

The Chapel Hill Weekly

LOUIS GRAVES Editor

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Two Men Who Will Throw Light On the Question of a Bond Issue for Rural Highways

A. H. Graham has resigned as chairman and W. Vance Baise has resigned as chief engineer of the State Highway Commission. Within the next few days these two men will appear at a hearing to be held by the legislative committee that is considering the measure, proposed by Governor Scott, calling for an election on the question of issuing bonds for \$200,000,000 for the construction of rural highways. Mr. Graham has already declared that his views on State highway policy differ from those of Governor Scott. The nature and the extent of the difference will be revealed to the public when the hearing takes place. Now that they have resigned, Mr. Graham and Br. Baise are tied by no strings that will keep them from being completely frank in expressing their opinions as to what the State ought to do about its highways. Their opinions will be valuable, for they are thoroughly informed on highway finances and have had experience with the realities of highway construction and maintenance. They know that, with a handsome balance on hand to begin with, with revenues far in excess of expenditures, and with federal grants, the State will have, without borrowing, many millions of dollars to spend on road construction in the next few years. They know, too, that there is bound to be a great deal of waste if the State, augmenting this money with a vast amount of bond issue money, embarks immediately upon a comprehensive rural highway building program. My prediction is that the committee, after it has heard Mr. Graham and Mr. Baise, and other men well informed on the highway problem, will be reluctant to turn in a report in favor of holding a bond issue election.

Bad Rabbits and Good Rabbits

Every now and then I see a rabbit running about our yard. Families of rabbits are born and brought up in the tangle of grass and weeds and undergrowth on an adjacent vacant lot, and both the parents and the children scamper over the neighborhood. A few years ago the rabbits were in disfavor in our household because they nipped off the Heavenly Blue morning glory plants. The only way to protect the plants would have been to trap or shoot the rabbits. But we didn't want to do that, partly out of a friendly feeling toward them and partly because rabbits, as well as morning glories, make pretty spots in the scenery. We enjoyed seeing them run about. We decided we would rather do without the morning glories than make a hostile move against the rabbits. There were many other flowers that the rabbits were willing to let alone; and, as it turned out, they didn't make a clean sweep of the morning glory plants. Some of the plants grew up and produced blossoms. What got me started on rabbits was an editorial about tularemia that I read a few minutes ago in the Vineyard Gazette. About all I had known about tularemia was that it was a disease sometimes contracted from rabbits. The Gazette article told me something more about it. Also, it sent me to the dictionary where I learned that the disease is named for Tulare county in California because that is where the diseased rabbits were first found.

Twelve years ago sportsmen in Massachusetts—or, as the Gazette more fittingly calls them, gunners—asked the State Department of Conservation to give permits for the importation of western rabbits. (The Gazette says western, not Californian, so maybe the breed has spread over the western states from Tulare county.) The State Board of Health protested, but the gunners had their way. Rabbits brought from the west were released on Cape Cod and, as late as June 1946, on Martha's Vineyard (the island home of the Vineyard Gazette). Between 1910 (when the disease was discovered) and 1937 there were only four cases of tularemia in all New England and only one in Massachusetts. Between 1937 (when the western rabbits were brought in) and 1946 there were ten cases in Massachusetts, half of them on Cape Cod. "And now we find that the disease is established on the Vineyard," says

Parley's History Is Recalled by Bryant: A Treasured Textbook in Old-Time Schools

Mathews, N. C., Feb. 2, 1949

Dear Louis: Horner Winston started something when he wrote to your paper about "Peter Parley's Universal History" and raised the question of who wrote it.

People of my age all through this section, including Anson, Union, Mecklenburg, and Gaston counties, North Carolina, and Lancaster and York, South Carolina, were schooled in that book. Prof. Leitner Shirley, who taught the old-field school in this community, the lower end of Providence township, Mecklenburg, and prepared the Kell, Bryant and other boys for the University, and the Ardrey and Bell boys for old Trinity, drilled his pupils in Peter Parley's history.

