of them spoke of how this was finally going to be an efficient legislature, one that wouldn't dawdle, go through a lot of wasted motion or allow time to slip through its collective fingers.

And what happened? When the General Assembly finally called it quits at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 22, it had gone into the record books as remaining in session longer than any other legislature in state history.

As for budget austerity, the pending bill that was enacted displayed no trace of bare bones. Rather than indulging in any real budget-stripping the legislators increased various taxes and created a few new ones -- to the tune of about \$212 million a year!

TAX INCREASE... We feel that counties which are thinking of having a public hearing about the ½ percent extra tax should go slow. Once you get a tax on, it's hard to repeal it.

For the first five years after enactment of the half-cent sales tax, a county may use 60 percent of its proceeds from the tax for any lawful purpose in an unrestricted manner. The remaining 40 percent must be used for public school

capital outlay purposes or to retire an indebtedness incurred by the county for such purposes.

The next five years the ratio is 70 percent for any lawful purpose and 30 percent for schools.

After 10 years, 100 percent of the proceeds may be used for any lawful purpose by the county. Municipalities have the same restrictions on the use of the tax proceeds distributed to them as do counties, except that towns must use the funds for water and sewage capital outlay purposes rather than for public schools.

There is an important difference in the distribution of the proposed half-cent tax revenue and the existing one-cent local option tax. The half-cent tax will be distributed to participating counties on a per-capita basis according to the most recent annual population estimates as certified by the state, whereas the one-cent tax revenue is distributed on a point of collection basis.

ANYTHING GOES... "In some cities, double-breasted suits for men are back in style... Jane Fonda's exercise workouts are smash hits in Los Angeles, but not in Washington, D.C." -- *U.S. News & World Report*.

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that "our most important position is that we are interested in the future of Hoke County, not dredging up skeletons from the past."

That position has not changed, and we feel the new banner symbolizes our regard for what's ahead for this county.

## Fight for pork 'barrel' should start immediately

It is unfortunate that a lack of political clout stood in the way of funding for the Hoke County Courthouse restoration project during the past session of the state legislature.

The 72-year-old courthouse is deteriorating and in need of speedy repair.

In order to cover the cost of project, county officials had requested an \$82,500 slice of the state legislature's \$1.5 million "pork barrel" or voter appeasement bill.

Members of the local legislative delegation cannot explain exactly why, but the Hoke Courthouse bill was not pushed, and the only money coming to this county was \$25,000 for the Mill Prong restoration project.

The way the "Omnibus Local Appropriations" bill works is that each senator and representative is given a fixed amount of money for projects in their districts.

Anyone with a worthy public project can ask for a share of the pie. Those, who make enough political noise, get the money.

This year Hoke County did not ask loud enough, and the money went elsewhere.

Robeson County, which is in the same legislative district as Hoke,

received \$145,000 from delegation members Reps. Danny DeVane, Pete Hasty and Sidney Locks and another \$50,000 from Sen. David Parnell.

For Robeson, which has almost 80,000 more people than Hoke and about five times the number of voters, some of the plums were doled out to projects like \$50,000 for a resource center, \$35,000 for Strike At The Wind, \$35,000 for the Carolina Theatre, \$10,000 for a senior citizens center and \$20,000 for forest fire service.

Around the rest of the state, Cumberland County got a new library, the Hamlet Railroad Museum got \$25,000, Swansboro got \$16,000 for a festival and \$85,000 went to a mountain International Folk Festival.

In addition to the courthouse rehabilitation, county residents and officials are considering projects like an arts festival and downtown revitalization.

The pork barrel would be a good source for backing for these projects.

If one looks at what was funded during the last session, it is clear that money does not go to the worthiest projects, just to the askers with the most "clout."

Robeson obviously had their plans organized and pressured the delegation into giving them the grants.

Because Hoke is smaller than Robeson and Scotland counties, we are going to have to work harder and pull the right strings to get the money we need.

This county will have another shot during the short legislative session held next June.

If we are going to get the money for the courthouse and for other local projects, county officials and others are going to have to start their lobbying efforts now.



## Senator Parnell takes exception to news article

To the Editor: I normally do not respond to articles in the press, but in the case of your article in last week's *News Journal* headlined "Politics Cost Hoke County Courthouse Funding Bill," I felt that I should make an exception.

The writer of this article and Rep. Danny DeVane, through quotes attributed to him, have inferred that I have neglected Hoke County in that the General Assembly failed to fund Senate Bill 218 which would have provided funds for restoration of Hoke County Courthouse.

I feel that this is somewhat unfair in view of the fact that during the five terms I have served in the General Assembly, I am the only member of this body who has introduced Special Appropriation Bills for Hoke County.

We introduced bills in 1977, 1979, and 1981 that were funded for projects in Hoke County.

Since your article was critical of the fact that three other bills were funded rather than Senate Bill 218, I would like to point out that Hoke County will benefit from all three of these bills.

(1) Mill Prong House: This house is located in Hoke County, is 185 years old, and has considerable historical and architectural value to Hoke County and the surrounding area.

(2) Pre-Release and After-Care Center: The appropriation of \$25,000 will be used as "seed money" to eventually establish this Center in Robeson County. This center will serve not only prisoners from Robeson County, but prisoners from Hoke and other counties in the area.

