The selling of America

As of Dec. 31, 1990, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, foreign interests owned 14.45 million acres—slightly more than one percent—of privately-owned farmland in this country.

Foreign ownership climbed 13 percent—1,875,806 acres—from a year earlier. Holdings have remained relatively steady from 1981 through 1990, fluctuating around one percent of the privately-owned agricultural land in the United States.

About 62 percent of the reported foreign holdings actually is land owned by U.S. firms. However, the law requires firms to register their landholdings as foreign if as little as 10 percent of their common stock is held by foreign investors. The remaining 38 percent of foreign-held land is owned by investors not affiliated with U.S. firms.

Because of corporate holdings, an increase in foreign ownership from one year to another does not necessarily represent land newly acquired by foreigners. Nor do the numbers necessarily represent ownership exclusively by foreigners.

A U.S. firm's landholdings can show up as "foreign owned" one year, but not another, as the firm's stock passes in and out of foreign hands. The land, however, is still owned by the same entity as before.

These and other finds are based on an analysis of reports submitted to USDA under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978, The analysis also revealed:

- The amount of *farmland* (cropland, pasture and rangeland) owned exclusively by foreigners (excluding holdings of U.S. firms) is about three million acres. Forest land accounts for 50 percent of all foreign-owned acreage; cropland, 17 percent; pasture and other agricultural land, 30 percent; and agricultral land not under cultivation, three percent.
- Corporations (U.S. and foreign) own 83 percent of the foreign-held acreage; partnerships, nine percent; and individuals, six percent. The remaining two percent is held by estates, trusts, associations.
- Japanese investors own four percent of the total foreign-held acreage. Investors (including individuals, corporations, partnerships) from Canada, the United Kingdom, West German, France, the Netherlands Antilles and Switzerland own 70 percent of the foreign total.
- The largest foreign-owned acreage, mostly timberland, was reported in Maine. Foreign holdings account for 17 percent of Maine's privately-owned agricultural land.
- Outside of Maine, foreign holdings are concentrated in the South (32 percent) and West (33 percent). Rhode Island is the only state with no reported foreign-owned agricultural land.
- Ninety four percent of the foreign-owned acreage remains in agricultural production.

Don't underestimate Myrick

One on One
By D.G. Martin

Deja vu all over again? I am hearing that same old question: "Who is this Sue Myrick?"

Four years ago Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt made one of his worse political mistakes. He underestimated his reelection opponent—Sue Myrick.

It was an understandable mistake. Gantt was a high profile mayor—confident, energetic, active and still popular after two terms as mayor. Mrs. Myrick was hardly known. She was not an insider in the Charlotte business or political family. She won the Republican nomination because none of the "regular" Republicans thought they could beat Mayor Gantt.

Back then people were laughing about Sue Myrick running for mayor of Charlotte. And today other people are laughing about her running for the United States Senate.

Are you are laughing too? Or are you are just wondering who is this woman who thinks she can beat Lauch Faircloth in the Republican primary and Terry Sanford in the senate election next year? If you are one of those folks, I have just a word of caution: "Don't underestimate Sue Myrick."

Folks in Charlotte still talk about the Myrick campaign against Gantt. How did she beat him—and become Charlotte's first woman mayor? You'll get lots of answers: "Gantt didn't take her seriously soon enough." "There was a light turnout." "Gantt had taken some strong positions that were unpopular with some important voter groups."

All those reasons may be true. But I think she won the election mostly for two reasons. One, she has a great sense of what people worry about. Two, she ran a very tough and aggressive campaign.

First, there is her sense of knowing what worries people. Mrs. Myrick has it. She and her husband are in the advertising business—and they know how to get down into people's hearts and souls through the media.

For instance, Mrs. Myrick knew that people in Charlotte hated the traffic jams that clog Charlotte every rush hour. And she knew better than most others just how deep that hatred was. This is where her advertising background helped. She didn't just prepare position papers and give speeches about roads. She got out on the roads in traffic to make her point that she cared—and that Mayor Gantt didn't care enough.

She developed a group of radio spots about being stuck in traffic. Guess when those ads ran. Right, at rush hour, when people stuck in traffic would hear them on their car radios. She led those poor people to believe that the roads would get a lot better if Myrick were mayor.

Second, she ran a tough and aggressive campaign. She Myrick ran just as rough a campaign against Gantt as Jesse Helms did in the U.S. Senate race last year. If you wondered why Gantt stood up so well against the negative advertising in last year's senate race, here is the answer. The Myrick campaign had given him plenty of practice.

