

# THE ZEBULON RECORD

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## WHO'LL DO THE JUDGING?

### Teachers Give Opinions On Merit Pay Proposal

Intense interest is being raised across the nation among educators in what the teaching profession calls "merit rating."

This interest has also taken hold of Zebulon educators, and their opinions follow.

Merit rating is the method of raising teacher pay not according to academic degrees and credits earned and length of service, as is generally the case, but according to a series of criteria designed to measure the quality of teaching done and its effect on the child.

All of the teachers contacted were not in favor of such a plan, and believe that it will be disastrous to the profession.

The uppermost question in their minds is who is going to do the rating principal, supervisor, local school board, county board, or whom.

None questioned about the plan has seen it in operation except one and she was of the opinion that it did not work out too well.

Mrs. Wallace Chamblee said, "I observed the system in Macon, Ga., and saw first hand that it was not working satisfactorily. I am not in favor of such a system unless it can be adjudged fairly, which I feel will be very hard to do."

Mrs. E. H. Moser said: "I haven't given it much study. I don't think it is coming any time soon. My question is: who is going to do the rating? I am definitely not in favor of it."

Mrs. F. E. Bunn said, "I don't see how it can be fairly done. It will be hard to do. Oh, yes, I've seen the teacher merit rating test. Who's going to do the rating?"

## Will Not Run

Aaron Lowery's name is up his mind about being a candidate for the Town Board of Commissioners.

His hat will not be tossed in the ring.

"I have definitely made up my mind," the insurance executive said. "I will under no circumstances be a candidate in the coming election for a seat on the Town Board of Commissioners."

Lowery missed obtaining a post on the ruling town body in the 1955 town election by two votes.

## Corinth Baseball Field Gets New Look Following Many Improvements

A new look has appeared on the baseball field at Corinth-Holders School.

On Saturday morning, February 16, members of the local Ruritan Club and members of the baseball team met to do what they could to improve the ball field. Members showed up with tractors, scoops, scraper blades, pickup trucks and all kinds of hand tools.

Work started with the erection of a new backstop. It was moved eight feet back from the original position to give the catcher more room to move about. Used light and telephone poles were used in the construction along with heavy gauge wire. Soil was bought in to fill the low area and to give a uniform surface.

While this was being done tractors with scrapers were busy leveling and smoothing the infield.

Mrs. Fred Page said, "I follow along with the North Carolina Education Association's plan. At present, no accurate merit form has been worked out. I am definitely not in favor of it until a fool-proof plan for rating teachers is worked out."

Mrs. Elizabeth Ellett said, "I am against the plan. There has been no accurate measuring stick whereby a teacher can be measured. I believe a lot of apple polishing will enter into such a plan, and I don't believe politics should have any bearing on the merits of teachers."

Mrs. C. G. Weathersby said, "I heartily disapprove of the merit rating system, since there would be absolutely no adequate and unbiased way in which such a survey could be conducted. Politics would be the controlling element in such a system. This would surely have to be conducted over a period of time before an impartial or just decision could be reached which would brand the teacher as competent or incompetent."

"Our certification requirements may be faulty, but they are at least an effort to provide for our schools teachers who know something about children as well as about subject matter."

Mrs. Ralph Bunn said: "Who is to decide on the merits of a teacher and how? I think it is silly. I don't think they can measure the qualities of a teacher in the classroom or that there is any yardstick that could be used for measurement. I guess you would say I am indifferent on the subject. I shall do my best job as far as the individual child is concerned regardless of how I am measured."

Two teachers questioned, Mrs. Lois M. Wall and Mrs. Horace Smith, refused to comment.

The merit system of rating teachers is still so new that many educators know very little about it.

Classroom teachers are against this type of rating system because they believe it will fail. They believe too much "apple polishing" will enter into the judging.

One educator objected that set standards, no matter who draws them up, will stifle original and good teacher, will stifle original and good teacher, will stifle original and good teacher.

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## Owners Claim Property Values Listed on Tax Books Are Unfair; County Revaluation Requested

Zebulon property values, as listed in the tax books of Wake County and the Town of Zebulon, vary widely from house to house, depending on when the property was built or purchased and when it was listed. The situation seems intolerable to many new home owners, who have reacted by making a strong request for re-valuation of all property in Wake county.

A suggested formula for determining the new home value for the tax books is one-third of the cost. This obviously low figure seems more than fair until a new home is compared with similar homes already on the books. The comparison makes owners of new homes scream.

"Why should we be made to pay more," they complain, "when my neighbor has a bigger and better house and pays only half what I do?"

