

Special School-Hospital Bond Election Edition

Section A-2

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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VOLUME LXXVI—NO. 11

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1963

PRICE TEN CENTS

Letters To The Editor Seeks Answers To Questions

An open letter to the taxpayers of Watauga County:

I have carefully followed the information released concerning the proposed bond issues for Watauga County and have several questions which I feel are pertinent, which no one has answered.

First, we are told that the necessity for a new high school is a sudden and unanticipated need, yet I know that the majority of the present board of education have been in charge of our schools since 1955, or a total of 8 years; this also includes our present superintendent. From 1950 to 1960 Watauga County declined in population about 1000 people.

Just where has our board of education been for the past eight years?

Second, we were originally advised that the proposed consolidated high school could not be built for less than \$1,250,000.00, yet when it became apparent that the tax valuation for Watauga County could not support this amount it suddenly became possible to finance this project for \$1,130,000.00. If the school could be built for \$1,130,000.00, why did the board of education originally ask for more tax money than was necessary?

Third, for the past several years I hear that the board of education has insisted that they could not operate the schools on less than 29 to 30 cents on the \$100.00 tax value. Yet they tell us that for the coming year a tax levy of only 21 cents is necessary. It seems that the board of education has been demanding and receiving more tax money than was necessary.

How can the schools be efficiently operated with a revenue cut of approximately 30%, bearing in mind, of course, that there is apparently no plan to discontinue or abandon any of the present school buildings, plus the maintenance and upkeep of the proposed new consolidated high school?

Fourth, the information furnished the general public with reference to cost has been on average, without advising how or what figures are the basis for "average" and in terms of a few cents on the \$100.00 of tax valuation. Would it not be to the best interest of the taxpayer to know in terms of percentage of present tax what the cost will be? Based on past budget of the board of education and the figures to pay off the bonds as furnished by board of education (including reduction in budget demands for the forthcoming year, but which doubtless will of necessity be restored and possibly with an increase), the new consolidated high school will mean a net tax increase in excess of 50% of that now paid by the individual taxpayer.

As to the hospital bonds and hospital maintenance tax there are several things which give me considerable concern.

First, from the information furnished it appears that the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed hospital will be turned over to Watauga Hospital, Inc., a self-perpetuating corporation and completely outside any supervision and control of the taxpayers, or their duly elected officials. To date no figures have been furnished with reference to the cost and maintenance of the present hospital or the proposed new hospital.

It seems that the county would be liable for all deficits of the new hospital but would have no control of the expenditures of county funds.

No doubt both a new school and hospital would be good to have in our county and would be assets, but a serious question of good sound economics remains in my mind as to whether under the present setup either are practicable at this time. If the present figures are correct it appears that to finance all proposals it will require a tax increase of between 70% and 80%.

How much new industry and how many new citizens will we lose as a result of an excessive tax rate?

Very truly yours,
E. F. Baird.

Says Election Is Important

Dear Mr. Rivers:

I think the upcoming school bond election is of grave importance to all citizens of Watauga County.

I have attended both Appalachian and Blowing Rock High Schools and the educational facilities are short. The science laboratories of both schools are enormously inadequate, as are the classrooms and libraries. The heating systems are the obsolete type boilers. Steam heat isn't bad, but the conditions of the boilers are extremely dangerous. In neither school is there a course in which a student could exercise his mechanical abilities. Nor is there any school in the entire county that can offer this type of training.

The classrooms of all Watauga County schools are overcrowded to the extent that the county's largest school, Appalachian, had to purchase three mobile units for use as classrooms until a suitable solution can be reached. These are just a few problems that exist in Watauga County's educational institutions.

The bond election is our only chance to rid Watauga County of these inefficiencies.

Vote "no" and you are depriving the future citizens of our county of the most important tool for his life preparations, an education.

However, a "yes" vote will mean a complete alteration of our educational facilities.

In summation, Watauga County is sending an S.O.S. for its young people's future, and it is the voters' duty to answer this distress signal.

Vote "yes" to the bond election.

Sincerely yours,
Fred Hampton,
Grade 12—Appalachian High.

Says 3Rs Are Different Now

Dear Mr. Editor:

The 3R's have taken on quite a different meaning from that we knew in the days of the little "Red School House."

Today it's
Race problems.
Religious questions.
Room Shortages.

Yours truly,
J. C. Church,
72 Johnson Ave.,
Uniontown, Pa.

One of the dangers of looking ahead is that we see things that never happen.



