

County Board Calls for Referendum on Mosquito Control

Commissioners Propose Amendment to Law

Members of the county board of commissioners, following the hearing on mosquito control Tuesday afternoon at the courthouse, Beaufort, decided to have a referendum on setting up a mosquito control district. The date is yet to be set.

The board also went on record to request introduction in the next legislature of amendments to the mosquito control law. The amendments are the requirement that any fiscal program proposed by the county board be approved by the county commissioners, and second, that the law stipulate that the program be stopped any time the county commissioners want to stop it.

Sixty-five county residents attended the hearing.

In addition to the county commissioners, others conducting the hearing were Clyde Fehn of the US Public Health Service, D. F. Ashton, entomologist with the State Board of Health, William H. Hoffman, in charge of mosquito control for the southeast coastal plain section of the state; Dewey Roseman, in charge of control for the northeast, and Sidney Ustry, engineer with the State Board of Health.

The comments (summarized) made at the hearing follow:

Haywood Ball, Morehead City: How many cases of malaria have there been in this county in the past year?

Mr. Ashton: In the past five years there have been no more than three or four cases in the state. Our problem is not malaria, but control of a nuisance. The saltmarsh mosquito is capable of carrying encephalitis (sleeping sickness which first strikes animals and can be transmitted to humans). There is now an epidemic of encephalitis in Korea and Tokyo.

John MacCormack, Atlantic: This is the first August in four years that there have been no mos-

quitoes at Atlantic; there are still some, but due to local control, there are no hordes. For the past three years in September I have had to leave Atlantic because of the mosquitoes.

Moses Howard, presiding chairman: The county appreciates what has been done in the eastern part of the county and by all other communities which have undertaken a mosquito control program.

Gene Smith, Beaufort town attorney: How will towns figure in this mosquito control district?

Mr. Ustry: Towns would not be eliminated from the program. We suggest a 10 cents per hundred dollars' valuation as the minimum tax for control. For those areas which are organized as mosquito control districts, the state may match the first \$15,000 on a 50-50 basis and thereafter distribute state funds by allocation.

Skinner Chalk, Morehead City, county commissioner: There is no provision in the mosquito control law for ending the program. The law should be amended to allow the county board to end it. We go into these things on a cooperative basis with a state or federal government and then there's no way we can get out of it we want to.

Harrell Taylor, Sea Level, county commissioner: I'm in favor of the mosquito control program.

Alvah Hamilton, Morehead City, county attorney: The way to stop the program, if it's not doing any good, is not to levy the tax. If we get rid of the mosquitoes, we won't need it any more.

Mr. Ustry: Mosquito control is a slow operation. You can't do away with the mosquitoes in one season. **Mr. Fehn:** Those mosquito control districts in operation 15 years or more have reduced their budgets about 50 per cent.

Ralph Wilkins, Laurel Road: I and lots of the people out my way don't want to pay any more tax. The mosquito control work they're doing now isn't doing any good.

Wiley Taylor Jr., Beaufort: If the mosquito control board levies the maximum allowed by law, 35 cents, Carteret County would be paying on the basis of 90 per cent collection of the tax levy, \$123,330 for mosquito control. The budget for schools for the current fiscal year is \$118,076. The mosquito control board could spend \$5,000 more for mosquito control than for schools.

I'm against a mosquito control district and I don't think we should give a mosquito control board the privilege of spending \$123,330 to kill mosquitoes.

George Wallace, Morehead City: I'm in favor of anything to improve the county. But I'm opposed to obligating the citizens to any additional services until we are able to adequately house our school children.

D. G. Bell, Morehead City, state legislator: We will always have to have some type of mosquito control and each citizen should pay his share. Two bad weeks of mosquitoes can run millions of dollars out of the county. They keep farmers out of the fields and men from working their nets. The state has gone as far as it can go. Only 21 counties are affected by this problem.

Mr. Howard: You've done a good job, Mr. Bell, in getting us state funds to fight mosquitoes.

Joe Dubois, Morehead City: Forty years ago millions was borrowed to pave streets and build bridges in this county. We need schools, but we must look to the future. I think some limit should be put on how much can be levied for mosquito control.

Mr. Howard: I doubt if the mosquito control commissioners would put the maximum tax on.

