

THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 29 TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1960 VOLUME XII

Nelson Banks Named Chairman; George Hughes Fired as New Commissioners Come to Office



Above the Jones County Board of Commissioners is seen taking the oath of their office on Monday morning. The board from left to right includes Fred Foscue, Eugene Simpson, Nelson Banks, who was elected chairman, Horace Lee Haddock and Harold Mallard. Mallard was the only incumbent who survived in a knock-down-and-drag-out primary this spring.

Monday four new and one incumbent members were sworn in to the Jones County Board of Commissioners. The first official action of the new board was to elect Nelson Banks chairman.

Then Tax Collector Zelle Pollock, County Accountant Mrs. Mary E. Brock, County Consultant Earl E. Franck and tax listers for 1961 were named.

After a few minutes of such smooth sailing parliamentary bedlam reigned supreme as the new board fumbled with the job of firing Veteran County Attorney George Hughes and hiring Donald Brock to succeed him.

New Commissioner Eugene Simpson first made a motion to "bench the matter for 30 days". This did not receive a second.

New Commissioner Horace Lee Haddock made motion that Donald Brock be employed at the same pay as Hughes (\$1800 per year) until July 1st when the pay would be cut to not to exceed \$1200 per year.

Fred Foscue seconded this motion, but when the vote was called for by Chairman Banks he found only Haddock and Foscue voting "aye", with Incumbent Harold Mallard and Simpson abstaining.

Chairman Banks then called for a rather un-secret "secret ballot" on the Haddock motion, in which he cast the deciding vote with Haddock and Foscue. For a few minutes it appeared that the matter had been settled.

Then Attorney Brock was brought to the meeting, and after reading the motion he refused to accept the job on those terms. Haddock was asked if he would amend his motion to delete that part about the salary cut effective July 1st. Haddock refused.

Foscue then made motion that Brock be hired at the same salary as Hughes. This motion received no second, since Haddock who had campaigned largely on cutting the county attorney's pay, refused to second it and Mallard and Simpson were letting Haddock, Foscue and Banks run the shooting match.

At this point in the proceedings Simpson again made his motion to "bench the matter for 30 days". Again there was no second. Simpson asked Attorney Hughes if he would serve for another 30 days. Hughes quickly replied, "No.

Trenton Rotarians Recognized for Foundation Support

For its contributions of a minimum of \$10 per member to The Rotary Foundation, the Rotary Club of Trenton has been designated a "100 per cent Rotary Foundation Club."

The objective of The Rotary Foundation is the fostering of projects to further understanding and friendly relations among the peoples of different nations.

One of its principal objectives is the awarding of fellowships to outstanding college graduates for one year of study abroad as Rotary ambassadors of good will.

Final '60 Census Tabulation Shows Net Gain of 1 in Jones

Final tabulations of the 1960 census show a net gain of one in the population of Jones County in the past 10 years: From 11,004 to 11,005.

Maysville showed a considerable gain in its population, climbing from 818 to 869, but the county's two other corporate communities showed drops:

Pollocksville fell by four from 420 to 416 while Trenton's population shrunk 65—from 469 to 404.

This decennial census shows the following distribution by township of Jones County's 1960 population:

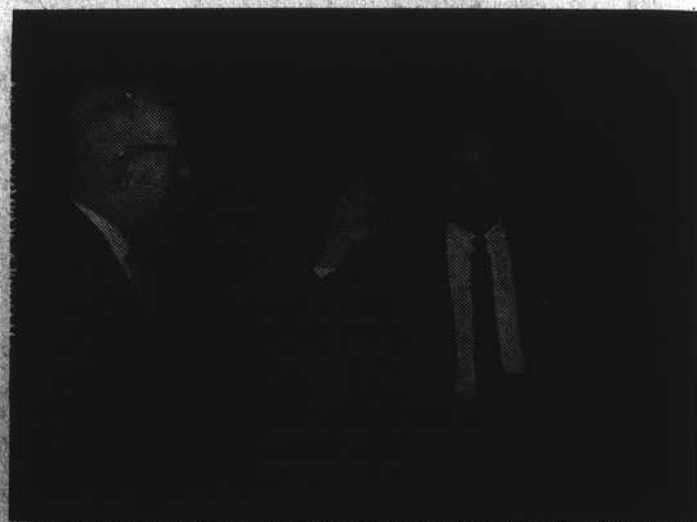
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|---------------|-------|
| White Oak | 1,898 |
| Pollocksville | 2,708 |
| Trenton | 2,060 |
| Cypress Creek | 1,029 |
| Tuckahoe | 1,048 |
| Chinquapin | 1,006 |
| Beaver Creek | 1,256 |

Bobby Cox Trying Obtain South's 1st Superior Meat Sire

R. E. Cox of Trenton Route 2 is attempting to become the first Poland China Breeder in the South to obtain a rating of "Superior Meat Sire" for a boar.

