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County Auditor Replies To Article Appearing In The Smithfield Herald

Explains How Tax Notices Advertising Was Handled—Has No Recollection About Flat Rate of \$2.00 Per Notice.

Mrs. T. J. Lassiter,
Editor of the Smithfield Herald,
Smithfield, N. C.

Dear Madam:

This is to ask that you let the following come out in the columns of your next issue of the Herald.

Pertaining to the write-up appearing in the Herald last Friday captioned "Explanations of Big Sum Paid Republican Organ Don't Explain," I recognize thereto, that I should be cognizant that there are plenty of biased minds to which nothing ordinarily reasonable would explain at all satisfactorily, however, I explained and referred to thoroughly, the principal things and phase of Business which absorbed practically all of the outlay set out in the Glaring Headlines.

My endeavor was to vindicate the legitimate process in the business involved, thereby offsetting the attempted thrust alleging that we officers here in the Court House had grabbed the Johnstonian-Sun lovingly for the purpose of continued nurture without other consideration, which I knew was untrue.

Relative to the tax notices, I was governed by the official records of the Clerk's Office,—if the Sun ran some in advertising which they did not bill,—of course they lost therein of their own accord, or account of error.

As to the \$2.00 rate and statement thereto made by Mr. Corbett, so far as I am concerned and knowing anything about that whatever, the same developed under this wise, when some of the delinquent tax payers had seen the advertising notices in the first issue of the Sun they took the matter up with me pertaining to settlement and I in turn took the matter up with Mr. Stencil, which I did in fairness to the tax payers and also to the newspapers and in that consultation with Mr. Stencil, Editor of the Sun, agreed to make a charge of only \$2.00 in those cases where the notices had not been run more than one week prior to the tax payers settlement of the taxes involved.

This is all I know of the \$2.00 proposition whatever except I recall that some gentleman representing himself from Clayton dropped in my office about the time or soon after we had delivered our last principal batches of the notices to the Johnstonian-Sun and stated that he would have run them for \$2.00 each, and suggested that he would take some then but we did not have any on hand to deliver.

His behavior in the matter reminded me of the story in the case where the fellow had bought a pair of shoes at a neighboring store and paid \$5.00 for them, immediately after in passing along down the street comes past a Jew store, proprietor of which accuses him pertaining to the purchase he had made and attempts to discourage him by making the statement to the effect that he had made a "bad deal" in his purchase as he would have sold him the pair of shoes for \$2.50. I recited the above story to him jovially at the time.

So far as Mr. Corbett's further statement pertaining to the publishing of the notices, he had never taken that matter up with me whatever in any manner or I to him, because of the fact it did not occur to me that he had any interest in the matter further than any other citizens because official capacity in reference to those matters Mr. Rose was regarded as the proper authority by me and here I take occasion to state that Mr. Rose behaved quite affably in the matter and showed that he also had some consideration for the tax payers along with me in reference to that matter.

Evidently Mr. Corbett appears to have some allusion of imagination, in reference to that matter. I don't know who the writer or writers in the article were, but apparently "they,"—I suggest, were

afflicted with at least one of two things—intent on blundering or twisting the matter, or grossly ignorant in reference to their statement that, in addition to the \$3371.50 paid from the Debt Service Fund, there was paid out of the General Fund on Feb. 7, 1930, for those advertisements the sum of \$762.91.

The above is untrue, as the \$762.91 was paid the Sun for advertising the 1928 Delinquent Land Sales, Taxes less the amount of \$44.50.

In my previous article, I wrote about the Sun advertising the 1928 Delinquents, but overlooked writing in the amount paid for that service—which came into my mind during last Thursday afternoon, but I knew it was then too late to insert it in your paper.

In the writers 5th paragraph of the article in which is written the \$4134.41 as amount received by the Sun for advertising notices, which meant that the County had paid \$5.35 each alleged anticipated additional pay which would bring that total up to \$9.35 "mere juggling figures"—I again state that we bargained with the Sun to run the notices advertisement for a flat price of \$4.00 each and that is all the compensation they have received for that service.

As to the Clerk's Office making remittances, direct to the Sun Publishing Co., I have never understood that that was anticipated or done until I recall that one day in June Mr. Stencil, Editor of the Sun, was in my office and mentioned Mr. Rose's office had forwarded them some remittances in case of the notices advertising, which he expected to at the first convenient opportunity, when the County had closed its account with them,—to come over to Mr. Rose's office and rechecked with them, credit and balance Mr. Rose's account and turned the money which amounted to about \$60.00 over to the County Treasurer. Mr. Stencil voluntarily sprang the matter, which as above stated I did not know anything of, and it dismissed just as I have stated, and I am thoroughly confident that Mr. Stencil will at first opportunity close the matter with Mr. Rose just as he stated. We know, Mr. Rose is a busy man and those who may take occasion to observe, will note that Mr. Stencil stays regularly well occupied, but there is not occasion for anyone to become alarmed about that small matter.

