

Nothing Solved

An undercurrent of dissatisfaction with certain phases of Carteret's school program, which has made itself evident in recent months, should not be ignored.

The school bond issue, that one which was voted down, projected schools into everyone's consciousness. Following closely on this were the appointments to individual school committees (some of which brought unfavorable reaction) and still hanging over our head is the need for new schools.

School administrators seldom seem to be able to swim in lukewarm waters. Either everybody ignores schools and administrators wish the public would take more interest in them, or everybody suddenly becomes interested in schools and decides they want to revolutionize the school system.

More than one individual has expressed the opinion that he would like to vote for members on the county board of education as well as for members of the school boards in each district.

People should have more control over their school officials than they do. And the only way persons can exercise that control is at the polls. Most administrators shiver when they think of popular election of school officials, because that means they cannot exercise

the control over the boards that is possible under the appointment system.

On the other hand, this country has gotten along pretty well with people doing the electing, so there's nothing inherently evil in electing school boards. Many localities do just that.

And if school administrators are sincere in wanting CONTINUING public interest in schools, one of the better ways to get that interest is through popular election of school officials.

The problem of getting new schools hasn't been solved either. The suggestion that individual school districts help improve their own schools went over like a lead balloon. That was to be expected. Everybody wants new schools as long as SOMEBODY ELSE pays for them.

The states tell the federal government to fork over the money. The counties tell the state to give them the money. You get down into the district level and the people say, "Let the county do it."

If anything is to be done to correct the school problems currently bothering some of our folks, it must be done through legislative action. Legislative action may not solve the problem immediately, but laws can be enacted now that will enable a change in the near future.

Good Suggestion

A. D. Fulford, county sanitarian, has a good suggestion for controlling dumping along the Lennoxville Road. But making the suggestion work will require the cooperation of those who use the dump.

Mr. Fulford suggests that a gate and fence be erected back from the highway, possibly on the line where the state's right-of-way starts and that a gate be put across the road.

This gate then would be opened only at certain hours on certain days by one of the persons who makes use of the dump. During those hours, dumping would be permitted and more control could be exercised over WHERE the trash is dumped.

It certainly would be a feather in the hat of the Beaufort Woman's Club and its city beautification campaign if such a program could be worked out.

Mr. Fulford states that several of the

persons making use of the dump said they would be willing to pay 25 cents or so a week to help finance building of a fence and perhaps give a token payment to the person who would open the gate during the trash-dumping hours.

A deep ditch has been bulldozed to the east of the road that leads into the dump. Persons are asked to put their trash there. When the ditch is full, it can easily be covered over. The problem, the sanitarian points out, is that without some sort of control, people just strew the trash everywhere.

Mr. Fulford and the health department have shown their interest in cooperating with the folks who have to have a place to dump their trash. If a committee of them would go to him, we feel confident that plans could be worked out that would help solve the deplorable trash condition on the Lennoxville Road.

Best Lute Player in Florence

(From Greensboro Daily News)

Gerald Johnson has written a new book called The Lines Are Drawn, and in it he takes a crack at judges who choose Pulitzer Prize editorial cartoons.

Beneath this rather specialized criticism is a deeper criticism of American journalism, the men who make it tick and the whole fabric of our society.

For Mr. Johnson, an expatriate Tar Heel, is Baltimore's successor to H. L. Mencken. He writes incisive prose. He does not pull his punches.

His thesis is this:

The Pulitzer Prize cartoons, awarded since 1922, are astoundingly bland. They honor only the politely disturbing, the things that everybody agrees are evil — Hitler, Stalin, the H-bomb. They approve the Salk vaccine, world peace — mother, home and flag subjects, about which there is little controversy.

Mr. Johnson carries his point one step farther: During the very years the prize committee was honoring these obvious things, some of the same cartoonists were slashing out at less ob-

vious but equally dangerous perils of our time — the Teapot Dome scandal, the Ku Klux Klan, the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, prohibition, the depression, the New Deal.

Yet none of these cartoons won the Pulitzer Prize. They were too controversial. It required more courage to draw them.

Why should this trend be noticeable throughout the 35 years of the prize award?

Gerald Johnson's answer: The judges usually represent "the most potent (opinion) in the country." They are upper-middle-class Americans not particularly interested in controversy.

And so, as Gerald Johnson views it, these prize cartoons, very much on the pallid side, do not represent many of the great issues of their time. Historians digging through the social and political issues may not find them accurate signposts.

"It is rather like," Gerald Johnson concludes, "that letter of the Medici to the Duke of Milan commending Leonardo da Vinci as 'the best lute player in Florence.'"

A POINT OF GENERAL INTEREST



Facts on Firemen Pension Bills

(Editor's Note: Last year THE NEWS-TIMES carried a series of articles supplied by the Morehead City Fire Department on the pension fund the firemen hope to establish by state law. The proposed pension fund is opposed by fire insurance companies. The reasons they oppose it are set forth in this article.)

The 1957 legislature passed a Firemen's Pension Fund Bill which imposed a tax of one per cent on fire insurance written in areas where fire protection is available, the proceeds of the tax going into a pension fund for firemen. The matter was taken into court and the North Carolina Supreme Court declared the act invalid.

The firemen are again seeking to have the legislature provide them with a pension fund. In an effort to avoid the constitutional objections, the firemen this year are attempting to effectuate their scheme in three different steps rather than in one.

House Bill No. 689 imposes a tax of 1 per cent on all fire and lightning insurance premiums in the state of North Carolina. House Bill No. 690 creates the Firemen's Pension Fund. One further step is necessary in the firemen's scheme and that is to have a line appropriation in the appropriations bill which will give the necessary funds to the Pension Fund.

Although the firemen have technically separated the tax from the Pension Fund, it is quite obvious that this is a camouflage and that the tax is really an integral part of the over-all scheme to create a Firemen's Pension Fund. In effect it is exactly the same as the 1957 Bill where the tax and the pension plan were in the same Bill.

The primary objection to these bills is the same as it was two years ago, to wit: the unfairness of a tax upon insurance premiums for the benefit of firemen. Certainly the insurance companies will obtain a rate increase to offset this tax so that in the final analysis it will be paid by the policyholders just as was the tax under the 1957 bill.

Thus, under this bill as under the 1957 bill, the legislature is simply taking money from the people of the State of North Carolina who carry insurance and giving it directly to the firemen. This is unsound legislation and opens the way to gross abuses because of the danger that popular groups such as firemen will impose a tax on less popular groups for their own selfish benefit.

The justification that the firemen give for imposing a tax on insurance premiums is that firemen protect insured property and thus save money for both insurance companies and insured property owners. The glaring fallacy in this argument is that firemen protect all property and not just insured property and thus general local property taxes and not just a tax on insured property should bear the burden of paying for that protection.

In this connection, this year's bill is even more inequitable than the last bill because it imposes a tax on all insured property and not just on property in areas where fire protection is available. Therefore, farmers and others who live in the country where no fire protection is available and who receive no benefits from the firemen will be paying a portion of the firemen's pension.

In addition to the inequity of imposing a tax on insurance premiums to finance a pension plan for firemen, it is our contention that such a pension plan is unnecessary and unsound and should not be adopted regardless of how financed. At the present time paid firemen are eligible for Social Security and are eligible for benefits under local Employees' Retirement System.

Thus these firemen are eligible for pension benefits on exactly the same basis as every other municipal employee and on exactly the same basis as every state employee and every teacher. How can the legislature possibly justify the granting of a special pension fund to firemen without granting the same or similar benefits to teachers, state employees and other municipal employees?

As for volunteer firemen, they all have other jobs and are covered by Social Security in those jobs and possibly have pension plans in connection with those jobs. In any event, the responsibility for paying and pensioning the volunteer firemen should be upon the communities that they serve and not upon the insurance companies. It seems rather ridiculous to give a volunteer fireman a pension of \$50 per month when you haven't paid him a dime during his entire service as a fireman.

In addition to that, there are very few volunteer firemen who will ever serve as such long enough to become eligible for the pensions, thirty years service being necessary. This is a big city Firemen's Bill; make no mistake about that. Big city firemen are simply using the volunteer firemen for political purposes.

Another argument of the firemen is that they are entitled to special benefits because of the extra hazardous nature of the job performed. Fifty years ago this was true and for that reason there was passed the Firemen's Relief Fund Bill, which provided for the payment of benefits to firemen and their families on account of injuries or death incurred in the line of duty.