So if Lauch Faircloth and Sue Myrick are in the Republican senate primary together, I have just one piece of advice for Lauch: "Don't underestimate Sue Myrick. And watch out."

I'd say the same thing to Terry Sanford.

And, if for some reason Senator Sanford doesn't run, and Harvey Gantt runs in his place, I'd say the same thing to Gantt.

But, of course, he already knows.

D.G. Martin of Chapel Hill is secretary to the University of North Carolina. He shares these opinions with state newspapers.

Mooresville Tribune

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Uncle Dan from Doolie says

Choose your genes carefully

I mentioned early in the session at the country store Saturday night where a Methusala gene has been found in a middle age woman in this country. I don't recall where she lives, but she will live there a heap longer than most. When she had a cholesterol check the lab couldn't believe the test and called her back. They found out all her cholesterol is the good kind, not the clogging kind.

Doctors that run more tests on her learned that long lives run on her mother's side of the family. They said the gene has been found in a few other people, but now genetic research has got to the place where they might be able to do somepun with it. Scientists say if they can figger out how that gene works it could be a help pervent birth defects as well as extend life.

All the fellers are well past their three score and 10, and all their old ladies decided long since to grow old with em as graceful as they can. Still, they showed some interest in my item on the agender. Zeke Grubb noted that the gene don't stop folks from aging, it just lets em git older longer. He said it was passing strange that only wimmen carry the gene, and he was curious how this idee would hit wimmen that refuse to grow old. What they want is a clock stopper, not a longer running clock, Zeke said, and to hear some of em talk you would think they'd rather die young and live old.

Bug Hookum said he was thinking of the Federal Aviation Administration rule agin pilots flying fer airlines after they're 60. The idee is that the sharp edge is gone by that age, but you won't find a 60-year-old that wants to keep flying that will agree. Bug said he allus hears there are old pilots and bold pilots, but no old, bold pilots. He said pilots that get more careful as they git older must be the best kind, so if this gene can be showed to slow the aging as well as extend it, the FAA might rethink its policy.

Actual, Bug went on, there's no end to ways we try to cheat time, but we usual wind up tricking ourselves. Fer instant, he saw recent perdictions that in 25 year we will be able to slow down man's "aging clock," and maybe even run it backward. Eventual, we can set our clocks at 40 and keep em there 30 year.

Fer his money, Bug said, this is dreaming, but then he admits he is confused by airplanes that leave New York and git to Los Angeles before they left. Are the folks in em younger when they land than when they took off?

Practical speaking, Clem Webster said, he has trouble with this clock stopping business. Eventual, it's going to start ticking. If a feller that's been 40 year old fer 30 year goes to bed at 40, gits up in the morning, looks in the mirror and sees he's shaving a 70 year old face, is he going to die of shock or scoot down to nearest age-control center fer a quick fix?

As fer backing up the clock, Clem said, that's another can of worms that he's to far down the pike to open. But if he could choose, he wondered, would he go back to the year before a rock cracked the oil pan in the truck and ruined the engine. If he did, he'd suffer double with that gall bladder attack that hit him the year after. Fer sure, he went on, he'd want to combine 1941 prices with 1991 wages.

The Tribune welcomes letters. We prefer originals that address issues of interest to our specific readership. You must include your name and address, and we would very much appreciate a telephone number in the event we want to ask a followup question. Keep in mind that your letters are subject to editing.

Mail your letters to Mooresville Tribune, Post Office Box 300.

Your turn

I am writing in response to the two editorials that appeared in the Mooresville Tribune on May 1.

Both columns were of 1891 vintage, not of 1991.

The first editorial was a direct insult to Dr. Houston, the teachers, the administration and the School Board of the Mooresville Graded School District. One of the strongest elements of the South Iredell community is the present school system. I hear few complaints from other parents or students, only those from the editorial pages. I am proud of the fact that my son is enrolled in the "Year Round" program at Park View. I am impressed with the teachers and administration of our school district and would oppose any moves to consolidate our system with a county system.

I have lived in Mooresville for five years, but it is evident, that the Mooresville and South Iredell area is a unique area, with a bright future. We are as distinct and separate from Statesville and the northern end of the county, as if we were separated by a natural barrier. Merely look at the telephone system for proof of this.

Before ever merging with a single county system, I would favor the Mooresville and South Iredell area seceding from Iredell County and forming the 101st county, in order to preserve our identity and our treasured school system.

