

THE NEWS of Orange County

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THE NEWS of Orange County is the oldest newspaper of continuous operation in Orange County.

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The News, June 5, 1947

The Bond Issue

The future progress of the county as an efficient administrative unit and of the schools of the county as progressive laboratories for the training of the youth are at stake next Tuesday when the registered voters go to the polls to reject or accept the proposed \$1,045,000 bond issue.

Voters will have the opportunity of registering their approval or disapproval to three questions to be submitted in the bond vote.

The first question will be whether to authorize the issuance of \$810,000 for the construction and repairing of schools in the county. Hardly a school in the county will be overlooked in the tremendous building job facing the school fathers. A new high school must be completed in Chapel Hill to replace the one burned in the early summer of 1943. A consolidated Negro school must be constructed in the Cedar Grove area to handle the overflow of Negro children in that area.

All the other schools in the county need repair work. If the issuance of \$810,000 for the purpose of bettering the schools in the county is approved, all the schools will get the necessary repairs needed.

Neither you nor the writer will benefit directly from the issuance of the school bonds, but our children in the years to come will feel the effect of the better schools they will attend.

Your vote cast for the school bond election is a vote cast for the children of the county.

Court House Bonds

It is conceded by all that Orange county has a beautiful court house, but few people in the county have to work there. Yet, the work carried on there by the county employees benefits all of us.

The interior of the court house is badly in need of repair work. The employees of the county need more space to carry on their work. Orange county has grown tremendously since the court house was constructed over 100 years ago.

Whether we will let it remain as is, or improve the interior—leaving the exterior unmarred except to paint it and make necessary repairs—is a second question that will face the voters.

A vote in favor of the interior renovation and restoration of the county court house is a vote in support of better and finer public buildings in the county and a vote for better

utilization of a historic structure.

Expanding Services

Expanding services of the court house demand more room for the county employees to work. Storage of vital records in the court house, more conveniences for the public and better court room facilities will consume the space in the court house, leaving only room for the clerk of court, the sheriff and the register of deeds.

The welfare office, the board of education and the health office are now housed outside the courthouse. The renovation of the court house will ease the tax collector's office and the tax supervisor out of the court house.

Another question in the bond election will be \$150,000 for the construction of a building to house these offices.

A "yes" vote for this construction work will be a vote for better county administrative efficiency. Cramped quarters retard the work of the officials. From your county officials, you will get better service if they are housed in comfortable quarters.

Incorrect reports have been circulated that the county commissioners plan to spend the money now. The officials have adopted a resolution saying that the money would not be spent until prices drop and construction costs become lower.

The tax rate will go up if the bonds are passed, is another report making the rounds. Orange county now enjoys the low tax rate of 88 cents. This is one of the few counties in the state with such a low rate. Many counties pay as much as \$1.45 to \$1.75. Your county tax rate will remain below a dollar if the bonds are approved.

If we are to remain stagnant and refuse progress, we will vote against the bond issue. But if we recognize progress in the county such as is taking place on all sides of us, we will recognize the necessity of this bond issue and vote in favor of it.

We urge you to cast your vote for the issuance of the bonds.

We've Been Asking For It

Editorial writers and other citizens appalled by North Carolina's terrible death rate from automobile accidents, have been whooping and hollering for years for somebody to do something. And now it would appear an answer has

been given by the legislation enacted by the recent General Assembly.

Beginning July 1 all automobile drivers starting alphabetically, will be given an opportunity to show that they are competent to drive an automobile. Not only those who have recently learned to drive but all of us who obtained our present driver's license under the grandpappy clause.

In the first place, each motorist is going to be asked a lot of questions concerning traffic and safety laws. For instance, the state wants to know if you know what the various shapes of highway signs mean. And the state will also want to know which car has the right of way at an intersection of two main highways? And what are the hand signals, rules of passing, etc., etc.

On top of that, the cars themselves are going to come under scrutiny. Are the lights properly focused, and will the dimmer work? And what about the tail light, is there a good bulb in it? And will the emergency brake hold on a hill, or bring the car to a halt on the highway in case the foot brakes fail?

Then there will be a driving test that will put to practice a motorist's knowledge of the rules of the road and his ability to handle his machine. This test will be in company with a special highway officer who will instruct the driver to do this and that, but contrary to some public opinion, will not instruct a driver to break the law just to see whether or not the driver will thoughtlessly do so, rather than sticking rigidly to the rules. Backing into a parking place at the curb and turning around on the highway will probably be two of the paces the driver will be put through.

