

The Tabor City Tribune

"Tabor City - The Town With A City Future"

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 51

TABOR CITY, N. C. WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1954

\$2.00 A YEAR 50¢ A COPY

State Board Whitewashes A.E. Powell, Jr.

County Bus Drivers Receive Certificates

Safety award certificates are in the process of being distributed in Columbus County to school bus drivers who successfully completed the 1953-54 term by conforming to prescribed safety rules and regulations.

The awards are presented annually by the Safety Division, N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles, and the N. C. State Automobile Association, the South's largest Motor Club.

Qualified drivers in this state travel some 220,000 miles daily to haul more than 400,000 school children.

Congratulations were offered the winners by John G. Frazier Jr., president of the Automobile Association, and Edward Scheidt, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

The winners in Columbus County include:

From Hallsboro School at Hallsboro: Rhone E. Sasser, Hallsboro; Lloyd D. Baldwin Jr., Rt. 2, Whiteville; and Wesley C. Jones, Bolton.

From Nakina School at Nakina: Joe Blockmon, Rt. 4, Whiteville; Dorothy Ann McKeithan, Rt. 4, Whiteville; Dale Chestnut, Nakina; and Harry Long, Rt. 3, Tabor City.

From Evergreen School at Evergreen: Tommie W. Edwards, 1 yr., Boardman; George B. Nance, 1 yr., Rt. 2, Chadbourne; Bennie J. Merritt, 2 yrs., Rt. 1, Whiteville; Ronald K. Hedgpeth, 1 yr., Rt. 2, Chadbourne; Claudette D. Fields, 1 yr., Boardman; Wesley O'Brien Suggs, 1 yr., Boardman; Louis C. Ransome Jr., 1 yr., Rt. 2, Clarkton; and Edgar Buffkin, 2 yrs., Rt. 2, Chadbourne.

From Cerro Gordo School at Cerro Gordo: Willie Strickland, Rt. 2, Tabor City; Robert L. Blackwell, Cerro Gordo; Charles H. Richardson, Rt. 2, Tabor City; Rudolph Green, Cerro Gordo; David Kenneth Green, Cerro Gordo; Dorothy Faye Knight, Cerro Gordo; and Charles Dan Harrelson, Cerro Gordo.

From Acme-Delco School at Delco: Fitzhugh Williams, 1 yr., Bolton; Bobby L. Babson, 3 yrs., Delco; Paul Fowler, 3 yrs., Delco; Charles S. Lennon Jr., 1 yr., Delco; Albert Truesdale, 1 yr., Delco; Horace L. Reeves, 1 yr., Delco; and Mike Rawls, 5 yrs., Bolton.

From Chadbourne School at Chadbourne: Joseph F. Pruett Jr., Rt. 1, Chadbourne; Archie Neil Clewis, Rt. 1, Chadbourne; Leroy Goins, Rt. 2, Chadbourne; Herbert L. White, Rt. 1, Chadbourne; Curtis L. Ward, Rt. 2, Chadbourne; Harold Hughes, Rt. 1, Chadbourne; Henry J. Tuton, Rt. 1, Chadbourne; Esta Mae Nobles, Rt. 1, Chadbourne; and Houston D. White, Rt. 1, Chadbourne.

From Tabor City School at Tabor City: Billie Smith, 1 year, Rt. 3, Tabor City; Liston D. Ward, 1 year, Rt. 3, Tabor City; Travis Wright, 1 yr., Rt. 1, Tabor City; Bobby Lee Norris, 2 yrs., Rt. 2, Tabor City; Halford D. Mills 1 yr., Rt. 1, Tabor City; Olin Levett, 3 yrs., Rt. 2, Tabor City; Boyce Wayland Ward, 1 yr., Rt. 1, Tabor City; and Dale Brooks Mills, 1 yr., Rt. 3, Tabor City.

