

# GRAND JURY, SCHOOL BOARD, COMMISSIONERS ALL IGNORING MAYSVILLE SCHOOL NEEDS

by Jack Rider

In what almost seems to be a silent conspiracy every official group with possible authority seems determined to ignore the repeated pleas of Maysville school patrons for badly needed repairs to the community's single school left open.

For years the Jones County Board of Education has followed a zombie-like path which as deliberately ignored standard, logical maintenance of the Maysville school, once a school that went through high school, but now a school reduced to just housing the first four grades of elementary school.

Last year the school board, acting under the prodding of a federal judge, closed Maysville's colored school and transferred all of its first four graders to the remaining school.

The roof leaks, the floor is rotted and with dangerous holes, windows are broken, there is no heat in the toilets and paint inside and out is badly needed to protect the school from further rot and its miserable present

interior.

When the court-ordered instant integration of the two Maysville schools what took place there was the usual mass exodus of white students, which left the Maysville school with an enrolment that is about 75 per cent colored and 25 per cent white.

## PTA Has Failed

T. M. Faggart, who is pastor of Maysville Methodist Church, is also president of the Maysville school PTA, and as such he has been trying for the entire school year to get even the most basic maintenance jobs done for the ailing building.

Faggart has been told by the school board that there is no money for such routine maintenance as Maysville, although painting and window replacement are done in other schools of the county system.

Particularly galling to Maysville school patrons is a current project of the Jones County Board of Education involving the expenditure of something like \$16,500 to build a home

just west of Trenton which will be rented to the county superintendent of schools for \$85 per month when, and if, it is ever completed. Vocational classes at Jones Central High School are building this home, being hauled by bus each day to the home site and back to school to attend other classes.

The school board's answer to complaints about this has been that the funds for this project are from some federal source which prohibits them being spent on a school building but permits these funds being spent on a home for the school superintendent. Such an explanation doesn't hold much water with any Maysville school patron who can county to 20 with his shoes on.

Despairing of ever getting any relief from the school board the Maysville group this week turned to the grand jury, which was lectured and sent out by Presiding Judge James Bowman to inspect all schools.

The grand jury came, it saw, and left unconquered the multi-

tudious problems of the Maysville school. It's finding was that the Maysville school was in bad condition and needed repairs, but its recommendation was that the school board do something about this situation as soon as money is available.

Monday the Board of County Commissioners voted to give the school board \$19,113.01 for school construction projects which included three science labs, library and two class rooms at Jones Central, two classrooms and a library at Jones High and a kitchen at Trenton elementary school, but not a mumbling word nor a red penny was thrown in the direction of Maysville school. Funds from a state bond issue will be used with the county's \$19,113.01 for these projects approved Monday.

## Pelletier Says

Rudolph Pelletier, Maysville automobile dealer, and one of the county's most highly regarded citizens, says it seems to him that government is working against itself, at least in Jones County.

Pelletier reminds that just last month a federal loan and grant totalling nearly a half million dollars was approved to build and operate a sewage collection and treatment system to serve Maysville and a 30-acre industrial development site to which it is hoped that several small industries can be attracted.

And not but a few years ago a similar grant and loan made possible the installation of a central water system to serve the Maysville area.

Pelletier says that few indus-

tries would be really attracted to any community that is without any school facilities, and would be even less attracted to a community with such a run-down school as that now being forced upon Maysville.

## Pettiness Af:ot?

As one result of this determined but so far futile effort to get something done constructively about the Maysville school an order has come down from county school headquarters that Mrs. Faggart, who had been serving as a substitute teacher from time to time, is not to be used any further in that capacity. School Superintendent J. S. Collins has been quoted as saying he would not sign a check for Mrs. Faggart if the school principal did employ her in such a capacity. Generally each school principal is authorized to hire substitute teachers.

Maysville is by considerable margin the largest corporate community in Jones County and with the closing of one of its schools the other apparently being left to simply rot down there is an understandable aggravation on the part of those citizens of the community who concern themselves about such problems.

One irritated son of White Oak asked, "How would you folks in Kinston feel if they moved all the schools in the county to LaGrange and Pink Hill and left you with one four-grade school that was about to fall down from neglect?"

Maybe the Jones County School Board has an answer to that question, I don't.

## THE JONES COUNTY

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## Mrs. Kay Koonce King Named Chairman Jones County Election Board, One More Commissioner Candidate Files

The State Election Board has accepted the recommendation of the Jones County Democratic Executive Committee and has named Mrs. Kay Koonce King to succeed her late father John C. B. Koonce as chairman of the county election board. Mrs. King had worked closely with her father for a good many years and was authorized on an emergency basis to serve after his sudden death last month from a heart attack.

In the past week Mrs. King reports one additional name has

been added to the candidate list that will be on the ballot for consideration by Jones Countians in the May Primary.

Charles Copeland this week became a candidate for county commissioner. This is his first stab at formal politics. The only other candidate who has made the race formally for commissioner is a former chairman of the board, Osborne Mallard.

