

Golden Opportunity

The town of Murphy and the surrounding area will be missing a golden opportunity if our participation in the Babe Ruth 16-18 Baseball League that is being formed for the first time this year is ignored.

The need for a little league baseball is defined in an article on the front page by Scout Advertising Manager, L. D. (Red) Schuyler, and the purpose and

objective of Babe Ruth 16-18 baseball is given on page 2.

Fortunately, there is still time left for Murphy to participate in the program. However, it is up to each person in the area that is interested in this type of program to express their interest before anything can be done.

All you have to do is write a short letter to this newspaper saying that you want little league baseball in Murphy, sign your name, and we will see that your letter gets into the right hands.

American Ingenuity Fails On Measurements

A congressional committee has been working two or three years on the prospect of converting the nation to the metric system of measurement.

The lawmakers and the citizenry are acting something like a boy getting a jump on the season with an early-spring swim. He knows he wants to go in the water, he is sure he will like it, but it sure is tough to get started.

The cost and awkwardness of the conversion period are awesome to think about.

Who wants to visualize a beauty queen with measurements like 93-71-93? That's in centimeters, of course.

That may have been what the congressmen were thinking about when they avoided the issue by authorizing the Secretary of Commerce to make a study on the feasibility of changing the metric system.

The idea now is that conversion would be accomplished gradually over a period of about 30 years, time for a whole generation to adjust.

More than 90 cent of the world population already measures by meters, liters, and grams, according to the National Geographic Society. The only major exceptions are Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and the U.S.

Even Great Britain, the nation that invented the inch, is abandoning the so-called English system. By 1971, the sixpence, shilling, and crown will be replaced by decimal coinage similar to ours. Other non-metric British

weights and measures will be converted by 1975.

No one can say that the United States is being to hasty about this thing.

George Washington urged adoption of the metric system. Thomas Jefferson advocated a foot with 10 inches, arguing that a simple standard would bring "the calculation of the principal affairs of life within the arithmetic of every man who can multiply and divide in plain numbers."

Most of us know vaguely the peculiar origins of the odd measurements in the English system.

King Edward II ordered that the inch be precisely the length of three dry barley corns laid end to end. King Henry I decreed that the yard must be the distance between the top of his nose and the end of his thumb.

Frenchemen, sick and tired of a bewildering array of weights and measurements after their revolution, invented the metric system. They created the meter, then believed to be one ten-millionth of the distance from the equator to the North Pole.

We know better today. A meter is 1,650,763.73 times the wave length of the orange line of isotopic krypton of mass 86 at 760 millimeters pressure and 15 degrees Celsius (formerly known as Centigrade).

Or, as Americans say, 39.37 inches. (From the Spartanburg Herald)

In Their Ivory Tower Sizing Up President Nixon



Around Capitol Square

By WILLIAM A. SHIRES

RALEIGH—What impressed observers and lawmakers most about Gov. Bob Scott's legislative message was its scope.

In analysis, it contained few surprises. There was little in terms of entirely new proposals but, if implemented, a great deal that would be new for the people of North Carolina.

The tone was forthright and forward-looking. The time has come, Scott was saying in effect, to face challenges of both today and tomorrow.

"We are reaching a point where the level of expectations is rising at a rate that outstrips our capacity to provide them without imposing on ourselves a greater burden of stewardship to the state," Scott said.

It was a key paragraph and one which set the tone of the entire message.

Very Broad Field The new governor did not go into great detail about his various recommendations. He could not have done so in a 4,000 word address.

Neither did Scott attempt to spell out fiscal specifics-how he proposes financing of his administration's programs. That will come later in a separate budget message, probably in February.

Also he promised to fill in specific details of his proposals-and even submit additional ones-in subsequent messages.

"I will express my views from time to time on matters that affect our state and our people," Scott said.

Emphasis On Implementing What Scott did say in his initial address to the General Assembly covered a very broad and wide field, from creating a new state department of urban affairs and constructing an arterial system of highways of advocating new campuses of the Consolidated University and a start on establishing a state zoo.

Most of Scott's proposals were based on earlier recommendations by study commissions or on previously voiced Scott positions.

There had been conjecture about whether Scott would, as most new governors have done, call for a reorganization of the State Highway Commission. He did, and it could not be called surprising.

Packed With Specifics Despite lack of detail, the "state of the State" address was packed with specific proposals. In 20 pages Scott covered a lot of ground in spelling out his positions.

Some of these that stand out include:

- Implement major recommendations of the special study commissions on the public schools and higher education, including "meaningful strides" toward raising teacher salaries to the national average and extending public school bus transportation to urban and suburban children.
--full-time director and staff for the state's Good Neighbor Council.

- a policy of appointing more members of minorities to state boards and positions and encouraging such policy at state and local levels.
--Salary increases and additional benefits for state employees.

- Gradual expansion of the state parks system.
--A "blue ribbon" commission to study accident rates and automobile liability insurance.

- Moving to leadership in the field of marine science.
--A reserve fund for matching federal grants.

- Establishing the State Board of Education as the policy-making agency for the public schools with power to appoint the state superintendent of public instruction.

