

OPEN FORUM

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THE SCHOOL FIGHT CONTINUES

According to a clipping from the "Northwestern Press" which was handed to me, the editor announced on April 25, 1930, that all candidates for political office would be interviewed and their responses printed. I heartily agree with the gentleman in believing that the voters of Wilkes county should know for what their candidates stand. As I filed for a member of the County Board of Education, I was eligible for an interview, which I never believed would take place.

Creek school and endorsed by C. O. McNeil, appearing in the Twin City Sentinel, August 28, 1933, testify to the veracity of the statements of the Democratic and school officials.

It is interesting to note that an article appearing in The Journal-Patriot of November 3, 1933, (in the same issue in which the denials of McNeil and Rousseau appeared) by Miss Linney states that she had already sent her "remittance to the Democrat." Miss Linney's check is dated October 22, 1933, and Mrs. Lomax's check is dated November 1, 1933—both given before these denials appeared. The statements by Mrs. Lomax that Mr. Rousseau was at the school to see that the levies or tributes were paid, that the checks were to be drawn to C. O. McNeil, and that the checks were to be delivered to McNeil personally are illuminating.

When the first mass meeting was called at the Wilkesboro school I went. This was to be a regular meeting of the Central of Wilkesboro Board, but J. T. Prevette, T. M. Foster and D. J. Brookshire failed to appear. Having dismissed six of the popular teachers of the Wilkesboro school and having chosen a faculty, composed of their relatives and friends over the protest of Chairman N. O. Smoak, and Secretary C. A. Lowe, these three members—"Big Three"—did not have the courage to face the patrons and explain their action. Chairman Smoak and Secretary Lowe turned over the meeting to Mrs. L. B. Dula, president of the Parent-Teacher Association. Several of us were asked to express our views of the high-handed action of Prevette, Foster and Brookshire, and the writer with two others was appointed to appear before the Central Committee the next day to request the reinstatement of the dismissed teachers. In my statement to the committee I pointed out that I did not have any personal interest in the matter, and was not acquainted with any of the teachers, but since the patrons liked them I thought it would be best to give them what they wanted. I tried to make it clear that it was a serious matter and if not satisfactorily adjusted, it would continue until neighbor would be aligned against neighbor, the town and county would be divided into warring camps, the churches would be split, and the school

greatly damaged. These things have always happened and a lot more, and no one can foresee the end of the devilry started by the "Big Three."

The County Board composed of C. O. McNeil, Roby Church and "Dock" Shepherd, nullified the action of the Central Committee. It is now apparent that this action was for the purpose of dismissing Superintendent Story. In violation of the law (see Journal-Patriot, April 22, 1933) the "Big Three" postponed the election of the teachers for 30 days. At the next meeting Mr. Story and the six formerly dismissed teachers were not re-elected. Various mass meetings and articles in the papers and a protest signed by over 1,000 patrons of the school followed. Chairman Smoak and Secretary Lowe, refusing to be a party to any of the infamous work of the "Big Three," resigned, and their places were filled by M. G. Edwards and Mack Moore. The "Big Three" joined by these two of their liking, persisted in their folly. C. B. Eller, county superintendent "crawfished" and the county board supported the action of the "Big Three." Finally Long was chosen by the trio to supersede Mr. Story, and the positions of the dismissed teachers were filled by relatives and friends of the "Big Three." What kind of a school Wilkesboro has had this year no one seems to know. No Parent-Teacher Association exists, and many derogatory reports are current. Those who were present at the mass meeting the first day of school have their opinion of those in charge. It has been rumored that the same teachers, including Long, have been elected for next year, but so far the committee has not had the courage to announce it even in its own "sheet."

That the schools in Wilkes County are ruled by what might be termed "Fifth Columnists in Education" and are in a deplorable condition is unquestionable. We are told of the great progress of our schools, but what are the facts? The table based upon data in "State School Facts," published by the State Department of Public Instruction of North Carolina, and the "News Letter," published by the University of North Carolina, give a comparative picture with adjoining counties and with two truly progressive counties—rugged Buncombe and Piedmont Mecklenburg.