The incumbent board includes Chairman James Barbee, Horace Phillips, Clifton Hood, Denton Eubanks and Charlie Battle.

So far no patriot has risen to offer to make the sacrifice for the school board, which now includes Chairman J. C. West, Albert Meadows, Marvin Philyaw, John Booth and Walter Ives.

## Solomon Franks Gets \$390.67 From Half-acre of Cukes

A Jones County farmer is convinced that it pays to follow recommended practices in growing pickling cucumbers.

Solomon Franks Jr. of Route 3, New Bern followed the recommended cucumber production practices. Franks produced 11,493 pounds of cucumbers from his one-half acre of cucumbers that sold for \$390.67.

Fletcher Barber, Agricultural Extension Agent, says Franks contributes his success in cucumber production to the following of recommended practices in harvesting for higher income.

## ESCAPEE CAUGHT

Over the weekend Linwood Heath of La Grange route 1 was returned to custody in Kinston after being caught earlier in the week in Kissimmee, Florida. He escaped from local custody while waiting trial on a charge of attempted armed robbery.

## Ernest Foy Nabbed In Alabama for Embezzlement

Arrests reported by the Jones County Sheriff Department in the past week include that of Ernest Foy of Maysville route 1, who was picked up in Tusculumbia, Alabama on an embezzlement charge.

James White of Pollockville route 1 was charged with simple assault and John Hudder or New Bern was charged with drunken driving.

## WYSE FORK BARBECUE

The Wyse Fork Community Organization will sponsor a B-B-Que dinner and supper at the Wyse Fork Fire Station on Saturday, March 7, from 10 until 7. The B-B-Que will be pit-cooked by the community men. All proceeds from this event will be used for the Wyse Fork Community Building.

## Democratic-Republican Fight Brewing Over Elliott's Seat In House of Representatives; Fourth Clerk Candidate Out

This week what had appeared to be a fairly mild competition in next fall's general election between Incumbent Guy Elliott and Former Democrat Fitzhugh Wallace for Elliott's seat in the general assembly has turned into a three-way Democratic contest to decide who shall have the honor to oppose Wallace in November.

Elliott, now 75 years of age, sick during a considerable part of the 1969 session of the assembly got a one-two punch this week when on Monday 29 year-old John Talbot Capps announced his willingness to replace Elliott as the Democratic Party's nominee and on Monday Deep Run Oil Man Harold W. Hardison announced that he was going to give both Elliott and Capps a hard run for the

money and offer Wallace the same kind of fight in the fall.

On Wednesday Eugene B. Williams, an incumbent member of the county school board, made it a four-way Democratic fight for the job of court clerk to all of the county's court.

The other candidates for the post being vacated by the retirement of John Davis are "Zeke" Creech, Mark Louis Smith and Mrs. Grace Spencer Smith.

Because of Elliott's age and poor health Democrats in the county were increasingly afraid that Wallace, long a Democratic leader in the county, who decided to switch rather than to fight in January, would offer more competition than Elliott could cope with in the general election.

## Commissioners Vote \$19,113.01 School Funds for Additions to Three Schools

Monday the Jones County Board of Commissioners approved allocation of \$19,113.01 for additions to Jones Central, Jones High and Trenton Elementary schools, which will make possible with state funds the addition of three science labs, two classrooms, and a library at Jones Central, two classrooms and a library at Jones High and a kitchen at Trenton Elementary.

The board also approved boosts in the operating costs of the county welfare office, transferring \$1340 from the general fund, \$1000 from the hospital fund and \$500 from the boarding home fund to the salary funds of the welfare department.

The board also approved transfer of the voting place in Beaver Creek Township from Green's

store to the Wyse Fork Volunteer Fire Department building.

## Jones Candidates

### SHERIFF

W. Brown Yates\*  
Dan Killingsworth  
Joe Monette  
Osborne Coward

### COURT CLERK

F. Rogers Pollock\*  
Harold Hargett Jr.

### COMMISSIONER

Osborne Mallard  
Charles Copeland

### SENATE

Charlie Larkins Jr.\*

### HOUSE

Guy Elliott\*  
Fitzhugh Wallace  
Red Tingen  
Dan Lilley\*

\* Denotes Incumbent

## Murder Charged in Saturday Killing

Willie James Duncan of La Grange route 1 has been charged with murder in the shotgun slaying of Alex Allen Taylor at about 11:30 Saturday night at the home of Irene Dawson on La Grange route 1.

Duncan, who was arrested some more than two hours after the shooting by Kinston police on charges of drunken driving and driving while his license was revoked, admitted the shooting to sheriff deputies when he was turned over to them.

His reason was that he asked Taylor to take him home and Taylor refused.

## LOVER'S ACCIDENTS?

George Rudolph Gray of La Grange route 1 was charged with assault with a car and leaving the scene of an accident after his car bumped that of his girl friend Ramona Suggs, also of La Grange route 1, resulting in about \$350 damage to the two cars.