

More to be Pitied . . .

To parody a song of the Gay Nineties, "They're more to be pitied than censured." Who? The Beaufort town board and its attorney.

For more than a year now, they have heard nothing, but gripes and complaints about their court and their "we-need-the-money" law enforcement. They're shivering in their boots for fear the newspaper or the citizens will get mad enough to say, "Get rid of the court, go back to your mayor's court and police force of two years ago (which means a force minus Chief Guy) and make Beaufort a normal place to live in once again."

As a matter of fact, the townspeople have been saying that ever since the court came into existence. The method of law enforcement was criticised openly by one former town commissioner, J. O. Barbour Jr., in a recent town board meeting. And we take our hat off to him, for he had the courage to speak out while THE NEWS-TIMES, until last week, kept quiet, hoping that somehow, some way the commissioners would come to their senses.

But we doubt if they will, for if the financial reports presented are accurate, the town, finally, is making a couple hundred dollars on its court and that in itself is sufficient to keep the cankerous sore running and running. After all, if the court were abolished, the judge and the town attorney who serves as solicitor would lose their jobs, and the town would probably have to pay less in clerical help because all that work of making up dockets and keeping court records would be unnecessary. Such economy would be unthinkable!

It seems as though one thing the police commissioner, Gordon Hardesty, and the town attorney, Mr. Smith, are unhappy about is the use of the word "arrest" and "citation." The word "arrest," in applying to the stopping of a person by an officer of the law, is common usage. Police officers remark that they have made an "arrest," when actually they have issued a "citation" to someone to appear in court. In the Beaufort board meeting Monday night, Commissioner Gerald Hill asked how many "arrests" Chief Guy had made. Actually the so-called "arrests" were citations, but in ordinary conversation, the word citation is used rarely.

It has ALWAYS been the policy of THE NEWS-TIMES, in reporting court news to use terms that will be readily understood by a reader. When the state decides not to prosecute a case, we don't write "nolle prosequi" in newstories, when a capias is issued, we use the word "warrant" or "bench warrant" because it is more readily understandable to the reader. Maybe it isn't "law," as Mr. Smith would have it, but we're not editing a law journal, we're publishing a newspaper in a way that we know the people will know what is happening.

People are downright mad at the way law is being enforced in Beaufort. The town board and I-Know-the-Law Smith don't like being called to task. So they're splitting hairs over things like "arrest" and "citation."

What's wrong with law enforcement in Beaufort? We have had so many complaints brought to us and we have tried to explain to the complainers, verbally, that the court is young and the commissioners are "trying." We have tried to calm the outraged victims. But we see now that no diplomatic handling of the Beaufort situation will make things better for the people of Beaufort or those who pass through there.

Just this week Charles G. Taylor, route 1 Newport, came to us and said that he had to pay a dollar fine Saturday because he parked in the space between the Sinclair Service Station and Dr. Way's office on Front Street. There was no "no parking" sign there.

He objected to paying the fine under the circumstances, but he paid it and then brought it to our attention.

He had been to see Dr. Way. He added, "And I'll never go back to Beaufort again unless I have to go to the doctor's."

Not long ago, some folks from Beaufort RFD, said they have taken to going to Newport and New Bern to do their shopping because they are getting fed up with what they described as the predatory law enforcement in Beaufort which seeks only to get defendants in the town Recorder's Court.

A woman, cited (please note word usage) for going through a stop sign and who paid \$21.50 costs said the chief of police did not stop her right after she allegedly went by the sign, but followed her for three blocks and when she stopped at the postoffice to go in for her mail, he walks up and asks why she went through the stop sign.

She said she was baffled for a moment, didn't know what he was talking about. But she said she understood later, "He was hoping he could get me for speeding, too, so he didn't bother to stop me, after I had looked both ways at the stop sign, shifted into second and went on."

So it goes. We could offer testimonial after testimonial. In Beaufort, it's not a case of the officers' warning motorists as does the highway patrol or any efficient law enforcing organization. It's citation (please note word usage) on-the-spot because they have to make the court pay.

It's a sorry situation. Last week the police commissioner tells a NEWS-TIMES reporter the names of persons cited to court should be made available to the press. Monday night when the chief says they're going to be kept "secret," the police commissioner says nothing.

The inconsistency is pitiful. We know some high school seniors who would do better at administering the town than the present board.

The May 3, 1955 election is much too far away.

Move-Minded Mamas

(From the Greensboro Daily News)

There are two kinds of people in the world — those who like things in the same place, and those who have a congenial distaste for seeing a piece of furniture in the same place more than 48 hours.

