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Four School Districts to Decide Consolidation Issue At Polls Saturday; 2,070 Are Registered to Vote

New Methodist Minister To Serve Zebulon Church

The Rev. Pearce H. Layfield, Jr., of Tabor City has been appointed by Bishop Paul Neff Garber as the new minister of the Zebulon Methodist Church. The appointment became effective on Thursday, June 20, when the appointments were read by Garber at the conclusion of the 138th session of the N. C. Annual Conference at Greenville.

Layfield replaces the Rev. Bill Quick who was transferred to the St. James Methodist Church in Greenville. Quick has served the local church since July 3, 1959.

Layfield, 47, is a former practicing dentist. A native of Georgia, he practiced dentistry for 13 years at LaGrange, Ga. He is a graduate of Emory University and what is now the Emory Dental School. Both Layfield and his wife, Frances, are native Georgians.

Experiencing a call to the ministry, he attended and graduated from the Duke University Divinity School.

His first appointment was the

Watkins Revival

Revival services will be held at Watkins Chapel Missionary Baptist Church June 30 through July 6 at 8:00. The guest minister will be Rev. C. W. Driver, pastor of the Corinth Baptist Church. The public is cordially invited to attend.

White Lake Camp FFA Group Visits

Eleven members of the Wakelon Chapter of Future Farmers of America attended the White Lake F. F. A. Camp at White Lake, the week of June 17-22, 1963. These members spent the week enjoying competitive athletic events with sixteen other schools attending camp the same week. The students visited places of interest around White Lake, Elizabethtown, and on the Cape Fear River.

Those attending camp were: Sidney Perry, Larry Perry, Johnnie Currin, Vicky Murry, Frank Pulley, Linwood Oakley, Bruce Richards, Pou Ihrrie, Donn Liles, Joe Green, Lanny Strickland, and Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Tart, Vickie and Carl.

The State FFA Convention held at N. C. State College, June 26-28, is one of the highlights of the FFA program during the year. Two official delegates plus other members from all chapters in the State will converge at William Neal Reynolds Coliseum to participate in State Contest, to receive awards for outstanding work, to draft plans for the coming year, to develop leadership, citizenship, character, and to elect officers to guide the State Future Farmers during the year 1963-64. The two official delegates attending the convention along with C. V. Tart, Wakelon FFA Advisor, are Sidney Perry and Donn Liles, newly elected president and vice president of the Wakelon FFA for the year 1963-64.

West End (N. C.) Methodist Church. For the past five years he has served the Tabor City Methodist Church and the church has made marvelous progress during his pastorate there.

The Layfields are parents of three children: two teen-age daughters and one son. Sue Layfield (19) is a junior at Emory University; Ann is a rising junior (16) in high school and Buzz is nine years old.

Mrs. Layfield, *The Record*, learns is an artist and is currently doing portraits of the Layfield children.

The Rev. Mr. Layfield and family will move to Zebulon on Thursday, June 27. He filled the pulpit on Sunday, June 23, and conducted the Bernard Brantley funeral on Sunday afternoon.

"Zebulon—the town and the Methodist Church—is fortunate to have a minister like Pearce Layfield," Bill Quick told *The Record* this week.

Request

Telephone subscribers in this area are urged to return their cards with an affirmative or negative response to toll-free service between the towns of Zebulon and Wendell to Raleigh.

Bill Reynolds, district manager of Southern Bell for this area, said response from subscribers has been "good" but that all telephone owners have not responded with a vote.

Opposing Forces Make Last Stands on Proposal

Citizens of four school districts will decide Saturday whether they prefer a comprehensive consolidated school or continued operation of separate schools. Registrars of the four districts reported that 2,070 persons are registered and qualified to vote in the referendum.

The polling place for the Wakelon district will be Wakelon School. Hours will be from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Ballots will carry only two statements: for and against the consolidation of school district 13.

Foster D. Finch, an opponent to the site the County Board of Education has selected, said: "I feel like the interest of the community will be served best by retaining our school."

Advocates of a comprehensive high school have emphasized the advantages of one larger high school for the four districts, as opposed to the limited program of instruction possible in present schools of the districts.

The injunction against the Wake County Board of Education by the Wakelon District School Committee is still pending. The suit was

brought against the board several months ago after the board decided on the site to locate the comprehensive high school.

If the vote Saturday indicates patrons of the Wakelon district are not satisfied with four-school consolidation, the Committee may then seek further action.

The anti-site forces have an option on the Pattie Lee property in the Lizard Lick community. Miss Lee agreed to sell the 47 acres of property for a sum of \$15,000.

Mr. Finch, a spokesman for opponents of the site, said if patrons of the Wakelon district exclude themselves by vote it is expected the County Board will be asked for the proposed \$40,000 for the construction of a music building at Wakelon.

Wakelon at one time hoped to receive \$40,000 for construction of a building for band and other types of music instruction.