MR. AND MRS. W. M. WINEBARGER

Married Sixty Years

Mr. and Mrs. William Winebarger of Route 2, Boone, who were married September 16, 1903, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Sunday, Sept. 15 at their home. All friends and relatives are invited to call between 2 and 5 p. m. Their 11 children, Mrs. Jack Bryan, Mrs. Ward Miller, Henry, Howard, Monroe, Walter and George Winebarger of Rt. 2, Boone; Arlie Winebarger

of Montrose, Va., Mrs. Ralph Moretz of Clinton, Tenn., Mrs. John Lookabill of Elk Park and Mrs. Burl Bowles of Lexington, 57 grandchildren and 46 great grandchildren, are expected to attend.

Luther Story Funeral Held

Masonic funeral rites were conducted by the Masonic Lodge of which Luther C. Story was a member in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, on Tuesday evening Sept. 3. Mr. Story had been a member of this lodge for a number of years, having filled all the chairs in the Lodge and was Master twice. He was likewise a member of the 32nd degree and had held important stations in this branch of the work.

He had lived in Cleveland for nearly 40 years and had worked for the Pitney Glass Works for 36 years.

He had attended a dinner given by the Glass Works, General Electric, on Thursday evening and was in high spirits all the evening. On arriving home he became ill and was rushed to the Hospital where he was soon in a coma and died Friday.

The funeral services were held in the Joseph C. Shulte Funeral Home and were conducted by the Rev. Edward P. Burtunck, pastor of the Christian Church.

He was interred in the Acacia cemetery of Bakers Heights, East Cleveland, Ohio.

Attending the funeral from North Carolina were his brother, T. E. Story of Wilkesboro and Mrs. Pearl Hartley, a sister, of Boone. Other members of the family circle were Perry Story and wife, Agnes, Mrs. Lucile Sawyer, a son, Kenneth, and two daughters of Dewey Story, Phillis and Judy, both of Wycliffe, Ohio.

Visit At Bethel

Visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Winkler at Bethel Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Walk, Mullins, W. Va.; Mrs. Chloe Gross, Route 3, Boone; Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Ross of Glade Park, Fla., who are presently at their cabin on Rocky Creek, Route 3, Boone. Those visiting in the Winkler home Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Britt Robertson, Johnson City, Tenn.; Mrs. V. C. Shore, Martha and Becky, Route 3, Boone; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Greene and grandson Jimmy of Boone.

Vatican newspaper calls Vietnam fight political.

Soviet Union and Jordan to establish ties.

New tax on heirs dropped by House panel.

Vietnam attacks on Buddhists shock U. S. advisers.

160 Pros, Amateur Golfers Tee Off Wednesday In Annual Classic

A field of 160 professional and amateur golfers from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia will tee off Wednesday, Sept. 11, for the first 18-hole round of the 5th annual

Blue Ridge Pro-Am Golf Tournament at the Boone Golf Course.

The second and final round will be played on the par 71 course on Thursday, with pairings to be determined according to first round scores. Leading teams will tee off last.

The field will be made up of 40 teams, each consisting of a professional and three amateurs. Play will be best ball for the foursome, with amateurs allowed one-half their CGA handicap. Medal play prizes for both professionals and amateurs will be awarded.

For the benefit of local members, the invited pros will bring two of their team's amateurs with them, and the local club will furnish the fourth player.

The Boone Ladies Golf Association will be in charge of the tournament this year, and will also sponsor a hole in one contest on the eight hole (a 185-yard affair) in conjunction with the event.

The par 5 10th hole, 581 yards from tee to cup and affectionately known to local golfers as "the monster," is expected to provide Pro-Am contestants with more headaches than any other. Three excellent golf shots are required to reach the green.

A number of well-known

players are entered in this year's tournament. These include last year's winning team of professional Hampton Auld of Wilmington and amateurs Luther Cromartie and Gus Fountain of Wilmington and Ernest Hayes of Blowing Rock.

Some other well-known golfers entered are: Al Smith of Danville, Va., former Carolinas Open champion and PGA touring pro; Aubrey Apple, president of the Carolinas Professional Golfer's Association; Thorne Wood, a southpaw pro; Furman Hayes, Carolina cross-handed style of holding the club.

Also entered are professional, will also head a team of four players for the event.

Joe Maples, Boone's club professional, will also head a team of four players for the event.

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OPPOSITE POST OFFICE

BOONE, N. C.

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can enjoy the view of the Blue Ridge Parkway everyday. You have to be one of those special people who own a lot on Panorama Estates.

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