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Jones Political Tempo Picks Up: Sheriff Yates Files, Jim Barbee Seeking Board Seat, Craft Files

This week the tempo of Jones County politics perked up considerably.

Sheriff Brown Yates has paid his filing fee, seeking his third four-year term as the county's chief law enforcement officer.

James Barbee of White Oak Township paid his filing fee and announced that he would like to return to the board of county commissioners, upon which he served two terms in the late 40's and early '50's.

Carl Sutton Craft tossed his hat into the ring for the job of constable of Cypress Creek Township. Sheriff Yates was appointed to his job by the board of commissioners in 1954 after the death of Sheriff Jeter Taylor. Twice since he has been elected to full four-year terms.

Still waiting to be heard from are Jones County Representative John Hargett, County Commissioners Nelson Banks, Harold Mallard, Horace Lee Haddock, Eugene Simpson and Fred Foscue, School Board Members Charlton West Jr., Mike Phillips, J. C. Wooten, C. J. Banks, and J. J. Conway, Magistrates James Simmons and R. L. Edwards and, of course, a candidate is still needed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Superior Court Clerk Murray Whitaker.

Jones County also has the right, if none of its politicians have the inclination to offer candidates for superior court judge, superior court solicitor, state senate and congress.

Judge William J. Bundy of Greenville has announced his willingness to serve again as resident judge of the judicial district which includes Pamlico, Craven, Carteret and Jones counties. Incumbent superior court judges are seldom opposed, and there is no likelihood of any Jones

Countian crossing swords with Bundy.

Incumbent Solicitor Robert Rouse Jr. has stepped down and Cecil May, New Bern lawyer, has tossed his hat into the ring for this job. Here again no Jones Countian is likely to be in the competition. May is solicitor of the Craven County Recorder's Court at present, and has been for six years.

The incumbent 7th district senators are Tom White of Kinston and Luther Hamilton of Morehead City. Jones County has not had a candidate in this field since John Larkins completed his long tenure in that capacity. Here again there is no rumored likelihood of a Jones County candidate.

And with John Larkins sitting comfortable on the federal court bench, Incumbent Congressman David Henderson has nothing to fear from Jones County, which is more than can be said for Craven, Wayne, Onslow and possibly Harnett counties.

Tax Listing Extended Until February 15th

The Jones County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to extend tax listing until February 15th.

By law the deadline is January 31st unless the commissioners decide to extend the deadline, which they have never failed to do in modern history.

ONE DRUNK CHARGE

The only arrest reported in the past week in Jones County was that of Booker T. Anderson Jr. of Camp Lejeune who was charged with being drunk on the highway, which is not only illegal, but mighty dangerous as well.

Charles McCotter is Jones Sanitarian

The Jones County Board of Commissioners Monday voted to pay as the county's part, \$1540, on the Salary of Sanitarian Charles McCotter.

McCotter will work in Jones County one day of each week out of the Lenoir County Health Department and under the direction of District Health Officer Dr. L. E. Kling.

Appraisers Named

Monday B. W. T. Phillips and J. J. Conway were renamed tax appraisers for Jones County. Their job is to estimate for tax purposes the value of new construction in the county.

Drainage District Request Deferred

Monday the Jones County Board of Commissioners decided to take a longer and closer look at a request for county money to set up the Moseley Creek - Tracey Swamp Drainage District.

This area which lies in Lenoir, Jones and Craven counties has been mapped for a major drainage improvement, but under a new law the county government involved MAY put up the money and collect back from the people whose land is benefitted.

Both the Lenoir and Jones County commissioners decided that they would prefer the old system under which the landowners benefitted put up the money, rather than tapping the public till.

TWO CHARGED

Two women from 107 Lincoln Street, Mary Hines and Viola Whitfield, were charged last week with complicity in the theft of a VA check, forging the endorsement of Phillip Dawson and cashing the check.

School Bond Request Put Off Until March

Recreation School Monday Attended by 53 at Legion Grounds

A recreation school was held Monday at the American Legion Hut in Trenton with 53 adult leaders attending. The meeting began at 8 a.m. and during the morning, party, group, quiet and dramatic games were taught and played.

After a picnic lunch, the afternoon session was held. At that time the leaders were divided into six groups which planned parties for six different occasions.

The leaders had chance to practice the musical and mixed games they had learned by demonstration before each group. They will, in turn, teach the club members the things they learned.

The school was conducted by Huldah Lineberry of the North Carolina Recreation Commission in Raleigh.

Monday the Jones County Board of Commissioners decided to wait until March to act upon a request from the board of education for \$240,000.

Quite obviously the only way in which the large sum could be provided during the time it has been requested is through a bond issue, which would require an election.

The political, as well as fiscal implications involved in this are enough to worry even the happiest county commissioner.

What with the terrible licking school bonds were given last November in the statewide election, local politicians are reluctant to get caught between a bond issue and assorted individual politicians who are after their scalps.

The school board has outlined a long list of what it calls pressing building needs in the county school system, including two gymnasiums, which now seem to be all built on borrowed money.

Ram Neuse Hits Legal Snag as Ownership Controversy Arises

Monday morning easier sailing for the Confederate Gunboat Neuse seemed in sight, but before bedtime the old ram struck a legal snag and shivered resignedly in the chill waters of Neuse River where it swings precariously on oil-drum pontoons.

