

'Just Put It on the Spike With the Others!'



EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man
—And He May Be Wrong

Ignorant Advantages

One of the advantages of being ignorant is not having to worry about the good or bad consequences of having men shot around the earth from time to time.

In an age that has seen miracles performed that imagination never dreamed of a generation ago it is foolish beyond ordinary ignorance to say that man will not go to the moon or Mars or anywhere.

But to those, such as ourselves who are quite illiterate about space age travel the trips of Russian cosmonauts and American astronauts have about the same significance that Columbus' voyages had to the average Spaniard, whose taxes were being used to put Columbus into 15th century orbit.

In 1492 there were few Europeans who had even the scantest notion about naviga-

ing the "open seas" and none who could see through the mists of time to predict the results that would come in 500 years from that first stumbling voyage toward the west.

At the pace of modern technology it is unlikely that we will have to wait 500 years for the results of this early space exploration to bear tangible fruit.

However, it is unlikely that the Spanish investment in Columbus' exploration consumed as large a percentage of the national income as the current efforts.

Whether it benefits or hurts man it is still one helluva show to shoot a man around the earth in an hour and a half, but it is rather ridiculous that it takes longer to get the poor guy out of the water than it took to shoot him around the world.

A Wholesome Sign

Lenoir County has 2,196 registered colored voters, yet on Saturday the only colored candidate for office received only 888 votes, and certainly not less than a 100 of these were white votes since they were cast in precincts in which few or no colored people are registered.

This is a wholesome sign, not from the racist point of view that feels it best that there be no colored participation in politics, but from the long-range view that colored voting must be based in reason rather than in race.

The colored candidate, Mrs. J. J. Hannibal, was very flatly rejected by her own people, who have with characteristic common sense recognized that she represents meddlesome interference rather than a genuine desire to help her race.

In 1959 Mrs. Hannibal received the vote of 99 per cent of the colored voters in Kinston when she was elected to the city council. In 1961, seeking another term in this same office, she lost when the colored vote split badly three ways.

Since the 1961 defeat Mrs. Hannibal has identified herself with the extreme side of colored society, commanding the boycott forces that made a pathetic effort to bank-

rupt a few Kinston stores and dictate places to shop to the thousands of colored citizens who spend their money in downtown Kinston.

More recently Mrs. Hannibal made a "solo flight into fancy" by appearing before the Kinston School Board and telling them it was illegal for them to build a handsome \$800,000 high school to replace badly outmoded and crowded Adkin High School.

The more rational, solid citizens among the local colored population resented being abused by a group of badly led children in the boycott fiasco, and these same citizens had the good common sense not to turn thumbsdown on a badly needed school facility for their children in exchange for the possibility of forcing a handfull of their pupils into Granger High School.

This means, among other things that Mrs. Hannibal is a dead issue as far as politics although she retains a certain nuisance value because of her past political success and the pipeline she has to the headquarters of the NAACP and the other dues-collecting organizations that are hustling the race issue.

But this does NOT mean that the more than 2,000 colored voters of Lenoir County

Terrible Wastefulness

Already this spring six Lenoir Countians have died in accidental drownings. This is a terrible wastefulness of the most precious gift we have.

Today with a larger percentage of people frequenting waters, either as bathers, boaters or fishermen there is a greater need than ever before to stress water safety.

Common sense is the basic tool of safety anywhere, either on land, on the seas or in the air, but in neither of these elements is the average person so likely to abandon common sense as on the water.

The water is so friendly, so inviting on a

hot day and everybody's having such a wonderful time fishing, swimming or just splashing.

But the water can be just as cruel as it is friendly, and it can and will turn the merriest outing into the most terrible tragedy if people forget or never know its dangers.

The simplest, quickest and most certain safety implement after common sense is to learn to swim. Every year the American Red Cross sponsors water safety courses, which include lessons in swimming, and these courses have saved thousands of lives, but they do not reach enough people.

Equipment for life-saving is inexpensive and easy to use but very few outings, especially on inland waters ever include even the simplest gadgets to save a life.