Consolidation forces have been open in their support of the proposed comprehensive high school, and, as the day for decision neared, seemed to gain strength from many persons formerly neutral or reluctant to take sides publicly.

Mrs. Evelyn Creech is registrar. Judges for the referendum will be the Rev. David Daniel, pastor of Zebulon Baptist Church, and M. J. Sexton. Mr. Sexton replaced the Rev. Bill Quick, who could not serve because of his reassignment as pastor of a Greenville Methodist Church.

Kleenex Sale

Jaycees will be on the streets, highways and school Saturday, June 29, selling Kleenex. Proceeds from the sale will be used for club projects.

Affirmative Vote Saturday Will Help Soothe Feelings

By Eloise Potter

It is very encouraging that 1,060 people in the Wakelon School District are interested enough in the education of our children to register for the school consolidation election. I hope that 100% of the registered voters will also be sufficiently interested to inform themselves of the facts before casting their ballots. An informed public, genuinely concerned about the future of our young people, will support consolidation.

When I talked with Ferd Davis about his reasons for advocating the consolidation election, he expressed great confidence in the judgment of the average citizen. Certainly Col. Davis is right when he says that people who vote to consolidate will support the new school and work together better than those who feel forced to do something against their will. If we vote to consolidate, all the past differences of opinion will be nullified, and we will be free to meet with people from Knightdale, Wendell, and Rolesville in a spirit of friendship and to work constructively with them. We will have before us the challenge of helping our new high school achieve accreditation and fulfill its potential for service to all four

communities.

Many voters seem to be taking a "wait and see" attitude toward consolidation. They will either refuse to cast ballots or vote against consolidation as a protest against the site. If the new school proves to be sufficiently superior to Wakelon or if Wakelon's enrollment dwindles, they reason, we can always consolidate next year or the year after . . . or the year after that.

I can certainly see the logic of this idea, and it is indeed a tempting alternative to approving a site purchased in an unethical manner. However, before deciding to cast a protest vote, we should consider the consequences.

Knightdale, Wendell, and Rolesville seem almost certain to consolidate. They have had hard working and well organized groups supporting consolidation for several years. Their PTAs have already expressed overwhelming approval of consolidation, and the election appears to be a mere formality where they are concerned. Thus in all probability the school will be built on the site which has already been purchased, whether we like it or not.

During the first year of operation the student government will be formed, the band will be organized, and the athletic teams

will be selected and their captains chosen. Our children, entering one or more years later, will have to prove themselves to an already organized student body. No doubt they will have to face a certain amount of hazing, which won't make adjusting to a new school any easier. Also the delayed entrance of Wakelon students will necessitate reorganization of the faculty and curriculum, a reorganization in which Wakelon teachers may be at a disadvantage.

If all four high schools unite at once, community ties will be minimized. Each student will have an opportunity for leadership based upon his own personality and ability. Wakelon teachers, like all the others, will compete for their first choices in teaching assignments on the basis of experience and professional qualifications.

Assuming that all four districts consolidate simultaneously and cooperate perfectly in getting the new school established, we will still face several years of adjustments in faculty and curriculum. Some teachers may need refresher courses in subject matter they have not taught in many years. Selecting students for DE (Distributive Education) and interesting businessmen in cooperating with the program will take time, may-

be two or three years. No doubt there will be a multitude of other problems which I cannot possibly anticipate. No one expects a new school to operate without any problems or confusion.

Basically, the only question before us is whether or not the children of our school district will benefit from consolidation. I sincerely believe that they will; and I am certain that if we are ever going to consolidate, now is the time to do it.

"What kind of high school will we have if we consolidate?" many people are asking. "Will it really be any better than Wakelon?"

The buildings and equipment will be the most modern available. They will be in every respect equivalent to the Cary High School plant, and in some ways superior to it, according to Mr. Grimes, assistant superintendent of Wake County schools. It has been my privilege to study the plans for the proposed high school, so I know he does not exaggerate. In fact, I have a copy of the plans at my home, and I will gladly show them to anyone who is interested in seeing what the school will look like and what facilities will be available to the teachers and students.

To me the most exciting part of any educational institution is the

library. I have a weakness for libraries, and by nature I am somewhat of a bookworm. Plans for the proposed eastern Wake County High School include a library with enough shelf space to accommodate 7,900 books. According to a friend who is a public school librarian, this is in keeping with a new standard calling for ten books per student. Wakelon High School Library has about 2,200 books, which is a respectable number in proportion to enrollment; but it cannot possibly offer the variety available in libraries having six, seven, or eight thousand volumes.

Buildings, teachers, students, books, lab equipment, and a fine gymnasium do not guarantee quality education any more than a house, people, and furniture make a Christian home. Every school has a spiritual atmosphere, an attitude toward education that is a unique blend of the ideas and ideals which motivate the principal, the teachers, the students, and the parents. We parents can play a major role by creating among our children an eagerness for learning and a desire to obtain the best possible education. In this respect the new school will be only as good as we make it. Just how good do you want it to be?