

Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

VOLUME ONE

TRENTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 1949

NUMBER 7

Hope Grows For Life of Labor Saving Makes Peppers Pay Doomed 'Blue Baby' By More To Farmers Than Tobacco Compassion of Citizens

A dark future of early death brightened slightly for a little five-year-old girl in Jones County this week. Florence Marie Canady may not die from the defective heart valve that makes her a doomed "blue" baby because of the growing compassion and support of Jones County citizens. If the delicate operation, performed in only two hospitals in the United States, can save her she may get it, despite the lack of funds of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Canady of near Pollocksville.

Since coming to public knowledge Superintendent Joe Koonce of the Jones County Welfare Department has written to Duke University for advice. Dr. Tom Parrott of Kinston, who has specialized in the study of such ailments, has offered his services for examination and many citizens have volunteered financial aid. Definite action to attempt to save the life of Florence Marie is expected to come this week, despite the \$2,500 cost barrier for the delicate operation and treatment.

The Canady family is in no position to act to save the life of its young daughter. Hail slashed the un-insured crop on its share-crop farm near Pollocksville, and the mother gave birth to her fourth child two weeks ago. The father has taken a job in a sawmill to provide the essentials of life for his family.

But hope has come for little Florence Marie through the com-

out this section, if she realizes the razor-edge balance of her life between recurring periods of coma. Her future has a more hopeful color, although the purplish blue of the present covers even her slender little body.

Mrs. Lurley Hines, secretary of the Production Credit Corporation at Trenton, has volunteered her services to handle the volunteer fund offered for Florence Marie. Any person wishing to help the little girl in her fight for survival can send any contribution, large or small, to Mrs. Hines or to the office of Senator John D. Larkins or to the Jones County Journal at Trenton.

VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL OFFICER FOR JONES-LENOIR

Jones-Lenoir Health Officer R. J. Jones announced this week that his office after many months of effort has finally obtained the full services of a Venereal Disease contact representative.

The duty of this full-time representative who will serve both Jones and Lenoir Counties, consists of checking up to see that persons complete venereal treatments, seeing that sources of venereal disease are corrected and cooperating with the health officer and doctors in bringing these social diseases nearer their in-



Throughout the Bright Leaf Tobacco Belt the harvest of the 1949 crop was getting into full swing this week. This scene is on the J. T. Hill farm in Kinston Township, and the four men in the foreground are getting their first taste of the hot, gummy, back-breaking work necessary to pull the leaves from the stalks. They are Peter Pietrzak, his son Henrics, Fedor Melnyczick and John Janrzabek, displaced persons from Europe making their new home on the Hill farm. At right rear is Ira Hill, son of the farm owner, supervising and guiding the work of the newcomers to tobacco. From this farm as well as from all others in the tobacco belt, the sale price for the crop must pass \$500 per acre before any profit is realized for the back-breaking work.



In contrast to the picture of the 1949 tobacco harvesting shown at the top of the page this simultaneous harvest of bell peppers on the farm of Norman Hardee near Kinston will cost less than one-half of the \$500 per acre tobacco harvest cost. The peppers in the forenoon harvest pictured here will be paid for on the Faison market by nightfall. Tobacco harvested on the same day, at an eventually doubled labor cost, will be sold between August and November after complex burning, curing, grading, tying and market presentation. The simplicity of the truck crop operation, with its good profit return of the past several years, is becoming more and more interesting to tobacco growers in this section. (Whitaker-Leffew Photos)

The harvest of two crops began in this section this week. Many crouching men duck-walked between close-planted rows of ripening tobacco, and in a few places others bent to pick a bell pepper harvest. The golden leaf will be ready for grading and market preparation in pack-houses by August, and the pepper truck crop will be harvested and marketed in three weeks.

The contrast in the handling time of the section's new truck crop to that of tobacco, reflected in a 50 per cent cut in labor costs, is one which more and more farmers are studying with a growing interest. Tobacco growers say there is no profit in their crop until the sale price passes \$500 per acre. Cost reports on bell pepper acreage indicate that the production cost is only one-half of tobacco's \$500—roughly about 75 cents per bushel.

That saving is brought about by the lower labor cost in the growing of the peppers. The fertilizer requirements of the two crops are about the same. The peppers are picked, washed and packed in the morning and sold in the afternoon. The tobacco has to be taken from the stalks over a period of weeks, carefully tied on sticks, still more carefully heat-cured in barns, taken to packhouses and there worked over and sorted for marketing over a three months' period.

Typical of no more than a dozen farmers who have begun to diversify in pepper production in Lenoir and Jones Counties is Norman Hardee, well-known warehouseman, on his farm near Kinston. He is in his third year of profitable pepper production. He has already marketing 700 bushels of pepper at the Faison market at a three dollar per bushel average. He expects to market 1,200 bushels before the middle of July from his four-acre tract, a good production but cut by early cold, dry weather.

