

No Elections Board Action

Voting Machine Stalemate

Reports of recommendation on voting machines for Cleveland County were not submitted to the board of elections at last Friday's meeting as expected, according to Chairman Paul Vogel.

Elections board members Elva Gheen and John McBrayer were to submit their reports specifying why they favored the Gyrex (mark reading) voting system on Friday. Vogel said he favors another system, but would not resist the wishes of the board in order to present a unanimous recommendation to the commissioners.

Following a three and a half hour discussion the board adjourned without making any more progress toward a recommendation to the commissioners.

McBrayer discussed the idea of asking the commissioners to fund voting machines over the next three fiscal budget periods.

The first step he suggested is to place machines in the largest six precincts and for absentee ballots, 50.3 percent of all the voters in the county would be able to use the machines by the 1978 primary. In the second step, seven precincts and 24.3 percent more voters would be ad-

ded. In the third step the remainder of the county's precincts could be added by the 1980 presidential election.

Vogel said he objects to this proposal because the elections board could not tell the commissioners how to fund the machines and that a new board would be coming into office and the decision of what action to take would be their decision and not the present board's.

Vogel requested that McBrayer and Mrs. Gheen write a formal letter to the county commissioners recommending a voting system, the

reasons behind that choice and the costs for countywide and partial county coverage.

Vogel said he felt the commissioners should try to obtain complete funding for the machines, whichever system is selected, instead of spreading the cost over several budgets.

The chairman said he would not meet again formally with elections board members to discuss voting machines until Mrs. Gheen and McBrayer complete their reports and recommendations to the county commissioners.

Monthly GED Test Set

The monthly G. E. D. examination is scheduled at Cleveland Tech on Friday, March 11 from 1 p. m. until 6 p. m. and will continue Sat., March 12, from 9 a. m. until 2 p. m. Both sessions are required.

Application may be made by any North Carolina adult 18 or older who has been out of a

regular high school program for at least six months.

Applications to be tested or re-tested must be made by Friday, March 4, to Mrs. Rebecca Cook or a staff member in the Learning Resources Center at Cleveland Tech, 137 South Post Road, Shelby.

Proposals Are Defeated

GROVER — Two proposals recommended by community assistance planners with the N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources were voted down by the town council here at a special hearing Thursday night.

A comprehensive recreation and study and a community profile, to have cost \$8,800 were brought up for discussion at last week's regular monthly board meeting and no action taken.

Mayor W. W. McCarter said about eight persons from the town appeared at the regular meeting and seemed to favor the creation study, but not the community profile study.

At last Thursday's special hearing on the matter the council unanimously voted against seeking grants and digging into the town funds to have the two studies conducted.

Mayor McCarter said the board felt the studies would not be beneficial to the community this

year since it is now time to begin planning this summer's recreation program.

Mayor pro-tem Tommy Keeter said it is more important for the board to begin concentrating efforts and available funds on this summer's program rather than go into the two studies.

Tonight at 7 the town recreation committee will hold a workshop at town hall to discuss recreation in general and establish a priority list.

A Work Of Fiction
By Gene Alexander

Aunt Nellie Maybell And The Thief.....

Pains, unknown to most medical authorities, were a common experience of Aunt Nellie Maybell. Every Wednesday night around six our family would gather for supper and despite her continuous complaints of bodily ailments, enjoyed Aunt Nellie's company. Her stories, opinions, and senile idiosyncrasies always

provided amusement during that evening's meal.

She complained of a weak back and firmly believed if she carried anything over five pounds, back trouble would ensue. To our confusion, she insisted on carrying a large can, for she contended that ascending high steps induced serious back pain; and the can served as an aide to lessen the height of each step. Her manner of climbing steps was time consuming and hazardous. Everytime steps were to be ascended she would carefully place her can on the ground or floor, step up on the can, then ease herself on the first landing. Picking up the can, she would repeat the previous procedure until she mounted the entire series of steps. One can easily understand why she was always late for any engagement where a long flight of stairs had to be climbed.