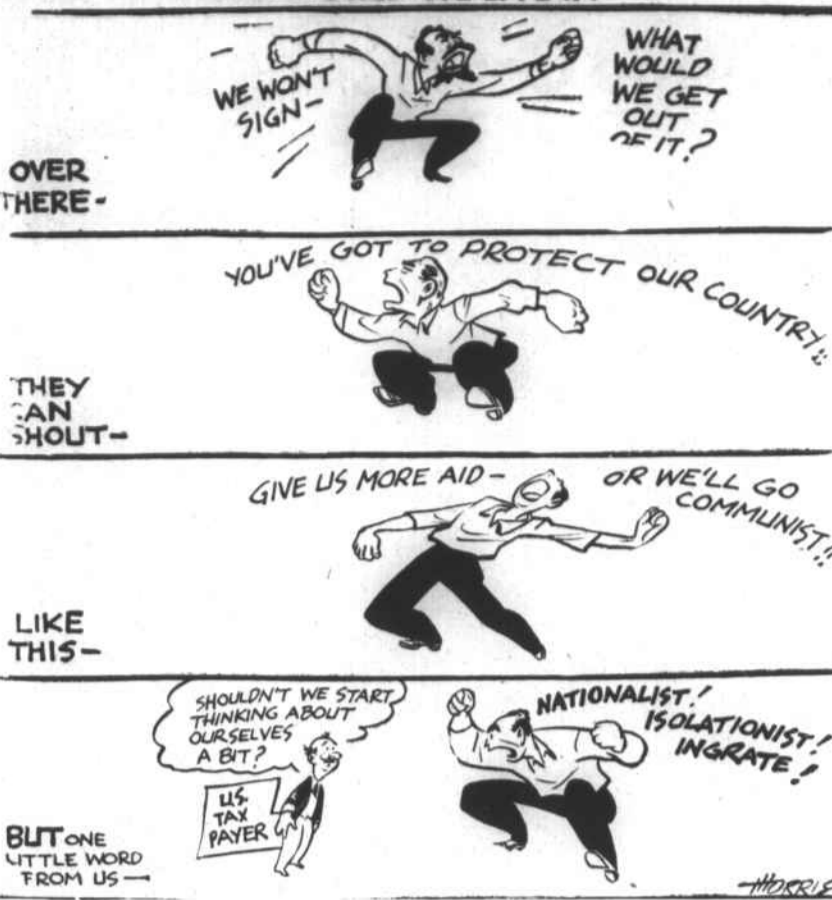
There are men who like to move furniture, men who tackle the job with enthusiasm and who, on finishing the deal, sit down to view their accomplishment with satisfaction.

But, mostly, those who have that inner craving to move things are women — wives, mothers, aunts and grandmothers. Ever so often they get that easy-to-get-along-with way. They bake a favorite pie, make home-made rolls, cook up a big pot of vegetable soup — all kinds of culinary lures. Then as the Man of the House gets a day off and relaxes in his favorite club chair, he's approached by "You know, Honey, I've been thinking . . ."

He's heard that introduction before and he could predict word for word the next five minutes' plea. The sofa ought to go over by the front window, or maybe by the side porch door. The desk never looked right facing the front door. That picture in the attic would be just right for the blank space near the dining room door. And so it goes . . .

In this age of an insurance for every malady and misfortune which can befall mankind, why doesn't somebody think up a policy to protect a man from move-minded mamas?

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN



Jane Eads

Kidd Brewer

Washington

It doesn't take Congress, or the town's two top hostesses, Perle Mesta and Gwen Cafritz, to start up Washington's social merry-go-round. It goes a little slower in the swelter season, but right now it's winding up to a brilliant '54-'55 spin.

Members of Congress, the Supreme Court and other big wigs still may be away, but there are always important visitors, and vacationing diplomats are returning to add glamor to the scene. Mrs. Mesta has been at her Newport residence. Mrs. Cafritz is with her wealthy realtor husband, making like Mme. Curie with specially designed fancy costume and head-dresses of radiant tubes and silver wires at the Celebrities Ball highlighting the International Film Festival at Venice.

But there are other hostesses, and any reason is a good one for a party—U. S. Treasurer Ivy Baker Priest's birthday for example. The opening event of the season was given in her honor by the beautiful young Mrs. Blake Clark and her handsome husband, Washington representative of one of the nation's biggest magazines. Eager to return to the party circuit, the cocktails and the lavish buffets, everybody of importance showed up avowedly refreshed and raring to go right on through the big season.

Another party that brought out the top brass was that given by the commandant of the Marine Corps and Mrs. Lemuel Shepard at their Marine Barracks residence. The popular bachelor ambassador Athanasios Politis, was host at another big party at the Greek embassy honoring visiting members of the Greek parliament. And the Korean Ambassador and Mrs. Yang, who has just returned from a four-month sojourn in Europe, entertained in honor of government officials from their country.

