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Kinston Board Split on Lease Terms Between City and Baseball Officials

A privately negotiated contract involving lease of Granger Stadium to the present owners of the Burlington baseball team in the Carolina League touched off a lengthy debate by the Kinston city council Monday night.

Alderman Jesse Pugh Wooten, who along with Alderman Doug Baker and Mayor Guy Elliott, represents the council on the stadium committee, reported that in substance the terms of the contract were a one cent per ticket rental, with the city furnishing free water and lights to the park. School board members of the stadium committee are Henry Walker and Lonnie Buck.

Alderman Frank LaRoque took respectful but vigorous exception to the proposed agreement, which Wooten pointed out was for one year with a two year renewal clause.

LaRoque pointed out that he was a baseball fan, but he felt that when a private enterprise comes into the community, to compete with other private businesses of the same general nature, that they ought to pay their way just as all the others are forced to do. LaRoque pointed out that theaters provide a wholesome form of entertainment but they receive no concessions and he strongly urged the council to treat the baseball business in the same manner.

Wooten also reported that the stadium committee had already granted permission to the Burlington group to paint signs on the stadium fence. Alderman Bill Page expressed disapproval of this, Newsman Jack Rider also spoke briefly in opposition to "messing up the fence."

After the meeting had adjourned Mayor Elliott and Baker stated that they had opposed painting signs on the walls of the stadium, but had finally gone along with the other members in voting approval after the baseball group had stated that they would not come to Kinston if they could not get the eight to nine thousand dollars revenue expected from selling advertising space on the stadium fence.

After much discussion four members of the council, Wooten, Page, Baker and Charlie Taylor voted for the proposed lease agreement, with LaRoque voting "No."

It was generally agreed that Alderman Wooten would attempt to negotiate more favorable terms for the city, but the present agreement stands approved.

The board refused to accept LaRoque's suggestion that the matter be left open for at least a couple of weeks to see how the general public felt about the proposal.

LaRoque said that he was hearing about the agreement for the first time Monday night and thought that the citizens ought to be given a chance to be heard.

LaRoque said that he would withdraw his objection if the general public thought that the proposal was fair to the city, and to the other people engaged in the recreation business in and around Kinston.

Senator Ervin Cautions Against Disarmament in Armory Speech

"Put your faith in God but keep your powder dry", was the advice of Oliver Cromwell which Senator Sam J. Ervin passed on to the several hundred persons attending the formal dedication of Kinston's new Armory Tuesday night.

Ervin spoke briefly, but effectively in reminding the audience that twice in this generation the United States has been foolish enough to scrap its great armed forces and enter into an era of wishful thinking, believing more out of hope than out of reality that lasting peace had finally come.

Ervin said the United States made the same mistake after both World Wars but so far has not fallen into that trap since the cessation of hostilities in Korea.

Ervin was introduced by the

dedication program chairman, former National Guardsman Major Marion A. Parrott, who preceded his introduction with a brief synopsis of the great part the North Carolina militia had taken in the history of the nation.

Adjutant General John Hall Mannings formally presented the Armory to the citizens of Lenoir County and Mayor Guy Elliott, speaking for the city and county ruling boards accepted the building which houses the two local National Guard units.

Among the distinguished guests attending the dedication was Representative L. H. Fountain of Tarboro.

An open house from 1 p. m. preceded the formal 8 o'clock dedication, after which several hundred of the light of foot and damp in body enjoyed (?) a dance until midnight.

Kinston Aldermen to Survey Cemetery Deficit and Charges

The Kinston Board of Aldermen Monday night unanimously agreed that "something ought to be done" about the more than \$30,000 per year deficit the city is running on its various cemetery sites.

Presently, a large percentage of those being buried in the Kinston cemeteries are not from Kinston, many not even from Lenoir County; yet, it was pointed out, the citizens of Kinston have to underwrite the deficit.

At present, lot prices and gravedigging fees charged to out-of-towners are the same as those charged to residents. Mayor Guy Elliott pointed out that Former City Manager Bill Heard had made a study of the charges made in surrounding towns and had found that Kinston was considerably below its neighboring towns in the average cemetery charges. Heard had recommended higher prices for all, and doubled prices to non-Kinston

taxpayers. The board expressed the view that it was not seeking to "make money" on a cemetery, but it reminded that when a burial plot is purchased the city stands obligated to provide perpetual care for that plot, which is, as one alderman pointed out, a pretty long time.

