

Letters To The Editor

A Rolling Stone!

Dear Editor:

It has been stated, a rolling stone gathers no moss. It has occurred too many times in regards to the question of giving our downtown area a new face lifting. Perhaps so, yet I wonder whose, and whom's wallets are going to be lifted? It would seem with all of the outside help which is moving into our direction, with a new shopping center, and on the west side of town, an expected shopping center on the east side of town and a Supermarket on the east side. What does it leave for the now four town business areas? The Credit Plan? Another thing the question in regards to the under-pass which is being suggested. Let's remember first of all that the railroad was here before the town. Since then we've had two over-passes of which were built for the public use. What's the gimmick? Another hand out from Washington, to make some fat-cat richer? Why not close all railroad crossings, it's really private property. Or is it just another scheme to force a greater tax burden on the already over taxed tax payer. When and if the citizens of our Historical City ever wake up? These vouchers in high places would care less whether we sink or drown. I could name a few by name. Who have gotten their heads above the sewer, who are crawling up to the less unfortunate ones, and if there were a corps within the home and if the trend were like it use to be when a two-bit piece was placed on the eyes of the dead, they were that greedy and still yet, to even lift it off the eyes of the dead. Another thing. When it's near election time the same vouchers will enter the holy of holly to mingle with the voters caring less about it being a place of worship. So are some of the local building and realty, or real estate brokers. Who care less about our city and it welfare and well being. This may be a bitter pill to take, but let's face it fellow citizens. You don't have to cast a stone very far to hit these would be do-gooders. They lie awake at night thinking on just how to rob their fellow man. So what's up Doc? It's as plain as the nose on your face.

Everette H. Pearson

P.S. I'm for honest progress; not open day-light high-way robbery. Not night scheming robbery by the local or out of town cats who are trying to break this City into shambles. People who have worked hard to build up their business and their homes. For the likes of those who are instrumental in trying to bankrupt our city for their own selfish means. I would care less if they were to pack up and leave tomorrow. E.H.P.

Perspective

by Jay Ashley



Once in a great while one gets to see a performer he has always wanted to see. It may be a luscious film star or a famous theater actor or such. For me the opportunity came a few days ago when I went to Charlotte to see and hear a musician, in fact two of them, that, as far as I'm concerned, are top in their field. The pair was John (Giant on My Mind) Hartford and Earl ("Foggy Mountain Breakdown") Scruggs.

Since I play the guitar and banjo myself, I have always admired both men. Hartford stands out more as a writer and Scruggs is just a good old down home five string picker.

The event took place in the cafeteria of the UNC-C Student Union and a sizable crowd was in attendance. Most of the spectators were wine wielding students but spotted throughout were older folks who just grooved on the good sounds. The thick odor of grass was in the air...and it wasn't bluegrass as would have been fitting.

Hartford was first on the list and filled the air with his banjo, guitar and fiddle playing. He was quite a versatile performer and had the crowd on its feet when his stint ended. He act however just brought the crowd to a frenzy for the arrival of Scruggs. You can't judge a crowd by its looks, that's for certain, because this seeming Leon Russell Freak group got to its feet with shouts of "G! H! Earl!" and "Pick it out, Earl!" And that he did.

His style has changed a bit since the old days of Lester Flatt and the Martha White theme song but that country boy grin was still there. He plays a brand of music now dubbed "country rock" which is mostly lived up hymns and some pop tunes

"countertop" by the major. Many of the people there shouted for "Salty Dog" and the like but they were unheeded. His boys, Randy and Gary are grown now and they handle the guitar and Bass guitar, respectively, like old hands. They should, look at the teacher. The boys took most of the lead during the concert leaving Earl to "moodle around" in the background. As the first set came to an end, Earl finally broke into some of that "hard as nails" three finger bluegrass that has made him quite a tidy fortune.

"The Flint Hill Special" split the air as his hands went from the high notes to the lows. When he went into the tuning peg sound the crowd hit its feet in applause. But Earl, in typical Cleveland County style, just kept on grinning, making an occasional slight nod of the head as if embarrassed by the fact that he was the greatest. So "Flint Hill Special" came to its shav-and-a-haircut-two-bits-ending. But the crowd would not let him stop. O.K. he seemed to say, "here it comes" and he struck up the famous "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" and it was virtually drowned out by the clapping and cheering. First Earl, then Josh on the dobro, then Randy on the guitar and then back to Earl and end it.

When they left the stage the lights came up and the crowd began to filter out. I searched for Earl to talk with him but he had gone. But the evening was quite a success for both us, Barbara and me. I got to see a boyhood idol and Barbara got a night away from home for a change. Don't let her know I spread it around but I think she enjoyed the concert, too. For a Beethoven groupie that's an accomplishment.



