

**The Warren Record**

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**MOSTLY PERSONAL**  
By BIGNALL JONES

Sometimes Howard attends meetings of the Board of Education while I cover the meeting of the Town Commissioners as both bodies meet on the second Monday night in the month.

Monday night, I had a problem as Howard had to attend National Guard drill in Raleigh and there was only one man to cover two meetings. After studying the agenda sheet prior to the board of education meeting and a quick visit to the town hall to find what business was likely to be before that body, I hurried back to the court house to the Board of Education meeting, only to find that the Board of County Commissioners were meeting across the hall.

A visit to the commissioners room revealed that the commissioners were studying changes in revaluation and that this would be covered as full as necessary in the minutes of the board, and with the knowledge that the minutes of J. Edward Rooker, clerk to the town board, are always well and fully written, I settled down at the Board of Education meeting.

This was the first time that I can remember that the Board of County Commissioners, the Board of Education and the town board were in session simultaneously.

Since I have not collected the minutes of the county commissioners or the town board, as this is written I do not know how it is going to turn out, but as it happened that all three meetings were more or less routine, I guess it will be alright.

Usually I get along alright with the boards and the relations stay friendly with the members. Occasionally I feel that the members would have been just as well pleased if I had stayed away, and sometimes I feel that they are delighted to see me. This has nothing to do with my personality or lack of personality, but with the kind of matters before the bodies. Sometimes things happen that the board had rather not see published, or feel free to discuss with out fear of premature publicity, or sometimes without any publicity. At other times the boards have some matter that they are anxious to get before the public and then I am welcome as the flowers in May. Usually I get a warm welcome and am always treated courteously. In return I try to be fair with the members of these boards and as a result I haven't faced an executive meeting in years.

The relationship between newspapers and politicians is an odd one. Frequently they cuss each other out, but always find that it is expedient to maintain a working relationship. Actually, I think many newspapermen and politicians are really fond of each other, in spite of the tug between reporters anxious to get something in a newspaper and politicians anxious to keep it out; or between politician anxious to get something in the papers and newsmen trying to keep it out.

The greatest weakness in our democracy, I think, is the distrust of politician by business people, and a feeling that there is by its very nature something evil in politics. It may be, for evil can be found in many things. But people should realize that there are good politicians and bad politicians, just as there are honorable and dishonorable businessmen. Actually, after a lifetime of rather close association with both politicians and businessmen, I find there is little to choose between them. If anything, the politician is perhaps the more honest as he is the closest watched. I have had politicians to be friendly to get my vote, and I have had

**He Was Just A Country Boy But Now Commands N. Guards**

By VINCENT J. HOVANEC  
UP Writer In  
The Durham Morning Herald  
RALEIGH — He was just a country boy in town when he enlisted and now he wears two stars and commands the North Carolina National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Claude T. Bowers, the state adjutant general, easily recalls that day in 1921 when he enlisted as a private. "I was just a country boy in town and they were asking for people to join so I signed up," he says. Today the 62-year-old Bowers directs the military affairs of some 12,000 Tarheel National Guardsmen.

"You can get a liberal education out of service with the guard if you're interested. You learn to work with men, you learn leadership," he says. Bowers learned leadership fast. He rose to a captain in three years.

"All of the company officers had jobs which made it necessary for them to move to other towns and I was promoted because of that," he says.

In the years since, the country boy from Halifax County served with the 30th Division in North Carolina and on the sands at Casablanca and the

businessmen to be friendly to get my dollar. I have seen politicians straddle in an effort to stay in office, and I have been told time after time by businessmen, "Of course you know I can't afford to come out and take a stand as it would hurt my business." I have also found out that the poor can oftentimes be just as dishonest as the rich; and that oftentimes the rich can be just as stupid as the poor.

I suppose it can all be summed up in the verses once frequently heard, but now seldom repeated:

"There is so much good in the worst of us,  
And so much bad in the best of us,  
That it hardly behooves any of us  
To talk about the rest of us."

rocky soil of Sicily. As the state's adjutant general, Bowers commands all Army and Air Force Guard units in the state. Gov. Terry Sanford is "the commander-in-chief and I'm just the office keeper," Bowers says. Sanford once served as a captain under Bowers when an infantry company was formed at Fayetteville after World War II.

