

Editorial Comment

Let's Hire A County Manager

In their meeting this month, the Cherokee County commissioners discussed hiring a county manager.

It's a good idea, as proposed by the Chamber of Commerce president Gene Farmer. Macon County and several other progressive counties now have managers, he said, and others are searching for a manager.

A county manager (as the one in Macon has done) can be very instrumental in always pushing for collection of back taxes. As the hired hand of the commissioners, he can run the county government on a day-to-day basis and serve as a watchdog, insuring efficiency in all county departments.

Perhaps the most valuable way he can spend his time is in the pursuit of state and federal grants for various county projects. There are scores of programs which have money to either be given away outright to the counties for use or else put on a local matching basis. To keep up with all of them and attend the meetings where they are discussed is more than a commissioner, with a fulltime job, can do.

For example, people in and around Murphy have been talking for several years about constructing a large community center on the Fairground property. But so far, nothing concrete has been done.

In Macon County, they have a nice new county recreation center-pool, a swimming pool, three new ballfields, etc. Their county manager knew that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation had money available, knew how to fill out the forms and secured a federal grant for Macon County for \$140,000 to build the center.

Salary estimates for a manager for Cherokee County begin around the \$12,000 range. But the man would be worth it if he can bring the county benefits such as a new recreation center. Or spot ways in which the county could save money in its business operations.

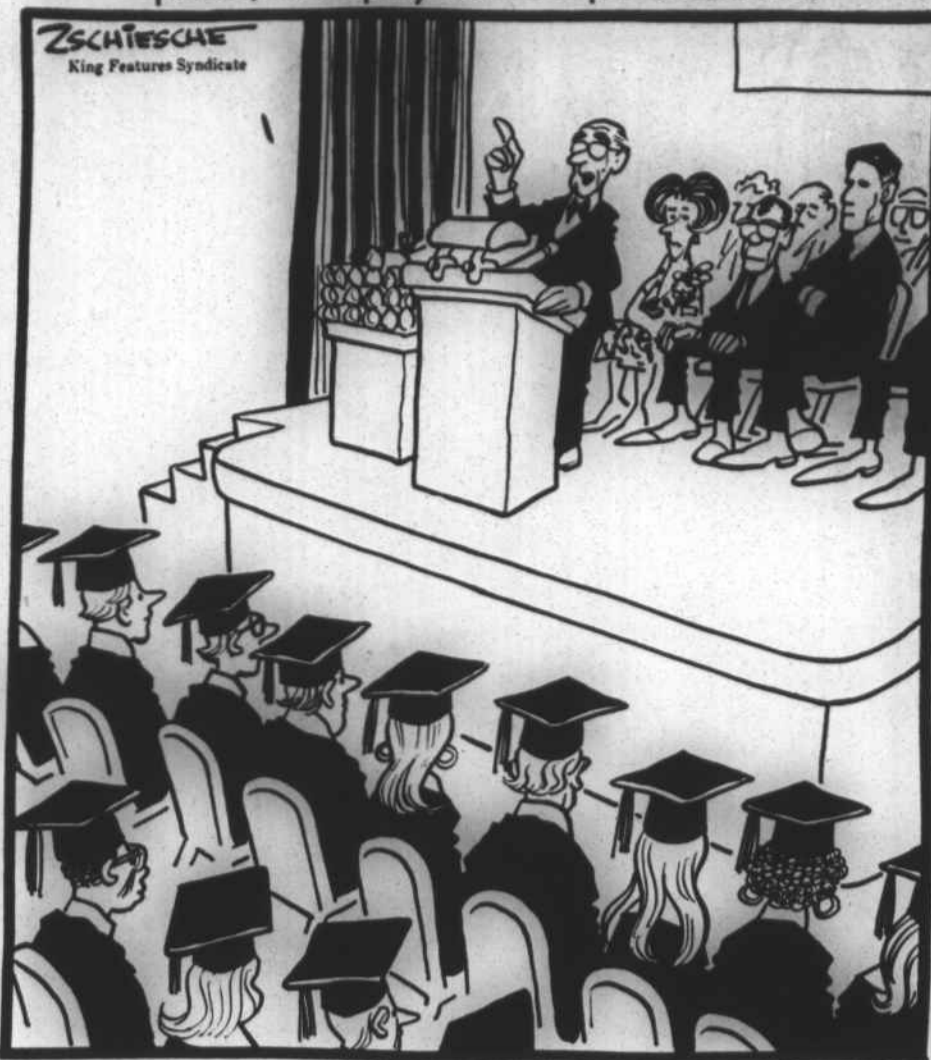
The Cherokee board seemed most worried about the manager's future if and when the balance of power in the Courthouse changes hands again. They said flatly that if the county manager's office was just another political appointment, it would be money wasted. They figure, and rightly so, that at \$12,000 a year, his training on the job would be too expensive to see him tossed out with the other Courthouse officeholders.