From Williams Township School at Whiteville: Jack Anderson, 2 yrs., Clarendon; Edna Pearl Norris, 1 yr., Clarendon; Raechel Rebecca Gore, 1 yr., Clarendon; James Albert Harrelson, 1 yr., Clarendon; Cora Mae Dew, 1 yr., Clarendon; Dorothy Mary Stanley, 1 yr., Clarendon; Keith Edward Stanley, 1 yr., Clarendon; Carlton Cartrette, 1 yr., Rt. 3, Whiteville; (Continued On Back Page)

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A. E. Powell's Election Checks Show Huge Increase Since 1938

A. E. Powell, Jr. Chairman of the Columbus County Board of Elections, who was accused of various election irregularities before the State Board in Whiteville yesterday, received more than 11 times as much money for carrying on last May's democratic primary as did his predecessor W. C. Oliver for an election in 1938.

There's no doubt in the minds of most persons that things have changed drastically since 1938 but there is considerable speculation as to whether the economic situation has increased salaries by 11 times.

The minutes of the County Commissions on public file in Whiteville, show that Powell received three separate checks this year totaling \$529.85. The checks were drawn in June, 1954. The books

Television Repair Service Opened Here

S. A. Hatley, Jr., son of Rev. and Mrs. S. A. Hatley of the Iron Hill community, has opened a radio and television repair service at Collier's Gas Company here. The new business will be known as Hatley Television and Radio Service.

Hatley has been in this type business for a number of years in Monroe, N. C., but he is a native of Columbus County. He was born at Iron Hill and lived there and here in Tabor City until 1938. He attended the Tabor City schools.

He received his schooling in television and radio at the Cleveland Training Institute in Cleveland, Ohio and the DeForest Training Institute in Chicago.

He is a Navy veteran of 29 months service in both the Pacific and Atlantic during World War II.

In Monroe he has been a second lieutenant with the Civil Air Patrol in which he served as communications officer. He is also a licensed pilot with a great number of flying hours to his credit.

Hatley is married to the former Sue Baldwin of Monroe and they have one child. They have already moved to Tabor City.

Approach Signs To City Erected

Another phase in the finer Carolina Projects for Tabor City reached the final stages Friday afternoon when city employees began the erection of a beautiful new approach sign to Tabor City just outside the city limits on Highway 701.

The other of the two signs will be placed at the city limits on the Lewis Highway in the immediate future.

The signs are of shingle-type natural wood with a clear varnish finish. The lettering shows up quite distinctly against the natural wood background.

"They will last from five to ten years if properly cared for and varnished regularly," said Dr. James, overall chairman of the finer Carolina Projects in Tabor City.

Mayor Horace Carter stated, "They are the finest approach signs that I have ever seen placed outside a city."

Dr. James stated that it would be nice if the signs could be lighted at night, but that funds were not available at the present.

An alternate project was begun Monday when Atlantic Coastal Line employees began the removal of two side tracks through the center of town from Third Street to Seventh Street.

The removal of these tracks will provide a much wider street and relieve the crowded parking facilities in front of the Ritz Theatre and the W. F. Cox Company.

Mrs. R. L. Watts and Mrs. George Evans and son, Stevie, of Rockingham were guests of Mrs. W. M. Fipps and Mrs. Lou Watts last week.

show that for August 1, 1938, Oliver got \$45.00 for his services as chairman of the County Elections Board.

Paralleling the chairman's checks, the records show the Board of County Commissioners appropriated \$1,210 for an election in 1938 against only \$900 in 1950.

In December 1938, Oliver received \$48 and his 71 election judges and registrars got \$625.72. In June 1950, Powell drew \$466.85 and his 105 assistants got \$2,416.85.

Oliver got a check for \$45 in April 1938 for his election job, whereas the records show Powell received \$461.60 in November of 1952.

In December 1952, Powell's 128 election assistants drew checks totaling \$3,311.40.

After listening to conflicting testimony for more than four hours, the State Board of Elections took less than 10 minutes to reach their decision that A. Elmo Powell, Jr., chairman of the Board of Elections in Columbus County, was not connected with any irregularities during the May 29 Primary.

"The decision of the board is unanimous," said J. Hampton Price, chairman of the State Board. "We do not feel that Mr. Powell has been connected sufficiently with these charges to warrant his dismissal."

More than 150 persons endured the heat in the Columbus County Courthouse to hear the testimony of witnesses for both sides in the climax of a crusade against dirty politics in Columbus County waged by W. Horace Carter, editor of The Tribune.

