

PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

Some very objective study may be made some day of the non-parlor joke. It's origin, it's impact and its terrific impudence. The best stories don't always have to be the kind you wouldn't want your mother or daughter to hear, but a great many do have so much hair on their chest that they frighten the easily frightened. A few I've heard recently are in the category which may be repeated in the public print without much fear of losing one's mailing permit and gaining the attention of the blue nose society.

Marvin Rochelle says this is the gospel truth. Marvin is both a real estate broker and a Rochelle so you can pay your money and take your choice. I believe him. Marvin was quietly sitting in his office, reading the funny paper — some folks call it the News & Observer. This profound meditation was interrupted by the entry of a handsome, well-groomed young man who apparently knew Rochelle a lot better than Marvin knew him, since Marvin swears;

"If I ever saw him before in my life I don't remember it". Marvin hastens to add, "He was a nice looking fellow and came right to the point.

He was a little short for cash and told me Mr. Fitzgerald down at the Commercial Bank told me he'd lend me \$250 if you'd sign my note".

"To which Marvin says he politely replied, "Now son, I'll be just as good to you as Mr. Fitzgerald. If he'll sign your note, I'll lend you \$250".

Marvin says the last thing he saw of the fellow he was turning the corner of Blount and Queen, walking as fast as Louis Pearson and headed straight for "Mr. Fitzgerald at the Commercial Bank."

Let me point out before going any further that all I have or hope for a couple more years belong to "Mr. Fitzgerald and the Commercial Bank" so I hope Brother Frank sees the humor of this because I don't want him foreclosing on this here enterprise. That joke has probably been kicking around in banking circles since before Bob Hanes had more than one pair of drawers, but it was new to me and funny, I think.

Another man who is the very soul of fidelity, and wit told me another last week which is, in some senses, a little rougher than Rochelle's banking story, but is still the kind of story you could tell your maiden aunt without too much blushing. It goes like this: Junior Cranz, sometimes called O. H. Cranz, whose wit cuts as sharply as his son's scalpel swears and affirms to the truth and the whole truth to the following:

Junior, or Fisherman Cranz went to Atlantic Beach to spend a week, or most of a week with Surgeon Cranz, who left few stones unturned in his effort to give "Junior" a good time. "Junior", as all who know him will agree, tried to enter into the spirit of things.

When the visit came to its end Son Cranz asked Father Cranz, "Well, how'd you like it? Which was a mistake, as you soon see.

Father Cranz, The Junior, replied, "Everything was fine, just fine. I have only one suggestion to make. Since I've been here, I've eaten sand, breathed sand, slept in sand, sat in sand, walked in sand so to make everything 100 per cent agreeable you ought to take that 'Scott Tissue' out of the toilet and put in some No. 4 sandpaper!"

As one who can get an overdose of the beach in a hurry "Them is our sentiments, too". I got allergic to the beach way back in the Twenties. The whole Rider Generation packed up with baskets and boxes of fried chicken, country ham, pimento sandwiches, chocolate cake for a trip to Atlantic Beach. We had to park the flivver

Continued on page 7

Bad News



Distributed by King Features Syndicate

EDITORIALS

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

Important Acts of The 84th Congress

The record of the 84th Congress now belongs to history but for the immediate present there were a number of outstanding pieces of legislation passed by this pre-election assembly.

For the rank and file the broadening of the social security program was of first importance: Pensions to women at the age of 62, pensions for totally disabled men at 50, plus another boost in the social security tax which didn't draw quite the attention of the "giving". Another penny on the dollar after next year is the boost to both employee and employer, making it a full six

per cent. The abortive but positive feeling in Congress that a searching re-examination is necessary for our foreign economic aid program was a hint of future thunder along the Potomac.

The farm program is expected to make a very positive cut in the surplus problem in 1957 but was implemented too early in '56 to have much control over this crop year. Sociological as well as economic problems are wrapped up in this farm bill, and they will become most apparent this winter as tenant contracts come up for renewal.

Pressing Jones County Highway Needs

Barrus Construction Company is currently resurfacing the widened section of NC 12 between Kinston and Trenton that lies in Jones County. Which is good, so far as it goes.

The only thing wrong is that it accents the equally pressing need for the same kind of treatment for the section of NC 12 that connects Trenton and Pollockville. Two narrow bridges, several too-sharp curves and the bumpy worn-out condition of this stretch nominate it as Jones County's No. 1 highway need.

Number two is the widening of the Trent

River Bridge at Pollockville and re-surfacing of all of US 17 in Jones County.

