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A BATCH OF PERSONAL ITEMS

"The Best Lawyer in Four Counties."

If there is a more generous soul with respect to his professional competitors than Itimous T. Valentine, I haven't discovered him. You all remember how, as campaign manager for Harold Cooley, he boosted him into Congress. Well, he is now lauding Cooley's partner, W. J. Bone, and grooming him to succeed Judge Barnhill. "But Judge Barnhill is a young man and will be on the job a long time," I interposed. "O, Judge Barnhill will be on the Supreme Court bench," glibly prophesied the genial Itimous T.

"Bone is the best lawyer in four counties," Mr. Valentine continued. "He has more sense than almost anybody."

Now, Itimous T., with "It" in his name twice and with the victory of Harold D. Cooley in the primaries over two strong men to his credit, certainly has as much right to tag a man as "it" as anybody in the state, and he has tagged both Judge Barnhill and young W. J. Bone.

I told Attorney C. H. Leggett of Tarboro what Mr. Valentine had said about young Bone, and he quickly agreed with Itimous's estimate of the Nashville lawyer, as probably every reader does with respect to Judge Barnhill's being headed toward the Supreme Court bench. Not only is the Judge young, comparatively so—he was too young to go to school to me at Enfield when his two older brothers were my pupils—but he is of that "lean, hungry Cassius" type that doesn't succumb easily.

I had met that morning the father of W. J. Bone, and had discovered that he is of the intellectual type, so I could rather easily accept Mr. Valentine's generous estimate of W. J.'s mental ability. Besides, there was W. J. Bone standing before me, as clear-cut a specimen of man, physically and physically, I'd better stop and see if there is such a word as I have started and how to spell it—well, I'll risk it, physiognomally as you ever saw.

W. J. Bone graduated at Wake Forest with the LL. B. degree in 1921, taught two years, worked in the clerk of court's office two years, and began practice in 1925. He has been recorder of the county court for the past 18 months, voluntarily retiring in favor of Attorney Davenport, whom I unfortunately failed to meet. So you see W. J. Bone has already a large degree of experience in the business of judging.

But back to Itimous Valentine. He is a graduate of Guilford College, but took law at Wake Forest. He is proudest of his war record. He entered a buck private and returned as such. In addition to the two great offensives at Argonne Forest and Mehl, he went through several others, but as neither he nor I could spell their names, I refrain from mentioning them, though one of them we guessed to be "Toul". I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Valentine, and she is simply fine.

In addition to Mr. Bone, the Cooley & Bone firm embraces Mr. Bachelor, another promising youngster, and as man of all-work Harold Cooley's sister Miss Cooley. Many Fourth District people became acquainted with the whole bunch of whom I am writing during the primary campaign last spring, when they haunted the headquarter offices in Raleigh and the byways and hedges of the whole fourth district.

Two Bright Young School Men.

It was our first acquaintance with Supt. L. S. Inscoc of the Nash County schools, but the first impression was most favorable. Inscocs are few in the State. They derive from Franklin County, of which county Mr. Inscoc is a native. The only other I know is the bright young Raleigh attorney, who was a recent candidate for solicitor in the Wake-Franklin district. Supt. Inscoc had graduated at Wake Forest and taught two years in Nash County when he entered an officers' training school for the World War. He attained the rank of second lieutenant, but didn't get across. The day after he received his discharge from the army, the former county superintendent of the Nash schools resigned and Mr. Inscoc was chosen his successor and has held the job ever since. Another fine school man is Superintendent Abernethy of the Edgecombe schools. He is of the old Rutherford College Abernethy stock, a graduate of Wake Forest College, and a successful teacher for several years before his becoming county school superintendent.

HAROLD D. COOLEY



The Fourth District's Brilliant Young Congressman, Who Won in the Recent Election by About 8 to 1.

Veteran Officers.

At Greenville and other points we have found officials grown gray in the county offices who are still going strong and had no opposition in either the primary or the general election. But I believe I have found none anywhere to beat the records of some of the Nash and Edgecombe officials. For instance Mr. A. T. Walston, clerk of the court for Edgecombe, was recently elected for his eighth four-year term, not only without opposition in the primary or general election this year, but without opposition in either convention or primaries during the more than 28 years since he first became a candidate.

That should stand as a record, but Clerk J. N. Sills of Nash runs it hard, and declares that he has never asked a man to vote for him. Mr. Sills was practically reared in the clerk's office, his father having served for fifteen years as clerk and he for years as deputy. On his father's death in 1913 the son was appointed clerk and has had no opposition since. He has just been elected for his sixth consecutive term without opposition.

