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CITIZENS CALL FOR CLEAN SWEEP IN COURTHOUSE

COURT ACTION THREATENED AGAINST COMMISSIONERS TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS RIGHTS

Citizens Promised Support and Financial Backing in Meeting at Kill Devil Hills Monday; Pledged to Fight Unjust Discrimination in Taxing of Property; Plans Discussed For Saving County's Money.

A meeting of some 50 citizens and taxpayers of Dare County held at Kill Devil Hills Monday night in a two hour session, closed with an organization having been formed, an executive committee named, and a plan for a conference with attorneys, hopeful of straightening out the tangle that has resulted from what was called "an outrageous and unjust attempt to impose burdensome taxes on Dare County's citizens and other property owners."

The meeting opened and Walter D. Perry was unanimously elected chairman and Miss Sarah Halliburton, Secretary. Messages were delivered from numerous taxpayers who, unable to be present, promised financial support. Some of these messages came from various points in Dare County, including the farthest point—Hatteras. Others came from Raleigh, Suffolk, Washington, Elizabeth City, Norfolk and elsewhere.

The invitation had been extended to any and all property owners in every part of Dare County, and the attendance might have been much larger but for rain and the short notice that had been given to the public. However letters and messages continued to come in next day, the Chairman reports.

Among the property owners attending this meeting were W. H. McCown of Manteo, and F. V. Dunstan of Elizabeth City, both property owners and attorneys. In attendance was County Tax Supervisor Pannel A. Tillett who was welcomed for his courtesy and knowledge and fine recollection of figures in connection with the tax appraisal.

Many property owners spoke of the appraisal now being conducted, all expressing the belief that it was an incompetent job. Some said they believed it unfair; others said discriminatory.

Comment was made on the fact that Commissioner Hallett Perry had been able to get the entire Board to visit Atlantic Township for a two day inspection, following his complaint that his community had been discriminated against in relation to values set in other communities.

Citizens of Kitty Hawk queried Capt. Tillett, the tax supervisor, if he knew the reason why values in Wanchese had been on a parity with those at Kitty Hawk, and in their discussion, Capt. Tillett expressed the opinion that Wanchese had about twice as many homes as are in Kitty Hawk, had been valued much below the value set on the Kitty Hawk community.

From several persons came reports of appraisals on adjacent property being out of line, in that one piece of property was valued at, say, \$800, another piece of equal size at \$2,400 and a third piece adjacent at \$3,000.

Homes too, it was reported, were valued in some cases at twice their original cost with no allowance for depreciation. Business property in some cases, was reported as having been valued at double the value of residential property, the same being adjoining. Asked for an opinion on this, Attorney Dunstan said he believed this would not be sustained by law.

The general opinion of the meeting was that a strong organization should be formed to aid in fighting the battle of any citizen in any part of Dare County who considered himself the victim of discrimination.

At an early date, it is planned to go before the County Board to request a review and a reduction in connection with the situation. Last week, the entire five Commissioners were in session all week as week before, and spent upwards of three days travelling in Atlantic township, doing their politicking for re-election at a cost of \$12 each and mileage per day. Many promises were resulted, and reductions made on thousands of parcels of land, whereby instead of being raised four times from the prior assessment, it is now only three times as much. Taxpayers however protest that jumping the property 300 per cent is just too much at one time.

To achieve relief, several plans

NAMED CHAIRMAN OF NEW DARE TAXPAYERS COMMITTEE



WALTER D. PERRY of Kill Devil Hills was drafted unanimously Monday night at a meeting of citizens of Dare County at the town hall in Kill Devil Hills when they organized for the purpose of opposing unfair taxation of the people of Dare County. Some 50 people, first and last, attended the meeting and wrote in pledging the support, and later in the week, the number of commitments from prospective members were reported at 150. Mr. Perry is a former Chairman of the Dare County Board of Education.

SAA DRIVE REVIVED FOR BRIDGE OVER ALLIGATOR RIVER

Manteo Group Attend Committee Meeting at Engelhard With Other Members

A new drive was begun last week for a bridge over Alligator River, a free bridge if possible, but a toll bridge if necessary, among other business of the Southern Albemarle Committee meeting at Engelhard, according to M. L. Daniels Jr. of Manteo, Association Vice-president for Dare County.

Mr. Daniels went to the meeting with Melvin R. Daniels, a former president, and also from Dare was Mrs. Leland Wise of Stumpy Point.

