

Bate Harvey Keeps Busy And Likes It

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By CHARLES F. DeLOACH
(This is the first in a series on prominent figures in western York County by the Herald's York Bureau Chief).

A stocky-built man, with spring in his stride, despite his 53 years, one morning last week strolled into his cluttered but clean downtown office and — leaving his hat and coat on — plunged into work on his business ledger.

Just outside of town, his 100-acre farm (being managed by a tenant) needed some of his attention. On one of the shelves in the office lay a copy of a Water-Rights bill soon to come up for a vote — so far unread.

A constituent showed up. For a half-hour the taxpayer and representative chatted over present legislation. A while later, he talked long-distance to a county education official to get his opinion on an explosive public issue: repeal of the Compulsory Education Law. The conversation lasted a full 40 minutes.

Over lunch, he reviewed the importance of his rural fire program with a friend. Then, back at the office, he applied himself to business tasks. For York Representative J. Bate Harvey it was a busy season for a busy man — and he was liking every minute of it.

Name Well-Known

The energetic legislator's name (though this is only his second session in the State House of Representatives) is becoming well known in every section of the state. The rural fire program is catching fire, and in the capitol, Rep. Harvey is being hailed by colleagues as the "Fire Chief." The plan, gaining in popularity and momentum, has brought delegations from several counties into the Representative's office to discuss and obtain copies of the bill.

In the House last week, Rep. Harvey added a sequel to his rural fire program, introduced a bill to up the ante from \$40,000 (set up by the legislature for York County last year) to \$56,000, authorizing the purchase of two more fire trucks, and empowering the Board of Fire Control to place the fire fighting equipment at vantage points of their own choosing.

In York County, three fire engines, at present, stand ready to protect rural areas; when Harvey's program has been completed, seven trucks will guard against fire threats over 685 square miles.

Offers Protection

Though the tax payer will foot the bill with a probable one-half mill on his dollar for the next five years, Harvey states that, besides offering the best of fire protection to the entire county-including the urban sections, the fire insurance rate for York citizens will be somewhat lowered.



J. BATE HARVEY

"I ain't bragging none," said Bate, "but we won't be second to nobody in the state on rural fire protection."

Bate Harvey is a firm believer of local government. "My philosophy might be 100 per cent wrong," he said, "but I don't like to see everything run from Columbia. I want every matter possible to be handled on a local basis." At present the law-maker is concerned very much over the proposed appeal of the law for compulsory education, a matter which he believes can best be handled by education officials in each county. Said he: "They (the county officials) know more about it (the advantages and necessity of the law) than anybody in Columbia.

Since the first attempt to annul the law (an act aimed as a first step in side-stepping the U. S. Supreme Court's non-segregation ruling of last year), Harvey has 'felt out' education officials over the county ("since they know a lot more about it than I do") to see what they thought about it. "Those who I have talked to," he said, "are firmly opposed to a repeal."

Back home, Harvey expects to lose some votes on his stand. Some, he said, not understanding the results which will follow, will say I support non-segregation. As a matter of record, he added, "I'm firmly against seeing our schools mixed."

May Hurt Schools

If the law — which compels students to attend school — is tossed out ("and it looks like they are going to"), our schools will be seriously hurt, Harvey believes. Explained the congressman: "Unfortunately, the children (whose parents are uneducated) who need education most will be the ones to drop out of classes."

"It's a big issue," he said, "and I hate to buck the congressional committee (which introduced the bill), but I also hate to deprive

some kids of their right to schooling."

Bate believes the Right-to-Work bill — which outlaws closed or union shops — is "all wrong" and has twice voted for scuttling it.

His "Free Lunch" program, set up for indigent students at the start of the present school year, has brought Harvey both praise and disfavor. Said the Representative: "I know I get some criticism on it. But I don't do everything for votes." Then he added with a smile: "You won't find any candidate running on a platform against it." Then he concluded: "I think it is the Christian thing to do — to feed our children."

Other bits of Harvey's political philosophy:

— On taxes: "If every fellow gets as much buying value on his dollar as his tax dollar gets, everybody would be in fine shape."

— On voting: "When I cast my vote down yonder (in Columbia) I'm going to vote the way my conscience tells me — no matter where I lose a few votes back home or not."

— On spending tax payers' money: "I might spend my own freely, but when I spend tax money, I have somebody to answer to."

— On politics: "Financially, it's a losing proposition. But I just like politics."

Son of Farmer

J. Bate Harvey was born near Filbert, in 1901, the son of a tenant farmer who, in his 78 years, never lived more than five miles from Clover.

What little formal education Bate received (he only finished the fourth grade), came in a little country school at Fairview, and for a short time at Clover. "I didn't get much," he said. "I had to quit and go to work. Recon that's why I'm all for a better education program. Having missed it, myself, I realize what it means."