There seems no way to lock a county employe into a job and really there shouldn't be, because someday he might need to be removed. A manager, if one is hired, would have to be warned about the Cherokee County political wars and instructed not to get himself identified with either party. City managers regularly survive changes in the balance of power, serving a new board as well as they did the old one.

Half in jest, we made an offer at the commissioners meeting to photograph the county manager, if one is hired, registering as an Independent on the day he is hired, and run the photo in this paper as an indication of his neutral standing. The offer still holds.

We hope the commissioners talk some more about hiring a manager and we hope they end up taking favorable action on the idea.

'As you go out into society seeking truth, beauty, justice, unemployment compensation ...'



CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



"WALKERS" ... In reporting on the passage of the Mecklenburg liquor-by-the-drink bill last week the Charlotte Observer had right much to say about the "walkers" - the legislators who take a walk from the chamber to keep from voting on a controversial bill. Every General Assembly has its "walkers." Walking out of the chamber to dodge voting on a bill is not regarded as a statesmanlike thing to do. On the other hand, standing up to be counted when the going is not easy is much more characteristic of a statesman than taking a walk or going to make a telephone call.

Could you imagine Lindsay Warren Sr., or Jr. taking a walk on any issue?

EVERETT JORDAN ... We thought Senator Everett Jordan made a very rational statement last week in explaining his vote for the "End-The-War" amendment in the U.S. Senate. Here are a couple of sentences from the Senator's statement: "Most of the American people by using plain horse sense and cutting through complex issues have long sense come to the conclusion that we have everything to lose and nothing to gain by continuing our military intervention in Southeast Asia. In ten years of fighting we have more than fulfilled our noble intentioned but ill-advised commitment to help the South Vietnamese defend their country against aggression."

HUGH MORTON ... Hugh Morton of Wilmington and Grandfather Mountain has let it be known that he, like many others would like to serve his state as governor. Already running, but unannounced, are Lt. Gov. H.P. Taylor, Jr., Senator Hargrave (Skipper) Bowles, and Attorney General Robert Morgan who will likely feel the call by the time that "frost is on the pumpkin."

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ... With Bob Scott having made it from Lieut. Governor to the Governor's Office and with Lieut. Gov. Taylor a very formidable candidate for the top office, the number two jobs is becoming more inviting. Particularly so in view of the move to make the job a full-time salaried position. Already running but unannounced, Jim Hunt of Wilson is devoting about two thirds of his time to lining up support for his candidacy in the May primary. Hunt has been active in YDC circles, having served as State YDC President and headed Governor Scott's Democratic Party Commission to revise the rules of the Democratic Party which led to the passage of the presidential primary legislation. Bert Bennett of the

Sanford wing of the Democratic Party is reported to be a supporter is regarded as a likely contender as is C&D Director Roy Sowers, although neither McGeachy or Sowers are involved to the extent that Hunt is at the present time. There are several others who have been toying with the idea of running for the job including Rep. Ike Andrews of Graham County, former State Senator Ed Kemp of High Point, former State Senator Voit Gilmore of Southern Pines and no doubt others.

HIGHER EDUCATION ... Governor Bob Scott has decided, and probably wisely so, to "go for broke" in an effort to get the General Assembly to enact his Higher Education Bill. If Scott is going to have any effective say about higher education, he will have to move now for two years from now they will not be listening to him any more than the powers that be are not listening to Terry Sanford, Dan Moore, or Luther Hodges.

State Senator "Big John" Burney of Wilmington is

A Voice In The Wilderness

We get out of life exactly what we put into it. We create our own destiny by the acts we do. Always there is that resultant effect created by the actions we have performed. It is allowable to say that by the ways of kindness we project to our human brothers and of the animal world so do we derive the benefit of this concern. We are elevated on the steps of endeavor relating to our intent to practice the laws of brotherhood and of our love for one another. Let us wish for only the very best for others and in so doing only the very best will rest besides ourselves.

By taking a stray animal into our home so do we acquire the "treasures of heaven." By projecting love and concern to our fellow travelers so do we derive the position of apostle. Let us remember that God said, "Give to one another." Let us do that with a glad heart and joyful sound.

ANIMAL SHELTER BUILDING FUND #1038
Won't you add your name to this list by sending your donation to help build an animal shelter? Send your contribution to: The Cherokee-Clay Humane Society, Inc. P.O. Box 660, Murphy, N.C. 28906. Tax deductible.