What I have done has been accomplished in thoroughly good faith in every way pertaining to all transactions with the Sun Publishing Company,—having had in mind as before stated the interests of the tax payers of Johnston County and I have stated the exact plain truth in reference to the same, as is and have been my policies in all matters for years before Mr. Corbett's Babyhood, and 40 years before I ever saw Mr. Penn, and I don't propose to deviate from that policy now since I recognize that I have "passed over" the peak of vigorous manhood. I always "Hated Controversies," and as to this I am "casting aside the Gauntlet" as I am not a candidate for Elective office therefore being pressed daily with duties which are in interest of the Citizens of Johnston County which I recognize that I should execute in my continuous best endeavor and on that account do not have the time to "chew the rag" over matters which amount ultimately in answer to designed picayune political thrusts.

In my previous article I did not have in mind any thrusts to make whatever toward the Herald and meant only justification of the expenditures to the Sun Publishing Co., but since I note in the reply article herein referred to appears to have been mingled conspicuously with the paper's mind, I feel it my duty to let the following take its place in this article namely:

So far as the volume of money paid to the Johnstonian-Sun, that would look puny compared to the volume paid out of Johnston County's Treasury coffers to the Smithfield Herald during the past many years under Democratic rule and the Republicans during their prior admin-

Clayton Republicans Have Good Meeting

Clayton, Sept. 25.—An enthusiastic meeting of the Republicans of Clayton township was held in the city auditorium here last night. A good crowd was present which was said to have exceeded in number the extensively advertised Democratic rally held here several days ago.

Those who attended were agreeably surprised when Hon. John C. Matthews of Spring Hope, Republican candidate for Congress dropped in and made an interesting speech. Mr. Matthews said he did not come expecting to be called on for a speech, but just happened to learn about the speaking as he was passing through, and stopped to attend. He held the undivided attention of his audience for about 40 minutes, and his remarks were greeted with generous applause. Mr. Matthews said he did not pretend to be a great orator, that he was a dirt farmer and a time merchant and was in position to fully realize the needs of the people. He made a number of striking illustrations and got off several good jokes at the expense of the Democrats.

One thing that made quite an impression was his story of "the house of Pou." He said that it seemed that the Pou family had gained complete control of the Democratic political affairs of North Carolina.

He said that his opponent E. W. Pou dominated the Democratic politics of the fourth Congressional district, that George Ross Pou ruled over all the state prisoners with the exception of Otto Wood, that James H. Pou, Jr., as chairman of the Democratic County Committee ruled the Democrats of Wake County, that J. W. Bailey whose wife was a sister of J. H. Pou, Jr., had formed a new political machine which was in complete control of the Democratic politics of the state, and that as Bailey was controlled by his wife who was a member of the Pou family, it would be seen that the Pou family was in complete control of the Democratic political affairs of the state.

Among the other strong points that he made was that if elected he expected to spend the greater part of his salary in his district, that he would be found in full co-operation with the present national administration and giving aid and encouragement to the President in his efforts to help the farmers, and thus bring better conditions throughout the country.

Among the other speakers were the two Republican candidates for the legislature Rev. J. W. Alford and Elder H. F. Hutchens, also Miss Luma McLamb, Register of Deeds, and Mr. J. T. Edgerton, chairman of the board of county commissioners. Mr. V. D. Duncan was master of the ceremonies.

Prominent Benson Man Died Last Thursday

A death which came as a distinct shock to the people of Benson and to a large circle of friends and relatives throughout Johnston County, was that of Mr. John R. McLamb who passed away at his home in Benson about 10:30 o'clock on September 25th. While Mr. McLamb had been in declining health for some time, his own family and most intimate friends and relatives did not vision the end would come so soon.

The funeral services were conducted from the Methodist church in Benson Friday afternoon about three o'clock, by his pastor, Rev. B. H. Houston, the deceased having been a faithful member of the Methodist church for a number of years. Mr. McLamb was a son of Mr. Joe M. McLamb, a prominent farmer near Benson, who preceded him to the grave a few years ago. He is survived by his wife, Miss Meta Williams of Newton Grove; an adopted daughter, Mrs. William Pittman of Rocky Mount, and the following brothers and sisters: W. J. and Elton McLamb, of Benson, Henderson McLamb, of Coats; Mrs. Arthur Neighbors and Mrs. N. L. Britt, of Harnett County; Mrs. Bradley McLamb, of Benson, and Miss Luma McLamb, of Smithfield, who is the present Register of Deeds of Johnston County.

Illustration also contributed liberally thereto.

Respectfully submitted by:
R. L. FITZGERALD,
Auditor of Johnston County.
This the 27th day of Sept. 1930.