The extra hazardous nature of the job is now substantially taken care of by the Workmen's Compensation Act which covers both regular and volunteer firemen, the volunteer firemen being compensated on the basis of the money they make at their regular full time job. Despite the fact that all firemen are covered by Workmen's Compensation, they are still covered by the Firemen's Relief Fund.

North Carolina is already a high premium tax state. This tax will raise the direct premium tax on fire insurance from 2 1/2 per cent to 3 1/2 per cent, a 40 per cent increase. According to a list of taxes in other jurisdictions, which list includes all fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, there are at present only nineteen taxing jurisdictions which have a higher premium tax than does North Carolina.

Four have approximately the same tax and twenty-nine have a smaller tax. This compilation includes not only the direct premium tax but also such taxes as fire department tax, firemen's pension tax and firemen's relief tax.

If House Bill No. 689 is passed, then only two states, Oklahoma and Louisiana will have a tax rate in excess of North Carolina and we would have approximately the same tax rate as Texas and Kansas. All of the other 46 taxing jurisdictions would have a lower premium tax than North Carolina.

This high tax rate would be particularly devastating to domestic fire insurance companies because of the effect of retaliatory tax laws which require a North Carolina company to pay in other states the same tax rate that foreign companies pay in this state. Some 40 states have such retaliatory laws.

Smile a While

"Whatever made you marry an archaeologist?" one woman asked another as they met on the street. "It's very simple, my dear," was the reply. "The older I get the more interested he becomes in me."

—Wall Street Journal

Louise Spivy

Words of Inspiration

A GOOD WEEKEND

Friday's mail brought me a beautiful card with a lovely thought from our own Gordon Davis, now stationed in Germany with the US Army. Gordon, you know, is the fine son of Mrs. Uldine Davis of Beaufort, who just a few years ago was named Carteret County's Mother of the Year.

It was a very special card and as I try to remember some little something that I might have done in the past to make him remember me on this Mother's Day . . . well, I'm just really at a loss.

Anyway, thank you, Gordon, with all of my heart. It is these little things added together that really makes life worth while.

I had a call from the florist who asked if I wanted a red or white corsage for Mother's Day. It seems my own 'Secret Pal' had placed the order.

Today as I wore my white carnations pinned on my shoulder to church I found myself again counting my blessings. As we had silent prayer, I didn't get half-way through before the allotted time was over. My day had been truly blessed.

Church services on Mother's Day are always impressive and beautiful. Today's service was especially so.

We attended the First Methodist Church of Morehead City and saw two senior mothers worshipping at the altar with their families. Mrs. C. D. Canfield, the oldest mother, with 14 descendants present and Mrs. Howard Wade with 15 descendants.

This Mother's Day has been especially good for me. My own family . . . although we couldn't have a reunion, has showered me with love and gifts, and I have had the opportunity to hear the Rev. Pat Conner, son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Conner of Morehead City, preach.

We have known and loved Pat since his high school years, and have seen him grow in stature, knowledge and brotherhood.

He selected as his scripture Proverbs 31:10-31, and none could have been more fitting and to the point on this Mother's Day, as a man of God looks out upon a troubled world and perhaps wonders . . . where can I begin to help God's children?

It has been said . . . says young Pat . . . "The hand that rocks the cradle, rocks the world." He continued, "This is no longer true, for now we find that our young people are greatly influenced by society and so many outside influences, not taught by good mothers.

It is good to have a nation-wide expression of love and gratitude to mothers, but one may wonder why it is necessary to have a special day for children to say, "Thank you" to their mothers. Young Pat named many of the services a mother lovingly bestows upon her child through the years and says "It is a good day for family reminiscing, reunions, and paying some small tribute to mothers to make the day more meaningful."

What does the word M-O-T-H-E-R really mean? I have seen and known women who have given birth to many children whom I felt completely unworthy of the name. Perhaps you have too.

The title Mother belong to any woman who lives, loves and serves . . . according to the scripture read by our young pastor. It doesn't solely belong to a woman who has given birth to a child but to any woman who has given love and understanding to a child. It doesn't matter whether the child is her own or not.

In many instances the name could belong to a favorite aunt or an older sister who took up the reins set aside by a mother. It could be a school teacher whose understanding has helped a child bridge the many emotional gaps in his growing-up years, or a Sunday school teacher, a Scout leader, or a next-door neighbor. The title belongs to every woman who has made a home a home. It isn't the title that gives a woman a right to the name, but the love and kindness shining inside out when she says to her troubled child, "Everything will be all right soon." The word belongs to the woman who is gentle and kind.