We are sure Highway Commissioner Maynard Hicks agrees with this and is restricted only by the shortage of money in having them put on the drawing boards immediately.

All users of these important segments of the state road system in Jones County who share this view may speed these projects up a great deal by sending a copy of this editorial, along with their own comment to Mr. Hicks, by simply addressing it to him at Snow Hill.

The Federal Highway Program Goes West

We trust you will indulge in one minute of selfishness.

The much-heralded Federal Highway Bill which was put into law by the now adjourned session of Congress sounds very good and in the first year under this bill North Carolina will receive \$25,493,157 from this source. How much North Carolinians will have to pay in federal taxes in order to get back this amount has not been clearly established? We trust no one will be foolish enough to presume that it will not cost the state considerably more than it gets back.

But there is another side to this new federal highway bill. The vast bulk of the money to be collected from an additional one-cent-per-gallon tax on gasoline is to be spent on a so-called National Interstate Highway System.

North Carolina has 717 miles of road that are part of this system out of a total of 80,000 miles of road. It is estimated that

out of the total of 164 million dollars that North Carolina is to get from this fund over 119 million dollars is to be spent just on that 717 miles of road. To which the state must add another ten per cent as its matching part.

Which makes that a pretty pampered 717 miles of roadway. But here in Eastern North Carolina things are even worse. Not one single solitary mile of that so-called National Highway System is east of US Highway 301, which crosses the state through Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Johnston, Harnett, Lee, Cumberland and Robeson counties.

This leaves a vast geographic and tax-paying segment of North Carolina to receive none of this federal "Charity". In all 26 of the state's 100 counties lie east of those charmed 717 miles of expensive roadway in those 26 counties the citizens will have to pay their extra federal gas

As those who read this page know, this paper did not favor The Pearsall Plan which was passed in such a rush last week by the special session of the General Assembly. We favored a simple Resolution of Interposition from the Assembly saying that the United States Supreme Court has no authority over the public schools of North Carolina. But then we are a member of that extremist segment which is deplored so by the folks who favor mixing the white and colored children in our public schools.

Now, however, on September 8th the voters of the state will have the opportunity to go to the polls and decide whether or not they like The Pearsall Plan. We say it is better than doing nothing as some soothsayers such as the professional PTA folks are suggesting.

It is better than open acceptance of mixed schools. So we say vote for it.

One of the biggest faults we find with the plan is that so few voters will actually understand what they are voting for when they cast their ballot. It is the job of the press and those who believe in this plan to explain it carefully and repeatedly so that the voter will be as well educated as possible.

As we understand the suggested changes in the State Constitution and the law would do about this: Give each school board the authority to set up "Local Option Districts". It may make their entire school district into one "Local Option District" or as many "Local Option Districts" as it feels necessary. Then when an "intolerable situation" presents itself in any of these "Local Option Districts" the board of education has the authority to call an election on the closing of all or part of the schools in said district. Either all high schools may be closed, or all elementary, or both may be closed. If the board of education refuses to call an election it may be forced to by petition of 15 per cent of the qualified voters in the district. When the election is held the simple majority will be decisive in closing or keeping open the schools. If the vote is to keep the schools open any single parent may ask that his child or children be transferred to a school where the mixing of races does not exist and if no such school exists then his child or children become eligible for tuition grants to private non-sectarian schools. Of course, if the vote is to close the schools all the children in that district automatically become eligible for the tuition grants.

It is complicated, unwieldy and at best merely a big legal club to wave at the negro, which says, in the final analysis, "Segregated schools or no schools!"

No one believes or has suggested that enough private non-sectarian schools exist now or could be opened within the span of several years to accommodate the children of even one small "Local Option District".

So the people must elect which they will have; schools with mixed white and negro classes or no schools. It may surprise some of the meaty-mouthed so-called liberals to learn that about 95 per cent of the people in our area will quickly vote for No Schools if this choice is forced upon them.

tax and a great many will never ride five yards on that extravagant National Highway System. This is another fine example of federal help.

Those who favor the federal program quickly point out that this federal money will free state funds so they may be spent on other roads, including those in the vast "Lost Colony" of East Carolina. They do not attempt to explain away, however, the burdensome red tape and additional costs that ever go hand in hand with federal money.

JONES JOURNAL

JACK RIDER, Publisher

Published Every Thursday by The Lenoir County News Company, Inc., 403 West Vernon, Ave., Kinston, N. C., Phone 5445. Entered as Second Class Matter May 5, 1949, at the Post Office at Trenton, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

By Mail in First Zone—\$3.00 Per Year. Subscription Rates Payable in Advance