(3) Tribal Economic Training Fund: The appropriation of \$25,000 in this bill will fund one position with the N.C. Indian Affairs Commission for an Economic Developer. Hoke County, with a large Indian population, could benefit from this program.

Although the writer of the article in last week's *News Journal* and Rep. DeVane apparently do not agree with my decision to fund these bills rather than the Hoke County Courthouse Bill, I do not feel that I have in any way short-changed Hoke County.

David R. Parnell  
N.C. Senate

## Letters To The Editor

### Other side not told

To the Editor: I read with interest your reporter's article in the August 11 *News Journal* concerning the proposed new dog pound, as discussed at a Hoke-Raeford Humane Society meeting Monday night August 8 at the library.

I was present. There was a good attendance, and all of us expressed ourselves audibly, as well as the director. We felt it best to compromise on the site favored by most of the city council and the county commissioners, in order to speed up the work.

I was on a committee appointed by these bodies back in the early winter, to investigate and study the pros and cons of a location and to draw up tentative plans for a new dog facility. We worked together (five on this committee) every week for a month and met all these requests, and then presented them to the commissioners.

We favored the Calloway site. We thought it had only one minor drawback, which was written up in your paper, but we felt like the isolated place of the present landfill would be a serious deterrent to

people going there to adopt an animal, which after all, is our ideal goal.

However, there were some favorable things to be said about the present landfill location, as well as the Calloway property.

Therefore, at the Humane Society meeting Monday night we all agreed to go along with the landfill location.

Before the vote was taken many of us expressed ourselves pro and con about these two sites. But we felt it best to compromise in order to get the new dog pound built before freezing weather.

It would be interesting to know why Sherry Matthews quoted only Jack and Sheryl McGinnis, over and over, and never quoted a single remark made by the rest of us.

Frances Gatlin

### Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

I was listening to a group of high-salaried TV commentators talking about politics the other day.

One commentator said the government's deal to sell a lot of grain to Russia was just a move to get the farm vote.

Another one broke in to say that's not so. "Only 3 percent of the population are farmers," he said. "And they're so insignificant they're not worth worrying about."

That's like saying that of all the thousands of manufacturing plants in this country, only four, or less than 1 one-thousandth of 1 percent, are making cars, so the automobile industry isn't worth worrying about.

I could cite the fact that agriculture is the country's largest user of petroleum products, that it's a multi-billion-dollar business affecting millions of jobs in other enterprises, and without it supermarkets and cafes couldn't stay in business. But it wouldn't do any good. TV commentators are paid to have opinions. Nothing in their contracts says they have to know what they're talking about.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

# Occasional words spell difficulty for writer

By Warren Johnston

Back when I was working my way through journalism school as a bartender, Phil Sanderlin would stop in the establishment for an occasional happy hour.

Phil, who is an associate editor for *The Athens (Georgia) Observer*, had a spelling problem then, as he apparently does now. The other patrons at the bar and I tried to help Phil by asking him to spell his drink orders. If he did not spell it correctly, he did not get the drink.

Phil was a quick learner and the Pavlovian approach to spelling seemed to work until about the fourth drink when he would lapse into ordering a "gen and tunic."

Spelling problems seem to still be plaguing Phil, and he talks about them in this recent column he wrote for *The Observer*.

You'd think that working with words constantly a man would learn to spell. I do all right with most words, but for some reason there are certain words I have a mental block against. No matter how many times I use them, I have to look them up in the dictionary every time. This selective amnesia baffles me, but I can't get rid of it.

### The Puppy Papers

The word "concede" is a prime example. I usually spell it "conceed." To me, that's how it ought to be spelled. But Mr. Webster doesn't agree. Every time I use the word in an article, I either misspell it or have to look it up. Why does a simple little word like c-o-n-c-e-d-e refuse to stay in my memory?

Another one of my bugaboo words is "occasion." I can never remember if it's spelled "ocassion," "ocassion" or "ocassion." I had to look it up just now before I wrote it in this column. Some people say you can just write down the spelling you're thinking of using and see if it looks right. That doesn't work for me because all three spellings of occasion look just fine to me.

Some people say the reason we get confused in our spelling is that English is too inconsistent a language. They recommend a simpler, more phonetic English with words spelled just as they sound. (The word "recommend," now that it's come up, is another one of those devil words. I swear it ought to be reccommend.)

Horace Greeley, the famous editor, was a spelling reformer. He was constantly urging people to use simpler spelling, like "tho" for "though." After his unsuccessful attempt to gain the presidency, a newspaper opposed to his politics and his spelling had a one-word headline on the story of his election defeat: "THRU."

What's really bad is when one of the words whose spelling you can't remember is one you are forced to use often. Covering the city council and the county commission back when they granted or revoked liquor licenses, I was always spelling it "licence." This is acceptable British spelling, but my editor isn't an old Oxford man, and he got rather irritated at my constant mistake.

Now, I no longer misspell license, but I still have to look it up every time. I'm also working for a cable TV station now, and I'm in trouble again. I can never remember if it's "cable" or "cabel."

Putting all these nuisance words together is my worst nightmare. I know that someday, writing a story just at deadline, I'll hear this statement from some public official as I listen to my tape recorder: "On this occasion, I concede it would be best to recommend the granting of the cable license." I'll quit.