

KIDD BREWER'S Raleigh Roundup

UTILITIES . . . When the Governor of North Carolina makes a statement about one of his departments—whether in praise or criticism—he shakes it to its foundations.

Last week the members of the State Utilities Commission — and staff—were all shook up. This time it wasn't caused by utilities fusses.

Luther Hodges had intimidated the commission has a lot of idle time on its hands, had said rather bluntly that a three-member body could serve the public as well as a five-member ditto.

For a long time we had the impression that this particular branch of State government was overworked. In fact, we know of three men who resigned, voluntarily, from work with the State Utilities Commission because of the heavy work schedule. One of them described it as a "rat race." But Governor Hodges says otherwise—and it must be so.

FAIR . . . Until Kerr Scott became Governor, we had only three members of the commission. He got the number increased to five. That was less than ten years ago. It may be that the amount of work has decreased. But, be that as it may, old-timers around here say the Utilities Commission has been played with by Governors, set up, torn down, name changed, and what-have-you, more than any other State department.

So, all in all, it seems only fair for Governor Hodges to have a go at it. Incidentally, of the three new members appointed by Governor Scott—Josh James, Harry Westcott, and Ed McMahan, only Westcott remains, and Miss Myrtha Fleming. Scott's long-time secre-

tary who became clerk to the Commission, was long ago replaced.

In fact and in truth, there is never a dull day in the State Utilities Commission—or that is, the Corporation Commission . . . Until the name was changed in 1933.

TOGETHER . . . Early last fall there was some talk to the effect that three State organizations—the N. C. Quality Restaurant Association, the N. C. Hotel Association, and the N. C. Motel Association—would soon join hands so as to operate more numerically and more economically.

Last week it became apparent that at least two-thirds of the distance had been traveled.

All new N. C. Hotel Association cards were signed "M. M. Melvin, Secretary." He is also secretary of the N. C. Quality Restaurant Association and for many years before going with the restaurants an official with the State Board of Health.

WAGES . . . At one time, the hotel people tried to maintain an office with a full-time, paid executive in Raleigh—but there was not enough support . . . and insufficient interest unless or until a legislative matter like a minimum wage law came along.

Had it not been for the work of the N. C. Hotel Association in the 1957 Legislature, we would likely have a State minimum wage law today. Melvin, with good legal help from Melville Broughton—and J. C. B. Ehringhaus if he is retained in the new setup—should give the hotels new strength. Also in the picture will be Ace Publicist C. A. Upchurch, Jr.

NEED . . . Frankly, we can't see the hotels and motels going to bed together—though stranger things have happened in organizational bedtime stories. Mrs. Maude Morrow heads up the Motel Association, with John Larkinds as advisor and father confessor. Information we get is that the motels do not give their organization the support it deserves.

In a state going after the tourist dollar you need stronger support than have any of these organizations—and less griping and growling from members.

THE SPOILER . . . Due to the tremendous importance of Forsyth County's vote in the Fifth Congressional District, Winston-Salem's studious Winfield Blackwell had been given a 50-50 chance of ousting Ralph Scott from his recently won seat in the House of Representatives.

For many years Forsyth has hungered for a place in Congress, but the closest they have been able to come was a kind of dog-fall with Elkin when the late Thurmond Chatham made the grade. Perhaps Blackwell was the man.

But no less than the mayor of Winston-Salem himself, the Hon. Marshall Kurfees, has seen to it that Scott goes back to Washington.