In civilian life Bowers was an oil distributor in Warrenton. But now as the state adjutant general, he works full-time for the guard. "My one interest is continuing the guard and security of the state and the nation," he says.

North Carolina's 30th Division has yet to be affected by the Pentagon's sweeping revision of the National Guard and reserve structure. Bowers believes the division's record, personnel and equipment status and spirit are responsible for it not being mentioned in the guard cutback.

"I wouldn't try and out-guess them up there," he adds, in speaking of the Pentagon decision announced Wednesday.

As he sees it, the 30th could either expand or reduce its strength. "Actually, at the present time we are 73 men over our assigned strength," Bowers says. Before taking over as

state adjutant general, he commanded the division.

He may have joined the Guard under less than idealistic circumstances, but that is not the case now.

"I frankly don't think there's any organization in America today that is worth as much to the American boy as the National Guard except the church. He can get something out of the Guard that he can't get anywhere else."

**Marriage Licenses**

Sandra Helen Stump, white, to Berney Joseph Thompson of Arlington, Va.

Eva Shaw, White, of Roanoke Rapids to Ernest W. Callahan of Roanoke Rapids.

Victoria May McCandlish, white, of Bremen, Ohio, to Kenneth Eugene Hoptite of Logan, Ohio.

Gloria Marie Stone, white, of Stafford Springs, Conn., to John Victor Higgins of Rock-

ville, Conn. James M. Micklem, white, of Hopewell, Va., to Plato G. Elades of Hopewell, Va. Sigma L. Paulette, white of South Hill, Va., to James G. Callihan of Chase City, Va.

Farmers in North Carolina had their first bout with the alfalfa weevil in 1952. Since then it has spread rapidly across the state and increased in numbers until it has become the number one pest in alfalfa.

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**Hardly Fair**

Four of the five members of the Board of County Commissioners will have opposition in the Democratic Primary of May 29 and it is not the purpose of this newspaper to suggest to any citizens how they should cast their votes.

But it has been reported to us that some of this opposition stems from resentment over revaluation of real estate in Warren County, a matter which this newspaper championed for years. In fairness to those now serving as commissioners, it should be pointed out that while the law plainly states that real estate shall be revalued every four years, it took some 20 years for the commissioners to obey this law, and then they revalued it only after the Legislature told them they must. So far as revaluing Warren County real estate is concerned, the commissioners had no choice; they were forced by the state to revalue it.

The commissioners did have a choice in the way the real estate should have been revalued, between local appraisers and professionals. While some of the commissioners at first leaned toward local appraisers, the difficulty of obtaining capable appraisers who would be willing to serve in this capacity, caused the commissioners to abandon the idea and adopt the system used by at least two-thirds of the counties of the state who had at that time had real

estate revalued. While we think that the commissioners made the better choice in this regard, actually, here again, they had little choice.

That the appraisers did a perfect job, we would be the first to deny, but we seriously doubt if even a near perfect job could be done without a cost that would have been prohibitive. Today, it is true, that many inequalities still remain in the valuation of Warren County real estate, and we begin to think that they will always be with us. But there is no way in anything to obtain absolute justice to everyone, whether it be revaluing real estate or being called to serve one's country in time of war. There are always hardship cases, there are always cases of injustice. The goal should be to eliminate as many injustices as possible.

Thus while all inequalities were not removed in the valuation of the appraisers, in our opinion the inequalities were greatly reduced and today Warren County real estate is more fairly valued than it has been in a score of years. Frankly, we feel that where the greatest error persists is in the valuations put on timber almost without exception and farm lands in general. These values are still far out of line. However, this is a view with which we hardly expect farm and timber owners to agree. On the other hand many with property in towns will concur.

But whether or not voters will concur in our views on revaluation, the point we would stress is that the commissioners had no choice in calling for a revaluation, and little choice in selecting professional appraisers. There may or may not be plenty other reasons for voting against the present commissioners and for new commissioners, but to base opposition on their action in regard to revaluation is hardly fair in view of the record.

