

A CHAT WITH MOORE COUNTY'S LEGISLATORS

They've Been Feeling Out The Ground But Now: Hard Work And Big Decisions

Back home this weekend, after their special tour with the Legislature to see Tryon's Palace, Moore County's two members of the General Assembly were still rubbing the stars out of their eyes.

Said Senator Wilbur H. Currie: "It's something!" and he shakes his head. "I suppose they did live like that in those days; at least Old Tryon did; everything in the place, they say, is authentic, but—well, it's something!"

He had high praise for the commission who planned it all. "Those folks did a wonderful job."

Representative H. Clifton Blue, down in Aberdeen, was in agreement—conservative agreement. "It's fine," he said, "but," his tone was more eager: "that palace wasn't the best thing I saw in New Bern. You know there's an old Presbyterian Church there; dated around 1820. It made me think of Old Bethesda, only a finer building. I enjoyed that more than the palace; found it more interesting. It was the real old church, of course."

The grand tour to New Bern served as the climax of the preface to Volume 1959 of the legislative ledger. Having spent the early days of the session on the preparatory work, the politicians returned to Raleigh this week to go into true working session.

At the Financial Hub

Moore County is in an unusual position as regards this Assembly, an unusually good position, and not just because she is represented by two fine men. But the fact that Senator Currie is on the Senate Appropriations Committee and Representative Blue is chairman of the House Finance committee, puts this county right at the hub of things. (You wonder musingly if perhaps the fact of Moore County's extremely sound fiscal condition might have had something to do with the selection of her two citizens for membership on these fiscal committees. Could be; it has won rather wide comment.) In the House, finances, of course, are Clif Blue's special

balliwick and he's been especially interested in the debate over the minimum wage bill. He feels this will be among the more important pieces of legislation to be passed—and he thinks it will be passed.

"Yes," he admits, "It's too bad about some of the amendments; they should never have exempted an employer of five; three was enough and even that wasn't good. But we did well to hold the line and it got a bigger majority vote than I expected. If we can get it on the statute book with no more amendments, then, as time goes on, it can be improved. The thing is to get it passed."

Public Welfare is Senator Currie's concern and as chairman of that Senate committee he's going to have plenty to do. As he said: "Welfare just isn't popular. And folks have such exaggerated and incorrect ideas about it. Like all this about illegitimate children. You'd think that was the whole problem and, actually, it's about the smallest part of it."

Two Good Talking Points

In his task to gain support for the needs of public welfare, it would seem that Mr. Currie starts off with two strong weapons in his armory; one being state pride and the other the appeal of a good bargain.

A fact to rouse Tarheel indignation is the low record of the state in funds appropriated for welfare. North Carolina stands squarely at the bottom of the 49 states in the amount it spends for its poor and needy. Despite all the talk about the valley of humiliation, Tarheels are proud of their state, or want to be. To tell a Tarheel that he doesn't take as good care of his people as other states do of theirs is bound to raise his dander. And on the whole Tarheels are kindly folks, quick to lend a helping hand once they know the need.

Then, for them as might be on the stingy side—some of us Moore County Scots, for instance—there's a real bargain going begging. Grants for welfare work are contributed partly by the state and partly by the

federal government, with the latter supplying the major portion. As of now, the federal government is ready to contribute ten and a half million dollars for welfare if the state will put up three.

Bargain Package

Three million gets you ten-and-a-half! Will North Carolina let that go by? Senator Currie doesn't think so, and, knowing the need, he certainly hopes not. He believes that when the chips are down the great appeal to get this extra money and do at least some of what needs to be done will prove irresistible.

Both these Moore County men are cautious, though, about making definite statements, "until we see what the budget's going to be." Mr. Currie thinks that school finances are bound to come in for much debate, but doubts that there'll be any major changes. "A good deal has been done about the schools," he says, "with rather meagre results." He believes the majority sentiment of the General Assembly may favor some increase in teacher pay but that this isn't the whole problem. Raising the pay of starting teachers may be voted, but no across-the-board raise. The Legislature, he thinks, does favor some kind of a certification basis for raising salaries: (more like a merit raise,) rather than an automatic horizontal increase.

Rep. Clif has one main regret to date: that is that the attempt to pass a reapportionment measure did not succeed.

"It surely ought to be done," he says, "if for no other reason than that we are ordered to do it under the state constitution. But, besides that: it's reasonable and it's badly needed."

He is glad Moore County took the step of deciding to elect its board of education. "That's a good move," he says, "and I took pleasure in presenting that bill. It probably won't change the picture here much in the near future, but later it might." And he adds with fine magnanimity, "Maybe in time the Republicans would get strong enough to have a member or two on the board and they ought to have the chance."

"Well," he says, echoing Senator Currie's last words, "when we are up there now we'll be making the big decisions. You all be thinking of us and tell us what you want done. And come up and see us whenever you can!"

Major D. T. Lambert, now enforcement officer for the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, was once a barnstorming pilot who carried paying passengers on hair raising flights over Eastern North Carolina before joining the patrol in 1929.

PTA Donates \$150 To Band Boosters Club

Members Asked To Give Opinions In Curriculum Study

With an unbudgeted balance of over \$400 in its treasury, the East Southern Pines Parent-Teacher Association approved Monday night a donation of \$150 to the Band Boosters Club, to be used for benefit of the school band.

The action, endorsing a recommendation of the PTA executive committee, was taken during a short business session at the regular monthly meeting in Weaver Auditorium.

