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Advisory Commission Suggests Changes

Many Suggestions Offered For The Improvement of County Government; Senator Overman Dies and is Succeeded by Cameron Morrison

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

Raleigh, Dec. 16—Further improvement in administration of county fiscal affairs, a more accurate accounting of public money, prevention of unnecessary financial loss, more intelligent means of economy and assurance to taxpayers of greater value for public money expended are objects sought by the County Government Advisory Commission in its program of bills to be submitted to the 1931 General Assembly.

These bills have the endorsement of the State Association of County Commissioners and are included in substance in the following brief schedule:

Appointment of county accountant by county commissioners, only upon evidence of special training and experience.

Inspection and supervision of records of county officers, to insure proper accounting of public money and proper safeguards of funds, by County Government Advisory Commission.

Centralizing bookkeeping and accounting control in the office of the county accountant.

Abolishing office of county treasurer and of fiscal agent acting as treasurer.

Proper restriction by General Assembly of nature of investments of county sinking funds.

Require banks and county officers to furnish more reliable and sufficient security for protection of public funds in their possession.

Submission of plan for partial or installment payment of taxes.

Require appointment of tax collector by county commissioners.

Lodge county-wide control of road maintenance and construction in the county commissioners, abolishing separate highway commissions and township road districts.

Provide a definite and reasonable scale of compensation for county attorneys in tax foreclosure suits.

Request General Assembly to allow county commissioners to levy taxes for additional special purposes, over the 15-cent constitutional tax limitation, in order to prevent frequently recurring deficits in county general funds.

Suggestion has also been made that the County Government Advisory Commission be given more authority to enforce the County Government Acts, rather than serve merely as an "advisory" body as it has been since its creation by the 1927 General Assembly.

Real Estate Valuation

North Carolina's total valuation of real estate in 1929 was \$2,096,114,000, divided into land acreage valued at \$934,829,000, and town and city lots valued at \$1,020,977,000, according to the last report of the State Board of Assessment, just issued.

The average valuation of land per acre is \$31.84, the highest being in Gaston county, \$210.81, and the lowest in Dare, \$6.97, while the town lots average the highest in price in Caldwell county, \$3,379.09, and the lowest in Jones county, \$342.51. The State average for town lots is \$1,920.18.

Mecklenburg leads in total value of town lots, with \$123,947,308, while Currituck is listed as having no town lots. Guilford has the highest total value of land acreage, with \$26,938,370, while Tyrrell has the lowest, \$1,547,087.

Carteret County, the report shows, had a total real estate valuation of \$12,340,000, of which \$6,940,000 was in land, valued at an average of \$20.31 an acre and \$5,400,000 in town lots, average value of which was \$520.74 a lot. The county had nothing listed in manufacturing establishments outside of city and town corporation limits and nothing in value of mineral, timber or water power sites in the county.

Executive Counsel O. M. Mull has issued a statement that Governor Gardner will extend no general clemency to prisoners because of the holidays and, as he will be engaged in Budget matters from now until the first of the year, he will not consider applications for clemency after Tuesday, December 16, until January 1, 1931.

Governor Gardner has issued a call to cotton and tobacco growers, bankers and merchants to reduce cotton

NEWS FORCE WILL TAKE A HOLIDAY

The Beaufort News will be printed next Wednesday afternoon instead of Thursday afternoon. This is done in order to give all who work for the News an opportunity to enjoy a few days vacation. The News office will be closed until Monday, December 29. The usual issue of the paper will appear Thursday January 1. The News is published fifty two times a year and never suspends publication for Christmas or any other holiday. Persons who desire to have any job printing done at this office should bring their orders in at once.

Atlantic Man Found Dead At His Camp

Mr. James Willis of Atlantic left home by himself on November 27th to go over to the Hammocks to set some traps. About three nights later a fire was seen at the Hammocks from Marshallberg. A man went over there a week later and found his camp had burned. He didn't know that someone was camping over there so he didn't think much about it. Another man passed and saw a boat. He came back some time later and the boat was still in the same place so he came to Atlantic and mentioned it. Monday morning a searching party went out and found the remains of Mr. Willis in the ruins of his camp. They buried them on the beach near the camp ruins.

He is survived by his wife and two sons, Oscar and Elvin.

Biggest Catch of Fish

The biggest catch of fish that has ever been caught in the history of Atlantic was made last week when the two crews of Messrs. Winfield Fulcher and Augustine Robinson caught \$2,631.87 worth.