In the morning the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners allocated \$4,000 for use by the county's Confederate Centennial Commission in buying the artifacts recovered from the old vessel, contingent upon the city matching this sum at the council meeting Monday night, and upon the drawing of an option giving the centennial commission whatever rights the salvagers of the old vessel have to the vessel when and if they deliver it at a site to be selected by the commission. Upon delivery another \$7,000 would be paid to the three men who have raised the vessel.

But Monday night when the subject was opened at the city council meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Milan Muzinich of Wilson rose to assert the claim of Mrs. Muzinich, the former

Helen Cox, her sister and mother, to the boat and everything that had been taken from it.

Confronted with an obvious legal hassle over title to the property the city council sidestepped and voted to name a committee to study the matter.

This committee includes Chamber of Commerce President Dan Lilley, J. D. Paschall and Neal Sutton. They were asked to attempt to work out an agreement between the men who raised the vessel and the Cox heirs who claim that since they own the land abutting that part of Neuse River where the ship was sunk, they actually own the vessel.

City Attorney Fitzhugh Wallace, Jr. reminded that an assistant attorney general had expressed the view that the vessel belonged to the state since it sank in navigable waters.

Jury List for March Term of Jones Court Drawn on Monday

Following here is the panel list drawn Monday by the Jones County Board of Commissioners for the March 5th term of court over which Judge Walter Bone of Nashville will preside.

Carlton R. Parker Jr., G. W. Jenkins, David H. Driver, Clifton F. Mills, Gardner Craft, Carl Turner, E. Fred Moore, Joel W. Metts, Felton Eubanks, Alva Craft, George Bell, Sidney G. Jones.

Vann Hammond Harriett, Leo C. Mallard, Cecil E. Moore, William T. Bray, A. Felix Quinn, John B. Dixon, Durham Edward Lee, Pat R. Harrison, Jack Mashburn, W. H. Hammond, Herbert Banks, Allen Mooring, Milton Alphin, Cecil Thomas.

Hoyal Miller, Henry Allen Dale, W. J. Metts, Harper Andrews, Dalton Grey Cox Jr., D. E. Andrews, Charlie Battle Jr., W. C. Adams, A. E. Banks.

J. T. Stille, Jonnie J. Houston, A. J. Banks, Edward E. Raines, Cleve Bell Provost, Calvin Lee Turner, Horace King, Victor Harper, Edward V. Eubanks, Norward Cook and Earl C. Meadows.

SUFFERS BURNS

Ellis Lawson suffered 2nd degree burns on both hands Monday night when he pushed a car from over a puddle of flaming gasoline. Gas ignited while the gas was being put in a running car. Slight damage was also done to the car.

'Trial by Headline' Most Brutal Form Justice

By Jack Rider

In medieval times an accused person was forced to stick his hand into molten metal, and if it came forth undamaged he was declared innocent.

In this more enlightened era our press and our politicians have developed a more barbarous form of the same kind of trial.

Today it is known as "Trial by Headline".

At the national level the McCarthy use of this technique is best known.

At the North Carolina level Governor Hodges' crude and expensive treatment of the so-called "East Carolina Housing Authority Scandal" is an instance.

More recently, Governor Terry Sanford's "Burch-Brewer scandal" is an example of "Trial by Headline".

Kinston not so very long ago had its "McAdams Affair", in which a man and his family were abused by public officials, carrying out investigation under the slanted glare of newspaper headlines.

McCarthy rose up and waved a piece of paper which he said contained the names of "220 known communists in the state department". He never named one, but

immediately the thousands of employees in that department were all under public suspicion, because; hadn't the charge been made by "A United States Senator, and printed in responsible newspapers?"

Years later, and in infinitely less blatant style McCarthy's list was shown to be nothing more than a coded index to homosexuals in the state department, who were all under suspicion because of the blackmail to which all such unhappy misfits are prone.

"Housing Scandal"

Governor Hodges cast a shadow on the reputation of every member of the East Carolina Housing Authority, its employees and legal counsel when he took to the headlines to investigate a "deal" that time has proven perfectly proper in every respect, and which has now ended more profitably for the accused parties than if it had been completely left to run its originally charted course.

"Sign Scandal"

Now Governor Sanford has summarily plunged Kidd Brewer, Robert Burch and Burch's son into the white hot glare of Raleigh's sensation-hungry headlines, and now a month after the immersion not a single legal blister has shown on

any of the accused.

McAdams lost his job, his wife was hospitalized from shock and friend turned against friend in the bitter wrangle that was so badly handled in Kinston.

The Responsible Way

Responsible public officials conduct their investigations quietly, determine the accuracy or bias of their evidence, then weigh the damage that will be done to the fabric of government, to the innocent individuals who may be enmeshed and the effect upon public confidence in government the exposure may have.

If the findings are strong enough criminal prosecution is the only avenue available, but in those many instances where delicate shadings between morality and legality are involved justice as well as the good name of government generally dictate resignations, administrative adjustments and memoranda to others in vulnerable positions.

Responsible newspapers, as well as responsible public officials flirt constantly with the hostile cynicisms that animate a large part of the population when they prematurely overplay, and repeatedly restate and exaggerate the surface facts in cases as the "Burch-Brewer" affair.

Big Bargains in Kinston on Dollar Days