Members of the State Board of Elections were J. Hampton Price of Leaksville, chairman; J. E. Hill of Denton; H. A. Mattox of Murphy; John Dawson of Kingston; and J. E. Holshouser of Boone, Executive secretary Raymond C. Maxwell of Raleigh was also present.

One of the most damaging witnesses against A. Elmo Powell, Jr., was Mrs. Margaret Moyers of Whiteville who testified that Mr. Powell had taken the registration books from her home after registration had closed and returned them the morning of the May 29 Primary.

"Nine names were written into the registration book in handwriting other than my own," testified Mrs. Moyers.

She stated that Powell had taken the books "to count the number of Negro people registered."

Mrs. Moyers was unable to state whether the books had been taken by Powell two days after the registration had closed or two days after challenge day.

A discrepancy noted in the addition of names in handwriting other than Mrs. Moyers' was that she had written in names below those of the people registered by someone else.

"No one other than myself has ever had the books during the proper period of registration and I've never permitted any other person to write the names in the book," said Mrs. Moyers.

Another incident of significance was the voting of Mrs. John Dwyer who was also registered at a member of the Republican Party. Mrs. Dwyer refused to permit Mrs. Dwyer to vote in the Democratic Primary but finally did so after Elmo Powell, Jr., overruled and said she was eligible to vote.

It was brought out that Mrs. Dwyer had never changed her party affiliation and that it was done without her knowledge or consent.

Other witnesses who testified that they had observed irregularities by A. Elmo Powell, Jr. included Paul B. Avant of Chadbourne, A. B. Ward of Bolton, Mildred H. Moore and Noel Dunivant of Whiteville.

Robert Schulken, attorney for W. Horace Carter, attempted to prove through testimony of witnesses that A. Elmo Powell, Jr. was closely connected with the irregularities.

Paul Avant stated that he had seen Mr. and Mrs. Titus Williamson enter the courthouse and vote after Irvan Cook, registrar, had announced that the polls were closed.

Too, Mr. Avant told the State Board that he had observed Elmo Powell, Jr. talking with a man on the courthouse steps the afternoon of the first primary and that the man had several ballots in his hand.

Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Dunivant testified that they had observed Mr. and Mrs. Williamson voting after the polls had been closed.

Another strong link in the chain of testimonies was that of A. B. Ward, registrar at Bolton who resigned his position prior to the May 29 primary due to the manner in which the election procedures were being mishandled.

Mr. Ward testified that A. Elmo Powell, Jr. advised him to register 10 Indians on May 17 (two days after the books were closed) in order "to save trouble."

"Mr. Powell told me that he had called Raleigh and they said it was all right for me to register them," stated Mr. Ward.

This statement was neither denied nor admitted by A. Elmo Powell, Jr. when he took the stand in his own behalf.

Prior to the noon recess, two witnesses were presented on behalf of A. E. Powell, Jr., by his attorneys J. K. Powell, W. H. Powell, and J. B. Lee, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Titus Williamson (Continued On Back Page)

Lack Of Funds Closes Program

Due to lack of necessary funds the Tabor City Summer Recreation Program will close July 23.

At present there is \$194.15 in the treasury for the program which will cover expenses for the following two weeks of operation.

The program, which has been such an important asset to the town, began its fourth week of operation Monday.

It is now being carried out on a full time basis with the 6-10 age group meeting from 9-12 a. m. and the older group from 9:30-11:30 a. m. and 1:30-4:30 p. m. daily.

The Community Playground, where the younger group meets, has been equipped recently with four new swings and see-saws. These were constructed and painted by Jimmy Rogers during his leisure time.

Enrollment in the 6-10 age group has nearly doubled since they have been meeting during the morning hours.

"They get along with each other much better and are more active and interested in the morning hours," stated the director. Active games still head the list

as the most popular event on the playground with spatter painting and story telling running a close second. Stories are also read each morning from books which were secured from the school library.

Refreshments are provided by the mothers of the participants each morning, which is quite a treat for the children.

Last Wednesday morning the group attended the special Kiddie's Show at the Ritz theatre.

The older group has been handicapped the entire summer due to their lack of equipment, however they have taken this in stride and are participating in the limited number of games with a great deal of spirit.

Jimmy Rogers, director of the group, stated that the attendance had dropped off during the hot days, due to what he believed to be the mothers' fear of the participants getting too hot. Rogers said that "we are careful not to let them get overheated and make them take rest periods frequently."