Then there is the matter of seeing. A driver must measure up to certain specifications. If he needs glasses, he must have glasses to drive.

They figure it will take a matter of three or four years to work through the list of all drivers. And then the whole business will start all over again, with the renewal of licenses to be mandatory every four years.

Another phase of the program will be a person's ability to pay damages in event he wrecks another's car or maims or kills a person. In event you should be responsible for an accident and are assessed damages, you will have 60 days to pay off. If you cannot, then you lose not only your license to drive, but your car tag as well. And they won't be reinstated until you either post \$11,000 in cash or securities or else take out a liability insurance policy. You're either able to pay for an accident or, brother, you ain't gonna drive no mo'.

We've all asked that something be done. Here's the answer as dishd up by our legislature. Let's hope to goodness it proves effective. And we can make it effective by driving at all times.

—Elkin Tribune

By The News

PICNIC TIME AGAIN
The Farmers Dairy Cooperative picnic last Friday night at Hogan's lake launched for us the picnic season. . . We attended the affair given by George Cline, manager of the cooperative, and the folks who compose the group and left with a stomach full of rich vittels and some extra ice cream for the folks left behind in Hillsboro. . . Ed Barnes, assistant county agent, provided the transportation and introduced us to some of the people there. . . One person we met, Mrs. Ed Warren, is a former Goldsboro resident and a high school class mate. . . She is now working in the office of the Dairy Cooperative in Chapel Hill.

ANOTHER CHAPEL HILL WRITER
Another promising young writer has gained recognition with her first novel, and she comes from Chapel Hill's rapidly growing writing colony.
Twenty-three year old Daphne Athas, who has received encouragement from Betty Smith of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" fame, is author of "The Weather of the

Heart," just released by Appleton-Century, which was given much space in a favorable review in Time Magazine this week.

Plot of the novel centers around the adolescent love affair between Eliza Wall, a well-bred, teen-age school girl, and a one-eyed French Canadian kid named Claw Moreau, whose family was on town relief.

The Time review concludes: "The Weather of the Heart" has its faults, mostly structural and obviously resulting from lack of experience. They will be forgiven easily by readers whose weary eyes have lately seen a lot of old formulas passed as new fiction."

Miss Athas is a New Englander—from Gloucester, Mass. She attended Chapel Hill High School along with Betty Smith's two daughters.

Betty Smith says of her book: "It reveals a knowledge of values and emotions, and a restraint and wisdom that would do credit to an experienced writer."

Paul Green, the playwright, says: "There is no doubt about it, she is a vivid and talented writer."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This column does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of this newspaper.

To The Editor:

The letter of Mr. Grover C. Bush of Chapel Hill in your issue of May 22 was evidently based on misunderstanding of the facts regarding the school bond issue. I am sure he will be glad to have some correction made. Mr. Bush is, as he says, a school man who has had to do with voting school bond issues in other counties and undoubtedly intends to be a supporter of education. His letter suggests unintentionally I am sure, that the taxpayers of Orange County have just built a new building in Chapel Hill and that we are asking for more buildings. What has recently been built is only part of a new building that is obviously incomplete and quite inadequate to serve the needs of the children now in Chapel Hill, to say nothing of those to come in a community which, whether fortunately or unfortunately, is growing quite rapidly.

As a matter of fact, the taxpayers of Orange county have so far invested an almost negligible