The local man considers the bridge the most important project for Dare County, and it is the

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UNCLE DOCK FROM DUCK WRITES— Jack and the Beanstalk Just a Piker Alongside Our County Commissioners

Dear Mister Editor:

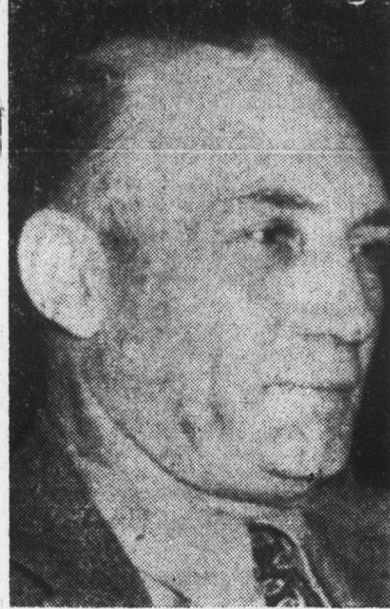
You know something has come to my head about that old story of Jack and the beanstalk. He reminds me of our county commissioners. Jack got to climbing up out of his latitude, like they did when they listed the taxes, and he found a giant that darn near ate him up. They've surely woke up a giant too.

Jack's beanstalk was just a piker compared with the beanstalk the commissioners have been growing in Dare County. Jack's beanstalk which grew so fast and so high must have been in some mighty rich soil, but our commissioners have sprouted a tax value in our old poor sandy land, watered it down with sea water and with sharp lead pencils jumped it the first time overnight to about \$20 million more than they said it was worth last year. And believe me, that's going some!

Well, they say it's all in the figuring, and some of the boys say the chairman has always been a good man at figuring. He's figured pretty good for himself in the past five years, or so, with his "second the motion men" backing him up.

As for me, I have been figuring for three weeks, and wore out six pencils and the old woman's lipstick trying to figure out how I could pay my taxes this year, and I ain't found the answer yet.

GUY H. LENNON, MANTEO CITIZEN DIES THURSDAY



GUY HARTWELL LENNON, 62, one of the leading business men of Dare County died Thursday morning in a hospital in Easton, Md. after an illness of several months. He was a native of Roanoke Island, son of Mrs. Garnet Lennon and the late W. P. Lennon of Manteo and was the husband of the late Mrs. Gladys W. Lennon, who died two months ago. He is survived by two brothers, Dr. W. E. Lennon of Federalburg, Md.; and R. B. Lennon, a sister, Mrs. Isabel Warren, and his mother, all of Manteo; also by an uncle, Representative R. Bruce Etheridge.

Mr. Lennon was a veteran of World War I, having left the Navy with rank of Lieutenant following the war, and established himself in business soon after. He was one of the owners and developers of the Virginia Dare Transportation Co. which brought motor freight and bus service to Roanoke Island for the first time nearly 30 years ago. He was one of the promoters and owners of the Carolinian Hotel at Nags Head, having sold his interest a year ago, and he was interested in other real estate ventures.

At the time of his death he was a member of the Dare County ABC board, a post he had held since its establishment. He had been president of the Chamber of Commerce, and had held many other civic posts. He was a Mason and

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TOWN BASEBALL TEAM TO HAVE FIRST GAME SUNDAY

The Manteo town team, which has been playing summer baseball for the past several years, will play their first game of the season next Sunday, June 1. Opponents of the local players will be a team from the Portsmouth area. Game time will be 2:00, at the Manteo diamond. A high quality of baseball has been played by the Manteo teams in the past, and it is expected to continue again this year. Everyone is urged to come out to see an interesting game.

SATURDAY, MAY 31 IS THE DAY FOR VOTERS TO SHAKE OFF THEIR SHACKLES

If there ever was a time when the citizens of Dare County were determined to go in force to the polls and shake themselves loose from the shackles that have been slowly forged upon them by a reckless and wasteful set of officials it appears that time is now.

A determined people, judging from all expressions of people attending court in Manteo this week, from all parts of Dare County, indicate they will make a clean sweep, straight down the line and vote out officials down at the courthouse, who are now opposed on the ticket.

Rolling like a snowball is the growing number of voters who demand a change in the way Dare County is run. They say the only way to get it is to take no chances and vote out the lot. They want improvement, and they don't see how any two or three new men can do any good, if part of the Board is left there to obstruct and oppose and undermine all efforts for better government for Dare County. They feel a new board can accomplish little with stumbling blocks left in the way.

There are a number of things well-known to all, which have brought Dare County people to their present frame of mind.

They are tired of inefficiency, waste and mismanagement in county Government.