In reference to the other issue of this area growing "too fast," I do realize that it is hard to get a park downtown at times, or more difficult to leave the Lotus parking lot. However, drive 30 miles down the interstate and travel down Independence Blvd. at any time of the day. There is still a difference, thank goodness.

In 1986, there were approximately 10 doctors on staff at our hospital. Due to "growth" we now have over 25 physicians, with expanded health care for the people of the community.

Several new industries have come to this area under the direction of Homer Faulk and a very aggressive Chamber of Commerce. This growth has been a benefit to the community. I do agree that planned and orderly growth is the key, if we are to preserve our community for the generations to come.

We have special things in this area, our schools, the people and the South Iredell community in general. I would hate to see our school system tampered with or not allow our community to grow in a fashion, with which we all would benefit from.

Aubrey D. Calhoun, M.D.

OUR COMMUNITY

IN OTHER YEARS

1911
80 YEARS AGO

By order of the Board of Town Commissioners, I hereby call a mass meeting of the citizens of Mooresville to be held at the graded school auditorium on Tuesday night, February 14, 1911, at 8 o'clock to discuss changes proposed to be made in the Town Charter as follows, to wit:

1st—Right of way for water pipes, sewage pipes, etc.

2nd—For the assessment of property to lay side walks and make street improvements.

3rd—The right to raise tax limit.

4th—The election of Tax Collector by the Board of Commissioners.

5th—The issuance of bonds for extension of water system, sewerage system, streets, etc.

6th—The division of the Town into wards.

It is important that a full and representative meeting be held and all these questions thoroughly discussed as our Representative will be expected to pass the bill formulated at this meeting. If you desire to be heard, be present on Tuesday night.

J.E. BROWN, Mayor, Feb. 8, 1911

Necessary and contemplated civic improvements in our beautiful little city have developed so rapidly that it behooves us to make some effort to meet the requirements, finanically, hence Mayor J.E. Brown has called a mass meeting to be held in the graded school auditorium on next Tuesday night, February 14 for the purpose of getting an expression of the people in regard to legislation as outlined in his call.

It is quite important that every citizen attend and if you are not pleased with any changes in the old charter speak out in the meeting and make your objections known, unless you can show the limits of the present charter

Communicating With Your Government Representatives

			Office	Home
Town	Manager	Rick McLean	663-3800	664-7735
	Mayor	Joe Knox	663-0426	664-1051
	Ward I Commissioner	Grady Shoe	664-1300	664-1365
	Ward II Commissioner	David Tompkins		663-7572
	Ward III Commissioner	Darrell Wilson	664-3617	664-2069
	Ward IV Commissioner	Gene Brannon	664-1772	663-0248
	At-Large Commissioner	Richard Nantz	664-5806	664-3027
	At-Large Commissioner	Robert Randall	663-3221	664-1921
County	Manager	Joel Mashburn	663-1616	
	Commissioner Chairman	R.B. Sloan Jr.	873-5241	872-8664
	Commissioner Vice Chairman	Alice Stewart	585-6644	
	Commissioners	Sara Haire	663-1777	896-0715
		Doug Madison	873-0521	873-9887
		Frank Mitchell	876-0133	876-4327
State	26th District Sen.	Howard Bryan 1420 Mt. Vernon Ave. Statesville, NC. 28677	919-733-5783	872-9000
	43rd District Rep.	Robert Brawley Route 5, Box 96 Mooresville, NC. 28115	919-733-5931	663-2635
Federal	9th District Rep.	Alex McMillan 227 Cannon Building Washington, DC 20515	202-225-1976	663-1976
	Senator	Jesse Helms 216 Hart Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510	202-224-3154	
	Senator	Terry Sanford 702 Hart Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510	202-224-6342	

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JOEL GREY: GETTING WHAT HE DESERVES!

JOEL GREY

by Seli Groves

It's said that everyone eventually gets what's coming to him. For some, the prospect is probably less than welcome. For others, the reward is well worth the anticipation. As for Joel Grey, who has been a fabulous star of theater and film for years (and most recently did a delightful TV turn on "Dallas"), one can only say how great it looks. "It's a wonderful thing," he said of Joel's first TV series, which is expected to debut next season on ABC.