I thought, of course, that some man named Peter Parley wrote it until Horner Winston went to work on it. After I read what he said after digging into catalogues and encyclopedias I was convinced that Nathaniel Hawthorne actually did the writing for it. But, now I have a letter from Dr. John W. McConnell, of Davidson College, adding confusion to confusion. He writes from Florida: "I enjoyed your 'Peter Parley' story. 'Peter Parley,' of course, is a nickname—it is 'Peter the Talker.' One of the Universal histories is in our old home at McConnellsville, in York county, South Carolina. There is a smaller Child's Parley History. You should remember it from the woodcut of the Indian tomahawking a New England woman."

"I do not think they are Hawthorne's work, but I am far away from source material to prove a point. Were I in Davidson I could establish the facts."

The letter of Dr. McConnell is one of several that I received as the result of a story I wrote recently for the Charlotte Observer. Mr. Leon Corbett, a lawyer of Burgaw, wants to know if I can locate a copy of the book so he can read it and have his sons read it. One letter I had was from a man who said he had three nephews named Horace Greeley, Peter Parley, and Anthony Wayne.

Mr. C. M. Graham of Columbia, S. C., sends me a North Carolina arithmetic by the Rev. S. Lander, A.M., principal of the Lincolnton Female Seminary, published 86 years ago, a book I never heard of before. It was published by Sterling, Campbell and Albright, of Greensboro and was "Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by Rev. S. Lander, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Confederate States, for the District of Cape Fear, North Carolina."

Why not ask some of the wise men of the University to dig into the records of the Library and find out who did write the history?

Prof. Shirley was a remarkable teacher. For fifteen years he taught our rural school, "Carolina Academy," and sent many North and South Carolina boys and girls off to college. He was a real blessing to a large territory in the two States. He lived in South Carolina but every day he walked three miles into North Carolina to conduct his school. Most of the time he was the only teacher employed. He took children for their lessons and carried ambitious ones through Greek and Latin. His top-grade pupils did well wherever they went.

There were no school buses in those days to save steps or hot lunches to save cold stomachs. We walked, and learned a lot on the way to and from school. It was a bad day for this community when Prof. Shirley departed from us to establish a school near his home in South Carolina.

I hope you can throw out some more suggestions about Peter Parley. I have found that people are interested in such old things.

I agree with James Street about television. It is bound to upset many apple carts. I hope that wrestling matches, such as I saw at my daughter's in New York Christmas, can be barred from it; to me they were disgusting. The last prizefight that I saw over television—that of Joe Louis and Jersey Joe—was tame compared to the wrestling matches. When you can sit in a comfortable chair or recline on a lounge and witness athletic contests, I see no reason why one should pay admission fees.

I have watched the progress of pictures from the stereopticon views shown by Prof. Joe Holmes to the latest in television, and I cannot escape the thought that a lot of junk will be left along the way when television sets can be had at moderate cost.

Your friend,
H. E. C. Bryant

Note by L. G.: Peter Parley was the pseudonym of Samuel Griswold Goodrich, son of a Congregational minister in Connecticut. The Encyclopedia Britannica's sketch of him says that of the many books of geography, history, and science that were published in his name "he was the sole composer of comparatively few." Horner Winston, in the letter that appeared in the Weekly a year or so ago, said that there had been published speculations as to whether Hawthorne wrote part of Peter Parley's history. The biographies of Hawthorne say that in the 1830's, before "The Scarlet Letter" established his fame and at the time the Peter Parley books were coming out, he was doing hack work to eke out a meagre living. It is of record that some of the earliest work of Hawthorne's was published in Goodrich's magazine, "The Token" (along with the work of Longfellow, N. P. Willis, Lydia Maria Child, and other well known writers of the period). So, he and Goodrich must have been well acquainted, and it may be that his hack work included aid to Goodrich in the writing of Parley's Universal History. I do not know if there is any "internal evidence"—that is, anything about the style of writing—to indicate that Hawthorne had a hand in the job. I will ask some University professor familiar with American literature if there has been any research on this subject.

the Gazette, "undoubtedly through the importation of rabbits from areas known to have been infected."

Tularemia is a serious matter and I don't want to be flippant about it, but I am tempted (from my memory of Martha's Vineyard, which I saw for the first time last summer) to say that the island ought to have some sort of drawback just to remind the people there that they don't live in a paradise. On my visit I failed to observe any such reminders.

I don't know whether there has been any tularemia in or around Chapel Hill, but I know the rabbits that run around our place are not western rabbits. They are the same breed of rabbits that I have been seeing all my life. It has never entered my mind that any harm could come from them (except when they attacked morning glories or other plant life).