I believe that good mothers, living by the rules of God, and teaching their children as God has commanded, who in prayer has placed her children completely in God's hands, will find in her senior years a beautiful symphony of peace written in her heart. It will include work and service, laughter and tears, sickness and health, good decisions and bad ones and thousands of prayers.

Interwoven in my own family memories of this Mother's Day, there is added happiness. The "special" white corsage from my "Secret Pal" — Gordon and Pat made my day brighter and happier. These two young men are presenting to their own mothers . . . the greatest gift a child can ever bestow upon his parents . . . the finest life they know how to live . . . filled with service and brotherly love. May God bless and keep them always.

As the sun sets on this Mother's Day I will join millions of mothers throughout our land. We will take the bright memories of this day and bind them up with ribbons of love and appreciation and store them in the treasure chest of our hearts.

F. C. Salisbury

Here and There

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

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1950

Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke of Black Mountain, Miss Frances Howerton of New Bern, Miss Calvene Howerton of Maryland, Haywood Howerton of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Elizabeth Babbitt of Chapel Hill arrived in the city Thursday morning to be at the bedside of Mrs. W. F. Howerton, who is critically ill.

Miss Clare Fulford, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Fulford, was married to Eugene H. Wade Sunday evening at the home of J. L. Slade.

The store and its contents, belonging to Thomas Styron in West Morehead City, was destroyed by fire early this morning. The loss is estimated to be about \$2,000.

The Beaufort Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy was

organized Thursday at Beaufort, there being eighteen charter members. The name of the Chapter will be Fort Macon.

Marriage licenses issued the past week: M. P. Marshall to Elizabeth Bratcher, both of Beaufort; Charles Lewis to Abeda Willis, both of Beaufort; W. B. Robinson to Gladys Nelson, both of Atlantic.

The tenth of May memorial services were held Sunday by the local chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy. The Confederate veterans of this city composed of Henry Sloane, J. R. Korngay, James H. Bell and H. C. Lockhart were tendered a dinner by the Daughters at the Little Jim Hotel.

At the conclusion of the dinner, the procession was formed at the hotel and proceeded to the cemetery. After the program, the Daughters marched in procession, led by Henry Sloane bearing the Confederate flag, and decorated the graves of the dead heroes.

From the Bookshelf

Fun is Europe. By Richard Harrity. Duell, Sloan & Pearce. \$3.95.

Harrity wanders from England's pubs to rich Greek yachtsmen in the Mediterranean, visiting Dublin, Paris, Brussels, Vienna, Berlin, Luxembourg, Venice, Athens and other places. He has some odd bits of interesting information, for instance about tailors, about cars for hire, about plane service.

But his idea of fun is pun, and even Europe isn't worth a sentence like this: "Ah, it's a small whirl with I'amour the merrier."

—W. G. Rogers

Alexander's Path. From Carla to Cilicia. By Freya Stark. Harcourt, Brace. \$6.75.

The farther away from his homeland Alexander marched, the more detailed were the contemporary records of it. But while he was still within the area familiar to his Macedonians and Greeks, they could have felt, sensibly enough, too, that his goings and comings were hardly worth describing.

Because of gaps in the accounts of his eastward progress through Anatolia, along the picturesque northern edge of the easternmost Mediterranean, Miss Stark set out to find what traces she could.

She traveled by Jeep and horseback, she roughed it; she draws significant conclusions about Alexander's idea of One World. But best of all this is delightful and exciting contemporary travel. Her photographs of Greek and Roman sites and the people now inhabiting these distant regions are fine, but the most evocative pictures appear in the text itself.

—W. G. Rogers

Report from Practically Nowhere. By John Sack. Harper \$3.95. Lumdy, Sark, Andorra, Monaco, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Athes, S.M.O.M., Sharja, Swat, Amb, Punal, Sikkim—is this Sanskrit, does it ward off the evil eye, or are these naughty words? No, they are, instead, 13 countries—he calls them countries—which Sack visited on a trip around the world.

Though he spent two years at it, he never saw the things you know about, like London Bridge, Eiffel Tower and pyramids. A connoisseur admitted him to one country, he reached another by paddle wheel, a third afoot by a dizzy bridge of vines, and so on. The book is a storehouse of enjoyable and use-less information.

—W. G. Rogers

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