Tax Collector Is Ready to Compare His Records

D. W. Parker, Tax Collector, Calls Attention to his Record as Tax Collector as Compared with The Record of His Predecessor, Ex-Sheriff W. F. Grimes.

In last Friday's issue of the Smithfield Herald September the 26th under the caption "Tax Collector's for 2 1-2 months not credited to any County Fund," by innuendo the writer of the above mentioned article attempts to cast reflection upon the conduct of my official duties as Tax Collector of Johnston County, but that part does not give me any personal concern when I feel and know that I have diligently tried to perform the duties of the office that were incumbent upon me to the best of my ability. I have made deposits in the Bank to the Credit of D. W. Parker, Tax Collector of Johnston County, and have settled with the County Treasurer for same just as often as my deposits amounted to enough to distribute to the various County Departments and funds as set up under Our County fiscal program and system. With reference to the amount of \$9,581.70 being on hand on Sept. 16, 1930 to the credit of the County and a Loan of \$10,000 made the same day to the County for the Road Fund, I want to say that out of the \$9,581.70 the Road Fund was entitled to receive approximately the sum of \$1200.00. The Road Fund did borrow the sum of \$10,000.00 to meet obligations due by said Road Fund in anticipation or collections of Taxes like any other department of County government and it is perfectly obvious to any unbiased person that when under the present system of County fiscal control the \$9,581.70 could not be used by the Road Fund to pay its obligations when other departments of the County government was entitled to receive from said \$9,581.70 their proportionate allocation from said \$9,581.70. I leave the rest with the public, but since the matter of mathematical computations, financial parallels, citations of the various and sundry laws governing the fiscal policy of the respective sub-divisions of the County government have been gone into to some extent, I feel that it is proper and right to show by parallel example over a given period by actual comparison from the records in the court house the number of deposits made by me as Tax Collector and that of my predecessor, Sheriff W. F. Grimes, former Tax Collector. From October 22, 1928, to September 1st, 1929, Sheriff Grimes deposited with the County Treasurer twenty two times over a period of ten months and ten days with total deposits allocated to the various County funds of \$601,872.84. Now over a period of ten months from September 1st, 1929, to June the 30th, 1930, I have made twenty eight deposits with the County Treasurer with total deposits allocated to the various County funds of \$721,007.07. Now I didn't notice any glaring headlines about Sheriff Grimes not depositing every day in the Smithfield Herald nor did I notice any streamers on the front page of the "Paper with a prestige of forty eight years" when sheriff Grimes had on deposit as Tax Collector of Johnston County in the First-Citizens National Bank on December 27, 1927, the sum of \$38,679.35 and yet with this amount then on deposit the First-Citizens National Bank loaned to Johnston County on the same day the 27th day of December \$25,000.00 Sheriff Grimes was at that time a director of the First-Citizens National Bank and still is. I didn't see anything in the Smithfield Herald at that time nor neither have I seen anything since about the above state of facts "Being an unusual and indefensible spectacle of the County Commissioners borrowing the County's own money and paying interest on the said loan, thereby, increasing the County's operating expenses etc." It all depends on whose ox is gored, that's the test.

Respectfully,
D. W. PARKER,
Tax Collector for Johnston County.
Smithfield, N. C., Oct. 1, 1930.

Dr. W. S. Cozart, of Fuquay Springs, Wake County, gets a plentiful supply of milk, butter, eggs, meat and vegetables from his small 11-acre farm. The physician finds better health exists where the people grow these essential supplies.

J. C. Stencil Replies to Vicious Attack Made On Him by H. V. Rose

Reviews Controversy Between Himself and Mr. Rose About Newspaper Article—Assures Mr. Rose That He Works Required Number of Hours.

In the issue of the Smithfield Herald dated Sept. 23, 1930, I find an article written by H. V. Rose, Clerk of the Court of Johnston County, making a very unjust attack upon me in connection with an article which appeared on the Smithfield page of The Johnstonian-Sun printed at Selma, N. C., on Sept. 11.

Mr. Rose starts off by objecting to the latter part of the following which appeared in the issue mentioned:

"About two months ago after the County Commissioners had found that there had been a great falling off in the listing of personal property this year, letters were mailed to all the officers, and departments of the County government, asking that all officials and helpers agree to a cut of 10 per cent in their salaries in order to keep down the tax rate, and thus share the burden of the taxpayers."

"The cut was to start on the first of August. Not a dissenting voice was heard among the Republicans, but superintendent of schools H. B. Marrow responded by increasing his budget for the six months schools exactly \$28,532.00 over the amount which he forced the County Commissioners to furnish him last year, so instead of cutting his budget 10 percent, Mr. Marrow increased it about 5 per cent."