After the meeting, parents were invited to visit their children's classrooms or any other classrooms in the elementary and high schools. All rooms had been specially prepared by teachers and students to display various activities of the classes. Teachers were on hand to greet parents and visitors.

Before acting on the band donation, the meeting heard Mrs. J. B. Tollison of the Band Boosters Club—a group of parents interested in providing financial assistance for the band—explain the activities of the club. She said that sales of soap and candy, a rummage sale and other fund-raising methods are expected to produce about \$800 for the band this year, but that this amount will not be enough to meet the needs.

Dr. A. C. Dawson, superintendent, explained that the band director is paid from school funds and that the school also buys major items of band equipment. He cited, to show the high cost

of band equipment, an expenditure of \$450 for new tympani.

Dr. Dawson spoke briefly about the current curriculum study at the East Southern Pines school, passing out to PTA members copies of a rating check list on school activities. The same list had been discussed by the curriculum study group last week. PTA members and any other interested persons are asked to check their opinions on this list and turn it in to the school office, to afford a wider selection of opinions about the school's curriculum.

President C. S. Patch, Jr., presided at Monday's meeting.

A nominating committee has been named by the executive committee to bring in nominations for 1959-60 PTA officers who will be elected at the May meeting, the last of the school year. This meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11, at 8 p. m., in Weaver Auditorium.

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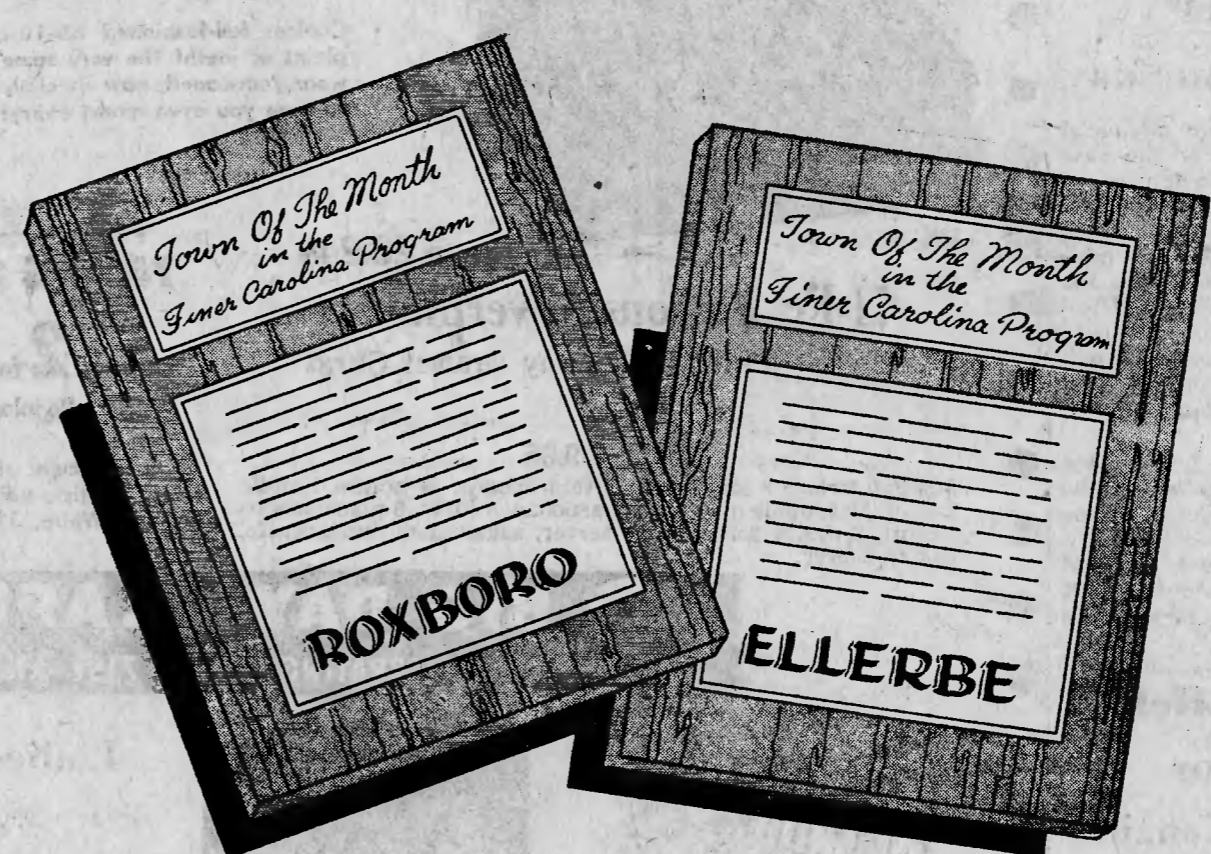
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Congratulations to the Finer, Carolina towns of Ellerbe and Roxboro, N. C. These two towns are the first to win permanent possession of a "Town Of The Month" plaque in the 1958-1959 Finer Carolina Program.

Each month a Finer Carolina town in each of the three population groups is selected for "Town Of The Month" honors on the basis of the most outstanding progress toward their goals. To gain permanent possession of a plaque, a town must win three times during the year-long program period.

Your town can be a winner, too. There is still time for any of the towns entered in the Finer Carolina Program this year to win one of the plaques offered. But whether or not your town wins a "Town Of The Month" plaque, you are still a winner if you and your neighbors reach the improvement goals which you have set. During the remaining three months of the 1958-1959 Finer Carolina Program, help your committee to make your town Carolina's Finest.

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