

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's Good That Taxes Are 'Simpler'

I'd like to meet the person who was responsible for this year's federal income tax forms—not the legislators who hatched up the new tax laws in the first place, but the little dickens whose job it was to make sure we spend the first 3½ months of the year in utter confusion.

As the old saying goes, nothing is certain but death and taxes. But I'll also bet my bottom tax dollar that tax forms will keep getting more and more complicated, no matter what Senators Gramm, Rudman and Hollings say.

If I weren't such a penny pincher, I'd turn my taxes over to a professional to prepare. But besides the fact that I'm a tightwad, I'm of the opinion that you haven't lived until you sweat out the April 15 tax deadline at least once.

Rushing hither and yon to find those elusive forms and receipts really gets my blood pumping. I just wish I could claim a deduction for all of the gasoline I've burned driving to every library, post office and tax office in the county. And it's a shame my blood pressure medication isn't tax deductible either.

I suspect that the individual who makes up our tax forms each year is a bedraggled little gnome locked inside a dark, cluttered cubbyhole in the basement of the Internal Revenue Service building in Washington, D.C. From the looks of some of the instructions, the IRS needs to let him out for some fresh air every now and then.

Despite all of the hoopla this year about "simplified" tax laws, I found out right off the bat that it was the same old ballgame. On the cover of the instruction booklet, Commissioner of Internal Revenue Lawrence B. Gibbs writes, "Our goal is to make taxes less taxing..." Real funny, Larry.

Even before I finished filling out Step 1 of my 1040 form, it was obvious that whoever wrote the instructions either has a screw loose or a perverse sense of humor, finding pleasure in making simple things difficult.

For example, the line for listing your address reads, "Present home address (number and street). (If you

Rahn Adams



have a P.O. Box, see page 9 of the instructions.)"

Turn to the instruction booklet, and it says, "If your post office does not deliver mail to your street address and you have a P.O. box, write your P.O. box number on the line for your present home address instead of your street address."

Now wouldn't it have been a whole lot simpler just to say, "Present mailing address," on the form? Three little words instead of 54, and you wouldn't have to open the instruction booklet—in Step 1 anyway.

The IRS won't even let a taxpayer die in peace. Whoever said, "You can't take it with you," forgot to mention that the taxman doesn't care if you croak or not—you still have to pay.

Under the heading, "Death of Taxpayer," the instruction booklet reads, "If the taxpayer died before filing a return for 1987, the taxpayer's spouse or personal representative may have to file a return and sign for the person who died."

I hope my wife is listening, because it isn't April 15 yet. And if the taxes I have to pay don't kill me, filling out the forms may.

Forum Slated

Brunswick County Concerned Citizens, a non-partisan local political action committee, will hold a forum April 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia.

President Clayton Vaught said the event would be the group's first political action forum.

Details were unavailable.

Brierwood Resident Wants To Set The Record Straight

To the editor:

Enclosed is a letter I mailed to the mayor of Shallotte in response to an article in your March 24 paper in which your report on the town board meeting stated that two residents of Brierwood Estates opposed the house numbering system.

I believe my letter to the mayor states my position clearly.

I believe a correction would be in order.

John J. Eugene Shallotte

Dear Mayor Jones:

According to The Brunswick Beacon, you informed the town board and apparently the whole community that I opposed the house numbering system.

Neither did I oppose or argue in my letter against the house numbering system, my only concern in my letter to the town clerk was the Brierwood Estate area.

In 1985 when locating in Brierwood, there was no mail delivery. I personally went to the postmaster to request delivery. The postmaster took out a map of the subdivision of Brierwood Estates and assigned our home

a house number, and gave me petitions for the residents of the area to sign to have mail delivery.

In the event the town decides to change this number, I was concerned about my personal expenses of stamped envelopes, mailing labels, change of addresses, subscriptions, legal documents, pension and social security payments, etc.—all personal expenses.

My letter states further that the numbering system in Brierwood, and I underscore Brierwood, has worked efficiently and I didn't feel it required changes.

I further stated while some areas (specifically talking about Brierwood Estates) may not require number changing, I thought it advisable to recommend that all houses be properly numbered.

Apparently you haven't read my letter, were misinformed, or misunderstood its contents.

Since the paper printed a statement made by you to the town board which was inaccurate concerning my position, I am likewise sending them copies for proper corrections.

John J. Eugene Shallotte

Board Should Consult With Teachers About Curriculum

To the editor:

Dec. 7, 1987. Remember? The Brunswick County Board of Education approves of the high school curriculum being taught. I don't. Does that cause a shrug of the collective shoulders?