Joe Barnes, Wildwood: I'm against it. I've been here 47 years. Some years ago the WPA was working on Newport River and they were going to do away with the mosquitoes. They dug ditches everywhere. The next year the mosquitoes were so bad, they like to run us all out.

I was sitting on Mr. Walter Mann's porch at Newport one night and that mosquito machine runs

down the road. It got the mosquitoes up out of the grass and they run us into the house.

I'm against mosquito control and so are the others in Wildwood I've talked to.

Raymond Ball, Beaufort RFD: The present control has done some good. There is no program that would totally eliminate the mosquito.

I was told of a boat in the middle of Pamlico Sound. Such a cloud of mosquitoes came over from Hyde County that the men had to get below and stop fishing. When the wind's right, eastern Carteret County gets mosquitoes the worst. They're brought here from other counties.

I've been on a school board in this county 28 years. I say continue the present mosquito control program and divert every other dollar to schools.

Bill Pigott, Gloucester: Everybody at Gloucester's in favor of a mosquito control district, even though we know we'll never get 100 per cent control.

N. L. Walker, Morehead City: It will mean much to the county to keep the mosquitoes under control. Control should be on a practical basis.

Murphy Pittman, Highland Park: The weather controls the mosquitoes. This summer we have had no high tides and no big rains except during the past week-end in June. I'm against levying a tax. **The Rev. William Jeffries, Marshallberg:** We need control and I'm for it. We have a low tax rate in this county. We ought to raise it and get enough money for mosquito control, schools and to pay for indigent patients at the Morehead City Hospital. We ought to have a referendum on all three matters.

Walter Kidd, Morehead City: If we can keep the mosquitoes bearable, it will be profitable economically. My son is secretary-general of the World Health Organization and is spending now a year in Geneva, Switzerland. He says the one biggest single world health program is mosquito control and malaria.

Ed Willard, Sea Level: I came to Carteret County seven years ago and last year was the worst I've ever seen mosquitoes except in Panama and Africa. I've seen cows and horses dying in our fields here from suffocation because of the mosquitoes. I'm for control 100 per cent, but I'm not in favor of a tax of 35 cents. There ought to be a limit on how much can be levied. The county board should pass on all action of the mosquito control board.

We must do something to control mosquitoes as well as build schools. No child in the world can get an education with the mosquitoes after him. One of the Atlantic school children came home last year with 87 sores on him from mosquito bites.

D. G. Bell: I suggest that the retired people here support the school people in their program and the people interested in schools support the mosquito control program. If each helps the other, we'll all get what we want.

John Perry, Morehead City: I'm in favor of mosquito control.

Bill Baughman, Morehead City:

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You can complain about mosquitoes, but I'm getting tired of hearing my daughter come home and complain about the conditions in school.

George McNeill, Morehead City: I'm speaking for the Roosevelt family which has invested \$100,000 in Pine Knoll Shores. Fred Clarkson, agent for that subdivision, says that persons have all but signed up to purchase lots there, until the mosquitoes drove them away. He, the Roosevelts, and Stone and Webster, who have designed that subdivision, are a hundred per cent behind a reasonable mosquito control program.

George Hunley, Beaufort: We talk about schools—we get our children educated and then they

go off to college and never come back. I don't know whether the mosquitoes drive them off or whether there's nothing for them, to do here. I think both these issues should be combined and let the people vote on them.

Monroe Gaskill, Cedar Island: The mosquitoes on Cedar Island last September were the worst I ever saw. Our children suffered. I suggest that we put a 10-cent tax limit on a control program and vote on both mosquitoes and schools.

Gray Hassell, Beaufort: Just how will this money be spent if we approve a tax for mosquito control?

Mr. Ustry: The money would be spent in locating the breeding

areas and destroying them; drainage, filling and diking. All plans must be submitted each year to the State Board of Health.

George Wallace, Morehead City: Why couldn't we work a control program through our own health department?

Wiley Taylor Jr., Beaufort: I don't see how people can vote on this thing and not know how much the mosquito control commissioners are going to spend. If you'll tell me what you're going to spend, then I'll be able to decide whether I want to help pay for it or not.

Jack Barnes, North River: Thirty-five cents on a hundred is too much.

