

GAINESVILLE BOND ISSUE AROUSES MUCH DISCUSSION

Leading Citizens Express Views—Question To Be Settled At Polls on March 28.

To the Editor of The Manassas Journal:

The writer is greatly interested in the school bond issue vote to be held in the Gainesville District the latter part of this month. Two years ago this same project was defeated by a few votes and the writer (then rector of St. Paul's, Haymarket), felt that within a short time after the vote a number of those who had refused to support this constructive measure regretted their action.

It is to be hoped that the vote will now succeed by a goodly majority. The need of a first-class school building in the western section of Prince William is most imperative; the old school building is now two years older than when the last bond issue vote was taken. Wooden buildings, subjected to the wear and tear that falls to a school do not improve with age, and as the materials become drier, the fire hazard increases.

Objections to improvements that cost the taxpayer money are usually on the basis of dollars and cents. That is the short view. The long view and the broad view place human values ahead of monetary consideration. Education is one of the absolute essentials for the rising generation. Without good education the handicap ten years from now will be vastly greater than it was twenty-five or more years ago. The one invaluable aid to good teachers is good equipment—the best. By equipment is meant proper surroundings. The excellent teaching staff at the Haymarket school is terribly handicapped by the present totally inadequate and wretched building in which they must spend eight or more hours a day educating the children of the surrounding community.

Here in New York the subject of good school buildings is never open to discussion. They are built as needed. Anyone interested to make comparisons will find that the taxpayers of New York City, are called upon to make as large in proportionate outlay in taxes as the people in Prince William County, Va. The tax rate has mounted steadily for several years. Objections are heard to some public expenditures, but never to school outlays. Schools have been found to pay their way, and more.

This is written by one who is deeply interested in education, and in seeing Prince William County hold its own in comparison with any other part of the country when it comes to equipping its young people for the years ahead.

WARREN A. SEAGER.

Dear Mr. Editor:

The letter of Mr. Rolfe Robertson appearing in The Manassas Journal of March 6th, cast new light for me on the vicious question of the bond issue to erect a new High School building at Haymarket and for improvements to the colored school at Thoroughfare. Until a few days ago I held a neutral position on the question, but am now convinced that the matter is so important that neutrality is not a defensible attitude. Every taxpayer is entitled to understand this subject because it means something to him financially, and also in other ways still more important than monetary considerations. Therefore, by your courtesy, I wish to discuss the question pro and con briefly. Those opposed to the bond issue have just two arguments against it. One is the prospective increase in taxes which will affect all in the District and the other is the danger of having one room of the Catharpin school closed.

Now let us consider the tax argument. The most dependable information I can get is that the maximum increase would be 32 cents, raising the rate from \$2 up to \$2.32, or an increase of 10 per cent. If some plan such as Mr. Robertson suggests is acted upon by the Supervisors the increase would be only ten cents, or an increase of 5 per cent. It would help much and increase confidence of the Supervisors would make a definite official statement along this line. But what strikes me as being a very important phase of this matter is that an unfavorable vote will add more to the taxes of those opposing the bond issue than a favorable vote will.

You ask: "How so?" Lack of educational advantages will drive people out of the District and prevent others from locating here. This will reduce the gross value of assessable property and require a higher rate which means a larger tax bill for those remaining in the district. Now for the next point.

If the County School Board contemplates any arbitrary action about the school at Catharpin I wish to respectfully suggest that such a policy would be a mistake. Catharpin people should decide whether any change is to be made and what the change shall be. These are the real arguments against the bond issue. There are other statements being made such as the following:

That the School Board will not give building contracts to local men and get a rakeoff by awarding contracts to the chosen few; that votes are purchased for the bond issue. Such statements are so far from the truth that to listen to them is worse than time wasted.

If the vote on March 28th is unfavorable there will then be no high school at Haymarket, which means a step backward for the District and the County of Prince William.

Gratefully yours,
W. F. CARPENTER.

In The Manassas Journal of March 6th, there was an article in regard to the bonding of Gainesville District for the erection of a new High School building at Haymarket.

We would like to get some further information and make some suggestions. Seven years ago the Haymarket Junior High School was added to and completely modernized to meet the State requirements for a four-year high school at a cost of between six and seven thousand dollars.

If this building is now condemned as a firetrap, antiquated, etc., and we have got to abandon it entirely, it seems to me to be accusing those responsible for its erection with stupidity and poor judgment, which we can hardly grant.

Should the bond issue carry, the bulk of the tax would fall on those who are already taxed to the limit, of course there are a few professional and business people who have a regular salary or income who are able to carry this extra tax.