Union Fish Company Opens For Business

A new wholesale and retail concern for all varieties of sea foods has been started here in Beaufort under the name of the Union Fish Company. Chas. S. Willis, well-known business man of Marshallberg, is the manager of the new company. It is doing business in the place at the rear of Paul's Garage on Front Street formerly occupied by S. W. Davis & Bro. The Union Fish Company is going to deal in every kind of marine food, and will not only ship wholesale but will also do a local retail business. It has been in operation about a week and has now gotten fully underway. Joseph Patton, of this community, is assisting Mr. Willis at the new firm's place of business.

CONTRIBUTIONS ASKED FOR PERSONS IN NEED OF HELP

Under the auspices of the County Welfare Department an effort is being made to collect food and money for the deserving poor of Carteret county. Contributions are to be solicited in Beaufort and Morehead City.

Large containers will be placed in front of the stores of I. N. Moore and the C. D. Jones Company in Beaufort and in Morehead City containers will be located in front of the stores of Freeman Brothers and the D. Pender Company. Gifts of food or money or both are desired. Boy Scouts will be on hand to receive the contributions. Gifts will be received on Saturday all day and again on Tuesday.

SHERIFF E. M. CHADWICK APPOINTS THREE DEPUTIES

Sheriff Elbert M. Chadwick has appointed three assistant or deputy sheriffs to help him carry out the duties of his office. They are: George Nelson, Morehead City; W. R. Longest, Beaufort Chief of Police; and R. E. Chaplain, of this community, who is also the county jailer. From time to time the sheriff may swear in temporary deputies whenever they are necessary, but those named in the foregoing are his regular assistants.

CONVICT TWO ON ASSAULT CHARGES

Suspended Road Sentences Given To Men For Assaults On Women

Two men were tried in Recorder's Court Tuesday for assaults upon women and two were tried for stealing clams. The two charged with assault were convicted. The alleged clam stealers got off. The defendants came from Morehead City and Beaufort.

William Bell of Morehead City, who is a young married man, was first tried on the charge of striking Mrs. Wallace Willis a neighbor of his. The trouble grew out of a quarrel about a garage which both were in the habit of using. Mrs. Willis said the Bells persisted in leaving the doors open. They had some words about the matter and she said Bell struck her and knocked her down. She was corroborated in her statement by her daughter Miss Emma Lee Willis. Mrs. P. C. Salisbury testified that she saw the bruises on Mrs. Willis' face and chest.

The defendant Bell's attorney, Luther Hamilton, had entered a plea of nolo contendere for him but Bell went on the stand and gave his version of the affair. He said Mrs. Willis used abusive language towards him and that he struck her. Judge Davis gave him a six months road sentence and the costs. The road sentence however is not to go into effect provided Bell shows good behavior for the next twelve months. Judge Davis said he let him off rather lightly because he had a family to support and is a poor man. Messrs. C. S. Wallace and J. R. Bell testified that the man had a good reputation and U. M. Gillikin of Goldsboro, a great uncle of the defendant, made a speech asking for leniency for him.

B. E. Garner of Newport the second man tried had no attorney. The charge against him was made by his wife Mrs. Susan Garner. She testified that on the 9th of December her husband came home and would not eat any supper and seemed to have something on his mind. They had a few words and she said he got his shot gun and that she didn't like the looks of things and left. Later she came back and finally Sheriff Chadwick and deputies Chaplain and Longest came and arrested her husband.

The defendant Garner went upon the stand and testified that he did not threaten his wife and had no intention of shooting her. He got his gun down because he thought of going hunting but decided not to go. He admitted that he had taken a drink on the occasion referred to. Judge Davis let him off with the costs and a suspended sentence of six months on the roads. He also informed Garner that he smelled whiskey on him and that liquor was probably the cause of his family troubles. Garner said that he and his wife did not get along well together and he said she was a great deal to quarrel with him. The couple have six children and Garner also has two children by a former marriage.

Two-day afternoon Standy O'Neal and Claude Adams, two young white men of Morehead City were tried on the charge of stealing several hundred clams from Kirby Guthrie and Isaac Louis Guthrie. It seems that the Guthries, backed by J. L. Barber of Goldsboro, have leased several acres of bottom in Bogus Sound and planted clams there. They bought a large quantity of clams during the summer paying a dollar a bushel for them. They say they have been taking clams and so they marked some of them to identify them. Leola Guthrie testified that on November 22 she went to Barber's fish house in Morehead City and found a pile of clams which he said belonged to him. An employee of Barber's by the name of Griffin testified that he had bought three bushels of clams from O'Neal and Adams that day. Captain Kirby Guthrie testified as to marking the clams and said he recognized the ones in the fish house as being the property of his son and himself.