On November 17, Cox put 15 offsprings of his herd boar Tamrama Designer 2nd in a feed lot to themselves. These hogs were weighed in by County Agent J. R. Franck and are being fed under the supervision of Cox's feed dealer, Cliff Barbee of Richlands who has a lock on the hog feeder and the only key.

In order to qualify their sire for the rating of "Superior Meat Sire" these 15 must meet rigid feed efficiency and carcass grade requirements.



Here Jones County's New Register of Deeds William D. "Bill" Parker is seen Monday morning taking the oath of his office from Superior Court Clerk Murray Whitaker. Parker defeated the incumbent, Mrs. Darris W. Koonce, in a very close race last spring and was elected without opposition in the November 8th general election.

EDITORIAL

New County Commissioners

Monday Jones County's official family underwent a drastic change, when four new members of the Board of County Commissioners were sworn in. Not often in the modern history of Jones County has there been a change in the majority membership of the county's official family.

The four new members—Chairman Nelson Banks, Fred Foscue, Eugene Simpson and Horace Lee Haddock—have roots deep in the rich soil of their native county. Each has a sincere interest in giving his county the very best government possible.

As in most instances these young men will find that running a county from the inside is considerably different from criticizing it from the outside. A major part of their first year in office will consist of learning how little they actually knew about public affairs, and also finding that the men who preceded them in office were not a collection of thieves who were

"robbing the taxpayers". The new board exhibited its naivety on the subject of firing County Attorney George Hughes and hiring Donald Brock to take his place. Since the spring—when it was made a major campaign issue—at least some if not all of these newcomers has labored under the misapprehension that Hughes was overpaid. One basis for this was a bulletin from the Institute of Government which listed retainers paid county attorneys over the state.

These young men were alarmed to learn that the retainer for Lenoir County Attorney Tom White was \$1200, while Hughes' retainer was \$1800. They assumed that this was salary, rather than retainer. In actuality, White has been paid something between \$7,000 and \$8,000 per year as Lenoir County attorney, while Hughes has never billed the county for services above his \$1800 retainer.

The new board had every right in the world to fire Hughes and hire Brock, but they should have had a better reason, or excuse than the salary mixup. Commissioner Haddock was somewhat taken aback when Attorney Brock refused to agree to take the job at "not to exceed \$1200". In the spring Haddock had a lawyer who would take the job "for half of what Hughes is getting". Haddock has already found that every seed that is planted in the spring does not give fruit in the fall.

The parting comments of outgoing Chairman John W. Creagh Jr. should be a constant reminder to the new board of the high responsibility they have inherited in handling the biggest business in Jones County.

Creagh reminded the new board members that they are taking over a county that is in excellent financial condition—a situation that surely did not exist 12 years ago when Creagh first came on the board.

Creagh also reminded them of what he called the "foolhardy" effort of outgoing Commissioner D. A. Jones to raise the tax listed valuation of all property in the county, which would serve no purpose, since it is rate multiplied by valuation that fixes the county's revenues from taxation.

These young men will be under very careful scrutiny as they set about their work as county commissioners. They have already found on their first day in office that they couldn't keep even such a simple campaign promise as cutting the pay of the county attorney.

As time moves on they will find themselves bound by other circumstances that will separate "wanting to" from "doing".

Although The Journal deplors the messy way the change of county attorneys was made, we surely recognize the right—almost duty of this board to employ counsel with which it can work in harmony, and if they felt that political considerations had made it impossible for them to get along with Hughes they should have gotten a new attorney. However, Brock occupies an extremely precarious position since he was employed on a 3-2 vote, which gives him very little room in which to maneuver.

Let all Jones Countians who are interested in good government join in helping this new board in every reasonable way; not by exercising even the same kind of narrow and unfounded suspicions that they themselves may have been guilty of, but by supporting them when they are right and by letting them know very quickly and very bluntly when they are out of line. That will certainly be the role played by The Journal.