Considering the present financial crisis, and the deflation of prices of almost all agricultural products the majority of farmers are much less able to commit themselves to a higher tax now than two years ago when the bond issue was defeated, a study of the delinquent tax list we think will prove this fact.

One of the last things that Governor Byrd did before leaving office was to send out circulars all over the state urging the people not to put any more tax on the farmers, and calling attention to the unusual depression in farming conditions, a few years ago he relieved the farmers of the twenty-five cent state tax which was voted to be left on in Gainesville District for road purposes, we believe the majority of the farmers have been hoping and expecting a repeal of this act in order to reduce our high tax rate which has been steadily going higher each year and likely to go higher.

Now owing to the condition of our rural dirt roads over which the School Buses have to travel, can we afford to take this twenty cents from the road fund, as proposed by our supervisor in above mentioned article to be applied on the bond issue, after all does it not all come out of the pocket of the taxpayer, and would there be any guarantee that this tax would not later have to be put back for road or other purposes.

It takes an election to decide the bond issue, but the Supervisors can levy an extra tax whenever it is necessary to meet county expenses.

We understand that as an inducement to the people of Catharpin to support the bond issue, a proposition has been made to discontinue one room of their school and put on another school bus, our Supervisor agreeing to expend from five hundred to one thousand dollars on this road to put it in a traveling condition the

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Makes Radio Debut



JOHN H. CLARK.

John Clarke will make his radio debut on Sunday night, March 23, beginning at 7 p. m., from radio station WJSV. Mr. Clarke is well known in this community, having worked in Manassas for quite awhile and is now a student at the Haymarket High School. His many friends wish him great success.

MEN ORGANIZE CLUB AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Committees Appointed For Permanent Formation at Next Meeting in April.

The Men's Club of Manassas, met for complete organization last Thursday evening at 6:30 in the vestry of the Presbyterian Church. There were twenty-four present. As in the former meeting there was prepared for them a dinner which was enjoyed by all. The committee in charge of the dinner was Messrs. J. L. Bushong, Welton P. Farrow and Frank G. Sigman.

After the dinner, Senor Domingo Caino, of Swavelly School, gave a brief account of Spain in music and sang several Spanish songs to the enjoyment of every one.

Most of the evening was given over to the discussion and formation of constitution and by-laws, a preliminary draft of which had been prepared by the temporary chairman, Mr. Welton P. Farrow. It was referred back to a committee for licking it into shape. This committee consists of J. L. Bushong, Cedric Saunders, and I. A. Wilfong. This is to report at the next meeting, the second Thursday in April, the tenth. A nomination committee, consisting of Frank G. Sigman, Ferris Gue and Mr. Wilfong is to report also, naming two for each office. The next meeting is to be served by Eugene Davis, F. R. Saunders and George Meetz.

MISS SPEIDEN HONORED.

Miss Virginia Nelson Speiden, of Manassas, who will graduate from Hollins College this June with the degree of Bachelor of Music, has been an honor student during the past two years, and has just been included among the twenty-five pupils of highest attainment in the college.

Miss Speiden, who is one of the most popular of the younger set in Prince William County, is a graduate of the Manassas High School and the Temple School of Music.

SMITH RESIGNS TO MAKE RACE

Will Make Active Canvass As Soon As He Is Relieved of Official Duties.

Announcement was made this week by Hon. W. Smith, Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit, that he would resign in April. This settles a much mooted question as to what action he would take along these lines, and gives the Governor ample time to consider applications.

Alexandria apparently has no candidate and Fairfax has made no decision. Arlington seems to be putting Col. Charles Jones forward while Hon. Thomas H. Lyon is prominently mentioned from Prince William. Hon. C. A. Sinclair was a contender in the last contest, but was subsequently appointed Treasurer of Prince William County.

FIRE DEPT. PRAISED FOR WORK AT CLIFTON

Chief Speiden, of Manassas, Receives Appreciation From Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

The Chief of the Manassas Fire Department has received the following letter from the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, expressing appreciation of the efficiency of the local fire department:

Dear Chief:

It is the sense of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce that I express to your company, through you, the sincere appreciation and high regard held for you and your company for the very efficient work done in checking the hazardous and destructive fire at Clifton Station on last Sunday morning.

This splendid piece of work, as well as the other efforts by the Manassas Fire Fighters, fully justifies the confidence reposed in you by our Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

Very sincerely,
C. C. CARR, Secretary.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE ON WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL

On Friday, March 21, Rev. Gummere, of the Washington Cathedral, will address the Kiwanis Club and in the evening at Trinity Church will repeat his illustrated lecture. The congregation and the public are cordially invited.