To my pleasure, but her displeasure, she once attempted to mount an escalator at a local mall. With great care she placed the can on the first step. Of course, the moving stairway did not wait on her, and, as a result, she gave a wince and ordered me to retrieve her can. For some reason, I was unable to convince her that there was no need for the can. She insisted on using the can; thus, on her second attempt, she put the can on the floor, cautiously, she stepped on top of the can; then, bobbing her head up and down, she awkwardly watched the upward flow of the stairs, waiting for a chance to alight on one of its steps. Her legs became rubbery, and I figured she was about to loose her balance. Still, I restrained myself from helping her because she resented any kind of aid, whether she needed it or not. At last her whole body began to sway, and, unable to restrain myself any longer, I lunged toward her. Youthful clumsiness often hinders young people in their attempts to right a wrong, save the lost, or whatever; and I, by nature and age given to clumsiness, bumped into Aunt Nellie who, in turn, like a nimble cat, landed on an ascending step. Regaining her composure, she turned and reached for her can which was not there. A sudden fear distorted her face, and she began to look around her for the can. Finally, she caught sight of the can and began walking down the ascending steps toward it. Her trek was unsuccessful; consequently, she left the ascending escalator in a descending motion.

Aunt Nellie had three pets; a mean dog, an onery cat, and a wretched parakeet, all of which were precious company to her. The dog prided himself with having left his "fancy" identification card on at least one of the legs of all his human acquaintances. Her shiny black cat enjoyed leaping on the backs of Aunt Nellie's visitors, extend his claws, and slide down, ripping their clothes and digging fleshy trenches in their backs. No one dared venture into the parakeet's cage. Petey, her parakeet with apple green and lemon yellow feathers, was very protective over his small domain. Many a friendly finger was withdrawn, wriggling in pain, after attempting to pet Petey.

Although wealthy, she neglected her home. It was in desperate need of repair. The eight room frame house had peeling green paint; its front porch was marred by a hole near the front door. This hole, a result of relentless weathering, was fringed with decayed wood. Inside, mementos of days gone by were piled throughout the house. A twenty-eight inch color TV was a beloved item which sat in the living room. The set was a gift from a friend, now deceased, and Nellie always made much to-do over it, especially the push button which turned it on.

At night all of Aunt Nellie's pets watched TV with her. After the programs were over, Nellie would let the dog out, and he would meander to his resting place under the front porch's rotten puncture. The cat would nestle on the fireplace mantle in the living room, and Aunt Nellie, after preparing for bed, would place the bird cage on a night stand beside her bedstead.

Aunt Nellie cleverly rigged a string from her bed's headboard to the ceiling light in the bedroom. Hence, at night, after reading her Bible, she would not have to get up and turn off the overhead light. She only had to pull the string connected to the light fixture.

She always kept a rifle beside her bed. This rifle caused much consternation in our family, for Aunt Nellie had a habit of sleepwalking with rifle in hand. As far as I can tell, this habit was provoked by an unconscious desire for revenge against her unfaithful departed husband.

As uncanny as it sounds, Nellie sleepwalked only on the nights of a full moon. We never slept soundly on those nights. Indeed, one night, Dad, having heard the ringing shots of a rifle, scurried to Aunt Nellie's. Cautiously approaching the back door of her house, he spotted her taking shots at dirty glasses and sishes on the kitchen table. Surprising her from behind, he wrestled the rifle away from her as she cursed her deceased husband.

Our small town had a burglar named Frank Barrows. Frank had a very comical appearance. His large blue eyes, accentuated by a big crooked nose, protruded from their sockets. Patches of flocculent brown hair grew around his ears and the back of his neck, forming an irregular semi-circle on his bald head. Due to lack of honest industry, his thin, stringy body shook continuously. To ease his wrecked nerves, he consumed large quantities of nerve pills which aggravated his ulcerated stomach, and, at times, caused him to hallucinate.

Frank frequented a local pool hall and heard stories of Aunt Nellie's wealth.

Learning that she kept large quantities of money in conspicuous places around the house, he decided to plunder her residence.

(Continued Thursday.)

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