The Cherokee-Clay Humane Society, Inc. meets every third Tuesday evening of the month at the Power Board Building in Murphy. The next meeting will be July 20 at 8 o'clock. Young people are also invited to attend. Won't you please join us?
MARGARET SCHROEDER



My faithful old watch died Monday afternoon, at five minutes until two o'clock.

Not really a very large event in the history of what happened in the world on Monday, but quite significant in one man's little world. Sort of a landmark, a time which will be remembered as when the watch stopped.

Because it was the first real grownup type watch I ever owned and after 14 years of fairly regular service, it has finally expired. So few words of description seem appropriate at this point. The deceased watch was an Elgin, gold in color, with about 17 jewels, a moderate-priced Christmas gift. It was supposed to be shock resistant but it didn't always work out that way. In fact, the watch man said Monday afternoon that the trouble was its usual appetite for balance staffs - somehow it had suffered another broken staff and to put that little pin in working order would cost another \$4. He was familiar with the watch, having performed similar surgery a couple of months back.

I decided against the operation and the little watch tried to run for a few minutes, but it was no use. Shaking it produced a few more minutes of activity and it finally stopped for good.

The watch has become a part of me over the years, its modernistic rectangular face has been a dependable, familiar friend in strange places. I shouldn't throw it away, too many memories are involved. I have consulted it for the time in meeting a thousand deadlines, show times, check-out times, get up

times, go-to-bed times. I looked at it frequently as I chain-smoked cigarettes before my own wedding, it has clocked my children into this world and several friends and relatives out of this life.

To be perfectly frank, the watch had a vicious streak in its earlier days when it wore a flashy gold expansion band. On several occasions, when it became hooked on something and slid up my arm, the wicked band gleefully drew my blood. Then for a long time it was well-behaved as a watch could be, lulling me into a false sense of security. Then about two years ago, while trout-fishing on the reservation at Cherokee, it struck like a rattlesnake. Unfamiliar with my new hip boots, I stumbled and fell off a large rock and the treacherous expansion band ripped into my wrist, leaving a permanent scar. I then drew its fangs by throwing the band away and installing a soft leather one. Since then it has been a loyal servant and has not bitten.

I considered for a moment buying a good pocket watch, perhaps an old-timey railroad watch, but found that only by blue jeans still have watch pockets made in them. I could be perfectly happy wearing jeans the rest of my life but the rules of etiquette demand that even a country editor must sometimes wear more dressy clothes.

I'm going to have to break down and buy a replacement for the watch. In public places now, I find myself absent-mindedly lifting my left arm and peering intently into the hairs on the back of my wrist. People are going to start to talk...

WA

News Media Subpoenas

Atty. Gen. John Mitchell has retreated from his former position on issuance of subpoenas to the news media and that is good news where the right of the people to freedom of information is concerned.

United Press International reports that Mitchell has authorized only two subpoenas to reporters since he issued strict guidelines in this connection last summer. The guidelines grew out of the protests by the news media after a sudden surge of subpoenas calling for reporters to appear before federal grand juries investigating criminal and civil cases with which the reporters had dealt. The reporters were ordered to submit their notes, unused film and other such material to the grand juries.

At the time the subpoenas were issued, Mitchell defended the practice, contending that it was necessary to obtain information "which might be of some aid in both criminal and civil

investigations." The news media objected that the action was an invasion of its First Amendment rights and that, in fact, it constituted in most cases "fishing expeditions," which made the media an investigative arm of the Justice Department. To his credit, Mitchell changed his position and forbade indiscriminate use of such subpoenas.

There can be no question but that requiring reporters to reveal their sources and similar confidential information to grand juries would severely hamper the media in bringing information to the public, information to which it is entitled and which it should be given. Hopefully, the attorney general and the Justice Department will continue to see that this right of the people to know outweighs any investigative help reporters could be forced to give federal investigative agencies. - Dallas (Tex.) Times Herald.

Outpost

Seven Oregon youths who toiled 25 days trying in vain to conquer Alaska's Mt. McKinley returned with wondrous stories of blinding snow and buffeting winds that drove them to huddle 14 days in ice caves.

But nothing astonished - or appalled - them as much as what they found at the 18,200-foot level, 4,100 feet short of the peak. "The wind had

blown tons of paper and some of the oddest things - ski bindings, underwear, socks, and anything that anyone didn't want to carry back," reported a climber. They collected and brought back 170 pounds of trash, evidence that no place, not even North America's tallest mountain, is beyond the reach of well, civilization. - Norfolk (Va.) Virginian-Pilot

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