Trenton Rotarians Endorse Kinston as Site for College

The Trenton Rotary Club Tuesday night unanimously endorsed Kinston as the best possible location in Eastern Carolina for the Presbyterian College that is to be located in this part of the state in the near future.

District Governor Frank Ruble was also on hand for the Tuesday night session and gave the local Rotarians a forceful instruction on developing the resources of Rotary.



This is the tower from which official measurements of the depth of Neuse River are made. It is located beside the office of the Smith-Douglass Fertilizer Company at the foot of West Bright Street, and this week the depth gauges of this tower were

again creeping up, bringing bad news to those whose homes and places of business are located in Southeast Kinston and Happersville. The gauges are expected to climb to around 20 feet before beginning to decline. When this picture was taken the level was 16.6 feet, and still rising.

When Kinston's First City Manager, Bill Heard, arrived to begin work in Kinston nearly eight years ago his first and biggest headache was the unprecedented snow that had traffic checked to all but a standstill and this week as the city's second top administrator checked in to start work he found the weather was still very much a problem, if of a different variety.

New Manager Roy E. Robinson, pictured at his desk in the city hall, has water problems confronting him from every side. Streets are washed out, bridges and culverts need fixing, storm sewers have caved in and others have filled up, the regular city garbage disposal area is under flood waters from Neuse River,

open ditches are filled with silt and debris and dozens, perhaps hundreds of citizens are making complaints that are more or less directly connected to the problem of too much water.

Many areas that still have dirt streets have a garbage problem, since heavy garbage trucks cannot go into many without getting stuck very securely.

And predictions from the weatherman indicate that the water problem around Kinston is going to get worse before it gets much better.

In spite of this damp reception from the weatherman, Robinson says he is happy to be in Kinston and at work on the many problems which make the day of a city manager interesting, and some times a trifle difficult.

Lack of Cars and Instructors to Halt Driver Training Courses in Two of Lenoir's 10 High Schools

The loss of instructors and the withdrawal of cars by four of five dealers in Lenoir County has forced the elimination of driver training courses at two of Lenoir's 10 high schools. Superintendent Henry Bullock made this report Monday to the board of commissioners as he asked permission to transfer \$500 to permit purchase of two cars that will be used in this work in the schools left in the program.

Wheat Swamp and LaGrange are the schools losing this course.

Bullock was reluctant to lose this vital part of school training but lack of instructors and a change of heart on the part of four of the five dealers who furnished cars last year has left no other course open. Only one dealer has agreed to furnish a car for the training courses this year and his car is not yet delivered, Bullock reported.

Commissioners Vote Expansion Funds for Pink Hill-Deep Run

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners Monday morning voted to include \$107,000 in the 1956-57 school budget to permit the scheduled expansion of Pink Hill and Deep Run schools.

School Superintendent Henry Bullock explained that this additional sum was needed to supplement \$282,021 already on hand and earmarked for these two projects.

Superintendent Bullock also reported that the funds expected from the state in the division of the remaining \$25,000,000 of a school bond issue are to be used to add sufficient space to the Woodington School to permit complete consolidation of all negro schools in the county.

Frogs and Skeeters!

Flood-spawned millions of frogs and mosquitoes are making life slappingly unusual in Jones County. Tiny frogs literally covered stretches of highway in some swamp areas and swarms of mosquitoes made life miserable in practically every part of Jones County this week. The only happy reflection to be found by one Jones Countian was that the frogs ought to be able to fatten on the mosquitoes, and the chub ought to get really fat from eating frogs, and right now nobody can stand the mosquitoes to try fishing; which ought to add up to better fishing when a frost puts the bugs temporarily out of action.

Henry Morton Begins Serving Prison Term For Violating Parole

Henry Morton of Pollocksville was arrested this week by Patrolman Marvin Thomas on charge of violating the terms of his probation.

Morton was free under a sentence of three to five years for breaking, entering and larceny, but as a result of violating the terms of his probation he was ordered committed to the State Prison this week to begin serving his term.

Baseball's a'Coming

At a Wednesday meeting of the Carolina Baseball League L. C. Fowler, owner of the Burlington team of that league announced that he was moving his team to Kinston next season. He will still maintain his farm relation with the Pittsburg Pirates, who will furnish the team with a majority of its players.

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