

The Rocky Mount Herald

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City Court Salaries

Since the campaign for Judge of the Municipal Court and the City Solicitor is in progress, requests have come to the Herald as to what these jobs pay, and also what pay the City Attorney receives.

We have made an investigation and find as follows: The Judge of the City Court formerly received \$150 per month, which has been reduced to the present salary of \$135.00 per month. The City Solicitor formerly received \$125.00 per month, which has been reduced to \$105.00 per month. These positions certainly do not receive too much for their services.

The City attorney, whose supposed duties are to advise the Board of Aldermen, has heretofore received \$2,400 per year, or \$200 per month. The salaried position was created about 1927, and Messrs. Thorpe and Thorpe received this appointment and they have been drawing \$200 per month since that time, until recently when the salary was reduced to \$150.00 per month. In addition thereto, they receive fees in all tax matters. They have probably received since 1927, between twelve and fifteen thousand dollars. While we have no breach for lawyers, we are constrained to believe that this salary is clearly out of line and we venture to say that it is probably the highest paid in the state for a town of this size.

Now, it may be said that they are supposed to take care of the court cases of the city. The Herald made an investigation as to this and found in the late Hamilton case, in which Mrs. Charlie Hamilton was injured by the city, that Messrs. Spruill & Spruill were paid \$450; Messrs. Battle and Winslow \$450 for services in connection with legal motions which were heard in the Superior Court.

We further find that Messrs. J. P. Bunn and T. T. Thorne were also retained to try the case before the jury, should it reach the jury, and Mr. Bunn was paid \$200 retainer and Mr. T. T. Thorne was paid \$125.00 retainer, making a total of \$1,225 paid in addition to the salary paid Messrs. Thorpe and Thorpe. This case was settled out of court without trial before a jury, the city paying the damages for this injury.

There are many able law firms in Rocky Mount and certainly as capable as the firm who at present holds this position, and it is nothing but common justice and fairness that other firms should be recognized in this position rather than giving a life-time job to the present holders. There is a rotation in the bank departments of the city, why not there be some rotation among the lawyers, all citizens and tax payers of the city of Rocky Mount?

Now is the Time to Make Repairs

There has been some discussion in Rocky Mount, through views expressed by the citizens of the town and through the press, on the housing situation of the city.

Rocky Mount at one time built more houses of the four and five room type than was necessary, as the property owners of the city were led to believe that this was necessary as the railroad was contemplating a coach shop. A great number of houses were built and for a time there was a surplus of houses of this class. There has never been a surplus of the better class of houses. The city has grown and this surplus has been taken into use. During the four years under Mr. Hoover's administration the annual improvements and repairs have not taken place and much of our property is now in serious need of repairs, painting and renovating.

We feel nothing could help Rocky Mount more than having every property owner who is able to immediately go forward with the needed painting, repairs and renovations, which will make the property more rentable, protect it from decay and will be a money saver in the long run.

While we realize that much of our property has been rented for very low rents and we hope that the day is not far distant when those who rent may receive better wages and be in better position to pay a reasonable rental, according to the cost of the property. After all, the most important thing, and which will mean most to our city is the fact that it would give employment to painters, carpenters, bricklayers and mechanics, who are sorely in need of work at this time.

We think Rocky Mount could engage in nothing better than to begin the movement which would improve our real estate, for it is the basic property and when real estate ceases to have value, nothing else can have value.

No matter what you do or how well you do it there is always a friendly critic who can tell you how to improve.

Trying to Popularize the Sales Tax

Carolina-Virginia Retailer.

The arguments employed by certain high officials of the State Government in their efforts to popularize the North Carolina Sales Tax would be ludicrous if the sales tax were not of such vital importance to every citizen of the State, and more especially to that great portion of our citizenship, the middle and poorer classes, upon whom the tax bears most heavily.

The latest argument of the said "high officials" tending to show that the sales tax is a benevolent rather than a detrimental levy is the dubious comparison of the percentage of increase in retail sales between the states of North Carolina and Virginia. The inference being that because North Carolina showed a somewhat greater increase in retail sales during the year 1933 than her neighboring State that it is conclusive proof that the sales tax has not hurt, but in reality has helped, business in North Carolina.

If a 3 per cent consumption tax, one of the heaviest ever imposed by any state or nation, has been productive of such fine results, one may well ask why the rate was not fixed at 5, 10, or 25 per cent, and thus enable North Carolina to revel in prosperity while her sister states were groveling in the slough of the depression.

The logic of such an argument is, of course, absurd on its face. Economists universally recognize the fact that where a tax is imposed upon any commodity the consumption of that commodity is curtailed; and this is so even though the rate of the tax is infinitesimal; but when the tax is as burdensome as that inflicted in North Carolina it not only reduces the purchasing power of the buying public to the extent of the tax—in this case between eight million and nine million dollars annually—but it retards buying from absolute necessity, and also from a desire to evade the payment of the tax, which evasion is accomplished through interstate transactions, thereby driving from the State business which should and would remain in the State but for the tax.