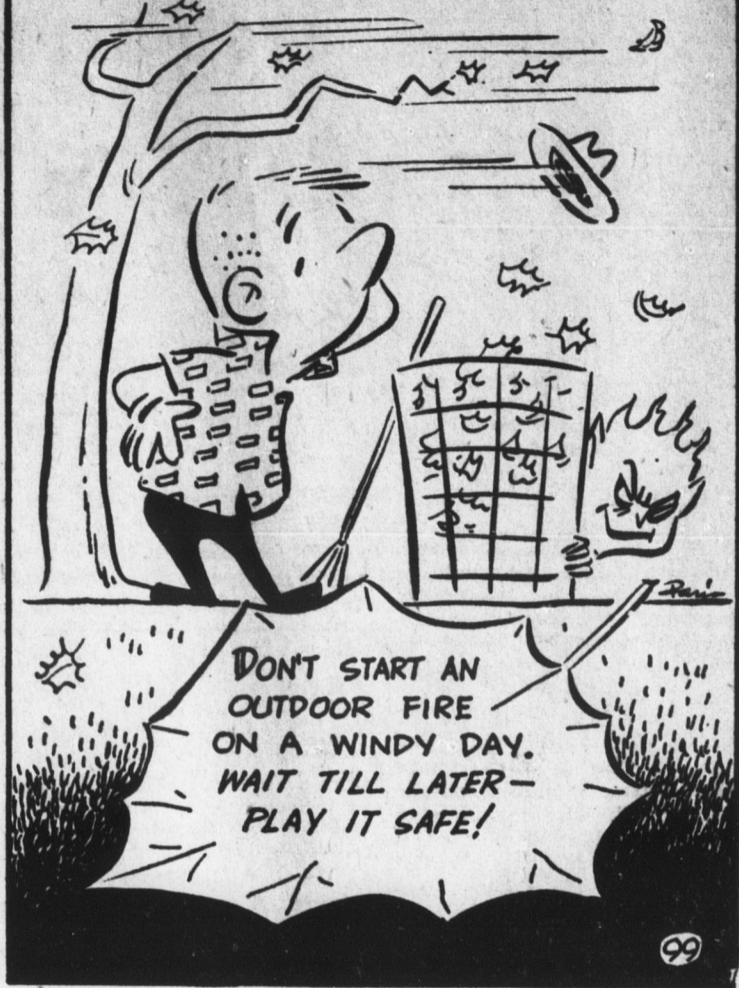
This has been accomplished by the simple expedient of making himself a candidate for the position. Those in the know around the Fifth District say that populous Forsyth will split its vote between Blackwell and Kurfees and thus enable Scott's re-election without difficulty.

TWO MORE OUT . . . To the growing list of legislators deciding they want to see Raleigh only from afar next year add the names of: Tom White of Kinston and Calvin Graves of Winston-Salem.

Their announcements last week came as a sharp surprise.

White was supposed to be in a three-cornered race with Carl Venters of Jacksonville and Addison Hewlett of Wilmington for

WAIT OUT THE WIND!



Speaker of the House in 1959.

His sudden decision not to return to the Legislature is expected to throw enough votes to Hewlett to assure him the Speakership place. However, the word we get is that White took no sides when he pulled out of the race for Speaker.

As for Graves, he was in line for position in the 1959 State Senate second only to that of Lieutenant Governor, the presiding officer.

From one of the outstanding legal families of Northwestern North Carolina, Calvin Graves had made a lot of friends among legislators and officials of State Government. He will be missed.

If Archie Davis, chairman of the board of Wachovia Bank & Trust Co., comes to Raleigh to succeed Graves—and he has already announced he's going to try to—it will follow a Forsyth pattern for the State Senate. Senators from there in the past 25 years have included Bob Hanes of Wachovia; Gordon Gray of Reynolds and Wachovia, etc.; Irving Carlyle, attorney for Wachovia.

Senator Davis will be a closer cooperator with Governor Hodges than was Senator Graves, you can bet on that. At 47, he has had a lot of experience and should make an excellent senator.

NOTES . . . If you had read about it a year ago, you would have laughed, but now you won't: experimental work is underway on an electronic device to resist or cancel the earth's gravity—and a national magazine lists the University of North Carolina (presumably State College unit) as one of a half-dozen outstanding schools in the nation working on the project. . . until recently it was thought there was no way to cancel it out . . . this force . . .

And our gravevine reports are that Navy people know that the Wilmington "earthquakes" were actually nuclear depth charges being tested by the Navy many miles off the coast of North Carolina . . .

ROANOKE ISLAND CLUB AND LODGE MEETINGS

MASONS: Manteo Lodge, Second and Fourth Monday Evenings, in Manteo Town Hall. Wanchese Lodge, First and Third Thursdays, Wanchese Lodge Hall.

EASTERN STAR, Second and Fourth Thursday evenings in Wanchese Lodge Hall.

ODDFELLOWS, Each Tuesday evening in Manteo Town Hall.

REBEKAHS, First and Third Monday evenings, Manteo Town Hall.

MANTEO ROTARY, each Monday evening, and **MANTEO LIONS,** First and Third Tuesdays in Community Building.

WANCHESE RURITAN, third Fridays, Wanchese schoolhouse.

DEGREE OF POCAHONTAS; Second and Fourth Fridays, 7:30 p.m., Wanchese Masonic Hall.

AMERICAN LEGION, Ft. Raleigh Post No. 26, 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Community Bldg., Manteo.

ROANOKE ISLAND GARDEN CLUB meets at 2:30 in the afternoon, first Thursday of each month, in the homes of members.

MANTEO WOMAN'S CLUB, second Tuesday each month. Homes of members, 8 p.m.

DARE CO. SHRINE CLUB, first Monday each month, 8:00 p.m., clubhouse, Nags Head.