Attorney C. R. Wheatly who appeared for the defendants did not put on any witnesses at all and argued that the case should be dismissed. Attorney Aiyah Hamilton who was assisting in the prosecution argued that the evidence was strong enough to justify conviction but Judge Davis did not see the matter that way and dismissed the action. Court will meet again next Tuesday.

BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

Born to Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis of Atlantic on December 10, a daughter Emma Francis.

STATE TO TAKE ATLANTIC ROAD

Contract For Approval of County Commissioners Will Be Forwarded In Few Days

The North Carolina State Highway Commission met in Raleigh last Thursday in executive session and decided to take over the 30.4 miles of hardsurfaced road and bridges between what is known as the "Forks" about a half a mile east of Beaufort on to Atlantic as a continuation of Route 10 with Atlantic as its eastern terminus. Owing to the fact that this paper is printed on Thursday about the same time this important decision was made by the Highway Commission, the News was unable to carry a story of this in last week's issue of the paper. Although Highway Commissioner Wheatly is confident that the county commissioners will agree to this, the contract from the Highway Commission has not yet been forwarded to the county officials for their approval yet, but in all probability this will be done in the next few days he said.

Tuesday of last week all of the county commissioners with the exception of C. T. Chadwick went to Raleigh and appeared before R. A. Doughton, Chairman of the highway Commission, and Claude R. Wheatly, District Highway Commissioner, and asked that all of the roads of the county—which total 204.2—be taken over by the State. The county officials were informed by these highway officials that when the legislature meets next month that an act is very likely to be passed to incorporate all of the 45,000 miles of county roads in the state into the state system. Commissioner Wheatly informed the News that there is a great possibility that the legislature will do this, and at the same time increase the gasoline tax one cent on the gallon to take care of these 45,000 miles and thus alleviate the property owners.

Specifications are now being made for the improvement of the Beaufort-Atlantic segment of Route 10, said Commissioner Wheatly, and the contract for these changes will very likely be let about the middle of January. A fill will be made across North River with the exception of two or three hundred feet of bridge in the middle and all other creeks will be likewise spanned, said Commissioner Wheatly. He also said that all other necessary improvements will be made in the road along with the filling of the rivers and creeks and the rebuilding of the bridges.

TWO CARS COLLIDE HERE EARLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Early last night two cars, one driven by Mrs. Eric Anderson and the other by Julius Duncan, collided at the corner of Broad and Turner streets and Mrs. Anderson and her daughter Hildebrand were shaken to quite a degree. The Duncan car was going west on Broad Street and the Anderson car was headed toward the south on Turner. When the driver saw that the automobiles would likely strike each other, they turned their machines so that they could pass each other without collision. The Duncan car was a bit while that of the Anderson's was heavily damaged.

Historic Fort Macon Started More Than Two Centuries Ago

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

Raleigh, Dec. 15—Fort Macon has been the site of different fortifications for the protection of Beaufort and Morehead City from invasion by sea for more than two centuries, according to a bulletin, one of a series giving the historic and physical features of State parks, issued by the Forestry division of the State Department.

Construction of the present fort was started in 1824 and finished in 1836 at a cost of about \$463,700, the folder informs. At the time the structure was built it was considered the peak in military fort construction. It was named in honor of Senator Nathaniel Macon, who was instrumental in getting the appropriation for the structure.

"In April, 1861, the fort was seized by the Confederate forces at the command of Governor Ellis," the publication says. "It remained in Confederate hands until April 25, 1862, when General Parks of the Union

Twelve Men Receive Police Court Fines

A "pantomime" case was tried last Friday afternoon in Police Court before Bayor Bayard Taylor—that is, no words were spoken in making the charge or in the sentencing. Edward Bullock Davis, locally known to all as "Dummy," was tried for going on a spree. Only gestures and guttural sounds were used by the officials and the defendant. Chief of Police W. R. Longest acted as gesticulating interpreter. "Dummy" admitted his charge with several "Ugs" and was fined one dollar and costs or five days cleaning the streets.

Eleven others came before His Honor for various offenses, but most of them were charged with being drunk. Cass Stanley, Bruce Lane, Roland Swain and Owen Vann, Jr., admitted their charges of drunkenness and each was fined one dollar and costs or five days with the street force. All but Swain were colored.

William Edward Potter, colored, admitted being drunk and disorderly and received a fine of two fifty and costs or five days cleaning the streets. Admitting the charge of fighting, Warren Henry, colored, was sentenced to pay the town five dollars and costs or assist the street force ten days.

Upon the admission of the guilt of drunkenness and fighting, Buster Brand, colored, received a sentence of two-fifty and costs or ten days scavengering the streets.

