

Hickory Daily Record Dec 2-1953

pected passing, Tuesday, of Raymond L. Hefner, Chairman of the Catawba County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

Mr. Hefner had held many positions of honor and responsibility, and had always measured up to the highest standards of honesty, efficiency, and dependability. There are literally thousands of men and women of this community who feel like they have lost one very near and dear to them.

The Record considered Mr. Hefner one of the best City Managers Hickory has ever had, and we credit him with the initiative and determination which resulted in the construction of the Hickory Municipal Airport. That great asset stands as a fine monument to his vision and aggressiveness.

Another outstanding achievement of Mr. Hefner is the excellent record made by the Catawba County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. He and the members of his board demonstrated that legal control of the liquor traffic is greatly to be preferred over bootleg conditions such as prevailed in Hickory and Catawba county prior to the setting up of the ABC System in 1949. He also proved that a Christian gentleman can perform any and all essential civic duties without damage to his character or loss of public respect.

Mr. Hefner failed to live long enough to see one of his fondest dreams realized—the publication of a History of Catawba County. He was one of those most instrumental in arranging for the gathering of material and the editing of such a history, which is due to make its appearance in book form within a few weeks. It seems ironic that neither Mr. Hefner nor the late J. Yates Killian, who was also instrumental in making arrangements for the publication of a Catawba County History, was privileged to enjoy the thrill of seeing this and several other projects initiated by them, brought to completion.

For more than twenty years Mr. Hefner was identified with the Hickory Post Office, and he was later a teller at the First National Bank for a time. During most of the approximately fifty years since he left his father's farm where he was born, a few miles Northeast of Hickory, to come to the city to seek employment, Mr. Hefner had been in public life—or in work which caused him to come into contact with the public. Consequently, his acquaintanceship was especially widespread.

The management of The Record owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Hefner, because of the help and encouragement which he so generously gave this newspaper throughout the past quarter of a century. He prepared and turned over to The Record an interesting and quite authentic History of Hickory, which was published in these columns serially some years ago. As president of the Catawba County Historical Association, he was a dynamic force in getting definite things accomplished. One of these was the restoration in Hickory of an old log house, typical of the rural dwellings in which pioneer Catawbans lived a century or more ago.

It would be impossible to enumerate the almost countless contributions which Raymond Hefner made to the permanent enrichment of Hickory and Catawba county as labors of love, and because he had a rare faculty of recognizing community needs and was possessed of an energetic desire to perform neglected services in modesty and selflessness.

Aldermen Laud Hefner, Act On Minor Matters

Members of the Hickory Board of Aldermen took time out Tuesday night to pay tribute to Raymond L. Hefner, former city manager and civic leader, who succumbed unexpectedly just before Tuesday noon after suffering a heart attack a few minutes earlier at his office.

A resolution of respect, drafted jointly by Aldermen Young M. Smith and City Attorney Bailey Patrick, won unanimous approval. It stressed Mr. Hefner's service to the City of Hickory, the community, and State, and cited the many offices which he held with honor during an active lifetime. At the time he died he was chairman of the Catawba County Alcoholic Beverage Control board, a post held by him since its creation. A copy of the resolution will be spread on the official minutes of the Board, and the original, signed by each alderman, will be delivered to Mr. Hefner's family.

Little Other Action

Little other business was transacted during the meeting. City Manager H. L. Burdette was absent, attending a meeting in New Orleans where he delivered a talk on municipal affairs. All the Aldermen were present. Action approved by unanimous votes included authorization for:

- L. C. Furman to transfer one-half of an Oakwood cemetery lot to Mr. and Mrs. V. B. Gallamore;
- Piedmont Airlines to have Morganton and Lenoir listed in the official Airline Guide as being served from the Hickory airport;
- City Manager Burdette to contract for the painting of the east-end water storage tank with the proviso that any contract he may enter into must provide adequate liability insurance to protect the City of Hickory from all claims;
- Refunding of taxes in the amount of \$20.87 to Perry E. Deitz, which had, through error, been assessed on personal property owned by him outside the City limits;
- Closing of the City offices from twelve noon, Thursday Dec. 24,

to eight o'clock Monday morning, Dec. 28, for the Christmas holidays;

Installation of three parking meters on the North side of Main Street, NW, just west of Center Avenue.

Passes Bond Resolution

In addition to these items, the Board also passed on second and final readings resolutions fixing the interest rates on \$73,000 of bonds recently sold to provide funds for improving the City water system; providing for "walk" and traffic lights on Second Street, NW, at First Avenue, NW, and Union Square, and confirming the sale of certain lots laidout from the Ransom property, fronting on Highway 70 and Fourth Street, SW.

H. D. Boyles, assistant City Manager, told the Board that Mr. Burdette had contacted three firms for bids on painting the water tower which had begun to permit some water to seep through, and that the best offer had been from the Steel Tank Service of Charlotte, which proposed to do the work for \$1,280 with the City furnishing the paint. Other bids were \$1,350 and \$2,150. Inasmuch as this is less than \$2,500, and therefore within the discretion of the City Manager and not requiring advertising for bids, a motion authorizing Mr. Burdette to have the tower painted won approval.

Approves Change

The Board, in authorizing Piedmont Airlines to list Morganton and Lenoir as being served by the Hickory Airport, acted on a report made to it by Max R. Steelman, executive secretary of the Hickory Chamber of Commerce who reported on a meeting with municipal and civic leaders from those two communities. This group had adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, that this group representing the Chambers of Commerce, and the town of Morganton, city of Lenoir, and city of Hickory, go on record as favoring the listing of Lenoir and Morganton in the official Airline Guide and Piedmont Schedules, as being served from the Hickory Municipal Airport."

The resolution was signed by: John G. H. Geitner, L. C. Gifford, and Max R. Steelman of Hickory; Harry L. Riddle, Sr., Frank C. Patton and Mrs. Genie Bohler, of Morganton, and C. O. Huntley, Clarence Beach, and Gene Gosch of Lenoir.

Mayor Donald S. Menzies thanked Mr. Steelman on behalf of the Board and asked him to convey these sentiments to Mr. Geitner and Mr. Gifford. He said he hoped they would continue to work with the representatives of Lenoir and Morganton toward the betterment of the airport.