Aside from National relief measures, which were also enjoyed by other states, there is one outstanding reason why the percentage of increase in retail sales in 1933 as compared with 1932 was greater in North Carolina than in her bordering sister states, and that is because the value of our crops was nearly ninety millions of dollars in excess of the 1932 values.

In 1933 North Carolina sold approximately five hundred million pounds of tobacco at an average price of \$16.11 per hundred pounds, compared with sales totaling two hundred and sixty-eight million pounds at \$12.21 per hundred in 1932. An increase to North Carolina farmers (and but for the sales tax to North Carolina merchants) of approximately forty-eight millions of dollars from tobacco alone. To this figure must be added the increased prices obtained from our other principal crops, and it will be seen that 1933 crop values jumped nearly ninety millions of dollars over crop values of the preceding year and, incidentally, placed North Carolina within the category of one of the first four crop-producing states of the country.

Instead of employing spurious and misleading arguments in an endeavor to popularize an oppressive and indefensible tax—a tax which is taking its unholy toll from the poorest of the poor and which is enriching other states at the expense of their own State—officials of our State Government would render their constituents a real service if they would give more thought to ways and means of reducing the high cost of government and devising plans to immediately erase from the taxing system of this State what is properly denominated "North Carolina's Biggest Social and Economic Blunder."

If the sales tax remains upon the statute books of North Carolina for any appreciable length of time it will impoverish the State and make it one of the most backward and reactionary commonwealths in the country; and if any government official thinks he is fooling the people with his chatter about its popularity, just let him seek reelection upon a platform advocating the tax. We predict that any such candidate will be buried under an avalanche of ballots from which there will be no political resurrection.

Dennis G. Brummit Speaks

Before a gathering of people in Lenoir county last week, Attorney-General Dennis G. Brummit had the following to say about the schools of our state:

"We do have the base upon which to build schools," he declared, "but nothing is yet to be done. All of our schools have been kept open largely by the sacrifice of school teachers who are working for the wages of unskilled labor. They ought not to be expected to continue to make so large a contribution to the education of our children. Adoption of the idea that conditions are well enough as they are is pure defeatism."

Personally, the extra price for gold hasn't worried us.

Religious views, accepted under any form of social pressure, are not worth anything.

The man who can save his money will get ahead of the man who can only earn it.

It's about the season to revive what is described as the old community spirit.

No one takes a speech as serious as the person behind the voice.

Business is picking up; why don't some of the pessimists do the same.

Children and Guns.

Gasoline and liquor will not mix, neither will children and firearms, and parents should wake up to this latter fact and keep all kinds of shooting irons out of the reach of the children. Children, and especially boys, have it in their nature to want to shoot something and nothing pleases a child better than to give him a miniature gun or cap pistol at Christmas time.

Every week there is recorded the accidental death of some child at the hands of another by the use of a gun or pistol in immature hands. And sometimes it is an elderly person that receives the fatal load of shot. But every one of these disasters can be prevented if the gun or pistol is placed out of reach. In many instances it is the supposedly "unloaded" gun that kills. The weapon is brought in the house from the hunt, the cartridge is supposed to be extracted, which it was not, the gun is placed in a corner, in comes a youngster, picks it up, points it at his little sister or brother, perhaps his mother, and presto, the weapon is discharged and another life is needlessly sacrificed.

Not only does every child have an inalienable right to be well born, as the saying goes, but he has the right to be protected in his home from the possibility of a gun tragedy. Even infants sometimes find guns under pillows.

It is the duty of parents, if it is necessary

to have weapons in the house for protection, and most homes have them whether they are needed or not, to see that their precocious youngster is not allowed to express his tribal instinct with a gun, whether it is loaded or not. So often they "are not" but they are. Even the air rifles are dangerous and should not be allowed in the hands of a red-blooded boy under twelve.

As long as parents leave guns of any description unguarded, just so long will children find and use them—although it may be on father, mother or little brother or sister. Every time you read of one of these deplorable accidents, some one killed by a gun at the hands of a child, you may be reasonably sure that some grown person is to blame. Friend, let no one be able to say that about you.

Wrong Use of Highway Patrol

R. R. Clark, in Greensboro Daily News.

"As governor of North Carolina I desire no greater privilege than is accorded the humblest citizen," says the governor to the Albemarle judge, asking that the trial go on as scheduled. That's what we would expect of the governor, any governor big enough for the job. Now if Governor Ehringhaus will send the paterollers to work at the business to which they were appointed, and tell Cap'n Farmer if he doesn't keep 'em away from him the patrol may get a new head, the danger of traffic violations by car No. 1 will be about over.

INSTRUCTING MIDWIVES

During the summer of 1932 six state nurses, engaged in school health supervision work during the school months of the year, were sent into a large number of counties having no organized health departments, for the purpose of holding classes for midwife instruction. They made personal and group contacts with a large number of midwives in a number of counties where such work had never been undertaken before.