"YOU'LL ENJOY IT'S SHADE ANY MOMENT NOW"

Senate, Governor's Races Appear Very Close- Predictions Are Uncertain

By JOHN KILGO

Politicians are heading down the home stretch in North Carolina with the outcome of many major races in grave doubt and the picture getting cloudier day by day.

Across the state politicians are arguing about how long and wide President Nixon's coalition will be in the Tar Heel State.

Charles Jonas, Jr., who heads President Nixon's North Carolina effort, told me he feels Nixon is doing extremely well in the state and will be able to help other candidates like Jesse Helms and Jim Holshouser. But a crusty Democratic politician, running for reelection himself, told me: "Nixon's going to win in North Carolina but he won't carry people with him. It's going to be the damndest ticket-splitting you've ever seen."

People are now beginning to argue just how big Nixon's expected victory will be in North Carolina. Some McGovern people say their man has made the race close in the state and stands to poll about 47 per cent of the vote.

If the race for President gets anything like that close in North Carolina, then you can bet the President's coalition won't have room for another soul.

But if Nixon should get around 60 per cent of the vote in North Carolina, there are those in the Republican ranks who feel he'll take Helms with him to the Senate and Holshouser to the Governor's mansion.

Most politicians I've talked with in recent days seem to feel the gubernatorial campaign between Holshouser and Skipper Bowles has become a very rugged contest, too close to call at this point.

Holshouser seems to be getting momentum from unexpected places as the campaign swings into its last week. The Charlotte Observer, the largest newspaper in the state, surprised many people last Sunday when they gave Holshouser a strong editorial endorsement.

The endorsement itself won't mean a whole lot. But the surprise of it makes the Republican seem even more like a possible winner and that could put people on his bandwagon.

Holshouser says he's pulled even with Bowles and will win.

The Bowles camp is not making a lot of noise about what the polls say. They claim to be happy with them and say they're still ahead.

You also must remember that Bowles didn't have much to say about the polls in his primary victory over Pat Taylor. Many people took that to mean Bowles was in trouble—but he kept his mouth shut to keep his supporters from taking a stent. Sometimes when you have a lead it's better for your supporters to think you're in a little trouble. It keeps the sleeves rolled up.

If President Nixon is able to take anyone to office with him, it would seem logical that that person would be Jesse Helms, who is seeking

the Senate seat of B. Everett Jordan.

A Nixon landslide in North Carolina would have to help Helms. Almost everyone agrees with that.

It's also hard to get a handle on this campaign between Helms and Democrat Nick Galifianakis. Helms seems to be doing very well in the East where he's well known, but some of his supporters fear he hasn't spent enough time in the Piedmont where the big city vote can smash a man's hopes of winning a political office.

Said one Democrat: "All of the major races are going to be close because the Republican Party is getting stronger in North Carolina year by year. But I doubt

that Nixon's so well liked here that he'll be able to help any other candidate, including Helms, in any large way."

agreed to tour a "haunted house" Monday night, and found a line waiting outside to get in. The house was haunted in full fashion by the Jolly Players Drama Group of the First Baptist Church, and on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday evenings was host to about 500 visitors.

Upon entering, along with Becky and Elaine—two more of the MIRROR's fearless fun seekers, we were engulfed in darkness, with black lights shining on white ghosts and witches fluorescent fingernails and lips—a decayed color of silmy green—spooky-man-spooky. There was a fortune telling booth, a wild man in a cage being prodded with a stick and growling back, witches at the top of the staircase, and as we came down the steps what did we see but a little red devil meeting us. I'm sure the pictures I could see to take didn't do the darkness of the house justice—oh I forgot the figure getting his head chopped off repeatedly, while a kid behind a screen whined in agony. Proceeds from the event were used for the drama group and for a gift to the church's annual Little Moon Christmas offering.

Attacks on free Congressional mail are rising.



Think-Then Vote!

Five days from today Americans will elect or re-elect a President. Now that's a pretty dramatic thing to happen on any one day in November, and it's something probably worthy of more thought than most of us give it. Here in North Carolina we are electing a new Governor and a new United States Senator on that day also, and there are numerous other state offices to be filled.

About this time of year many newspapers give editorial endorsements of the candidates whom they presumably think are best suited for the offices they seek. The MIRROR presumes to make no endorsements this election year. Any such recommendation to the voters would in effect be nothing more than the personal opinion of the management and editorial department of this newspaper.

We do have one recommendation, and that is to urge every citizen to not just vote on November 7th, but also examine the candidates wisely and honestly—be honest with yourself. No one else will be with you in that voting booth. So before you rush out and cast that important vote next Tuesday, spend a little time thinking about it now. It could be time well spent.