A colored man, Arthur Felton, of Fernandina, Fla., was charged with drunkenness. He admitted the charge and was fined one dollar and costs or five days cleaning the streets.

Beverly Jones, colored, was found guilty of fighting and disorderly conduct, despite the fact that he denied the charges. He was sentenced to pay one dollar and costs into the town coffer or work five days on the streets.

Get Together Banquet Had by Methodist Men

The first quarterly inspirational or get-together banquet was held at seven o'clock Thursday evening in the Sunday School room of the Ann St. Methodist Church for the men of that church. It was given by the Lina Bumpass Class as an incentive to get the men of the church to meet in a body and have a general get-together good time. About fifty men attended and enjoyed this social occasion.

In addition to the sumptuous repast, there were talks by F. R. Seeley, Dr. S. F. Hildebrand, N. F. Eure, R. P. Wheatly and J. A. Ratcliffe. The Reverend R. F. Munns presided over the banquet. Ray Wheatly was elected president of succeeding banquets and Ben Jones was made secretary-treasurer.

At this affair the men of the church met and commingled together and were thus able to enjoy the society of each other. The purpose of these meetings are to bring about a better understanding and association of the men of the church. Each of those attending seemed to enjoy the banquet immensely and a motion was made to have them occur quarterly.

In Melton, Wis., Mrs. John Kunz, 45, was standing on a chair, fell off and killed by a hairpin driven into her brain.

John Willis was also riding in the car with his daughter and granddaughter.

CHURCHES COMBINE FOR ANNUAL WHITE CHRISTMAS AFFAIR

Gifts Will Be Received at The Churches and Distributed Christmas Day

YULE TIDE SPIRIT IN AIR

Christmas! Just one week from today people throughout the world will celebrate in some way or another the birth of Christ 1930 years ago. All efforts will be redoubled to make this occasion one of happiness and good cheer. The gleeful shouts and general cheerfulness of the children will be heard throughout the whole country; and folks will remember their friends with gifts at this Yule Tide.

Here in Beaufort all three major white churches—the Ann Street Methodist, St. Paul's and the First Baptist agreed to co-operate with each other in putting on a combined White Christmas. Each of these churches will receive from its members useful gifts of food and other things that will be distributed among those folks of this community who are unfortunate and would not otherwise be able to enjoy Christmas. It has been reported that there are some in the community that are good prospects for the object of White Christmas.

St. Paul's Church will have a children's service at 5:30 Christmas Eve at that time the children will enjoy their regular annual Christmas Tree. At 11:45 that night the mid-night service will be held. At 10:30 Christmas morning another service will be held and the Christmas sermon preached. Gifts for the White Christmas will be received at all of these services, particularly that of the children, and these will be distributed Christmas day.

The First Baptist Church will have its Christmas Service Tuesday evening at 7:30. There will be special music and Christmas anthems and carols will be sung and recitations and reading will be had. Gifts for the unfortunate people will be received and distributed Christmas day. Members of the Sunday School will receive small remembrances at this time.

The Ann Street Methodist Church will have its Christmas service at the eleven o'clock service Sunday morning and the sermon will be relevant to Christmas. Yule Tide music will feature this service. Monday afternoon a Christmas tree will be had at the Methodist Church for the primary members of the Sunday School and each member will receive a small remembrance.

Both the Bank of Beaufort and the Beaufort Banking and Trust Company have already mailed out a goodly sum of money in the form of Christmas savings checks. This has been a good boost for local business. Already there has been a good deal of trading here and this will very likely increase through Christmas Eve night. Nearly all the local stores have decorated for Christmas and the Yule Tide spirit is beginning to permeate the atmosphere. Even the air is beginning to feel "Christmasy." Although the Fall fishing has been nothing to brag about, there is still a good bit of money in circulation. This is largely due to the fact that folks have been putting a little aside all during the year for Santa Claus, and now that the annual campaign is fully old gentlemen is drawing their money and are continuing to buy their Christmas things.

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE WILL BE HELD

By Rev. J. A. Vache

Rector of St. Paul's Church

The Regular Midnight Christmas Celebration of the Holy Communion will be held at St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church Beaufort on Christmas Eve beginning at 11:45. This is a regular service of the Episcopal Church and the Rector extends a hearty invitation in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ to all who believe in Him to come to this, the Table of Our Lord, that we might receive Him that He may dwell in us and we in Him this Christmas tide. Those who attended the services in the past cannot forget the feeling of joy and peace that came to their souls thru the grace which is poured out at this service, the gift of Our Father. He bids you come. Remember—TIME

—Christmas Eve, 11:45. PLACE — St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Beaufort. Christmas carols will be sung before the service.