On schedule is a dinner party which Adm. Robert B. Carney, chief of naval operations, and Mrs. Carney, are giving at Admiral's House at the U. S. Naval Observatory for Vice Adm. Richard S. Ofsite and his recent bride, the former Capt. Joy Hancock, onetime director of the WAVES. Adm. Ofsite is deputy chief of naval operations for air.

Today's Birthday

ROUBEN MAMOULIAN, born Oct. 8, 1897 in Tiflis, Georgia, Russia. A top flight director of stage and screen productions, Mamoulia has won critical cheers for his productions of operas, musical comedies and serious dramas. He conquered Broadway in 1927 with his direction of "Porgy" and matched that prize-winner with his direction of the musical version, "Porgy and Bess," in 1935. He is married to Azadia Newman, an artist.

What It Means

The next time you receive a letter that carries the word "Sincerely" above the signature of the writer, pause a moment and think of the origin of that word. As you may recall, it was first used as "ain cereley," meaning "without wax," by ancient sculptors to mark a flawless piece of work.

Wax was then commonly employed to conceal defects, to patch a chipped nose, a poorly shaped finger, etc. Sincerely is too honest a word to be used loosely, but it is a good word when consciously employed.

Raleigh Roundup

HEART . . . Sam Goldfein, of Charlotte, who resigned his position as head chef with the Prisons Department, has had a heart attack and is in a Charleston, S. C. hospital.

As a result of what we wrote here week before last, Prisons Director William F. Bailey has again attempted to secure for Sam Goldfein the difference between the amount of money promised him when he came with prisons — and the amount he actually received. Bailey has been unsuccessful. Red tape and the fact remains that Sam Goldfein is flat on his back in the hospital.

MOUNTAIN MAN . . . The entire state is mourning the passing of Robert L. Doughton, the grand old man from the mountains and a stolid oak which stood strong in the storms and ably represented his State and the nation for so many years in the U. S. Congress.

It was my pleasure to know "Mr. Bob" rather intimately. He at one time offered yours truly the position as his secretary — a fact in which I have always taken a great deal of pride.

He will long be remembered as a man who attained great success, but never lost the common touch.

EARLY AND LATE . . . Many of the richest stories they told on Congressman Bob Doughton in Washington concerned his early arrival to work mornings.

In the rosiest days of the New Deal—when Uncle Bob was a hale and hearty 75—he was frequently in his office by 6 o'clock. At the age of 85, I am told, he let up a little and didn't get to his work until seven.

On this particular morning, the story goes, one of the little North Carolina stenographers working for Congressman Doughton had been out on a party. She was 20, spring-time was in the air, and so the good-timing rocked along easily until, suddenly, it was dawn—or sun-up, if you are a native of Doughton country.

Shocked at the lateness, or the earliness, of the hour, the little girl hurried to the office to pick up something before heading to her apartment for a few hours' rest.

Before she could get out, Uncle Bob arrived, complimented her mightily on her industriousness, complained about modern young women who stayed up so late at night they could not get to work on time the next morning.

She put in a day of it—and lived to tell the tale.

KEEP ON HEARING . . . We keep on hearing Dr. Henry Jordan's name being mentioned in connection with the next gubernatorial campaign in North Carolina. If you think time doesn't fly, just remember that the next big race is less than eighteen months away.

Look back in your memory for a few moments and you will recall that Democratic Nominee W. Kerr Scott, when he was on his last legs as Governor, prevailed — but wholly in vain as fate would have it—upon his highway chairman, Henry Jordan, to run against William B. Umstead in the campaign of 1952.

Brother Jordan, nobody's fool in political ways — or any other way, for that matter, put his finger to the wind to see how things looked. He found so many cross currents developing for the campaign that Henry felt he could not be a candidate in '52. But conditions at that time were of a temporary nature and lasted for only a relatively short while.

New that he's through building highways, he has more time to make a study of the situation as it now confronts him. Big question facing Dr. Henry Jordan is

This is the Law

By CHARLES W. DANIEL
For the N. C. Bar Association

JUDICIAL REFORMS

The 1955 North Carolina General Assembly will be given a chance to distinguish itself by making judicial reforms which will materially improve the Tar Heel system of justice and, thereby, benefit every citizen of this state.

Some long-overdue reforms, mentioned here last week by way of background, will be presented to the General Assembly by the North Carolina Judicial Council and the General Statutes Commission, both non-paid agencies of the state and both favored by some of the state's top legal minds.

The judicial council has concluded after intense study that the first necessary step toward quicker trials is to restrict the state, increasing the number of judicial divisions from two (as now constituted) to four, and the number of districts from the present twenty-one to thirty. The practical effect of this plan is to reduce the orbit in which a Superior Court judge would have to travel. He would stay closer home longer, having more time to devote to the actual trial of cases and the dispensation of other official duties.