By the time he was thirteen, Bate was a "regular plow hand" on his father's 30-acre farm. At sixteen, before the family moved to town, he was getting up at 4 a. m., walking four miles to work in the mill at Clover, and getting back home well after dark. Back then, Bate recalls, "I had a can of pork-and-beans for lunch every day. I loved those things, — still do."

While still a mill hand, Bate spent his evenings working the town's theater, soon learned to run the projector, later operated the movie machine in several theaters in North and South Carolina, and in 1941, purchased his own theater business.

In the early 1920's, a Bethany lass caught Harvey's matrimonial eye and, with a "parson's wedding," he married Eunice McCarter. "I

had \$10 to my name," Bate smiled. "We spent our honeymoon right here, — working."

The Harveys have two children Jimmy, age 17, a high school senior, who is "right much a baseball man," and Billy, 13, who will receive his Eagle Scout badge this spring.

Bate starts his day around 7 a. m. ("I can't sleep late and that's what gets me in Columbia: we stay up talking until one or two in the morning"). He reads little, but keeps up with current affairs with three daily newspapers. At night, when the legislature is out for the weekend, the Representative seats himself on the side-line of a basketball game.

A basketball player himself in his early years (his team, accustomed to clay courts, slid all over the hard wood in their first tournament, but went on to win the state championship in the independent league) and a crack second baseman, Bate is a staunch supporter of athletics, organized the Booster Club at Clover, was elected to serve as its first president.

Harvey, who had always been interested in politics, tossed his hat

into the political arena in 1940, and became trustee of the school board for a period of 13 years. In 1952, Gov. Byrnes appointed him to the Board of Directors for York County and, in a special election the following year, the voters elected him to the House, and endorsed him for a second term at the polls last year.

The Harvey family, nearly every Sunday, attends services at the Clover A. R. P. Church where Bate is also the president of the Men's Bible Class.

Replaces Tyler ^{1/3/52} *Evening Herald*

John M. Spratt Is Named York County Attorney

By DEWARD BRITTAIN

YORK—John M. Spratt, prominent York and Fort Mill lawyer, today was elected York County attorney by the York County Legislative Delegation to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Raymond Tyler, also of York.

Spratt was employed for the calendar year 1952 at a fixed salary of \$3,000. Heretofore, the county attorney has been paid an annual retainer of \$660 and additional fees for litigation, bond issues, and special services. Spratt's selection was unanimous.

In an open meeting held in the courthouse the delegation also:

1. Appropriated \$750 from the contingent fund to establish a soil testing station in the County Agent's office. The action followed a request from S. N. Stacy of York who complained that soil samples sent to Clemson College took about two months to be returned.

2. Appropriated \$1,000 from the contingent fund to employ an additional County Agent to divide his time between general agriculture work and the artificial breeding program. The new man will go to work February 1 and will serve until July 1 of this year. No one has been chosen for the post.

3. Took under consideration a recommendation from a group of Rock Hill UDC members that the Confederate Home in Columbia be reopened to daughters of Confederate Veterans as well as widows.

4. Approved claims for road work totaling \$723. The claims were not included in the \$14,000 approved last month as back pay for township road employees.

5. Took under consideration a request for a salary increase for Coroner M. P. Nichols.

6. Heard numerous requests for road improvements and a plea that the floor tax on merchants be repealed.

The Delegation, all members of which were present, was still in session at noon.

Mr. Spratt served as a member of the State Democratic executive committee for 25 years. Savings and Loan of Rock Hill.

A veteran of World War II, he served as a captain in the judge advocate general corps. Mr. Spratt was named county attorney for York County in 1951 and served in that position until his death. In 1968, he was named by the state Supreme Court as president-elect of the newly-formed S.C. Bar Association. He served as president from 1969-70. Mr. Spratt also achieved prominence as a banker. In 1948, he founded the Bank of Fort Mill, serving as its president until his death. He was also president of the Spratt Insurance Agency and former president of the Perpetual Building and Loan Association of Fort Mill. He was vice president and director of the Bank of York and director of First Federal

York attorney dies

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He was a member of First Presbyterian Church and was an elder at the time of his death. Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Jane Bratton Spratt; a son, John M. Spratt Jr. of York; a daughter, Mrs. Hugh L. McCall Jr. of Charlotte; a brother, J. Lee Spratt of Columbia; five grandchildren. The family has requested that memorials be made to the American Cancer Society or the First Presbyterian Church. York Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

YORK — John M. Spratt Sr., 66, prominent York County attorney and banker, died Friday at his home after an extended illness. Funeral services are scheduled for 4 p. m. tomorrow at First Presbyterian Church of York. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery. Born in Fort Mill, Mr. Spratt was a son of the late Col. Thomas B. and Eleanor Mason Spratt. He was a 1928 graduate of Presbyterian College and received his law degree in 1934 from Yale Law School. (9-3)