Harriet Richardson, Bogues Sound Road: We need to keep mos-

quitoes under control.

T. T. Potter, Beaufort: Mosquitoes and tax increases both are here. We got to have schools and we got to get rid of mosquitoes.

Paul Geer Jr., Morehead City: I think you've got to get something definite in this mosquito control program. Tell us what you're going to do.

Alvah Hamilton, Morehead City: The average man lists his property at \$3,000. At 10 cents per hundred, he would pay \$3 a year for mosquito control. It was never intended to start at 35 cents. Ten cents on a \$40 million valuation would give us \$40,000 for mosquito control.

I'm in favor of it and I'm in favor of good schools. If we don't

like the mosquito program, we can give it up when the time comes.

W. C. Carlton, Morehead City: If we start spending 10 cents and don't get rid of the mosquitoes, then they'll want to spend 20, 30 and 35 cents.

Alvah Hamilton: You can put on the ballot the amount proposed for a mosquito tax levy whether the law specifies you may do that or not.

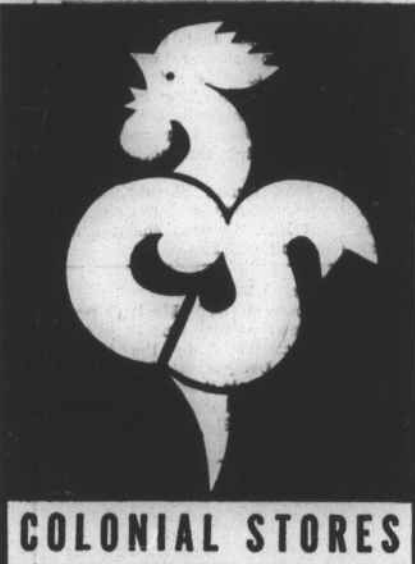
During the course of the hearing, which lasted from 2 to 5 p.m., many persons got up and left. Approximately 25 were left when the hearing finally closed. They wanted to vote on whether there should be a referendum.

Those in favor of it were asked to stand. Twenty-one stood.

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Sept. 5—Miss Louetta Belle Taylor left Sunday for Lumberton, N. C., where she will enter training for a nurse.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Willis and daughters, Debra and Donnie, Alexandria, La., are vacationing with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Willis, also Mrs. Willis's mother, Mrs. Elmo Gaskill, and family in Atlantic.

Mrs. Grady Fulcher, Greenville, is spending several days here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Taylor. She will then enter East Carolina College in Greenville and complete her four-year teachers' training course.

Mrs. Lonnie Everette, Sneads Ferry, visited Mrs. Norwood Paul Monday. She brought a truck load of Mulletts to T. A. Taylor's Fish House.

Mrs. A. B. Taylor left Monday for Alexandria, Va., where she plans to spend several weeks with her daughter, Mrs. Clyde McGirk and family.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. MacHolland and children Bonnie, Carl and Susan, left Sunday for their home in Durham after spending a week with Mrs. MacHolland's father, Ralph G. Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Beachem of Beaufort were guests at the home of their son, Derwood and family, over the weekend.

Mr. Tom Styron and family visited relatives in Harkers Island Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewell Taylor and Mr. Malby Taylor spent the weekend in Norfolk with relatives.



Sept. 2—Mr. Murry Lynch has returned from the Veterans' Hospital, Fayetteville. Friends are glad he is able to be back home.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Yeomans, and son, and Mr. and Mrs. Headen Willis, and sons, spent the weekend and Labor Day, at their cottage at Cape Lookout.

Mrs. Euclid Wade and children, of Norfolk, Va., are spending a few days with Mrs. Blanch Willis and family.

Mr. Teddy Page of Baltimore, spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Willis and family.

Mrs. Vaneé Palford of Beaufort spent Labor Day with her mother, Mrs. Betty Smith.

Mrs. Herman Reid and children of Beaufort spent Sunday with Mrs. Reid's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Gillikin.

Mr. Guy Willis has returned to Whitestone, Va., after spending the weekend with Mrs. Guy Willis and family.

The largest of the sequoia trees in eastern California is the General Sherman Tree. It is 36.5 feet in diameter and 274 feet in height.