

'Private-Eye' Battle Seems Cooling After Two Months of Attack and Counter-Attack by Former Political Allies

By Jack Rider

A public feud between "private-eyes" seems to be reaching a cooling off stage in Lenoir County.

A year ago Private Detective Marvin Hardison was an active, financial backer of Private Detective Fred Boyd for the job of sheriff in Lenoir County.

The coalition, with some other help was most successful and Boyd was swept into office with a vote of landslide proportions.

But after the votes had been counted and the shouting had died down Hardison started worrying about the future plans of his competitor.

Long before Boyd was sworn in on the first Monday of December a whispering campaign finally became a scream: "Can Fred Boyd be sheriff and private detective at the same time?"

Boyd was asked that question, by this writer weeks before he took the oath of office. He said that he was selling out his Coastal Plain Detective Agency, lock stock and barrel to Edward Earl Whaley, a former Kinston policeman, who had been in his employ for several months.

Public notice was repeatedly given of Boyd's intention.

But the whispering campaign continued to scream.

People reported that Boyd was still listed with the State Bureau of Investigation as the owner of the agency.

People reported that Boyd's home was still listed in the telephone directory as the office of the agency, and that the agency telephone number still was Fred Boyd's phone number.

People reported that Boyd was still getting money from the agency.

Boyd says all of these people, or very nearly all of them have been inspired to one degree or another by Hardison.

Boyd further says that Hardison had been made one promise during last year's campaign: An appointment as a temporary deputy sheriff to enable him to attend certain state and federal schools for law enforcement officers, and with the stipulation that when the schooling was completed Hardison's tenure would automatically end.

Boyd says Hardison took angry exception to this latter part of the agreement.

Hardison and Boyd had a heated confrontation last Tuesday night (January 10th) which resulted in lawyers being summoned to pour oil on the troubled waters.

Hardison's attorneys have advised him to keep his mouth shut.

Their approach to the question is an airing of the matter before the board of county commissioners, which is expected at the February meeting.

But no one has explained what the county commissioners have to do with the problem, assuming it is a problem.

Included here with this review is a statement issued Tuesday of

this week by Sheriff Boyd in which he answers the known charges that have been brought against him in this controversy.

The general court house consensus is that the majority of the steam has now been blown off, and that from here on there may be a little "huffing and puffing" but with little danger of anybody's house being blown down.

Sheriff Fred Boyd Issues Statement Clarifying Status of His Connection With His Former Detective Business

I, Fred L. Boyd, state that as of December 5, 1966, I have not had any active part in the operation of any detective agency. I do not own or have any stock in any agency.

In the past month, there have been rumors and insinuations that I am still connected and operating a detective agency. I could not find the time if I wanted to. Due to an investigation, it was proven that the person or persons starting the rumors were directly involved with the Sheriff, in not swearing in certain persons as special deputy sheriffs. I have made no such promises to anyone and have no intentions in doing so.

The sole owner and proprietor of the Coastal Plain Detective Agency is Edward Earl Whaley. Negotiations were started in October, 1966. Due to the fact that I worked as a private detective out of town until December 4, 1966 and sworn in as Sheriff December 5, 1966, while Whaley was also working out of town and in other parts of the state, all negotiations have been slow.

A question about my being registered as the owner with the State Bureau of Investigation is a mere technicality (expiration of all licenses paid) will expire June 30, 1967.

Whaley is also registered as an associate with the Coastal Plain Detective Agency and will be listed as owner when the SBI is notified.

The Coastal Plain Detective Agency advertises with approximately ten surrounding towns.

This will require not less than one year to remove my name and the present address of 2000 Carey Road from the ads, because telephone directories are printed only once per year at a different date in each town.

All telephone calls have been referred to Whaley's residence as of December 5, 1966. The telephone number, 523-3106, has been a dual number — Fred L. Boyd residence and detective agency. Negotiations have been made to transfer this number when a suitable office is located for Mr. Whaley.

There will probably be several more months before I can be completely dissolved due to unavoidable circumstances of closing out and transferring accounts to other persons.

I hope the citizens of Lenoir County will understand this problem and disregard all unfounded rumors.

Signed
Fred L. Boyd,
Sheriff, Lenoir County

Land Transfers

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker reports recording the following land transfers in his office during the past week:

From James Davis to Kirby and Geraldine Phillips two lots in Pollocksville.

From Charlie and Alberta Gadsen to Wilford and Elsie Philpaw 126 acres in White Oak Township.

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Farm Agent Urges Cucumbers as Way to Boost Farm Income

Jones County farmers are requesting more information on pickling cucumbers this winter than usual. It appears that more small farmers will plant cucumber under contract this year. The prices of cucumbers this year will be higher than in 1966. Pickling cucumbers for processing is a very good way for small family farms to obtain early money to help keep down costs.

Also pickling cucumbers is a crop that is ready for harvesting in 55 to 60 days.

Many producers that follow good cultural practices are realizing from \$300 to \$700 per acre. Those who would like to sup-

plement their income should contact County Agricultural Workers and secure first hand information on cucumber production.

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- 1—model 104 Instamatic KODAK CAMERA — \$9.95
- 1—Kodak 8mm MOVIE CAMERA — \$19.95
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