Instead of meeting in the regular place, the Kiwanis Club will have supper in the Parish Hall.

MANASSAS GROUP HOLDS REGULAR MEETING

The Manassas Home Demonstration Group will hold its regular meeting on Friday, March 28, at 2:30 o'clock in the Home Demonstration Agent's office. "Walls and Woodwork" will furnish the topic for discussion at this meeting. All ladies of the town and surrounding communities are all invited.

BRISTOW COMMUNITY LEAGUE.

The Community League of Bristow will meet on Friday night, March 28, at 8 o'clock. Program will be given by the school. Refreshments will be sold for benefit of league. Everyone welcomed.

Addresses Kiwanis.



HON. EDWIN F. HILL.

KIWANIANS HEAR NEW GOVERNOR

Hon. Edwin F. Hill Talks on Aims and Ideals of Organization.

HISTORY AND EFFORTS OF LOCAL CLUB RECITED

President of Washington Club Also Present. New Drive Outlined To Raise Funds.

The local Kiwanis Club was greatly enlightened on Friday last by an official visitation by Hon. Edwin F. Hill, Lieutenant Governor of the Washington District, and J. B. Edmunds, Esq., President of the Washington Club.

Mr. Hill took as his special theme "Gauging Public Opinion from the Newspaper". In part, he spoke as follows:

"Civic progress and newspaper enterprise go hand in hand. Where there is a live community there will be found an enterprising newspaper, and such a paper, ever on the alert, is prompt to recognize the quickly responsive community spirit. The newspaper is in reality a mirror reflecting the conditions of the community, state or nation as no other agency has ever done.

"More than ever before in history the world is becoming a real democracy in which the people have an actual influence in guiding public affairs, but unless they are accurately and correctly informed on news regarding these subjects, their judgment must be faulty. Public opinion is gauged almost entirely from the newspaper."

Mr. Hill said that in Manassas and some 1,850 other cities, towns and communities throughout the United States and Canada, Kiwanis plays an important part in community enterprise. This great humanitarian organization which recognizes no religious creed, honors all religions.

"But what will it profit a Kiwanis club if it fails to keep the public informed of its activities? It is to the newspaper that the public looks for its information.

There was a time when people asked, 'What is Kiwanis?' 'What are the objectives of the organization?' 'Who composes it?' The activities of the Kiwanis club in Manassas as well as throughout the other communities in the United States and Canada have answered that question to the satisfaction of all concerned. Kiwanis is recognized as an active civic organization, vitally interested in the welfare of the community it serves."

The Manassas club was organized October 24, 1924, and is best known for its interest in helping underprivileged children. The club has also taken an active part in such civic affairs as improved highways for Prince William County, sponsoring meetings between business men and farmers with talks by agricultural experts, taking an interest in school affairs to the betterment of the school system in the county, and placing Kiwanis greeting signs giving highway mileages to Manassas.

"In the past year clubs of the Capital District spent more than \$100,000 in carrying on the activities of the organization in helping crippled children and in other welfare work, Dr. Thomas H. Wheldon, chairman of the crippled children's committee told the district convention held in Hagerstown last year. Is not this a worthwhile accomplishment, if nothing else had been accomplished? The clubs throughout the district have children's clinics, and the doctors of the clubs give generously of their time and skill in carrying out the principles of the Golden Rule, which is to 'Do unto others that which they would like to have had done unto them if conditions were reversed.

"These are the high spots in the answer to the question, 'What is Kiwanis?' The worthwhile activities of the Kiwanis club when brought to the attention of the public through the newspaper result in little clubs becoming big clubs, big clubs, better clubs, and as a result more clubs come into being and both the membership and the public benefit because of this spirit of helpfulness which is Kiwanis."

Plans of Manassas Kiwanis Club for raising funds to be used for helping the underprivileged child in

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NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

I will be at the following places on dates mentioned below, to meet taxpayers for the purpose of receiving their returns of tangible and intangible personal property for the year 1930, pursuant to Sec. 308 code of Virginia.

I would advise Taxpayers to bear these dates in mind.

R. M. WEIR,
Com. of Revenue of Prince William County.

MINNIEVILLE—Monday, March 17th (10 to 5.)

JOPLIN—Tuesday, March 18th (10 to 5.)

DUMFRIES—Thursday, March 20th (10 to 5.)

CHERRY HILL—Friday, March 21st (10 to 5.)

QUANTICO—Wednesday, March 26th (10 to 5.)

Office open every Saturday for Assessments from 10 to 4.