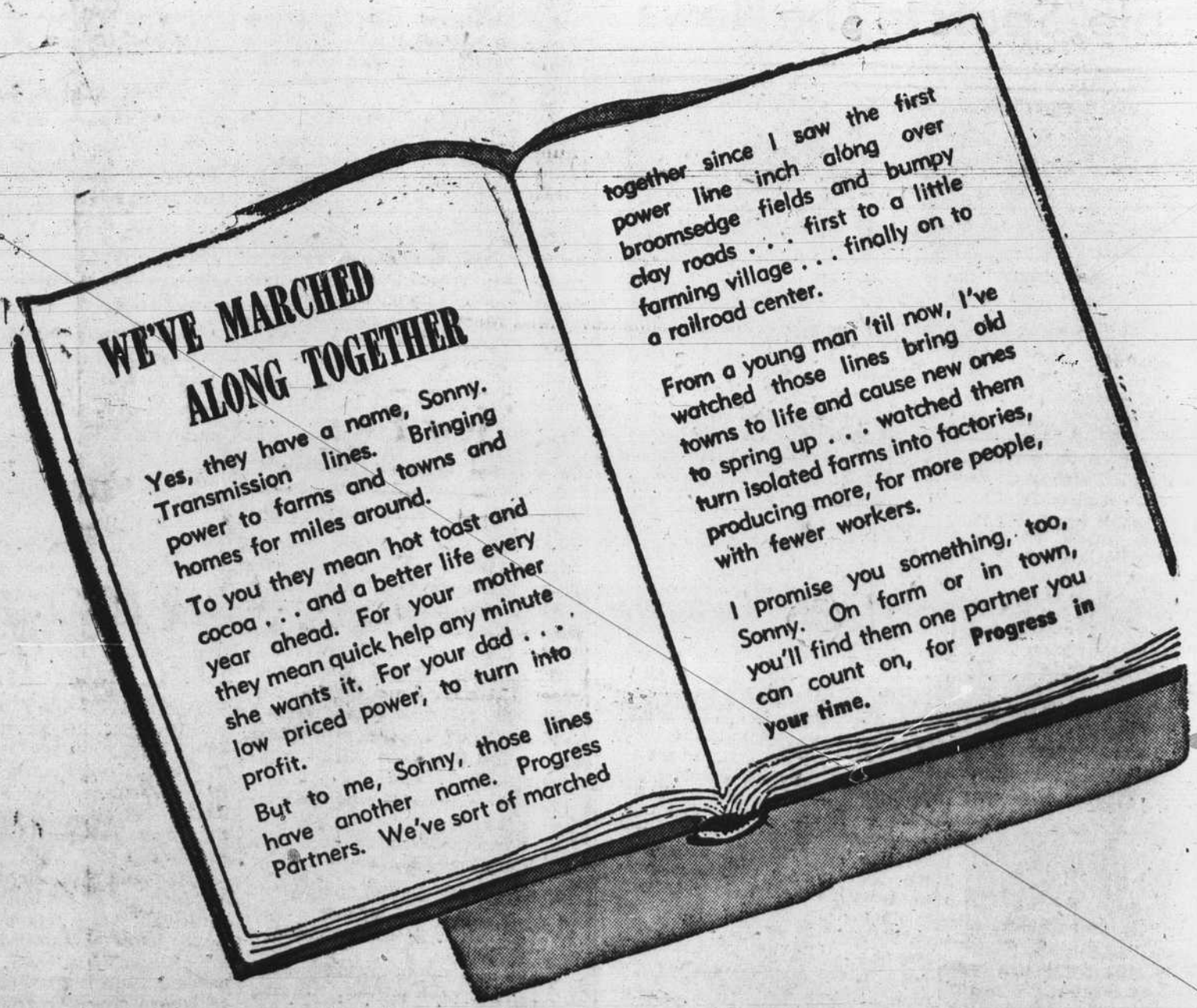
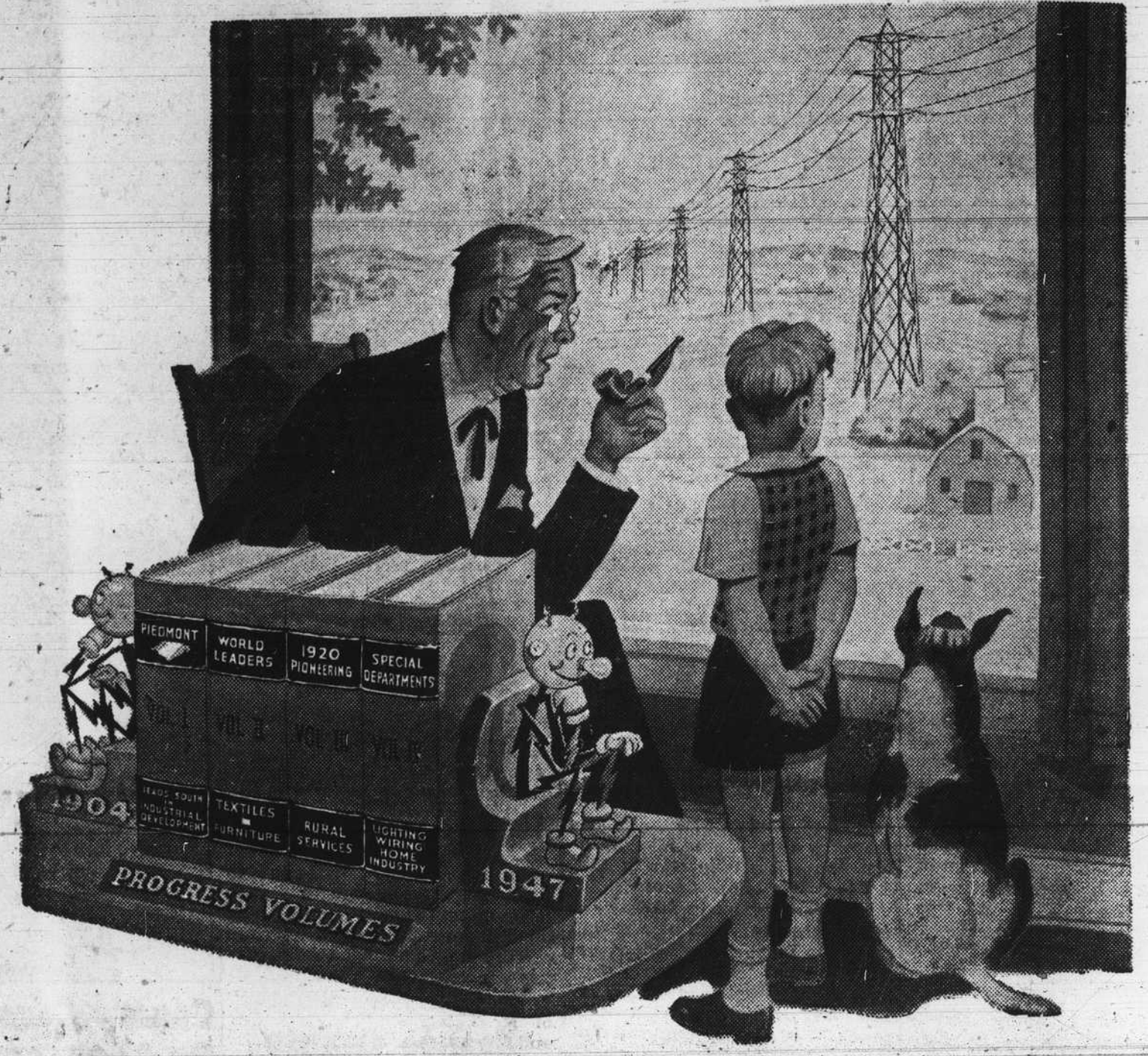
amount in school buildings in Chapel Hill. The present elementary school, which formerly served both high and elementary schools, was paid for entirely by taxpayers of Chapel Hill. The high school building that burned was built on a 55-45 basis by the county and PWA and the county collected in insurance more than it had ever paid in. Consequently, after the unfortunate fire, the county had actually gained in dollars rather than being out-of-pocket for that building. The Orange County Training School for Negroes was originally built to a great extent from donated funds, although the county has subsequently made a substantial but inadequate addition to that building.