- State incentive funds to match local funds for schools beyond a basic program.

LETTERS EDITOR

THANKS TO JAYCEES

Dear Editor, On behalf of the town of Murphy I would like to congratulate the Murphy Jaycees for their efforts to obtain translation of WLOS TV, channel 13, Asheville to the Murphy translator on Fain mountain.

The television reception of this station will be the first and only North Carolina television received in the Murphy area. This will enable us to keep up with the news and other happenings of our own State. We say a big thank you!

Sincerely, Cloe Moore, Mayor Town of Murphy

THE POWER OF A WORD

Dear Sir: In the Scroggs story the paragraph reads, "The name Scroggs is now without note in Scottish history."

It should read, The name Scroggs is not without note in Scottish history.

Please bail me out as I don't want the Scroggs on my neck. I know my typewriter prints somewhat dim and I did not double space.

Thanks for printing the article.

Very truly, J. Neal Hall Burkburnett, Tex.

NEED A TELEPHONE

Dear Editor Why is it that some of us that live near Notla and Bellview can't get a telephone?

I have had my application in for several months, and some of my neighbors have had theirs in longer.

I think anyone with the money to pay for a telephone should have it if they want it.

Yours truly Raymond Tanner Rt. 2, Murphy

Smoking Declines

Five years ago this week the U.S. Surgeon General's report on the health hazards of cigarette smoking was published. With it, the tobacco industry's longtime denial of a relationship between smoking and health was effectively shown false. Since then, antismoking pressures have continued to mount. And in 1968, for the first time since 1964, these pressures were enough to lessen slightly the number of cigarettes sold (526.5 billion, down from 527.8 billion in 1967, according to a Business Week study.)

But more telling figures are those that show the number of smokers to be declining. One expert estimates there are 1.5 million fewer smokers now than a year ago. Since there are at least 3 million more people of smoking age in the country, this also shows that the proportion of smokers has dropped again, as it has each of the past 10 years. In that decade, the proportion of female smokers increased to about one-third of all women, while the proportion of males smoking dropped from 55 to 40 percent.

While the decline in smoking is taking place in all age groups, it hearteningly is dropping fastest among teenagers. The National Clearing House of Smoking and Health reports that only 3 percent of high-school students expect to take up smoking in the next five years, while 91 percent are aware of a connection between the habit and one's health.

The antismoking campaigns of private and government agencies, TV and radio commercials against the habit, printed warnings on packages, punitive state taxes on tobacco products—all have had effect. The tobacco industry itself, however, admits it has been the TV and radio antismoking messages that have hurt them most. Some in the industry even feel

that an outright ban on cigarette commercials would help sales because it would shut off the antismoking messages. They feel they could then spend their \$200-million TV budget to magazines and newspapers and billboards.

The fight against smoking must continue. It would be unfortunate should President Nixon fill the Federal Trade Commission vacancy expected next September with someone not in sympathy with the FTC's present tough-on-smoking stand.

Common sense should be enough to rout the smoking practice in America. Anyone should know that the inhaling of foreign substances—a kind of private air pollution—would interfere with the natural bodily processes. Yet so long as smoking is represented as offering status or relaxation, the effort to counter this false attractiveness must continue. (From the Christian Science Monitor)

Write A Letter...

Listed below are the addresses for our senators and district representative. If you have an opinion about a local or national issue, do not hesitate to let them know.

Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. 337 Senate Office Building Washington, D. C. 20510.

Senator B. Everett Jordan 6625 Senate Office Building Washington, D. C. 20510

Representative Roy A. Taylor 1202 House Office Building Washington, D. C. 20515

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For 7 GOLD take 666. An Indianapolis veteran received the seven millionth GI home loan in December 1968. The seven millionth home loan was guaranteed by the Veterans Administration during December 1968. More than 4,250,000 World War I and II veterans will receive \$236 million in dividends on their GI insurance policies during 1969. As of the end of November 1968, 3.3 million GI home loans with a face value of \$25.8 billion had been paid in full.

Wild savings on air conditioning and tinted glass! Groovy vinyl interior! Body side moldings! Great V-8, too! Cool discount on whitewalls, wheel covers, Rim-Blow steering wheel! Galaxie 500 2-Door Hardtop. Fairlane 2-Door Hardtop. Mustang Hardtop. Pop-Option Special Galaxie 500 Price reduced \$144* on the most popular options. At your Ford Dealer's. Now! Early birds get the biggest savings yet on our best seller! Save on hot new Mustangs, Fairlanes, Falcons, too! Incredible values. Better hurry while they last! *Based on manufacturer's suggested retail prices.

Going Ford is the Going Thing. BURCH MOTORS MURPHY, NORTH CAROLINA

I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO REALLY SHOUT ABOUT.. MY SAVINGS ACCOUNT! I'm so pleased I want to tell the whole world about it! Regular deposits, plus that big interest earned, have made my savings account g-r-o-w since I opened it at Name's! CITIZEN BANK & TRUST COMPANY "SERVING SOUTHWESTERN NORTH CAROLINA" Andrews, Murphy, Hayesville, Robbinsville, Sylva, Cullowhee, Cashiers MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION