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Valentine hits Martin in efforts — Page 3
N.C. is a national leader in using electronic money — Page 4
Black law grads mostly angry over failing marks on bar exam — Page 3
Dr. Frank Weaver sees bright future for schools — Page 16
Kids Cooking — Page 11

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNDISCOVERED

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Words Of Wisdom

The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything.

—Theodore Roosevelt

The best way to stop a bad habit is never to begin it.

—J.C. Penney

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Crest Street Property Owners and Community Leaders At Odds Over Expressway Plan



The New Community

This is the area near the present Crest Street Community where residents will be moved to make way for completion of the East-West Expressway. Some property owners in the area are at odds with the plan.

Some Crest Street property owners and the leader of the neighborhood's community organization have suddenly found themselves on opposite sides of a plan to relocate the community and pave way for completion of the East-West Expressway.

The property owners contend that the N.C. Department of Transportation is trying to buy property that is not in the way of the highway; much of which was only recently included in the plan. The property owners also argue that if they move into a proposed redevelopment complex near a Duke Power station, their property values will plummet.

The proposed redevelopment site begins at Bass Street near the old Hickstown School, and extends southward to the end of Crest Street.

Several families cur-

rently living in this area will have to sell their homes and move, to make way for the new development. The new development will literally circle a Duke Power Company substation, giving rise to criticisms from property owners that their values will decrease if they sell their current property to the state and move into the new area.

Mrs. Lizzie Martin, for example, a 70-year-old homeowner who lives on Shirley Street, contends that even though she periodically attended community council meetings on the subject, she was not informed until July that her home would be destroyed by the expressway plan.

"At some of the meetings they said they wouldn't bother this street," she said, "and sometime last month (July), it just came up all at once. I still don't get it."

But Willie Patterson, president of the Crest Street Community Council, says that he is pleased with the arrangement his organization has worked out with local and state officials, and adds that any disagreement must stem from misunderstanding.

"The city, the state and the federal government dealt with us in good faith," Patterson said. "We wanted them to know from the very beginning that we were serious about what we were doing. We want to avoid future court battles, but if we have to go back to court we will."

The community organization took the issue to court in 1975, charging that plans to build the expressway to Hillsborough Road and beyond to I-85 would destroy the Crest Street community, and thereby violated their civil rights.

The expressway is designed to connect north and south Durham, and relieve traffic problems on the city's western end, according to city officials.

The expressway could also have another interesting purpose in light of downtown revitalization plans currently underway. If the east-west loop around the city is ultimately connected to I-85, the expressway could provide a new direct link to downtown Durham.

Central to the core of the Crest Street battle was relocating the entire community intact. This was an attempt to avoid what has been the traditional devastation of urban renewal and "progress" programs in black communities. In most instances, entire black communities have been displaced. Family and neighborhood patterns that had existed for years have been disrupted.

Several months ago, when city officials announced the so-called (Continued on Page 4)

Campus Hill Residents May Boycott Store They Didn't Want

By Isaiah Singletary

The convenience store at the corner of Alston Avenue and Alston Avenue Road opened for business recently, but some residents of the Campus Hill community say they may not spend any money there.

"We have taken no official or organized actions yet," said Thomas Davis, president of the Campus Hill Community Organization, "but the general feeling in the community is that we should boycott the store. Most of our members have been out of town, but I expect that in our next meeting, we will discuss this issue..."

Davis said the group's next meeting is scheduled for the second Sunday in September.

But the store's owner, John Blackwood, appeared unruffled by the possibility of a boycott by community residents.

"If they want to boycott the store," Blackwood said, "that's their prerogative. As far as I'm concerned, there's just a few hotheads that want to boycott the store because they lost the battle at city hall."

The city hall battle was fierce and bitter.

Blackwood, a local businessman who operates several other convenience stores around the city, went before the Durham City Council to get the tract of land rezoned. The plot is at the front entrance of the Campus Hill Community.

Community residents packed the council chambers to protest the proposal, arguing that the proposed store would have a negative effect on the neighborhood.

They said the store would cause property values to plummet, would cause increased

cut-through traffic in the neighborhood, thereby increasing the danger of automobile accidents.

During the debate, City Councilman Ralph Hunt pointed out the council had recently turned down a rezoning request for a black entrepreneur because of negative community reaction. He argued that it would then be unfair to grant Blackwood's request. Blackwood is white.

Nevertheless, the council granted the rezoning request.

Blackwood says he believes most of the community supports the store.

"Before we built the store," he said, "I talked to people whose property adjoined the store's property and to people on both sides of Alston Avenue. They said they wanted a store. There was no trouble until so-

meone from the college raised objections to the plan."

Blackwood referred to NCCU, whose law school is almost directly across the street from the store. As one of the stores closest to the Alston Avenue side of the NCCU campus, Blackwood says he anticipates a high level of patronage from students.

However, several students, questioned randomly about the store and the neighborhood's reaction to it, said they will go along with the wishes of the neighborhood group. Others said they don't know enough about the situation to make a wise decision.

And so the fight continues, and according to Davis, Campus Hill residents shouldn't be counted out yet.



BUY QUICK FOOD MART

Neighborhood Group Might Boycott

Several leaders of the Campus Hill community organization say they might launch a boycott of the Buy Quick Food Market (pictured above) because the neighborhood did not want the store right at the entrance to the community in the first place. But the store's owner says he's not worried.

Photo by Silas Mayfield

Newcomers Get Shock From Durham's High Water Rates

By Donald Alderman

In mid-July, Mrs. N.R. Jordan, a retired convalescent home owner moved back to Durham, her hometown, and quickly discovered that in this city water holds its own, and a lot

of everybody's else's as well.

First, Mrs. Jordan, a widow, got hit with a \$20 deposit to have her water turned on in the small three-room house she had just moved into. Then, the first month's

water bill came. It was just under \$20, and she "hit the ceiling."

Mrs. Jordan, a Durham native who had lived here for years before moving away, got city workers to check her meter, called a plumber

to check her house for leaks, anything that might help reduce the water bill. None of this worked, because Mrs. Jordan — much to her chagrin — had come home to find that Durham, the state's fifth largest city, has one of North Carolina's highest water rates.

As longtime residents already know, and as newcomers quickly discover, the monthly bill takes a sizable chunk out of your pocketbook.

Durham's average water bills range from more than twice as much to just over 10 per cent more than the cost of water in several other North Carolina cities.

According to John G. Pedersen, the city's budget and management director, Durham's rates are considerably higher than most other cities because the water system pays for itself. No money from property taxes go into the water expense account, Pedersen explained.

As a matter of fact, the way city officials explain the case, the water and sewer system helps to finance the general (Continued on Page 7)

Frye Retires With Plaudits

By Donald Alderman

During his early career years, Henry E. Frye fought legal battles as a Greensboro attorney; business battles as founder and chief executive officer of a bank; and academic battles as a NCCU law professor.

Then, at 36, when many men are settling into the comfortable niche of a lifelong career, Frye went to Raleigh and launched a new battle. In 1969, Frye was elected to the N.C. House of Representatives, the first black since Reconstruction to sit with the State's lawmakers. In 1980, Frye, an astute politician, called a pioneer by friends and colleagues, moved across the lawmaking hall to the State Senate.

During his 14 years in the state legislature, Frye has been quietly effective — in many ways spectacular — but always without fanfare.

For example, Frye worked behind the scenes to restructure the state's election laws so citizens are encouraged to register and vote, rather than being discouraged.

He sponsored legislation that virtually forces landlords to provide decent living quarters for residents who rent from these property owners. Frye calls the effort to eradicate "slumlords"

"a long battle."

As the first black appointed to the powerful Budget Advisory Commission, Frye influenced the increased state funding for black colleges and universities that came about in the 70's.

Frye also helped publicly supported black orphanages to get the same money that went to publicly supported white orphanages.

Frye was also behind legislation that gives city governments a greater degree of lawmaking authority before having to go to the General Assembly to get the leeway. He also helped increase the number of blacks who sit on the UNC Board of Governors, that runs the statewide university system.

So, with these and many other notches in his legislative gun, these and many other feathers in his lawmaking war bonnet, Frye is retiring from the Senate at the end of his current term.

Recently, hundreds of his colleagues, friends and supporters from across the state gathered in Raleigh under the auspices of the Association of Black Elected Officials to honor Frye and bid him adieu from public life.

Speaking to the group, Frye characteristically sounded a warning that

many battles have yet to be fought and that now is not the time for black people to relax vigilance.

The retiring lawmaker, a native of Ellerbe in Richmond County, called for an end to the second primary in North Carolina elections. This is the only state that requires a party candidate

ing to give more attention to his law practice and other business interests, and his family, Frye called the legislative process "long, hard work that is slow to produce results."

His view goes back almost 20 years. "When I was first elected," he said, "I felt I had a heavy burden to carry. I worked real hard to read every bill and attend every meeting and just tried to be on top of everything."

Frye said he made his decision to retire before a constitutional amendment that would have increased legislative terms to four years was defeated by voters in June. But he added that "the constant strain of getting out every two years and drumming up support gets to you after a while."

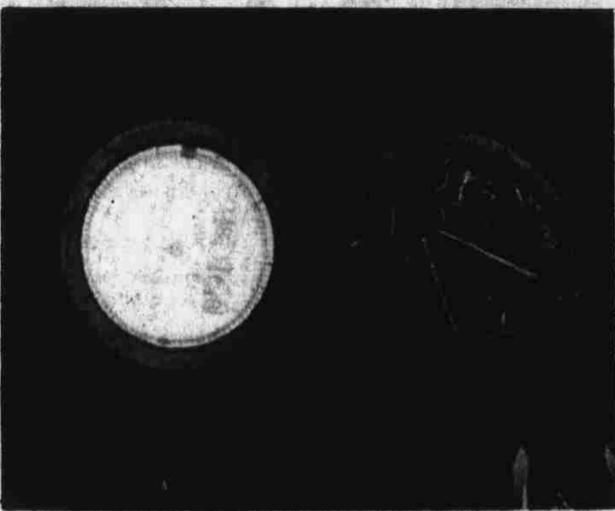
Though he leaves the Senate in December, Frye will still be involved in government as a member of the Budget Advisory Commission.

Observing that Frye will be sorely missed, some of the senator's friends and colleagues talked about a return to the fray.

Ben Ruffin, a senior assistant to Gov. Jim Hunt, said: "Henry has honored us with his service...There are a lot of options for him. He (Continued on Page 6)



FRYE



The Meter Means Money

Every time a city worker comes by and reads a meter for your house, like the water meter pictured above, it's going to cost you money. Not only that, it will cost you more money than in most cities, because Durham has some of the state's most expensive water.

Photo by Silas Mayfield