"A letter was reported to have been sent to the clerk of the court at the same time and in the same form that the letters were sent to the other county officers asking them to accept a 10 per cent cut in all salaries."

"It was said that no reply had been received to the letter addressed to the clerk and his force, so when the checks were made out for the month of August, the 10 per cent cut was applied to the clerks office along with the others. Soon after the checks were delivered Mr. H. V. Rose, clerk of the court, was reported to have rushed into the Register of Deeds office, and in a very abrupt manner told Miss Luma McLamb Register of Deeds, that he was not going to stand for any cutting of salaries in his office, and that he would show 'the damned radicals' that they could not run over him."

In his article in the Herald Mr. Rose says that he did not use any profanity in addressing Miss McLamb in her office, and then proceeds to make a long, rambling and vicious attack upon me, because I wrote the article quoted above and turned it over to my son J. R. Stencil who used it on the Smithfield page of The Johnstonian-Sun which page he edits.

Mr. Rose approached me a few days ago, and asked me if I wrote this article, and I told him that I did. He denied using profanity and said that he wanted me to write another article and say that it was all a mistake about his using profanity. I told him that I had no correction to make, because what I had said was true. I told him I had said that he was "reported to have used profanity," that my statement was true, and that he had no grounds for complaint, on that account, neither could he blame the paper for printing a true statement.

I explained to Mr. Rose that I had no desire to do him any injustice, and told him that I would talk with Miss Luma McLamb, Register of Deeds, and see if it was possible that there could have been any misunderstanding about the matter. Miss McLamb assured me that there was no mistake about it, and mentioned the fact that a lady from the country Mrs. Mary Langdon, happened to be in her office at the time, and heard what Mr. Rose said. She said that after Mr. Rose left the Register of Deeds office Mrs. Langdon remarked that she had seen Mr. Rose before when he was angry and nervous, but that she had never before seen him in such bad shape as he was at that time.

Later I met Mr. Rose on the street

and he stopped and asked if I had talked with Miss McLamb. I told him that I had asked her if there had been any mistake about the report of his using profanity in talking to her about the cut made in the pay checks for the clerk's office, and that she had assured me that he had used the words "damned radicals" in speaking to her about the matter.

Mr. Rose then admitted that he had talked with Miss McLamb about the matter, and that he had not been able to convince her that she could have been mistaken as to the language that he used. Mr. Rose then asked me to go with him to Miss McLamb's office. After reaching the Register of Deeds office he told Miss McLamb that he wanted her to make some sort of denial of the report in the paper that he had referred to the Republicans as "damned radicals" in her presence.

Miss McLamb told him she was very sorry that the matter had gotten into the newspapers, and that as they had always been good friends she really would like to be able to help him out of his embarrassing position, but she could not, of course, make any denial of the language which had been actually used by him in talking to her about the salary checks, and which had been printed in The Johnstonian-Sun.

She told him that she would be willing to state that in her opinion he was hardly responsible for what he said at that time, because of his angry and nervous condition, and that this was the most liberal, or charitable statement that she could truthfully make, and that she would make no other.

Mr. Rose was repeatedly told by Miss McLamb that he certainly did use the words "damned radicals" and that if he did not remember using these words, he evidently had so completely lost control of himself in his rage of anger while talking to her about the pay checks, that he did not know what he was saying. After all this, Mr. Rose charged in his newspaper article that I had "uttered and published a falsehood against him". He knew when he wrote it that my printed statement was absolutely true. I explained to him that the article to which he objected had been written for my son, and had been used in the paper as his article, but I was willing to accept responsibility for what it contained.

Mr. Rose tried to make it appear that I had been neglecting the duties of my office and loitering around the court house. In reply to this, I will say that if Mr. Rose did not know this statement was untrue, it was probably because he was spending so much of his time out of town that he did not know what was going on around here. His article appeared in the issue of The Herald dated Sept. 23, 1930. Taking the month of September as a whole, I think I spent twice as many hours in the post office as he spent in the clerk's office, and I don't think there has been a month in the last three years that he has spent more time in his office than I have in mine. Any way, I have always spent more time in my office than the regulations required. In making this attack on me, Mr. Rose draws heavily on his imagination. He says, "The purpose of this assault on me is to effect my defeat for clerk of the court in the November election." So far as I know, no assault has been made on him; and so far as I know, he is the first person to mention his candidacy in connection with this matter.

Mr. Rose, it seems, picked a time to visit the register of deeds office and use his rough language to Miss McLamb, when the other employees were all out at lunch; but as it happened, Mrs. Mary Langdon, of Elevation Township, came into the office about that time and heard what was said. Besides Mr. Rose, Miss McLamb and Mrs. Langdon it seems were the only persons in the office at that time, and they have both made affidavits in which it is stated that Mr. Rose did use the words "damned radicals."

It is plain that the greater weight
(Continued on last page)