Should Hardee's marketing expectations bear him out he will gross \$3,600 on his pepper crop. Less a \$900 production cost his net will be \$2,700. That is a profit of \$675 per acre. For the same return on an acre of tobacco the sale price would have to be \$1,175. That is approximately one dollar per pound for the golden leaf.

But the production of bell pepper and other truck crops is no guaranteed way to riches through agriculture. Few of the truck crops are restricted by acreage control as is tobacco. The grower takes his chance on the whim of a competitive consumer market, and, of course, in every farmer's gamble with Mother Nature—but for not so long, long-odds a time as do the tobacco producers.

The principal attraction for the thoughtful farmers of the section, long preached by Extension Service officials, is the opportunity offered by truck truck crops for diversification, to get all of their economic eggs out of the tobacco basket.

home of Memorial General Hospital from 2 until 4 beginning on July Fifth. These classes are limited to 10 but they will be repeated as long as enough interest is exhibited by the young women of this section. Particular emphasis will be given to caring for bed-ridden invalids and infants. The courses are open to all young women in either Jones or Lenoir Counties. Immediate enrollment is urged since classes will be limited to 10.

Chairman Craven County Board Vetoes 90 Pct. Discount of Port Bonds

At a special meeting of the board of directors of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, held Saturday morning in Kinston, dissatisfaction with the Governor and Council of State's willingness to accept 10 cents on the dollar for Morehead City Port Commission bonds held by the railroad was in evidence. Craven County Board of Commissioners Chairman George W. Ipock of Enon was the only active dissenter but his vote against such a settlement was enough to knock the well-greased plan off the track.

Acting president of the board Leo Harvey of Kinston told the directors that the Council of State and the Governor had expressed the opinion that 10 cents on the dollar would be acceptable to the State which holds 72 per cent of the railroad. Commissioner Ipock represents the third largest owner of stock in the railroad and the Norfolk and Southern railroad, owner of the second largest block was not represented.

Ipock said, "I don't mean to doubt the actions of this group nor to say that I will not later vote approval to such a settlement. But I have to try to explain my vote to the 30,000 taxpayers of Craven County and I don't feel that I can justify a vote in favor of this proposition after a 20-minute discussion."

Ipock also added, "The Atlantic Coast Line railroad has not been asked to make any such sacrifice to have the big part of this money spent in Wilmington and I can't see why we should have to make such a sacrifice

because of the expenditure in Morehead City."

Attorney General Harry McMullan, speaking for the Governor and Council of State, said that it was the view of this group that the expenditure of two and one-half million dollars in Morehead City would more than repay the railroad's sacrifice of these bonds at 10 cents on the dollar. This same point was argued forcefully by several other members of the board.

President Harvey said the situation was unique in the position that the State government occupies since the Morehead City Ports Commission, the State Ports Authority and the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad are all more or less State organizations.

Harvey pointed out the paradoxical situation of the Ports Authority, which he says is lacking in authority to purchase the Port of Morehead City and that Morehead City Ports Commission lacks authority to sell its property. No one questioned the fact that the Ports Authority is busy negotiating for the purchase of a suitable \$500,000 site for the Port of Wilmington.

Scalded at Sawmill

Walking too close to the gunshot-feed at the Williams and McKeithan Lumber Company last week resulted in a scalded ankle for Nolan Alcock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Alcock of Pollocksville. He was burned about the ankle and leg, and was able to return to work.

TOBACCO OPTIMISM

The future of the tobacco farmer was supported by the broken, and not entirely mended, crutch of foreign markets in the face of declining domestic manufacture and consumption this week. But President Fred S. Royster of the Bright Belt Tobacco Warehouse Association said the support should be good for the 1949 sales season. He also told his listeners in a speech at the Lenoir County Courthouse that the parity support price would be about 42 cents per pound—3.9 cents below the 1948 level. He predicted that the 1949 prices for tobacco would be in the "same range" as last year, but held out no promise of them going any higher. He urged farmers to support by their ballots on July 23 the vote for the continuance of acreage control and parity support, as well as the acreage assessment for the continuance of Tobacco Associates, Incorporated, in that organization's efforts to stimulate foreign markets.

LARGEST PIG LITTER IS ON FLOWERS FARM

Despite the interrupted nursing of the young porkers the largest litter of the year in Jones County is on the farm of W. C. Flowers, Sr., at Oliver's Crossroads. The 10 pigs in the litter weigh 376 at eight weeks of age, although the brood sow could not nurse them after they reached six weeks.

Farmer Flowers turned the pigs into ladina clover when their mother's milk supply ran out. That his idea was good has been confirmed by the way the pigs have maintained weight.

NURSING COURSE

The Kinston Woman's Club in cooperation with the Red Cross is sponsoring a series of Home Nursing courses for young women between the ages of 15 and 22 which will be held each Tuesday and Friday in the nurses'