Reflections

by Rodney Dodson



Haunted houses are usually inhabited only by the spooks, and are avoided like the plague by everyday folks who know better than to push aside the cobwebs and enter the domain of witches and things that scream and "bump" in the dark, but All HallowsEve brings out the daring spirit of youngsters, and scaring or amusing people turns into a lark.

I decided to tour a "haunted house" Monday night, and found a line waiting outside to get in. The house was haunted in full fashion by the Jolly Players Drama Group of the First Baptist Church, and on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday evenings was host to about 500 visitors.

Upon entering, along with Becky and Elaine—two more of the MIRROR's fearless fun seekers, we were engulfed in darkness, with black lights shining on white ghosts and witches fluorescent fingernails and lips—a decayed color of silmy green—spooky-man-spooky. There was a fortune telling booth, a wild man in a cage being prodded with a stick and growling back, witches at the top of the staircase, and as we came down the steps what did we see but a little red devil meeting us. I'm sure the pictures I could see to take didn't do the darkness of the house justice—oh I forgot the figure getting his head chopped off repeatedly, while a kid behind a screen whined in agony. Proceeds from the event were used for the drama group and for a gift to the church's annual Little Moon Christmas offering.

One advantage—I guess you could say—about being in the newspaper business is that you have a good opportuni-

ty to meet the candidates during an election year. This year I've had the opportunity to talk with candidates for Governor, Jim Holshouser and Skipper Bowles, Senatorial candidates Nick Galifianakis and Jesse Helms, Jim Hunt who is running for Lieutenant Governor, candidate for attorney general Nick Smith.

Of course the cost would be prohibitive, but I can think of several railroad crossings here in town where an under-or-over-pass would be desirable. I became acutely aware of this one day last week at the Piedmont Street crossing when an engine pulling no cars had half a dozen autos held up for about 5 minutes while it slowly chugged from beyond the depot, up the track to stop right in the middle of the crossing, and what for? to let out two railroad workers who apparently didn't want to walk the quarter mile.

Maybe it's my imagination, but it seems like the traffic situation in KM has gone from bad to worse. A couple of weeks ago I drove from here east to the Outer Banks, a trip of 1000 miles on N.C. roads, through some towns about the size of ours, and frankly I didn't get into any bad traffic jams until I got back here on Sunday. Then on a recent Friday night when everybody was going from Belmont west to play ball, I had to sit on E. King at least 5 minutes to turn left into Canster St. I'm glad to see some moves being made to alleviate traffic congestion in our town, it isn't coming any too soon.

Washington Report

By Congressman James T. Broyhill

Hasty Adjournment

The 92nd Congress rushed to final adjournment last week in a flurry of activity that was hectic, hasty, and often contradictory. Differences between bills passed long before by the Senate and the House of Representatives were finally resolved. Details of all appropriations bills were completed. Dramatics were provided by the President's veto of the water pollution bill, which was subsequently overturned by a large majority in both Congressional chambers. And the \$250 billion ceiling on Federal spending, approved by the Congress last week, was reversed and defeated.

A number of legislative landmarks were enacted during the Congressional year, but much unfinished business remains to be taken up by the next Congress which will convene in January. Among the major accomplishments of the second session of the 92nd Congress are the following:

Revenue Sharing: Requested by President Nixon, and approved in final form earlier this month, this legislation provides \$80 billion in Federal revenues over a five-year period to be apportioned among the towns, cities, and states on the basis of population and need. This law will provide badly needed assistance to local governments in meeting needs for improved public services and facilities.

Rural Development: This measure, which I co-sponsored, expands existing programs under the Farmers Home Administration and Soil Conservation Service to encourage the development of small towns and rural areas. Programs to assist in providing community centers and services, pollution abatement and control, and municipal and industrial water supplies are included, as well as programs to encourage business and industry to locate in rural areas.

Social Security: Final passage of this legislation was delayed for over a year by the controversy about the inclusion of a welfare reform provision which provided a guaranteed income feature. It received final approval last week, and provided changes in Social Security requirements which will be helpful to millions of people. Under this new law, widows will receive 100 percent of what their husbands would have been entitled to, instead of 82 1/2 percent as at present. The earnings limitation for those receiving retirement benefits is increased from \$1600 per year to \$2100. Those who choose to work beyond age 65 will receive a one percent increase in benefits for each year between 65 and 72. An important change in the Medicare program provides Medicare coverage for all who receive Social Security disability benefits. These and other changes are financed through increased Social Security taxes beginning next year.

Higher Education: This law provides a change in direction for the Federal government involvement in higher education programs by establishing a program of Federal subsidies to col-

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