Some folks who bought or built

in the 1930's pose a similar question. "Why shouldn't we pay less taxes," they ask. "We paid less for our houses and we've been paying taxes for 20 years longer than most of the people who are complaining now."

But it doesn't matter who you talk to—old owners or new—they all believe they pay plenty of taxes.

But iniquities which rile new home owners are many. Large two-story dwellings which have been further improved with extensive additions and renovations are valued at no more—frequently much less—than post-war homes of much smaller size.

A two-story pre-war home with expensive post-war additions is listed at less than \$3,700. A 1955 model one-story home three blocks away is listed at \$4,700.

The "one-third the cost" yardstick which brings about unfair distribution of taxes to property

owners has made the tax lister's office the scene of the best story telling to be heard anywhere.

"What's the value of your house?" is the question which brings forth the year's best fiction.

A new home owner generally will scan the tax books until he finds a home comparable with his own. Noting the value listed, he will give this figure.

This value usually is unacceptably low.

In fact, one person after another in Wake County has found the value placed on his property to be up to 50% greater than similar property nearby.

General Statute 105-279 provides that when valuation of any property is manifestly unfair when compared with valuation of other property in the county, the County Board of Commissioners shall revalue and reassess the property. This can be accomplished in any year.

Chapter 105 of the General Statutes also provides that the tax value of property is not the cost or replacement value, but the fair sale value.

This is the point that owners are trying to emphasize.

"There's a home up the street that would sell for double what mine would bring," said one complainant, "yet it is on the books (Continued on Page 4)"

## Guard Unit to Be Checked Tomorrow

Final preparations were completed last night for the annual visit of the Third Army Inspector General. The inspection of Battery A, Zebulon's National Guard unit, will begin tomorrow afternoon at 1:30.

The public is invited to attend the evening phase of the inspection, which will include an examination of the men in ranks, a check of training, and a critique.

The inspecting officer and invited guests will be honored at a dinner tomorrow night, according to Capt. Jack Potter, commanding officer of the artillery battery.

An afternoon assembly was held (Continued on Page 4)

## Fire Saturday

A fire Saturday on the farm of Roy Weathers caused damages estimated at approximately \$200. Rural Fire Department officials have announced.

The fire, according to the firemen, started from a grass fire and burned up to the tobacco barn shelter causing the sticks to become ignited.

Firemen were able to save the barn, but the lossage of sticks was set at \$200.

## Farmers' Class

Small grains, corn and tobacco seeds will be discussed at the Adult Farm Class Thursday night. This meeting will be held in the Wakelon Agriculture Building at 7:30.

Mr. Watson of Watson Seed Farm, Rocky Mount, will be the speaker, and he will talk on the production of the smaller grains and their seeds.

Paul Dew, president of the club, urges that all farmers be present at this meeting which is of very timely interest.



## STATIONED IN AFRICA

Pvt. Woodrow Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Lewis of Wendell, is stationed with the Security Guard of the U. S. Army in Asmara, Africa. He is a graduate of Rolesville High School and entered the Army last July.

## Rotary Speaker

The mechanics of the buying and selling of stocks and bonds through brokerage firms were described Friday night to Zebulon Rotarians by Dave Finch, a Zebulon native who is now with Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Beane of Raleigh.

At the close of this talk, a question and answer period was conducted during which Mr. Finch explained stock market terms and procedures not familiar to the Rotarians.

C. V. Whitley, program chairman, introduced the speaker.

## 'Finer Carolina' Contest Winners To Be Announced in Two Weeks

Winners of \$6,750 in the fifth annual Carolina Power & Light Company "Finer Carolina" contest will be named within the next two weeks, it was announced today. March 1 is the deadline for entering the 1957-58 contest for municipal improvements, according to the announcement.

E. N. Pope, CP&L advertising director, said this week that scrapbooks from 85 towns competing in the 1956 "Finer Carolina" contest will be judged by March 1, and winners announced shortly after that date.

Meanwhile, 62 Carolina rural communities have entered 4,650 farm families, have entered CP&L's fifth annual "Finer Farms" contest which offers \$2,800 in cash prizes for outstanding soil con-

servation practices.

In the "Finer Carolina" competition, awards will be given towns of three population classifications: 1,000 population and under, 1,001 to 4,000 population, and 4,000 population and over. First prize for each classification is \$1,000, second prize is \$500, and third prize is \$250. Project prizes of \$250, \$150 and \$100 will go to communities other than grand prize winners. Ten honorable mention plaques will be awarded.

Awards in the 1957 "Finer Farms" contest will be made to soil conservation supervisors, communities and sponsoring groups for outstanding soil and water conservation practices. Practices carried out between July 1, 1956, and June 30, 1957, will be considered.