

Walker State Park System Files Brings Remarks

District Court Judge Wilton F. Walker, Jr. today announced his intention to file notice as a candidate for nomination as judge of Superior Court of the first judicial district in the Democratic Primary Election to be held May 7, 1974.

Judge Walker said he will file his notice of candidacy with the State Board of Elections in Raleigh this Thursday for the four-year unexpired term from which Judge Walter Cohoon is resigning.

Judge Walker has served as a court official for twenty years. He first served as County Prosecutor Attorney for Currituck. He next served as Prosecutor in the District Court and is now Judge of the District Court of the first Judicial District.

The 49-year-old candidate is a resident of Currituck, N.C.

Editor's Note:

Following is a statement by Gov. Jim Holtzclouser concerning the formation of a state park system in North Carolina. This is of vital interest to those who are following the progress of Mill Pond in Gates County and The Dismal Swamp, which touches in Perquimans County.

This legislature will make the most significant contributions in this century to our State park system. The funds appropriated in this session will be a major step in giving our people more buffers against the fast-developing times in which we live. For every new park we establish, another weapon has been added in our battle to protect North Carolina's environment.

But we must do more - much more - if we are to be assured of a park system that will serve a growing State for generations to come. And we must act now. We need parks and green areas in all parts of our State. We especially need them in and around our urban areas. As one major State newspaper put it, we need oases in our deserts of asphalt.

In North Carolina, we are fortunate that there is still an ample supply of land that can be retained and protected in its natural state. But it is dwindling fast. Our cities are expanding at an astonishingly rapid rate. More and more land along our coast and in the mountains is being swept up and developed.

Land throughout North Carolina has become a precious commodity, with land prices soaring higher and higher every year.

We already are way behind our sister states in the development of a state park system.

In the past 57 years, North Carolina has spent less than \$8 million for state park improvements. This is less than South Carolina spent in 1969 alone. It is less than half as much as the states of New York, Pennsylvania

and Ohio spent for parks in 1970.

We rank 50th - dead last - in the amount of dollars spent on land acquisition for parks.

Among all the states, the average amount of land devoted to state parks is 172,000 acres. In North Carolina, all our parks together add up to only 47,000 acres.

Most of our park land - 84 per cent, in fact - has been given to us. We are grateful for the individuals and corporations who have contributed this legacy to North Carolina. But with unspoiled land becoming in steadily shorter supply, we cannot afford to sit back and wait for these donations to continue.

Neither can we afford the luxury of buying land for parks bit by bit. Already, we are paying for our shortsightedness of the past. For instance, the State could have purchased Bald Head Island for \$5,000 in 1933. In 1938, it was sold at public auction for \$11,000. In 1970, the island's owners supposedly refused to sell it for less than \$20 million.

Today, Bald Head Island no longer can be considered for a State park - it's in the hands of private developers.

Meanwhile, other land is slipping away, lost forever to development, simply because the State lacks the flexibility and mobility to compete for it on the open market.

Even if it has the support of everybody, the time it takes to have a park land project approved by the state parks division, the Governor, the Advisory Budget Commission and, finally, the legislature, almost inevitably prevents us from being able to negotiate effectively for that land in the market-place.

We need a mechanism, a method, to overcome this barrier. We need to arm North Carolina with the means - and the funds - to compete for valuable real estate whenever and however it becomes available.

There is such a tool. It has been used effectively by private national groups. We believe this tool can be adapted for use by the State.

Very shortly, legislation will be introduced in the General Assembly creating the North Carolina Land Conservancy Corporation. This will be an independent, public corporation governed by a board of trustees and bearing the faith and credit of the State of North Carolina.

This corporation will be given broad and flexible powers to deal in land transactions. It will be able to buy land that must be sold quickly to settle an estate, to pay off a tax debt or for various other reasons. It will be able to effectively negotiate with the land owner who wants to enter a contract to sell his property with the provision that he can live there the rest of his life.

To give the corporation the necessary funds, we will propose that the legislature empower it to issue bonds not to exceed fifty million dollars, subject to the approval of the voters.

I believe that this plan represents the kind of bold approach we must adopt if we are to develop a park system that is adequate for the future.

I also believe that it represents good economic practice. The new corporation can sell these bonds at an interest rate of from four to five per cent. Meanwhile, the price of land is rising at a rate of 12 per cent a year or more, with no end to the climb in sight.

By taking this step now rather than waiting for funds to be appropriated year by year, we can save the State literally millions of dollars.

S. C. GUEST

Wallace Reed of Columbia, S. C. was a weekend guest of his mother, Mrs. C. W. Reed.

CONWAY GUEST

Mrs. Bessie Odom of Conway is a guest of Mrs. W. J. Davis.

House Building Falling

Demand for more and better housing continues in North Carolina, although 1973 saw a slow down in housing construction, nation-wide and state-wide.

In October, for example, construction starts for Tar Heel single family homes were the lowest in 30 months. "Money for moderate- and low-cost housing was restricted by the 8 per cent North Carolina ceiling on loans of less than \$50,000," believes Mrs. Justine Rozier, extension home management specialist, North Carolina State University.