During the last summer these nurses have gone back to the same counties that they worked in last year, for the purpose of doing a little more intensive work along the same line. Their work has been a kind of followup work to their efforts last summer. Almost without exception the reports of the nurses indicate a gratifying improvement in the class of midwife service in many of the communities of such counties. Naturally the improvement has been in

spots. Some of the midwife groups who made the worst showing last summer have revealed a remarkable improvement in their personal qualifications and in their equipment for the work. The classes this summer have been attended by a much larger number of midwives and also many physicians, and all of them have manifested a great deal of interest in the work.

Many of the people in the state do not realize the importance of this character of work. We may again repeat that the infant and maternal death rate in North Carolina is entirely too high. The importance of midwife service is plainly revealed in the fact that slightly more than one-third of the mothers giving birth to babies in 1932 were attended solely by midwives. The following table shows the births attended by physicians and midwives in 1932:

Attended by Physicians
45,540 white
6,082 Negro
219 Indian

Attended by Midwives

8,121 white
17,514 Negro
404 Indian

A glance at the above figures should serve to convince anyone that unless the midwife service is fairly competent the price that will be paid is a very high rate among infants, particularly during the first few days of life, and among mothers. Practically all such deaths are preventable.

The primary objective in the nurse work among midwives is to try to make their services safer for the class of people who are forced by circumstances to depend entirely on midwife attention, although the aid of a competent physician would be much more desirable.—The Health Bulletin.

Good Government

It is no more possible to have good government without continuing citizen support than it is to have bad government without continuing citizen support. The difference, of course, is that the citizens who support bad government profit financially therefrom and are more likely to be on the job guarding their private interests than are citizens who are working for good government which all too frequently is but a vague deal in their own minds. It is necessary, if we are to have efficient and effective government, to substitute something in place of the privilege, or job or patronage reward which the party politician gets for supporting bad government that the average citizen does not get for supporting good government.—H. P. Jones, in Public Management.

IN THE RACE

Judge Frank A. Daniels, of Goldsboro, has decided to retire on a pension candidates for the Democratic nomination for judge are popping up all over the fourth judicial district. Those so far tentatively in the race are David H. Bland, of Goldsboro; Clawson Williams, of Sanford, at present solicitor; Walter D. Siler, of Pittsboro; F. H. Brooks, of Smithfield; J. R. Baggett, of Lillington, and perhaps others. The entry of Clawson Williams, into the judgeship race leaves a free-for-all in the race for solicitor and already J. R. Young, of Dunn; N. McK. Salmon, of Lillington; C. C. Canady, of Benson; Norman Shepard, of Smithfield, and others are getting ready to make the race.

J. CHESLEY SEDBERRY THROWS HAT IN RING

J. Chesley Sedberry, of Rockingham, Richmond county, has announced himself a candidate for the Democratic nomination for solicitor of the 13th judicial district to succeed Solicitor Don Phillips who is attempting to unhorse Judge A. M. Stack, of Monroe. Sedberry in the repeal election last November guessed wrong and was the worst candidate for the convention from Richmond county and was overwhelmingly defeated. There are now three candidates for the nomination for solicitor in that district—Sedberry, Lane Brown, of Albemarle, and R. S. Pruette, of Wadesboro.

B. M. SLEDGE

Spring Hope.—Bunnie M. Sledge, prominent farmer of Nash County, died Tuesday morning at the home of his father-in-law, J. W. Matthews at Momeyer. He was 28 years old and was born in Franklin County. The funeral will be held at Momeyer Baptist Church Wednesday at 1 p. m., the services to be conducted by Rev. J. W. Nobles, of Bailey. Interment will be in the Matthews burying ground. Mr. Sledge is survived by his wife, before marriage, Miss Louise Matthews, and one son, James. He is also survived by his mother, Mrs. John Sledge, of Franklin County, and several brothers and sisters.

DEACONS INSTALLED AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ten deacons, W. N. Clark, W. G. Weeks, Jr., A. F. Harrell, W. S. Wilkinson, E. G. Johnston, Jr., Geo. A. Wilkinson, R. C. Brake, T. L. Simmons, E. C. Smith, and Roy C. Mayo were ordained last Sunday and were installed along with N. H. Edgerton, who had previously been ordained, in the First Presbyterian Church here. These ceremonies were followed by a sermon, "The Ideal Deacon," preached by the pastor, Rev. Norman Johnson.

VAGABOND VERSES

By J. Gaskill McDaniel

FINALE

This is the end, and yet you too must know,
That you'll live on among my souvenirs;
I'll wear a smile, where ever I may go,
And I'll be gay, to banish unshed tears.
Life is a play, and mine a young fool's part,
Fate draws the curtain on my happiness;
And no one knows the sorrows in my heart,
Nor senses tragedy in each new jest.
This is the end, and yet, when shadows fall,
I'll see your image in a wind swept sky;
And though, perhaps, it isn't right at all,
I still will love you, as the years go by.

Editor's Note: You may secure a personally autographed copy of Vagabond Verses by sending fifteen cents in stamps to the author, in care of the Herald. This pocket sized edition contains McDaniel's best liked poems of the past five years, as well as a photograph of the Vagabond Poet.

AMAZE A MINUTE

SCIENTIFACTS BY ARNOLD

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THE HUMAN PORCUPINE FAMILY



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