COMPARATIVE EDUCATIONAL RANKING OF CERTAIN COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Table with 7 columns: County, Pub. High Schools, School Atten., Pub. Sch. Libraries, Accredited Elem. Sch., Teacher Training, Salaries Per Pa., Pub. Sch. Property. Rows include Alexander, Watauga, Ashe, Surry, Alleghany, Caldwell, Iredell, Yadkin, Wilkes, Buncombe, and Mecklenburg.

According to reports a well known politician dismissed my criticism of the educational situation in our county by the ex-cathedra statement that "Wilkes is no worse than her neighbors." What are the facts? In the items compared Wilkes with few exceptions occupies the lowest position of the eleven. Compared with the eight adjoining counties in high schools and attendance she ranks lowest, in public school libraries next to lowest, and in salaries and scholastic training she is third from the bottom. In 1926-27 she ranked 99 in scholarship of teachers and in 1936-37 she stood at 85, while Alexander advanced from 88 to 2. Except in public school property, we are approximately 60 rungs lower in the educational ladder than Buncombe and Mecklenburg. As compared with the entire state our high schools rank 92, that is, only eight counties in the whole state have poorer high schools. We do not have a single accredited elementary school, and only two counties stand between us and the bottom rung in attendance and public school libraries. Our position is slightly better in regard to public school property, as we rank 83, and much better in tax rates, since we occupy position 50. In short, of the 100 counties in North Carolina, we are near the bottom in everything but taxes. We are a rural agricultural county, but do not have agricultural courses in a single white school. Domestic science and commercial subjects are taught only in a few. What a record! Comparing the low standards Wilkes County has in North Carolina, and the low standards North Carolina has in the Nation, what chance do our boys and girls have in competing with boys and girls from the progressive states of the North and West?

and dismissing those from their positions upon refusal to pay; the muzzling, bribing, and enslaving of our teachers; the employment of relatives, friends, and spineless people to teach our children without regard to their educational, ethical, psychological, or psychiatric qualifications. I considered that these children are helpless victims in our hands. They did not choose their parents, birthplace, or social environment. We alone are responsible for these facts and conditions. For these reasons I decided to file, and if elected and approved to use every inch of manhood I have to better these conditions. After it became known that I had filed there was great consternation in the camp of the "Fifth Column." Mr. Eller busied himself in Raleigh and others bestirred themselves to keep my name off the ticket. Two years ago "Dock" Shepherd's name was on the ticket, and had I not filed no doubt C. O. McNeil's name would have appeared in like manner. According to our "Fifth Columnists," the office of membership of the Board of Education is elective when the "right" man files and there is no Republican opponent and appointive when there is danger of an "outsider" aspiring to place himself before the people. After I filed I was encouraged to make the race by a number of prominent Democrats and was assured of their full support. But the "Fifth Columnists" will keep my name off of the ticket and would have blocked the confirmation had I been elected. Of course I do not know that I would have been elected, but I would have liked for the people to have an opportunity to express themselves. It would appear that the "Fifth Columnists" are afraid of something. This would indicate that they have been doing things and wish to continue doing things which they don't want the people to know. In fact they are accused of doing things that are below the dignity of a Stalin, Mussolini or Hitler. I should like to remark that I was not seeking the membership of the Board of Education for any personal aggrandisement or financial reward for myself or

family. I have been and will continue in the school fight solely to help elevate our schools from the muck and mire of political filth into which C. O. McNeil and some other Democrats or rather New Dealers have lowered it. There appears to have been and continues to be a very definite effort on the part of the New Deal forces to place men in control of our schools who are totally incapable of their positions, men who are easily controlled by the political machine. These in turn appoint 'cat's paws' for local boards, and these in turn help select teachers who will do their bidding. This procedure is carried out in pure dictator style without regard to the rights of our children, our taxpayers, or the fundamental principles upon which our government was founded. A truly educated man does not disregard or look down upon a man because he does not have an education nor boast of his own attainments. On the other hand, any man who assumes a position of trust in the school for which he is not educationally and, otherwise qualified and then uses this position for political purposes to the detriment of innocent children deserves the condemnation of all decent people. From an educational standpoint, to say the least, it is evident that not all of our school officials are representative of the people of Wilkes County. Of course the State is Democratic and if all members of the school board, central committee and local committees have to be Democrats, why not give us men of education, men who are sober, moral, ethical, religious, and with a social vision. There are enough Democrats (not New Dealers) with these qualifications to fill these school positions in this county. On the other hand, this is a Republican county. Republicans pay the bulk of the taxes and supply the majority of the children for the schools. If we have any regard for the basic principles upon which our government is founded, there is no earthly reason why Republicans should not be at least equally represented in school matters in this county. Without any spirit of ar-