If you plan any kind of water trip be sure to include in your gear common sense and the easy-to-get and easy-to-use equipment that may save your life or the life of one of your children.

Project No. 1

The No. 1 project confronting education in Lenoir County is consolidation of its rural white high schools.

Building an industrial education center and working for a community college are good but it is getting the horse before the cart so long as we have seven inadequate high schools, that serve the overwhelming majority of our white high school students.

The unhappiest reflection of last week's primary was that not a single public word was uttered on this subject by any of the 22 candidates to whom this should have been a burning issue.

Not only are the students who attend these small high schools getting less education than their town cousins who attend a larger school, but the taxpayer is getting it in the neck since it costs twice as much per student per year to operate these small high schools.

June is the month of Brides and Grooms, graduations, beach parties, vacations and outdoor living and with such a good combination it's awfully hard to say anything but good about it.

The directors of the Kinston Eagles are still in a pleasant daze over the amazing attendance by local baseball fans, and directors of the other seven teams in the league are green with understandable envy.

"We win half the battle when we make up our minds to take the world as we find it, including the thorns," wrote Orison S. Marden. The world is made up of things which are not perfect and of people who are not motivated by the highest ideals. Only frustration haunts those who think there is some quick way to change all this. To make material conditions better for all people is a long, hard struggle; and to make people better is an even longer one. When we recognize this and try to live constructive, purposeful lives ourselves; we are contributing our small share toward the improvement we all want.

Editorial Musings from "Nuggets"

must continue without representation.

When they offer qualified candidates behind whom they can rally and for whom the white voters have respect the colored voters can and will have representation.

Lenoir County has many such colored citizens, who realize that mutual respect and cooperation will solve far more problems than threats and force.

The colored voters have realized that a glibness, and that certain affectation which the northern, born and educated colored person polishes to such a shine is not a true mirror, but is rather a distortion of the truth, not life as it must be lived but a Utopia surrounded by four-dollar words and egalitarian poppycock.

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PERSONAL
PARAGRAPHS
BY
JACK RIDER

There are very few people who ever come down with politics that fully recover. Once the virus of politics gets into one's bones he seldom recovers. Once in a while a fellow will suffer a severe attack, run for office and get the hell beat out of him and he will either get so mad or so hurt that he will even quit voting, but this is the rare case.

My mother used to ask my father what he got out of politics, and he'd say, "It's a sport, a fascinating game." And it is all of that. Politics is chess with people. There are kings, queens, knights and pawns. Each of the pieces in this human chess game has to be moved in certain ways and under different rules. And while you are maneuvering your chess pieces the opponent is trying to check you.

Of course, winning is the most important part of any game, whether it's politics or chess, but there is a great deal of fascination in the way the game is played, and even in going back over each move and trying to decide where the mistakes were made, or where the good moves were made that were the difference between winning and losing.

The politician who is successful must be an actor and a psychologist and he must be both of these without it showing. If he gets too "hammy" or too shrewd the voter senses it quickly and it is curtains.

Different politicians are able to capitalize on different assets. There are the cold-blooded Josiah Bailey types whose appeal is professional and there is the warm hearted Bob Reynolds type whose appeal is emotional. It is a paradox of the ballot box that such extremely different types as these two represented North Carolina in the United States Senate at the same time. I assure you that if you had combed Tar Heella from the sand dunes to the mountains you couldn't have found a more completely different pair than Josiah and "Our Bob."

No other country enjoys such a wild and woolly time with its politics as America. Of course, they kill more people in some of the Banana Republics, but mayhem is not much fun to any except the psychotic. We have our political funerals (I've been buried twice) but our funerals are in fun, although if you happen to be the fellow who is getting funeralized it's hard as hell to keep from crying over the beating you have just taken.

The politician is by nature a skeptic. But he is flirting with disaster when he begins to lose his ability to trust his friends. I have watched a lot of local politicians come and go and the surest way to know when one is on the way out is when he begins biting the hand that fed him, and when his imagination begins to run away with his fear of being beat.