North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice M. Victor Barnhill said that redistricting has been sorely needed since 1912. So, it's at least 42 years overdue.

Rotation of Judges

A companion plan to re-districting which will be presented to the next legislature is that of modifying the present practice of moving judges around from county to county, often hundreds of miles from home. This plan, evolved by former Supreme Court Justice Sam J. Ervin Jr., now the state's junior senator, would keep judges in their home districts for six months at a time and is calculated to keep the home judge on the local scene long enough to clear up many old cases that now clutter top-heavy dockets. So, a judge would hold court in his home district for two years in an eight-year term of office.

The redistricting plan would not change the present solicitor districts. The Chief Justice assigns Superior Court judges. His assistant, Max Cogburn, who prepares court schedules and assignments, has assured this column that the new redistricting plan will not cause conflicts with the work of solicitors. He should know; he schedules the courts.

New Rules Needed

One of the prime reasons why it takes too long to try many cases

in court today is the maze of scrambled, antiquated rules of procedure with which the courts — and the public — are saddled.

These rules permit—sometimes even force — delays in final settlement of law suits. We need to clean house and start afresh with modernized, more flexible rules of procedure, PLACING THE RULE-MAKING POWER IN THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT. If this power is transferred to the court (as the federal rule power is exercised by the United States Supreme Court), from the legislature, quick changes and additions could be made as the need appeared. The legislature, meeting once in two years, is hard-pressed by myriad other problems and the perennial race against time.

It is hoped (and expected) that the 1955 General Assembly will give our Supreme Court some long-needed assistance in the form of law clerks. These clerks, if authorized could be assigned to work — at least part-time and under direct supervision of the court — in compiling new, workable rules for North Carolina Courts to replace the antiquated system now in effect. The legislature would not be asked to relinquish its court rule power until it had opportunity to examine and pass the new rules.

Barnhill Favors Plan

Practical, forward-looking Chief Justice Barnhill is understood to favor the general plan outlined above. He fears, however, the possibility that the legislature might hand over the rule-making power at one session, and then take it back at another. Such a sequence of events, obviously, would serve neither the legislature, the court, nor the people of the State. The court, if it accepted the rule power, along with a new package of rules, must be assured that the results of its work would remain inviolate.

It is for this reason that a transfer of the rule power to the court should, properly, be done by means of a Constitutional Amendment. It is difficult to get passage of Constitutional Amendments in North Carolina. Further, in this particular case, the legislature might be reluctant to give up permanently the rule power which it now exercises.

In any event, the state needs new court procedure, whether it may come as a result of a constitutional amendment, or simple legislative enactment. Every North Carolina is a party to this need.

F. C. Salisbury

Here and There

The following information is taken from the files of the Morehead City Coaster:

FRIDAY, OCT. 8, 1915

Kemp Arthur left Monday for Richmond where he has accepted a position

Mrs. W. M. Webb left Monday for Charlotte to attend the UDC convention.

Messrs C. S. Wallace, Ira Willis, J. B. Morton and George Piner attended Federal Court in New Bern Thursday.

Friends of Mrs. John Wade will be glad to know that she is able to be up after an illness of two weeks. The Rev. D. N. Caviness returned Thursday from Ocracoke where he held the quarterly conference for Rev. J. E. Underwood, presiding elder of the New Bern district.

Mrs. J. B. Morton returned home Tuesday from Newport where she visited her father, Mr. Bell who has been very sick.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Wade have issued invitations to their friends to attend the wedding of their daughter, Marjorie Hyden to Thomas Clingman Oglesby, Monday even-

ing, Oct. 26 in the First Baptist Church, Morehead City.

The Rev. and Mrs. George W. Stancill have issued invitations to their friends to attend the marriage of their daughter, Annie Bernice, to Jacob Raymond Chadwick, Wednesday, Oct. 27 in the M. S. Church, South. Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick will make their home in New Bern.

J. T. Davenport left Thursday for New Bern where he will meet representative citizens of Oriental and Bridgeton with an idea of selling either of these two towns the fire engine which is owned by the town but for which the town has no use.

Dr. C. L. Duncan of Beaufort who has been raising terrapins reports that he now has 2,100 well developed year-old terrapins, 480 two-year olds and thousands of youngsters. Many of his two-year olds measure five inches. It is said that 1 a rge terrapins bring \$50 a dozen.

The "forgotten folks" at Cape Lookout will this year have a school which will at least run five months, according to L. B. Ennett, county superintendent of schools. The school population numbers 15.

DON'T GAMBLE WITH FIRE!



FAULTY CHIMNEYS, STOVES AND FURNACES CAUSE ALMOST 1 OUT OF EVERY 5 FIRES. HOW LONG SINCE YOU CHECKED SUCH HAZARDS IN YOUR HOME?

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