They are tired of unreasonably high taxes, and still higher taxes in sight, which they cannot afford to pay.

They resent the waste of their money for useless things, and to pay useless people while the schools of the county are on starvation basis and the children are being denied what is due them.

They resent the reckless use of the power to tax and destroy the values of Dare County by driving out investors, and whereby sales of real estate have reached a stand-still.

They resent the loss of income to business, and the lack of employment for our local workmen that has come about as building ceases. People with money to invest refuse to spend any more because they are uncertain and confused by the foolish policies of the county board, and those who assist the Board in their policies.

The people don't like to work hard to earn and to turn their money over to a board which pays little or nothing as individuals, while recklessly spending, even against the expressed wish of the people.

The people don't like the refusal of the Commissioners to have the county books audited during the past two years. They want to know why.

They don't like the continued eight years breaking of the law by the commissioners in refusing to make public audits of the county books, whereby the people might know what the money is being spent for.

They don't like County Commissioners travelling in a body, as they did last week for several days, campaigning for re-election while drawing \$12 a day to do it; cutting taxes only in hope of baiting for votes.

The people consider that their children and the schools are being robbed when the Commissioners agree to send \$22,000 out of the county to get the property valued, while equally competent men could have been employed at home for less money!

The people say they are going to the polls Saturday and take steps to correct these conditions by voting out the whole Board and their assistant. They are not going to be pulled and hauled about, followed to the ballot box and told under threat or pressure who to vote for!

The people of Dare County say that men and women of Dare County will exercise the one complete and inalienable right left for free people in a free world. They are going to exercise that right Saturday between six a.m. and six-thirty p.m. and elect new officials, and thereby protect other rights of theirs which have been sneered at, spit on, and disregarded too long!

JUDGE STEVENS EMPHASIZES HIGHWAY SAFETY IN CHARGE TO DARE COUNTY GRAND JURY

Expresses Pleasure on Returning to the Delightful Scenes of Dare County, Recognizes Several Old Friends, and Comments on Larger Jail and Courthouse Offices.

PRESENTING THE STORY OF CANDIDATE STICK



DAVID STICK, who now seeks the office of Commissioner from Atlantic Township, has led a busy life. He is 38 years old, and has been a resident of Dare County since 1929, at which time he was 9 years old.

He is married to the former Phyllis Stapells, and they have three sons, Mike, aged 4, Grey, aged 2, and Timothy Bryan, born May 26.

He has lived at Skyco, Nags Head and Kill Devil Hills in the past, but has taken up permanent residence on Colington Island, where he is building a new home.

He attended the University of North Carolina for one year. Prior to World War Two he worked as a reporter for several newspapers in eastern North Carolina and for the Mutual Broadcasting System in Washington. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for three and a half years during the war, and then worked in New York for two years, where he held the position of Associate Editor of the American Legion Magazine.

He left New York in 1947 to return to Dare County in order to write books about this area, and his books include "Fabulous Dare, The Story of Dare County," published in 1949; "Graveyard of the Atlantic," published in 1952; and "The Outer Banks of North Carolina," which will be published this fall by the University of North Carolina Press.

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Judge Henry L. Stevens Jr. of Warsaw returned to Dare County Monday after an absence of five years, and in his charge to the Grand Jury, dwelt long on his love of the beauty and interest in the coastland, dating from his first visit some 20 years ago, when he became a judge. He recognized several of his long time friends, and gave a charge one hour long on the responsibilities of the Grand Jury.

Judge Stevens, a former National Commander of the American Legion is an orator of wide renown, and toward the end of his charge, he dwelt at length on the importance of highway safety, and the effort that should come from all good citizens to end the slaughter and damage on our roads. He gave strong warning to persons who perjure themselves on the witness stand, saying they would find no mercy in his court.

Before the opening of court at 10 a.m. Judge Stevens had been shown by county officers through the new jail, and recently repainted county offices, and he complimented those responsible for providing and keeping these facilities in good shape. He mentioned also that the next improvement for this new property would be installation of a modern air-conditioning system for the comfort of people who work in the courthouse, and as being as important in summer to keep the place cool as is fuel and heat in winter to keep it warm.

Judge Stevens mentioned that several complaints had come to him about how the county was being run, but since this is an election time, he had no desire to embarrass anyone, and he thought such complaints would better be brought up at the next term of court, so therefore, he would turn up such complaints at this time, and leave the subject off for the next term.