All children are urged to take advantage of the two remaining weeks of the program.

Rape Charge Lodged Against Local Men

Two local men, charged with raping a 16-year-old girl from Mullins, S. C., were released this week from the Marion County Jail on \$2500 bond.

M. C. Lovett, 20, of Norton, S. C. (near Green Sea) was released Monday afternoon while Elton Prince, 30, of Tabor City was released late Sunday evening.

A preliminary hearing for the two men will be held within the next few days.

Marion County Sheriff J. Leon Gasque said today that the two men were charged with criminal assault on a 16-year-old Mullins, S. C. girl on the night of July 2.

Both men were arrested this past Saturday morning at 5:30 by Marion County Deputy Sheriff Charles C. Wiggins and Tabor City Police Officer Leamon Sing.

According to Sheriff Gasque, the assault took place on a country road about three miles north of Nichols, S. C.

Officers said the girl had been badly beaten prior to the alleged criminal assault.

In a statement to the Tribune, Prince denied any implication in the criminal assault or the beating.

According to Prince, he had been with Lovett and the unidentified girl but had parted company with them at 11:30 p. m. the night of the attack.

"I let both of them out in Tabor City at 11:30 p. m. and went home. I knew nothing about any criminal assault until officers arrested me Saturday morning," said Prince.

Charges against the two men will probably be aired in the October term of Superior Court which opens in Marion County the third week in October.

Rainbow Girls Take Swim Course

Fifteen members of the Tabor City Rainbow Girls Assembly and their two leaders completed a Learn-to-Swim course, which was conducted at Lake Waccamaw, Friday, July 11.

The course was sponsored by the Columbus County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Whiteville Civitan Club.

"It was one of the most successful courses conducted this year," stated Lee J. Greer, instructor in charge.

Hard work and excellent attention attributed to the fact that all members of the class learned to swim.

Those attending the course were: Mrs. Mae Young, Mrs. Margaret Soles, Margaret Anne Soles, Macel Cox, Joan Cox, Sue Cox, Judy Norris, Sheila Jean Spivey, Pr. J. Grainger, Dixie Grainger, Iris Waddell, Faye Cox, Janice Roberts, Billy Young, Dianna Harrelson, Nelda Gaskin, Betty Gaskin, Dean Gaskin, Le Verne Gaskin and Mabel Hodges.

The class enjoyed a picnic supper at the lake upon completion of the swimming course.

"GAME OF THE WEEK" The Whiteville Leafs with an 11 game winning streak will play the unbeaten Elizabethtown Red Sox in the Strawberry League's "Game of the Week" at American Legion Field in Whiteville, Friday 16, at 8 p. m.

The Whiteville club will try to be the first of the season to break the winning streak of the leader of the Berry League.

Down But Not Out

A prominent baseball coach once made the classic remark "You got to win a few, lose a few and some games are going to be rained out." Just such a philosophy expresses our feeling following the whitewashing the State Board of Elections gave A. E. Powell, Jr., in Tuesday's hearing into election irregularities.

If Mr. Powell is truly the good character that his witnesses say he is, if no election irregularities have occurred in Columbus County during his 14 years as Chairman of the Board, if he has not and will not name the poll holders specifically to favor his chosen candidates, if he has moral courage, and if he keeps all voting and registration within the bounds of the law, then what more could be asked? It is not the man alone that our crusade has been launched against. It's the evils that have existed in the elections during his 14 years in office.

We have lost in the first round. The conflicting testimony certainly would cause a jury to have doubts as to the guilt or innocence of the accused. But how any human being under oath can say black is black and another say that black is white is beyond our comprehension. It is hard to accept as fact the proven point that for every truthful man born, a liar also comes into being.

We cannot swear that all the witnesses for the prosecution told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We can only say that if they didn't, we are ashamed of them. Our whole purpose in asking for the hearing was to bring cleaner politics and elections into Columbus County. But the inconsistency in relating incidents is proof that there's a long way to go before any semblance of respectability can be associated with politics in our county.

We can also say that only a smattering of the irregularities could be investigated well enough to present to the board. Politicians still cling together regardless of the evil involved. It's difficult to get one politician to testify against another and in the long run, only the politicians have the evidence that can break up a machine of long standing through hearings and court proceedings.