rogance, I would like to state that according to my information my opponent, C. O. McNeil, is a poorly educated man of the political type. On the other hand, I have spent most of my life in educational work. I am a graduate of Mars Hill College, have an A. B. degree from Wake Forest College, B. D. from Crozer, Th. M. from Crozer, A. M. from the University of Pennsylvania, Ph. D. from the University of Pennsylvania, Th. D. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and in 1930 I was honored with a F. R. E. S. (Fellow in the Royal Economic Society of Great Britain and Ireland). I am the author of four books and more than sixty articles, scientific reports and reviews. I have spent sixteen years teaching in some of the best universities in the United States. In other words, I feel that I am much better qualified to render service to the schools and thus to the children of Wilkes county than my opponent.

It has been reported that I have said that I was misinformed in regard to the school situation in Wilkes, and had I been correctly informed I would not have participated in the school fight. Such is absolutely false, and had I to go through with these mass meetings, etc. again, I would make a supreme effort to do even more than I did. I was one of the several hundred who pledged themselves to continue this fight until conditions are remedied and as such I remain. I am utterly opposed to levying a tribute or assessment upon teachers for any political purpose whatsoever. I am in favor of employing teachers who are moral, ethical, thoroughly trained and well qualified regardless of political or religious affiliations. I am opposed to selecting committeemen for political reasons, and expect to continue to fight to have men on our Board of Education, Central Committee, and local committees who are educationally competent, sober, moral, and who have put the welfare of our schools and children above any political interest. I favor the teaching of agriculture, domestic science, and commercial courses in all of our high schools. In brief, we need to divorce our schools from politics, we need better educated and otherwise equipped teachers, and those with a vision of future possibilities. We need men and women on our boards and committees who are sound mentally and morally and who have enough education to see the needs of a local and county situation in its national and world relationships, and men sufficiently educated and informed to direct the educational, religious, and social forces so that our children will have a more wholesome environment in which to develop.

H. G. DUNCAN, Wilkesboro, N. C.

Old Hens Need Moist Mash At Noon Daily

Do you want to know how to keep your old hens in egg production during the hot summer months? Well, C. F. Parrish, Extension poultry specialist of N. C. State College, says the feeding of a moist mash at noon each day will help to increase summer egg production. He recommends that three pounds of dry mash be moistened with milk or water and fed to each 100 birds. "As soon as the birds finish eating, turn the mash troughs over so that flies will not congregate in the laying house," he says. The poultry specialist also advises the supplying of 4 to 5 gallons of cool, fresh water each day for each 100 birds, and a sufficient number of fountains so that there will not be any crowding around the drinking fountains. "Remember," he says, "two-thirds of each egg is water and hens can't produce eggs if the drinking fountain is dry. Then too, you can get 13 cents for water when selling eggs for 50 cents per dozen. Therefore, provide plenty of fresh, clean water at all times." Parrish also recommends that poultry raisers check carefully at this season of the year for lice and mites. If mites are found, old burnt cylinder oil or kerosene should be spread over the roosting poles. Sodium fluoride, either as a dust or a dip, is suggested for the control of lice. However, lice can be controlled by painting the roosts with nicotine sulphate or some commercial preparation. "Just keep this in mind," the specialist asserted, "the person who makes a summer profit from poultry is the person who keeps the flock as comfortable as possible."

J. C. Wallace In New Office Location

J. C. Wallace, one of the most widely known justices of the peace in this section, has moved his office from D. & M. Electric company building on O street to rooms over Dr. W. A. Taylor's office on Ninth street.

Model Railway Helps Make Cleveland 'Safest City'



A model railway, in use for the past 10 years, is used to test all applicants for motorist's jobs on the Cleveland, Ohio, street railway. The model railway is an exact replica of conditions the men will face on the city's streets. Left: A test is made of Applicant William Murray's reaction. Right: According to the scoreboard, Murray used "poor judgment" in permitting this "crash." Authorities claim the job test has made Cleveland's streets the safest in the country.