Now set along with those records that of Mr. J. B. Boddie, who has just been elected for his 14th two-year term as register of deeds of Nash, and without opposition the last time, if not all the time. Sheriff C. L. Johnston has just been elected to his ninth term as sheriff of Nash, but has served intermittently at his pleasure, serving eight years, then after an intermission six years, and has just been elected to his second term in his third period of service. The intermissions were largely filled as a member of the board of county commissioners, on which he has served a total of six years. Sheriff Johnston was born at Battleboro. He has lived since maturity on a farm near Whitaker's. His is not one of the big farms of that section of the State, but only an eight-horse one, upon which he raises corn, cotton, tobacco, peanuts and other crops—enough to carry him over any missing pay-day that might occur in the sheriffing job.

Over at Tarboro, I find Miss M. B. Bunn as possibly the lady of the State's dozen lady register of deeds who has served longest. She was clerk in the office when her father died after 15 years of service and was appointed to succeed him and has held the job more than ten years and is re-elected for another term.

Comment upon the character of those gentlemen and Miss Bunn seems unnecessary—the people's estimate stands as remarkable tributes to both their character and efficiency.

Some Other Nashville Men

S. L. Austin, senior member of the legal firm of Austin and Mays, is a native of Johnston county, but has been in Nash almost since maturity. He has served in the house of representatives and as recorder for a dozen years. Through him I learned that J. E. Austin, hailing from Clayton, an old college mate of whom I had not heard in forty years, is thriving as

a merchant away over on the Tennessee-Kentucky line. Hubert E. Mays is the bright young junior partner of the firm. He is a Wake Forest graduate of the class of 1932. Mr. Austin is a U. N. C. man.

R. O. Burton is another of the genial members of the Nashville bar. He is a Duke graduate but took his law at Wake Forest.

It was a pleasure to visit the office of the Nashville Graphic and see the workshop of our Dunn youth, Jack Riley, who has been editor of the Graphic for about a year. Jack was on the job. The shop force seem congenial and efficient workers. This is the paper that our old friend Mr. Lincke, one of the State's best men, ran for many years. It is now the property of his daughter, who herself edited it till she took unto herself a husband. Jack is making good as editor. He is one of Oscar Coffin's output from the U. N. C. school of journalism.

One of the Old-Timers.

About 44 years ago last September a youngster entered Wake Forest College from Nash county by the name of J. L. Cornwell. He proved to be a clean-cut youth and a good student. I hadn't seen him after my departure in 1892 from the old college till last year when I met him in Raleigh and, of course, got his subscription for the State's Voice. I sought him first when I arrived at the Nash county court house. He is county auditor, having held the job for quite a number of years, and one of the most highly esteemed men of Nash county. He was my only subscriber in Nashville when I arrived, but with his renewal registered, I proceeded to change that situation. Let Wake Foresters of the nineties be assured that, if they haven't heard much of Cornwell, he has been playing no mean role. Everybody seems to like and trust him.

Two Tarboro Dentists.

I had only four-hours in Tarboro but had the good fortune to make acquaintance with a number of its good citizens, among whom are the town's oldest dentist and another in prime of physical perfection. The former is Dr. Don Williams, who has practiced for nigh on to forty six years. Dr. Williams' family are long-lived. His grandfather, who was born in Connecticut during the Revolutionary War, came to this state about 1800. Dr. Williams' own father was a physician. It is unusual to find a man whose grandfather, lived during the Revolutionary War, especially a man no older than Dr. Williams. The fine old gentleman graduated at the University of Maryland in 1889, and soon thereafter began his practice in Tarboro.

The other is Dr. Thomas, a fine specimen of physical and intellectual manhood, six feet and one inch tall, weight about 185. Dr. Thomas, too, got his degree from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, a part of the University of Maryland, but he has taken a dozen post graduate courses at various colleges. Recently, he stood an examination among 185 (I believe that is the number) other applicants for official standing in the U. S. Naval reserve corps, and was one of the five who passed. He is now rated a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve Corps.

Three Sanford Citizens.

I have long wanted to tell you of some of my Sanford friends. I pick three for this item.

Judge T. J. McPherson is to the manner born and bred. Lee lies on the upper border of the Highland Scotch area, which reached to the Lord Granville line, the old line between Moore and Chatham before the foundation of Lee county. Judge McPherson is about as fine-looking a specimen as the editor of the Voice, but from his eyes up he is a big man. He actually enjoys reading the Voice's economic articles. For several years Mr. McPherson has been recorder of the Lee County court, and has made a good one.

Dr. Lynn McIver is of the strong McIver lineage which has won distinction in the State. He is a genial gentleman and a popular and efficient physician. It will be worth your while to meet and know Dr. Lynn McIver.

D. B. Teague is one of Lee County's leading barristers, but he began his practice at Lillington, Harnett County. He is a native of Randolph, which is one of the counties which has sent its sons so broadly

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 1)