"And it's not about food," Joel said. "It's about comeuppance. You look at it and say justice. I like the show." Joel said. "But," he laughed, "I'm sure you expected me to say that. But really, I'm very excited about it. I've never done a sex-com before, so it's a little bit of a risk for me. But I really like drama. I deals with the kind of people we've been reading about for years: those who take and never give anything back. The newspapers are filled with stories about them. Savings and loan executives who lived well on their depositors' money and walked away without paying back so much as a cent when everything collapsed around them. Others who, in pursuit of arrogant wealth and power, destroyed not only of acquiring wealth for themselves, rather than using some of their money to try to do good for others.

"When you read about these people, don't you sometimes wish you could make them pay for what they've done? Well, that's what my character, Michael Price, does. He sees to it that there is pay-back time, that justice can be done, and is done."

We'll have to wait until fall types season to see those who actually pay their "Price" for their misdeeds and on it, in big, bold letters was written: THE WORLD'S BEST NEIGHBOR AWARD. I should explain that I've edited it a little. There was a very explicit expletive between the word Best and the word Neighbor. He put that trophy there to make sure that whatever happened at the Awards, I wouldn't go into the house empty-handed."

Joel did win the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for Cabaret in 1972. He played the evil Emcee in the Berlin of Germany of the 1930s — a time when the Nazis were coming to power, and their evil was about to explode into the world. He had first played the role in the Broadway production which opened in 1966. His performance won him the coveted Tony Award as Best Supporting Actor in a Broadway musical. The play was revived on Broadway in 1986 with Joel as Best Drama is a Musical. He went on to headline the national "Cabaret" tour. Joel had a chance to repeat his performance as the M.C. — whom most observers agree is a symbol of the evil of Nazism and the bigotry and hate it spawned — in a setting that was a world apart from the character's original place in history. At the invitation of the White House, he performed "Wilkommen" (the M.C.'s chillingly seductive song) at a gala honoring West German Chancellor Helmut Schl. A few years later, a White House dinner for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

In recent years, something especially wonderful has been happening at Cher Grey. Daughter Jennifer was becoming a film star courtesy of her performance in the movie, "Dirty Dancing." She's since gone on to star in several other well-received movies.

Following a father in the business can be helpful, but it doesn't guarantee that a successful career would necessarily follow. That comes only with a lot of talent, a lot of hard work, and some luck. Because he knows how difficult the business can be, one might expect that Joel would rather his children (he also has a son, James) shied away from it.

"Not at all," he said. "I just want for them what any parent wants for his kids: that they do something that brings them success and that they enjoy doing. In a way, it's kind of a nice thing to have your kids like what you do enough to want to do it too."

Joel, who was born Joel Katz in Ohio, also likes cats. (The homonym isn't lost on him, for he often refers to the furry creatures with whiskers and tails). "I have one named Betty, he says, 'who travels with me whenever I can arrange it. She was with me on the entire 'Cabaret' tour recently- 42 cities."

Although he's done mostly theater, cabaret, and concerts over the course of his career (which began when he was nine years old), Joel has also made films such as Buck and the Preacher, Bill and the Investigation, "The Seven Percent Solution," "Remo Williams: The Adventure Begins" (in which he played a 75-year-old Korean martial arts expert, and for which he won a Golden Globe nomination), and, of course, "Cabaret." Film historian Ephraim Katz (no relation!) says: "His film appearances have been few, but memorable."

Asked how he would sum up his career to this point, he said: "I'd say that I'm getting what you like to do."

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Entertainment Extra by Evelyn Ludvigson

Q. Could you please give me a brief history on the famous New York Friars Club and, in addition, the roles women have played in this mainly male-dominated organization? Patricia O.

A. Prae Omnia Fraternities proclaims the motto of the renowned Friars Club of New York celebrating its 87th year. The translation — Brotherhood Forever — has perhaps now a more figurative than literal meaning as women from more than two of the age groups have been admitted. But the concept still prevails to provide a warm environment for members of the (primarily) entertainment industry and to support charitable and humanitarian causes.

Of the Club's 1400 members, two-thirds must be involved in show-business related activities, with the remainder listed as non-professional and primarily from the business world.

More than 80 women have joined their male colleagues since the first two were inducted in 1976. Among the others (and, of course, alphabetically): Carol Burnett, Phyllis Diller, Eydie Gorme, Anjelica Huston, Susan Lucci, Roberta Peters, Joan Rivers, Brooke Shields, Barbra Streisand, Elizabeth Taylor and Dionne Warwick.