Troop 35 Conducting Splendid Ticket Sale

As sponsors of the show "An Angel From Texas," at the Orpheum Theatre, Tuesday, July 16, they are working hard to make it a big success. The Scoutmaster of Troop 35, feels that you cannot spend the small sum these boys ask for a better purpose. They are planning a weeks camping trip to Lake Wacaman. But to do so they must raise funds through public subscription. These boys ask you to see a good show, instead of a donation. This is a part of their youthful training, so encourage, and help them succeed.

4-H Short Course Opens At N. C. State On July 22

Twelve hundred rural boys and girls, representing the 50,000 members of the 1,500 4-H Clubs in the State, will gather at N. C. State College on Monday, July 22, for their annual State Short Course. They will spend a week at the college in study and recreation and in receiving inspiration to take back to their local clubs. Among the speakers they will hear during the week are: Governor Clyde R. Hoey; Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of the Progressive Farmer; Dr. W. C. Jackson, administrative dean of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro; and Salom Rizk, a young foreign-born American citizen who is known as "the Syrian Yankee."

New Quarters For Body Repair Work

Yadkin Valley Motor Co. has secured the building vacated by Barber's Garage, on Gordon Avenue, and will combine the departments formerly operated for body and fender repair work and auto painting. The change, operating all three departments under one roof, will effect considerable advantages, in the meantime giving more room for general repair work at the Ford work shops. If you own a car that needs any body or fender work, or paint job, call 60 and Mr. A. E. Rhoades, manager of the new combined department, will give you prompt service at reasonable prices.

Old Hens Need Moist Mash At Noon Daily

SPECIAL — Children's Wash Dresses now on sale. The gayest, most glamorous young dresses in years. Amazingly low priced. A glittering, glorious collection of fine quality cotton prints, shantung, poplins, etc. Newest styles, wide flares, dainty collars. A big variety of smart styles for your variety of smart styles for your How on sale for 75c.—The Goodwill Store, The Place for Bargains.

Local Men Will Enter Business In Statesville

Charles Jenkins, Jr., and Wade Barlow, of this city, have taken over Vance Motor company in Statesville, Buick dealer, and will operate the business. Messrs. Jenkins and Barlow went to Statesville today to make final arrangements pending the transfer and operation of the business, which will continue under the name of Vance Motor company. Mr. Barlow will spend his full time with the firm and Mr. Jenkins will divide his time between that firm and his business interests here. Mr. Barlow is well and favorably known in Wilkes, having been service manager for Gaddy Motor company for the past several years. For the present he will continue to make his home north of this city in the Mulberry community.

Junior Order To Install Officers Tuesday Night

Officers for the ensuing six months will be installed at the meeting of North Wilkesboro council of the Junior order to be held on Tuesday evening, 7:30. There will also be degree work and attendance of every member of the degree team is urgently requested. Every member is asked to be present and visiting Juniors will be welcome. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

SALE—Entire stock of ladies' summer hats. Charming feature—flattering hats. Summer's best sellers. Priced for a quick and complete closeout. Straws, brims and felts; wide and narrow brims. Regular \$1.00 and \$1.95 values, now 10c, 25c and 48c.—The Goodwill Store, "The Place for Bargains."

WANTED! 100 USED CARS DO YOU OWN ONE? There are hundreds of Good Used Cars in this section, and we are seeking to contact the owners. If you own one, KEEP READING! Any Make or Model Can Be Handled We have combined our body, fender and painting departments under one roof, and now occupy the building formerly used by Joe Barber's Garage, on Gordon Avenue, at rear of Rexall Drug store), where we are in position to offer you the very best service on all body and fender repair work, and highest quality auto painting, at prices that will enable you to get new car appearance from your old car at minimum cost. If you intend to trade, it will pay you to get your car in first-class condition before offering it. A little repair on the body, upholstery, fenders, and a good paint job will BOOST the value on the used car market when you are ready to trade. Body and Painting Departments Yadkin Valley Motor Company Forester Avenue A. E. Rhoades, Mgr. Phone 60