Even so, excluding mobile homes, 10 thousand more housing units were built in North Carolina in the first seven months of 1973 than in a similar period in 1972; an increase of 12 per cent. The seven-month total was over 43 thousand units, and a total of 75 thousand units was expected by the end of the year.

The North Carolina Manufactured Housing Institute claims that 45 per cent of all housing starts are now mobile or modular units.

German Shepherd Greets Intruders

By KATHY MAREN Staff Writer

Although many people may believe that Hollowell Chevrolet is just another car dealer, there is reason to believe that they are also running a zoo on the side. We recently discovered that they have two parrots in the parts department, and a nice little German Shepherd roaming around. She does all sorts of cute tricks; her favorite is eating people.

The little German shepherd, named Machen, is not really so little. She weighs about 140 pounds, and when standing on her hind legs, which she often does, measures an entire six feet tall. She is a full grown three years old.

Bobby Hollowell, an employe, obtained Machen from a friend in Virginia Beach. At that time she was a pet. When she moved to Hollowell's lot, the men kept her chained up for a week. Bobby said that this aided in making her become so mean. Jack Symons, another employe, is her trainer. Bobby also added that she got a lot of her meanness from Symons.

The idea to get the sheperd came about after there had been several petty thefts of car parts at Hollowell's. Bobby said that Sheriff Julian Broughton suggested getting a dog to guard the grounds at night, and "it has sure paid off." "Since we got Machen, 5 months ago," Bobby said, "there haven't been any more thefts."

Machen makes her home in an old '64 Chevrolet station wagon. But Bobby thinks she's getting tired of it, and that she's about ready to trade it in on a newer model, probably a Caprice. This unique "doghouse" opens into a fenced in area. This in turn opens up into the entire lot at Hollowell's. Referring to the station wagon home, Bobby said, "That's one car that we're sure nobody will steal."

Jack Symons is the only person that the dog likes. He feeds her, and when Symons is around, Machen is as gentle as a lamb.

So far, Machen has only bitten two people, both are employes at Hollowell's. She bit Bobby when he tried to be her friend and pet her. And on another occasion, she bit Ben Owens who was feeding her crackers. Evidently, when the crackers were gone, she thought that Owens' arm would make a good substitute. Bobby also recalls the time that Machen accidentally got out. He said that the men were running in all directions and jumping on cars.

Besides human flesh, the dog eats canned dog food, and on occasion raw meat.

When people come in to

look at the cars, they often wander over to Machen's pen, but they don't stay there very long. Bobby said that the men will jokingly offer strangers ten dollars to go in and pet the dog. So far, no one has taken them up on their offer.

Bobby lives near the lot. When he hears Machen bark at night, he goes to check on her. He hasn't found a body hanging from her mouth, but once he found her ripping a hat apart that someone may have dropped when they decided that they weren't welcomed.

When the men go near the fence, to tease her, she bites the wire fence, which is nine gauge, in her effort to get at them.

Sometimes instead of letting her roam the fenced in lot, they will lock her inside the building. If anything happens to Machen, Bobby said that they will get another dog since the arrangement has worked out so well.

Bobby describes Machen as being ferocious, sneaky, and unpredictable. Bobby

E. CITY GUESTS
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Nixon of Elizabeth City were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Pitt on Sunday.

IN HOSPITAL
Charles Williford is a surgery patient at the Albemarle Hospital.

SUNDAY GUESTS
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Myers of Memphis, Tenn. and Mrs. R. A. Bownas of Virginia Beach, Va. were guests of Mrs. L. D. Myers on Sunday.

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Library News

The Perquimans County Library has received seven memorial books recently. These are: Complete Outdoor Building Book in memory of J. Emory White; Invitation to the New Testament in Memory of Alberta White; America's Inland Waterways in memory of Ben Lane; and two in memory of Robbie Matthews, The World of Christopher Robin; and The Secret Garden.

Other new books in the library are Shakespeare, Prophet of Our Time; The Ghosts in Shakespeare; Elementary Theosophy; The Science of Yoga; Reincarnation, Fact or Fallacy; A Study of Pleasure and Pain; A Complete Slide Manual; How to Live With a Heart Attack (and how to avoid one); Who Should Have Children; Always on the Run; by Cooke & Jim Kick; the current issue of Horizon; and Stay of Execution, by Stewart Alsop.

New novels are: Other Men's Daughters, by Stern; The Nun's Castle, by Melville; Annette, by Erskine Caldwell; Return to Moon Bay, by Belvedere; Nurse of the Grand Canyon, by Smiley; Look to the Blue Horse, by Ruuth; and Bank Job, by Pike.

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Tuna Fish Salad on
Lettuce
Lima beans
Sliced tomato
School baked rolls
Milk

Tues., Jan. 15,
Bowl of navy beans
Slaw
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Cornbread
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Wed., Jan. 16,
Spaghetti with meat sauce
Tossed salad
Fruit cup
Buttered toast
Milk

Thurs., Jan. 17,
Chicken with rice
Green peas
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Milk

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