However, the women had their day (and night) in 1988 when the Club's membership was available. Ms. Shore was the first to be honored at a testimonial dinner (in 1960) while the inimitable Sophie Tucker had the distinction of being the initial lady "lambasted" at the infamous celebrity luncheons (in 1953). But it was the raucous Ms. Diller who was the first woman to make it as a guest (roastees didn't count), albeit uninvited, when she skulked in dressed as a man even to a false mustache for 1983's Comic Relief. The Club is retained by roasting her two years later.

Hundreds and hundreds of the illustrious, the eminent, the celebrated and, yes, even the immortal, have called the Friars their home away from home in eight-and-a-half decades. Just a sampling: George M. Cohan (the first leader), Mike Todd, Joe E. Lewis, Frank Sinatra, Milton Berle, Jack Dempsey, Gentleman Jim Corbett, George Burns, Mayor Jimmy Walker, Jack Benny, Victor Herbert, Johnny Carson, Ed Sullivan, et al.

Irving Berlin, who, until his death at the age of 101, was the oldest living member, wrote the lyrics to "Alexander's Ragtime Band" for the first Friars' Frolic in 1911. Cohan composed World War I's most popular patriotic song, "Over There," in the clubhouse, and a speech sung by Victor Herbert in 1907, "Here's To The Friars," has been its anthem ever since.

But let it not be said the Friars' interest lies only with the established. It is actively seeking younger members and, among the newer breed can be found the likes of Richard Lewis, Richard Belzer, Bill Murray, Chevy Chase, Dan Aykroyd, Bruce Willis and Dennis Miller.

The current home of the Friars is almost an anachronism. A five-storied English Renaissance house, it's in the heart of Manhattan on an active commercial street, 55th. Eighty years ago, this was an elegant residential section of New York and restrictive clauses in the original property deeds forbidding the establishment of a variety of nuisances still remain in the Friars' deed. These include livery stables, breweries, tanneries, glue factories and other of equally noisome character.

Incidentally, the Friars Club was originally titled the Press Agents' Association as it consisted, of that early beginning, of press agents. When others in the world of entertainment become part of it, the name also changed. And the titles of the officers of the organization are descriptive of its name: the abbot, the dean, the prior, the scribe.

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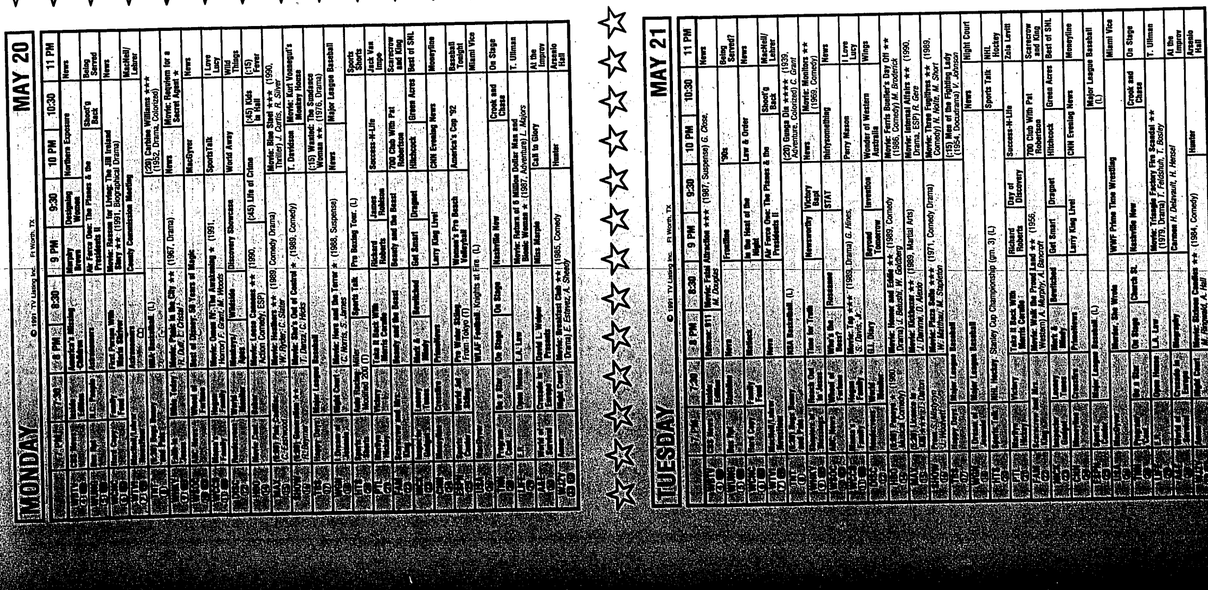
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