**NEWS OF FIVE, TEN AND 25 YEARS AGO**

**Looking Backward Into The Record**

April 12, 1957  
Levi Hicks will open a grill at his place of business on the Norlina road around the first of May.

John Kerr, Jr., Warren County Representative in the General Assembly, has introduced a bill in the House asking for the sum of \$4,000 for the restoration of Parson's Ordinary, historical landmark of Littleton.

The State Highway Commission on Tuesday called for bids on the 4-lane No. 1 bypass in Warren County.

Mrs. W. B. Wellons, district supervisor of Smithfield, was the guest speaker at a dinner meeting of the Little Garden Club on Tuesday.

April 11, 1952  
Two thousand visitors are expected here next week for the Woman's Club antique show and tour.

The Warren County Chapter of the American Red Cross mailed a \$275 check this week to Regional Headquarters in Atlanta for the benefit of tornado victims in the several mid-western states.

A cash award of \$25 will be made by the Warrenton Chamber of Commerce to the person who will submit the best slogan of six words or less to the Chamber within the next two weeks.

The John Graham High School Band will make its debut on Tuesday night at a meeting of the local PTA.

April 9, 1937  
More than \$800 was cleared from the Lions sponsored Auto Show last week.

The Board of Education on Monday agreed to appropriate \$1700 for the installation of a water and sewage system at John R. Hawkins High School.

The Board of Commissioners on Monday agreed to pay Joseph P. Pippen of Littleton \$25 a month for his services as assistant to Solicitor W. H. S. Burgwyn.

Hugh W. Holt succeeded A. A. Williams as a member of the Board of Commissioners as the result of the convention held in the court house on Tuesday. Mr. Williams was not a candidate.

**Important Factor Of College Admission**

The Smithfield Herald  
UNC's President Friday, speaking at the Johnston County NCEA dinner Friday night, calmed some fears regarding reliance on College scores in determining admissions to the University.

The colleges and universities don't have room for a host of students seeking admission. It is not easy to say no. Administrators don't want to be charged with favoritism. They fall back on the College Board tests.

Henry Belk, editor of the Goldsboro News-Argus, recently expressed the sentiment of many Tar Heels when he commented on the injustice of overly strict reliance on the Scholastic Aptitude Tests: "Principal reliance on nationally devised tests misses much in a young life. No allowances are made for background, age, purpose, stage fright, temporary illness or psychological block which might make a student make a poor grade on the tests at a particular time.

In his Johnston County speech, President Friday made it clear that the University of North Carolina is neither overlooking the "human element" nor relying on "mechanical" determination in admitting students to Woman's College, State College, and the University at Chapel Hill.

This is what he said: "In the threefold University the number of applications for admission continues to grow. In screening these applications, we use scores on College Board tests, the student's record of achievement in high school, and recommendations from the principal or superintendent. The most important factor is the high school record. This is the evidence of his motivation and promise. In some instances the College Board test is taken a second time if an applicant's high school record indicates better performance than the test scores reveal. It is not our intention to exclude students by this procedure, it is our purpose to help each applicant find the program best suited to his abilities. This admission procedure is under constant study and review to be sure that we are doing our best to be helpful to all applicants."

Many Tar Heel high school students and their parents will welcome that sentence: "The most important factor is the high school record."

**Quotes Old And New**

Astoria doesn't seem to bother me any more unless I'm around cigars or dogs. The thing that would bother me the most would be a dog smoking a cigar.—Steve Allen.

In any emergency in life there is nothing as strong and safe as the simple truth.—Charles Dickens.

I have found some of the best reasons I ever had for remaining at the bottom simply by looking at the men at the top.—Frank Moore Colby.

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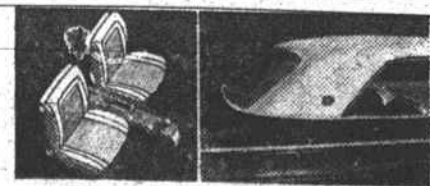
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