STUMPY POINT PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spitzer, Steve and Carol of Camden; Mrs. Rosser Nixon and son, Wade of Manteo visited here Sunday.

Pat Twiford returned to Greenville Tuesday after visiting her parents, Mrs. Glenn Twiford and Mrs. L. D. Hooper accompanied her to Greenville.

Ralph O'Neal and son Wayne were in Elizabeth City Sunday.

M. V. Hooper visited in Norfolk. Mrs. Fannie Meekins is home after an extended visit with her daughter in Elizabeth City, Mrs. Roy Hooper.

Mrs. Glenn Twiford, Mrs. C. E. Payne and Mrs. Sam Nixon were in Manteo Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Midgett of Norfolk visited Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Wise over the week end. Mrs. Midgett was organist Sunday at the Methodist Church where the M.Y.F. has placed an electric organ.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hooper visited their sons, McCoy and Ivey in Norfolk and Billy in South Mills.

Mark Best, small son of Mr. and Mrs. Tal Best, returned Tuesday from Pungo District Hospital where he had been a patient several days suffering from tonsillitis.

Mrs. Francis Hooper spent Monday and Tuesday in Pungo District Hospital for observation and X-ray.

Elmer Dean Best of Detroit, is visiting his father, Guy Best.

Mrs. Cora Twiford remains seriously ill at her home here.

EAST LAKE PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Gallop, Mrs. Mollie Gallop, Mrs. Richard West, Mrs. John D. Royals and Mrs. Robert Baum of Norfolk; Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Shannon and Mr. and Mrs. Aldridge Shannon were here Sunday.

Mrs. Sylvester Twiford and Henry Ambrose were in Durham Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Creef and daughter of Norfolk spent the week end here.

Aubrey Basnight has returned after spending two weeks in Elizabeth City.

OCRACOKE COUPLE OBSERVE 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Ocracoke.—Mr. and Mrs. Stacy W. Howard celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on February 12th. Their three daughters, Mrs. Lois Ann Wahab, Mrs. Etta Mae Garrish, and their children, and Miss Lela Howard, enjoyed an anniversary dinner with them and they received many gifts and messages of good wishes. Mrs. Blanche Jolliff of Buxton could not be here.

Before her marriage in 1908, Mrs. Howard was Elizabeth Ballance. They were married in the old Methodist Episcopal Church by Rev. Ambrose Burgess, now deceased. Mrs. Elsie Tolson was organist and played the wedding march. Her attendants were Mrs. Etta B. Scarborough, Miss Martha O'Neal, Mrs. Preston Garrish, Mrs. Meta Jackson, Mrs. Brittie Williams, all living here at Ocracoke, and Mrs. Sue O'Neal, Mrs. Sophia Williams, and Miss Maude Fulcher, now deceased. His attendants were Capt. I. F. O'Neal, of Ocracoke, Lawrence Howard, a brother, now of Reading, Pa., and Harold Howard of Norfolk, Va., and Warren Scarborough, George W. Jackson, Arthur O'Neal, Ivy O'Neal, and Jacob Williams, all deceased.

For many years Capt. Stacy Howard worked in ports in the North. Sometimes Mrs. Howard lived there, but for the most part she and the children stayed here at Ocracoke. In addition to the three daughters there was a son, Kenneth, deceased. The family has lived for a long time in a beautiful old island home on what is known as the "Village Street." After Capt. Stacy returned from the North, he did commercial fishing and acted as guide for sportsmen, fishing and hunting, and he has done guiding for the past few years bringing in good catches in the "Blanche". One catch made by Ernest Jordan of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, won a Field & Stream prize about two years ago.

RODANTHE PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Levene W. Midgett, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Midgett, Miss Mildred M. Midgett, Mr. and Mrs. Julian L. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Herbert, Sr., Mrs. Lurania Midgett, Mrs. Fred O'Neal, Mrs. R. B. Payne and Mrs. Clarence Midgett Jr. attended funeral services of Mrs. Clara M. Gray in Manteo Saturday.

D. B. Midgett, Jr., U.S.C.G., is here with his mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Midgett left Monday for Draper, Del. after visiting Mrs. Lillian Midgett and Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Payne.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred O'Neal were in Manteo Tuesday.

Mrs. Elizabeth P. Gray is visiting Mrs. Lurania Midgett.

Herbert K. Midgett, Jr. visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert K. Midgett, Sr., after a trip to the South Pole.

On Feb 7, 1800, the USS Essex, while en route to Batavia to escort a convoy of merchantmen to the United States, became the first American ship of war to cross the equator.

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