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DARE GRAND JURY HOODWINKED AGAIN ABOUT THE AUDIT

Courthouse Officials Steer Them Into Making Misleading Report This Week

The Dare Commissioners, in breaking the law for the past eight years, with violation of Chapter 252 Public Laws of the 1947 session of the Legislature, may have been guilty of malfeasance in office. At any rate, the determined course they have taken, has denied the people of their lawful right to have complete public audits for two years, and to be informed about their public affairs for eight years.

Perhaps some of the Commissioners are not even aware they have continually violated the law and acted in bad faith as well. But some of them know better: their Chairman, their clerk, and their attorney know better.

Year after year they have gotten by with it because some officials in the courthouse have repeatedly told the Grand Jury that audits have been made and the law carried out. The Register of Deeds has most accommodatingly furnished reports, all written out, as again came out of his office this week, copying also as is done year after year, the same old trite words and a paragraph of fulsome flattery hopeful of tickling the ear of the judge and the solicitor.

This week there were some determined members of the Grand Jury who were bent on putting in their report a demand for an up-to-date audit. They had been reading the charges made against the Board in this newspaper, and our repeated challenge to the board to come forward and tell the people "why and how much and where it went?"

We repeat, the last CPA audit was made for the year ending June 30, 1956, showing the county general fund then in the red to the tune of \$54,000, a statement confirmed this week by the auditor.

That's the last audit that has been furnished the board, and still is.

Yet the Grand Jury was tricked

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GUARD'S WILD SHOT STRIKES CAR IN CONVICT CHASE

A Currituck County prison camp convict, Thomas C. Callahan, of Atlanta, Georgia, fled from a work squad near Manteo on Monday and escaped in a stolen car. He and another prison, Ray Baker, of Covington, Kentucky, jumped from a work truck early Monday morning, but Baker was downed by a shot in the shoulder. Guards believe that Callahan was also wounded.

Callahan stole a nearby car from Ray Jones, Manteo insurance man. The vehicle was later found abandoned near Manns Harbor. Search for the escapee centered around that section of Dare County.

Callahan entered prison last March from Mecklenburg County after being sentenced to 20 years for kidnapping and 15 to 20 years for armed robbery.

Baker, who taken to Central Prison for medical attention was not believed seriously injured. He was sentenced to seven years last May in Cumberland County for breaking and entering. Escape was made near the school now being constructed near Manteo.

The escape was witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Midgette of Manteo. A rear glass in their automobile was broken by buckshot from the guards' guns, but neither was hit. Mr. and Mrs. Midgette were driving up the road toward home. It was later found when Mr. Midgette took

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Hold Still a Minute—

This Is Going to Hurt A Little

Taxpayers to Get Another Needle Soon

There is something else folks, that has been overlooked about this tax deal in Dare County. The notices you have received is not all of it; they only cover values set on your real estate, meaning land and buildings.

Drs. Duvall, Swain, Daniels and company have got another little needle to stick in soon. It's the personal property you own, and if you think you have already had it all, you've got another think coming. Don't be contented in the belief you've had the whole dose.

Your personal property, which includes your household and kitchen furniture, nets, boats, cars, trucks, are going to be taxed and these will be in addition to that of which you have been notified. Many people have yet to learn what this is going to be.

And let us remind you of something also. The contract made with the Appraisal Associates of Pascale, N. J., includes something else. This has been overlooked. In reference to rural land values, it provides that on this property, "the schedule of values shall be submitted to an advisory committee of local authorities on land, who shall be required to approve such schedules."

Have you heard of any local committee of your neighbors in your township who have been consulted, and who have made recommendations, or who passed on the value of your property? If you

have, please furnish us with the names of this committee, we would like to publish them, so the citizens who think they have been treated unfairly might consult with them and reason with them.

Watch for new list of taxes coming out soon—on your personal property—after the election is over.

SEVERAL INJURED; TOTAL WRECK OF CAR AT EAST LAKE

Several people were injured, including small children, when a 1954 Mercury coupe was totally wrecked at 8 a.m. Sunday at East Lake, not far from the old school building.

Patrolman Arthur Fields, of Manteo, who investigated the case has brought a charge of reckless driving against Ervin Pledger, 41, of 2206 Abbey Road, Norfolk, Va. Pledger had been spending the week end at East Lake and had started up the road from a fishing lodge, bound on buying some cigarettes at an East Lake store.

In the car were Faye Hudson, 15, of Coinjock; Larry Pledger 12, James Pledger, 45, and Michael Pledger, 11. Painful cuts and bruises were sustained, some requiring numerous stitches. All were treated by Dr. W. W. Harvey Jr. in Manteo and released.