The fact that the county has yet done so little building in Chapel Hill is due not at all to lack of interest in the schools of the southern part of the county but only to the special conditions that prevailed in the past. Yet it is only proper that taxpayers should have in mind the fact that this is the first time that the county has ever been called upon to pay the full cost of any school building in Chapel Hill, notwithstanding that two of the Chapel Hill schools are "consolidated", serving city and county children and partly at Chapel Hill expense. The reason the county is called upon now is that the present State law requires the

county to furnish school buildings and no complete building has yet been furnished in Chapel Hill while other buildings throughout the county are in great need and the bond issue is for all. Does anyone want the State law changed to make each small community stand on its own feet?

Neither Chapel Hill nor any other part of the county asks for anything fancy but only for actual recognized needs. Probably few people outside of Chapel Hill realize the conditions under which our schools have labored in recent years, using basements here and there, and some frame houses and crowding everywhere. For a considerable time the colored school even had to work some grades in two shifts. Eighth grade white pupils have had to stay out with the country elementary schools when they should have come to the consolidated school at Chapel Hill which serves both city and county children. Hardly anywhere else in the state, and certainly no where in the county, have children and parents had to exercise so much patience and faith that ultimately the minimum community needs would be met in accordance with State law. Had such conditions prevailed in any other part of the county the taxpayers of every section of the county including Chapel Hill would

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