My concern is not with teachers. Many of them, especially at the middle school, call on outside resources. They are going out of their way to ex-

pose students to information and ideas not covered in classroom material. Most students entering high school are fairly well prepared.

Isn't it too bad that the high school curriculum does not offer the latitude to continue this preparation? Every June hundreds of students in the local area and millions across the country are dumped on the street with little ability to continue their life.

Whether they like it or will accept it, the boards of education across this land are responsible for the failure in our education system. An old maxim should apply—"You can only expect what you are willing to inspect."

As with their peers, the Brunswick County board is caught up in testing. There are tests for everything except educating students.

When the kids kill the CAT (California Aptitude Test), they and their teachers are blamed. The scores only measure the ability to regurgitate material taught. Most of the national tests are based above curriculum levels; therefore teachers are required to waste time teaching and administering "the test." Time which should be used for history, economics, reading, writing, math, English, science, etc.

It must and should insult the teachers to have their students tested by an outside agency. That insult should be directed to the administration and board of education with a demand for upgraded material. A teacher knows if the students are being taught at test levels.

The board of education should talk to teachers, not to bureaucrats at local, state or national levels. Without direct knowledge, I would guess that less than one quarter of the teachers have been consulted or approve of the present high school curriculum.

If our schools are so tied to testing, the boards should note the level of student success and ask—Why?

That is one of my questions to the Brunswick County Board—Why? Another is—Don't you care?

Jess Parker Supply

Squads

(Continued From Page 4-A)

patients I had referred to and left it standing as "the majority of patients," which seemed to make people feel that I had stated we were not doing a very good job.

The squads in this area do a fantastic job, and for no pay, being away from their families and giving up their spare time to give to others in trouble.

Rebekah McDonald
Emergency Medical Technician
Shallotte

Caring People Saved Vacation

To the editor:

My wife and I have been spending the month of March at Ocean Isle Beach. We arrived on the first and entertained my wife's brother and his wife upon their arrival March 7. The next evening, the 8th, the wife, our sister-in-law, died quite suddenly.

Not only did we suffer a shock in her passing, but we knew nothing about the services and requirements that were available and needed.

First we called the rescue squad and met a wonderful crew of caring persons. Even before they arrived, the officer on duty at Ocean Isle Beach arrived to assist. He was great. Through him we obtained the coroner, who was both caring and helpful.

The ambulance crew took the body

to the hospital where the Brunswick Funeral Service, which we had requested, handled the necessary arrangements.

Now that we have returned to Ocean Isle Beach for the rest of the month, we had to express our appreciation to all in Brunswick County who have helped us in this emergency.

What could have been a disastrous vacation has proven to be a very wonderful time among a fine collection of friendly and kind persons.

We shall hold great thoughts and feelings for Eastern Carolinians who welcomed and assisted us at this difficult period.

John H. Ness
Retired Clergyman
Mont Alto, Pa.

WE WANT TO BUY TRACTS OF TIMBER

- ✓ Plylogs
- ✓ Pulpwood
- ✓ Hardwood
- ✓ Free Estimates

TOP PRICES PAID

SYLVAIN WOOD, INC.
256-5033

If Your IRA Doesn't Seem To Be Getting You Anywhere, Ours Will.



Transfer Your Old IRA To United Carolina Bank And Get The Extras You Can Use Today.

If it seems like your IRA is just sitting there doing nothing, UCB has a better idea. A UCB IRA can help you enjoy 16 great benefits right now. Transfer your current IRA of \$5,000 or more to UCB. You'll not only get a high yield, you can also get Passport™ Banking with no monthly service fees. It's a package of 16 financial services that are free, or at great discounts. From unlimited check writing to credit card discounts and free traveler's checks. So you can put your retirement money to work before you retire. And right now transferring your IRA to UCB is as easy as signing your name. Just visit any UCB office or mail the coupon. We'll take care of the rest!

So if your IRA doesn't seem to be getting you anywhere, ours will. 16 services — one IRA. You get more from United Carolina Bank.

Mail To: United Carolina Bank Attn: IRA Coordinator P.O. Box 5021
Monroe, North Carolina 28110-0529

Please transfer all of the funds in my IRA account # _____
at _____ Bank Name _____
that will mature on _____ Date _____ to United Carolina Bank.

Signature _____ Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone during the day _____

UNITED CAROLINA BANK
Member FDIC

"That's What I Want!"

Call 754-4301

Substantial interest penalty for early withdrawal.