The owner of the vacant lot next to us, where the rabbits live, is an old

500-Mile Trip to See "Pinafore"

Mr. and Mrs. George Stephens; their daughter Eleanor, and their friend Miss Mary Campbell made a 500-mile trip — from Asheville to Chapel Hill and back — at the last week-end to see the Gilbert & Sullivan opera, "Pinafore," produced by the University music department and the Carolina Playmakers. They came Saturday and went home Sunday. "A fine show—well worth the trip," said Mr. Stephens as they set out from the Inn on their 250-mile ride to Asheville.

A.A.U.W. to Meet Thursday

The American Association of University Women will meet at 8 P. M. next Thursday in the staff room of the University library. Miss Emma McCloy Layman, associate professor of psychology at the Woman's College in Greensboro, will speak on "Mental Hygiene for the Adult Woman." Members who have not contributed to the Fellowship Fund are requested to bring their contributions to the meeting or send them to Mrs. Bruce Stroud, fund chairman.

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of the authority contained in Chapter 494, Public Laws of One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-three, and the acts amendatory thereof, and the duly adopted Resolution, the undersigned will on the

19th day of FEBRUARY, 1949, at 12:00 o'clock Noon, at the Courthouse Door in Hillsboro, North Carolina

offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder, for cash, the following described property in Orange County, North Carolina, to-wit:

Tract No. 1: The Piney Mountain School site in Chapel Hill Township, adjoining the lands of Hatcher and others: BEGINNING at a point in the middle of the road which ends about 75 feet Southeast of the Piney Mountain School building, and running thence in a Westerly direction 400 feet to dogwood and pile of rocks; thence South 210 feet to stake with pile of rocks; thence East 414 feet to iron pipe in new road; thence North with the road 195 feet to the place of beginning, containing 2 acres, more or less.

Tract No. 2: The Sunnyside School site situate in Bingham Township, adjoining the lands of E. W. Ivey and others, and containing one and one-half acres, more or less.

There is located on Tract No. 1 two one-room frame buildings, and on Tract No. 2 a one-room frame building. The said buildings will be offered for sale separate from the land.

A deposit of ten per cent will be required from the last and highest bidder at the sale, and the said sale will remain open ten days for increased or upset bids. All bids offered at this sale will be subject to confirmation by the Board.

This the 17th day of January, 1949.
Board of Education of Orange County.

TRUSTEE NOTICE OF SALE

NORTH CAROLINA
ORANGE COUNTY

UNDER AND BY VIRTUE of the power of sale contained in a certain deed of trust executed by James Lawrence Neville and Audrey D. Neville, his wife, dated July 24, 1942 and recorded in Book of Mortgages 97, at page 125, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Orange County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and said deed of trust being by the terms thereof subject to foreclosure, the undersigned trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the courthouse door in Hillsboro, North Carolina, on the 4th day of March, 1949 at 12 o'clock Noon, the property conveyed in said deed of trust, the same lying and being in the County of Orange, and State aforesaid, more particularly described as follows:

(1) BEGINNING at a point 70 feet from the intersection of Lloyd Street and a branch running Northwest, said point being on the North side of Lloyd Street; thence along and with Lot No. 3 in a Northwestern direction, North 25 degrees 30' West 138 feet to a point at the branch; thence along with land of Willie Roberts, North 6 degrees East 95 feet to a point in Temppie Flocks' land; thence along with Temppie Flocks' land 20 feet to a point; thence along with Lot No. 1, South 25 degrees 30' East 225 feet to the North side of Lloyd Street; thence along the North side of Lloyd Street, South 64 degrees 30' West 50 feet to the point of beginning. Same being Lot No. 2 as shown on map of property of Mutual Building and Loan Association of Durham, made May 25, 1940 by J. Ralph Weaver, R. S.

(2) For description, reference is made to Deed of L. J. Phipps, Comm., and M. A. Abernathy to Audrey Neville and Lawrence Neville dated June 27, 1941 and recorded in Deed Book 116, at page 354, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Orange County, N. C.

THIS SALE will remain open for ten days to receive increase bids as required by law.

DATED this 31st day of January, 1949.

J. J. Henderson, Trustee.
M. Hugh Thompson, Attorney.

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