There was another shock coming Tuesday. We had never realized there were so many blind and deaf citizens of Columbus County. When people swear that they have lived in the county for many years and have never heard any criticism of the elections, never heard anything against the character of A. E. Powell, Jr., that's time to call the doctor. That's jamming a right big bite down a lot of throats, and it has to be bigger than ours to swallow it.

We have never bet on a horse race. Tuesday's hearing was like betting on a white stallion when you knew in advance that a black filly was going to win. It was like drawing to an inside straight when the card you needed wasn't even in the deck.

The State Board of Elections, as we insisted in our original complaint filed in Raleigh, should of its own motion investigate charges of irregularities in elections when affidavits are presented to it. The election laws gives them the expressed right to carry on such an investigation. But this election board was determined to whitewash Columbus politics, and we believe they would have done just that regardless of the evidence presented.

They made it clear in Raleigh that they would do no investigating, and that the burden of obtaining evidence, and the cost of lawyer fees, telephone calls and travel was squarely upon the shoulders of the private citizen. They not only did no investigating, but actually sought to discredit the testimony of the prosecution's witnesses at the Whiteville hearing. Instead of merely being opposed by the battery of lawyers for the defense, in reality we also had the five-man board to lick.

Power politics is a difficult evil to combat. You have to realize in the beginning that the odds are against you. You have to confront yourself with the fact that political bosses love power and money and that anyone getting in their way will be trampled. A faltering political power will not let its grip loose without a struggle. And with just this in mind, we must tackle the problem.

Yes, we have lost the first round. Where do we go from here? Back to the grass roots level we must go. The people of Columbus County are the only ones who can do anything about evils in politics. Only when they want Christian principles applied, only when they want sober men and women with character in positions of trust, will real democracy and justice dominate the political scene in Columbus County.

YOU! YOU! YOU!

When you get what you want in your struggle for self And the world makes you king for a day, Then go to the mirror and look at yourself, And see what the guy has to say.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest For he's with you clear to the end, And you've passed your most dangerous difficult test If the guy in the glass is your friend.

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years And get pats on the back as you pass; But your final reward will be heartache and tears If you've cheated the guy in the glass.

Three Released On Charges Of Impersonation

Charges of impersonating an officer and receiving money under false pretenses against Buck Watts, 20, Horace Watts, 21, and Clifford Fowler, 19, were not pressed with leave Monday afternoon in Mayor's Court by W. Horace Carter.

Other cases tried Monday included George Fuller, disorderly conduct, paid costs; Ston Fuller, disorderly conduct, paid costs; Thoroughgood Wright, public drunkenness, paid costs; Lois Wright, public drunkenness, paid costs; Paul Bellamy, public drunkenness, paid costs; J. W. Greene, public drunkenness, paid costs; Rufus Fairwell, public drunkenness, paid costs; James Bryant, public drunkenness, paid costs; William R. Gore, spinning wheels, paid costs; and Carlisle Lynch, public drunkenness, paid costs.

Second Primary Irregularities Fair Bluff Conversation Topic

A host of second primary election irregularities have become the main topic of conversation on the streets of Fair Bluff these days.

Of the greatest concern, perhaps, is the fact that a former Kinsman who was convicted and served a federal sentence was one of the election judges in both the first

during the noon hour he was the only official present at the polls, a citizen reports.

Of course, the citizen says he had company practically all day. One gentleman, although not a poll holder, kept busily assisting those who needed "help" in voting. The report says he voted several people who stood outside the booth while he went inside, marked their ballots and then deposited them in the ballot box.

Persons who observed the ballot counting think that was a little odd too. There seems to have been quite a few people mingling about the table and ballots apparently could have been handled by many persons.

The citizens say that the count was neck and neck between Sgt. Fridgen and Sheriff Nance when the first 400 ballots were counted, but some one hollered out "just wait 'til you get to the bottom of the box." And sure enough the voting was pretty one sided in the bottom of the box. They say it was disturbed in the fact that at one time

MISPLACED STORY Edward Gore did not write the story on the election irregularities in Fair Bluff that appears under Pirway News on Page six. The Tribune regrets this error.