

A Handy Hired Hand

OH, THEY DID A LOT OF CLICKIN' AN' SQUAWKIN' FIRST....



EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinions Of One Man, And He May Be Wrong.

Poor Consolation Prize

John Larkins has been given another star for his Democratic Crown and about all we might add to that which may have gone before on this subject is that John is certainly a glutton for punishment.

And we might add what John told the Governor, when he was propositioned about taking this job with much glory, much work and no pay.

"It's like Libby Ward says, Governor: 'It's a good thing John Larkins was born a male child, because he's never been known to say No To anybody in his life.'"

We just wish that Umstead had recognized Larkins' merits when he was naming a successor to Willis Smith. But we

guess Larkins' record had been far too Democratic to suit those, including Umstead, who seem to prefer that the two "Democratic" senators from North Carolina vote the straight Republican Party line.

Being named Chairman of the North Carolina Democratic Executive Committee is a rather empty consolation prize for a man who should now be a United States Senator, and one who would have been if Umstead's reasoning ability and courage had not gone into total eclipse last summer.

But, the post was right, "There are no sadder words; than, It might have been."

North Carolina's Constitution

The temporary inconveniences and dangers forced upon the people of North Carolina by a recent literal interpretation of the law with regards the arrest of misdemeanants may be more than outweighed by the potential good that may come from this muddlesome, troublesome situation.

Few law enforcement officers, at this point, will be able to see anything good about a law and its present interpretation which makes it impossible to arrest a misdemeanor without a warrant.

To any reasonably intelligent person the dangers of such a stupid, yet legal situation are too obvious to dwell upon; yet we should consider one example: The drunken driver. Who upon the present construction of the law may be stopped for questioning but not arrested.

After the officer has decided that the driver is too drunk to be driving, then he must leave him and find an authority before whom a warrant can be sworn out.

Then he must try to find that same drunken driver all over again.

And let us remind you that this includes every misdemeanor—not just the drunken drivers, and, of course, in this category is found the vast majority of all law violators.

But to return to the "sunny side of this legal street": Maybe the absolute ignorance and impracticability of this situation may convince our law makers of the great need there is in North Carolina for a complete re-writing of what we must refer to as "our" Constitution, when in truth the bastard muddle of words that is "our" Constitution is something that floated out of the drunken dreams of the 1868 "Carpet Bagger" legislature in which the average Assemblyman was either a recently freed slave or a Yankee cut throat.

Just why and how the people of North Carolina have for so long accepted any such purported Constitution is beyond the veil of reason. Now, however, with the ignorances of Commission and omission dramatized at the expense of public safety there might appear to be some small chance of re-doing what our inferiors so willingly did for us back in 1868 as the State, and the entire South lay prostrate under the heel of federal occupation.

Now with an immediate, dramatic need for a Constitutional overhauling added to the stupid muddle of the United States Supreme Court's decision on public school segregation it seems to us that a Constitutional Convention should be called, and in order to do that a special ses-

Short Shorts..

School Naming

We still haven't forgotten the bland, tasteless, wasteful name that the city school board has chosen for the new elementary school.

Instead of calling it "Teachers Memorial" they should have gone the whole hog and named it the "All Things to All People In All Times Memorial School."

Now that Miss Sophia Hobgood has retired from duty what's wrong with naming it the Sophia Hobgood School and leave out that damned word "Memorial"—which sounds more like a tombstone than a place filled with the shouts and laughter of elementary age school children.

An even more fitting name for the school would be "Bruton-Hobgood School" and thereby honoring two fine women who have seen more elementary school children pass through Kinston than any other pair one can bring to mind. We are of of course referring to Miss Ruby Bruton, principal at Lewis School.

Up in Carrboro a couple fellows stuck up the bank last month and walked away with something like \$9,000. The only persons in the bank at the time were the banker and his secretary. These unfortunate people later told the police that the robbers both needed shaves but that the stick-up men were "very polite." Well, we trust that the state troopers or the local police will be polite when they arrest these bandits. We know the solicitor will be courteous when he arraigns them and that the judge who sentences them will be soft-spoken. And surely the turnkey at the state prison will lock them in in a mannerly fashion.

There seems to be more truth than humor in the crack that the Republicans have already sensed that they have but a short spell in power and are determined to get all they can tote while they are in the "smoke house". This administration will make the looting of the Harding Administration seem like petty larceny when the final theft is totalled up.

Wonder what the "analytical minds" around town have to say about the city administration in view of the June 30 financial report of the city?

This space might have been filled with some pugent line or with some semi-intelligent comment but for the weather. Hence, you just get this sentence to fill up the hole and it has about done that, so we'll quit.

sion of the General Assembly must be called before the November general election.

We respectfully petition Governor Umstead and the Council of State to give this 86-year old problem their immediate study, and we believe that they will arrive at the same conclusion and immediately call the assembly into special session.

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS BY JACK RIDER

Well, it would appear, that I have dropped a nickel into a right talkative slot. Which is always a surprise to one as "gabby" as myself. Finding someone to argue with in the public print is more a pleasure than most folks realize. And no matter how widely Jesse Pugh Wooten and I may differ on the city government, its policies and its personnel, I still enjoy this little set to, and hope, as he has hoped, in a letter reprinted in this issue, that nobody feels that I am dedicated to a malicious campaign of vilification aimed at either Wooten or his fellow travelers who have "managed to lift themselves above mediocrity."

Certainly, the winner in this controversy between Wooten and Rider must be the public, who if not enlightened may be aroused to the level of "thinking" about their government and its problems and policies. But as much as I'd like to permit Pugh the "last word", I cannot fail to add a few comments, and attempt to answer some of the questions he has posed in his answer to mine of last week. If nothing else is served, at least I'll get the paper filled up.

I agree with Pugh when he says that his letter in the Free Press was not an "analysis of the city's finances". But the Free Press misconstrued it as much and gave it a two-column head saying as much. Secondly, Pugh refers to a possible lawsuit that might have resulted if relief had not been given to folks who were suffering from the "filthy water, coming off a hog pasture." Since at the time this difficulty was plaguing the flooded and the flooding parties both were outside the city limits, it is hard for me to see how the city might have become involved in litigation there.

Further, it is difficult for me to appreciate the wisdom of taking in an almost totally undeveloped area (Hardee Heights at that time) and having to be "sold on taking in the area south of Hardee Heights", which was completely built up.

I have asked Bill Heard "why he tried to kill this (water lines to Greenmeade and Green Acres at public expense) and 60 days later recommended that we run a water line costing 3 to 4 times as much from a point where the railroad crosses Highland Avenue, out past Harvey Motor Co. (who dug their own well because the city refused them the line at first), across the Greenville Highway, down past Beck Bland's place, to connect with an existing line."

Heard's answer, which does not seem to indicate that any "interests whom city hall 'trust' so implicitly" were shown particular favor, is that this line was put down for two reasons. Personally, it was done to give ample water to those few customers along the line but objectively it was done to give ample water to several hundred water customers inside the city limits who had the unhappy position of living at the "end of the line" and consequently had very poor water pressure in their homes and business establishments. This loop line stabilized the pressure of those several hundred customers and gave Felix Harvey's dairy, Beck Bland's home, Jim Edwards' home and several other homes outside the city limits more than the mere trickle of water they were able to get from the old two inch line.

I questioned that line at the time it was being put down and sent up a squawk that it was a special line to serve very few folks. It was shown to me, however, that such a line would have to be put down sooner or later and that it would be wiser from an engineering point of view and a community service point of view to go ahead and do the job while men and equipment were in the area and

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