

# Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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## Outlook Not Bright For Improvement In Postal Facilities For Kinston

The Second Congressional District in North Carolina is made up of Warren, Halifax, Northampton, Bertie, Edgecombe, Wilson, Greene and Lenoir Counties. Under present legislation plans there will be one post office allocated to each district in the United States. Second District Representative John H. Kerr of Warrenton has announced that his district's post office shall be located in Scotland Neck.

Kinston has long been in need of additional post office facilities and many local persons interested in this expansion had held out some small hope that Kerr might bestow his favor on the southernmost county in his district by recommending at the very least some improvements in the local situation.

Newly installed Kinston Postmaster E. R. Wooten has had a detailed survey made of the present building in an effort to expand the box service, but at completion of this check the

same answer was staring Wooten and the Postal Inspector straight in the eye.

In order to help with the Christmas rush of business at the Kinston office, an annex which will be used for parcel post packages has been rented and will be put into use about December 10th. This annex is located on the Atlantic and East Carolina railroad right of way between North and Gordon streets.

Meanwhile there is little prospect of any permanent relief for the local office, since even the money that is supposed to be used in construction of the Scotland Neck post office has not been appropriated by Congress and unless a serious drop in the nation's economy takes place in the near future there is not much chance of the federal government embarking upon a public building program so ambitious as a post office in every Congressional District.

## COMMISSIONERS MEET

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners held a lengthy but not too eventful session Monday during which it approved several road petitions, gave a small pay boost to Deputy Sheriff D. F. Wilcox, Jr., heard a report from Airport Activities Expediter Marion Parrott, approved proposed sites for two new rural schools, gave tentative approval to Health Officer R. J. Jones' plans to have a mass X-ray survey in March, ordered payment of the debts incurred in the abortive effort to incorporate Deep Run, gave county employees a day off before and after Christmas, inspected the jail and jailer's quarters with a view to separating the living quarters entirely from jail activities, allowed Guy Sanderson to settle back poll taxes due for \$34.88, heard reports from Tax Supervisor Milton Williams and Welfare Superintendent G. E. Hanrahan and gave an OK to Airport Commissioner Carlton Pollock on his proposal to drop insurance on all buildings at the airport except those used by the National Guard.

## DOGS EXPECTED TO GET MAIN ATTENTION IN SUPERIOR COURT

The December term of Jones County Superior Court in Trenton opens Monday under the direction of Judge Wilkins E. Horton of Pittsboro. Clerk of the Court Murray Whitaker has reported 75 criminal cases on the calendar facing the court, but indications this week are that the session may go to the dogs.

The dogs are expected to dominate the court session because of a question of ownership and the resulting disputes, verbal and physical. The major one of them involves four out-of-county men on seven warrants in the Long Point case in White Oak Township. In that instance assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill charges are involved. The second case is one of a charge of simple dog larceny against Floyd Johnson in the Comfort community. The two cases are expected to throw Clerk of the Court Whitaker's calendar far out of kilter.

In the regular cases listed are included charges of attempted rape against Booker T. Hill for the most serious one, and a number of charges of larceny.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Kinston board of aldermen Monday night voted to have City Manager Bill Heard and Utilities Superintendent Bill McAdams install every possible Christmas light in the downtown area of Kinston. This action followed a plea by several members of the Merchants' Association and Baptist Pastor Howard Dawkins. The board also voted to pay up to half of the cost of an X-ray survey for TB in the county, accepted a low bid on a truck for the building inspector, and acted on several other matters.

## HOT WIRE DANGER

The lights went out in a part of downtown Trenton on Saturday about noon, and there was an element of danger in the power shutdown. The transmission line burned in two on the corner in front of the Courthouse and lay hissing and sputtering on the ground until the arrival of a repair crew. Volunteer citizens stood by the danger spots and warned passersby away from them until the line was repaired.

# Buggs Island, REA And Local Tie-In Studied

By Fred Whitaker

There began last month in Eastern Carolina a cooperative move which at the end of 1952 may make four of its cities partners with the federal government for the more economical use of power.

The four cities are Kinston, Wilson, Greenville and Rocky Mount. The Federal power utility will be the Buggs Island hydro-electric dam on the Roanoke River just across the state line in Virginia.

The cooperation of the four cities in the use of their municipally owned power plants, without federal government participation, is one contemplated since the early 1920's. But it was on November 21 that the idea began to work in earnest. Since that time positive moves have been made in the nation's capital, as well as in North Carolina.

On November 21 four city managers, Roy Williamson of Rocky Mount, F. T. Green of Wilson, Martin Swartz of Greenville and W. J. Heard of Kinston, Consulting Engineer William C. Olson of Raleigh and Utilities Director Kenneth Knight of Rocky Mount began to explore the possibilities. In that Wilson meeting several pieces of information came to light, some of them volunteered by Manager Fred Harmon of the Jones-Onslow Rural Electrification Administration.

It was learned that the REA has tentative plans for the erection of a huge steam plant for the generation of power near Kinston, to be a main power source for the REA in this section. To tie in with that plant it has been contemplated that a direct transmission line be brought down to the plant from Buggs Island and on to the Cherry Point section.

That transmission line from Buggs Island would serve only as a standby service for peak load service to the contemplated REA plant. Contrary to the popular misunderstanding, the Buggs Island hydro-electric dam is primarily for flood control with electric power, navigation and stream pollution abatement, recreation and fish and wildlife preservation all secondary.

The hydro-electric power generation part of the Buggs Island project is expected to operate only 45 to 60 hours each week.

six to seven hours each day to maintain the water level in the Roanoke River basin. But the 108,000 kilowatt hours of power would come at a time when the peak load demands are being

met. Such an arrangement would relieve the strain on the steam plants and make for a much more economical operation.

The fact upon which the four municipalities are working is that they will be able to offer to the REA from their plants as much power as would be available from the contemplated plant near Kinston. The total generating power to be available from their plants will be 92,000 kilowatts. Their circuit demands total 42,700, and their technically "firm" capacity is 77,000 kilowatts. That is when the main generating turbine of each unit is excluded. Even in the event of such an improbability the surplus would be 34,300 kilowatts.

The cost of a loop to unit the four cities on a cooperative basis is estimated at a million and one-half dollars, only a fraction of the cost of a single plant to supply the same power. The present REA demand for this section is some 25,000 kilowatts at peak, but in five years time the extension of rural distribution is expected to reach 50,000 kilowatts, officials estimate.

The proposed move of the four cities has been hailed at a meeting of the East Carolina Engineers Club as the finest move ever made towards a cooperative organization to tie together all power facilities available for the common good of all of Eastern Carolina. The municipalities have always had the same rights to federal power as any cooperative group, but in the past have failed to reach an agreement whereby they could take advantage of the opportunity. It has been pointed out that such a huge cooperative agreement between the cities would make the construction of an REA plant unnecessary in the near future, and at the same time give the municipalities a desirable standby service, not only from Buggs Island but from each other.

Another most important step taken by the officials of the mu-

nicipalities and Olson was a visit to the Department of the Interior in Washington, D. C., on November 28. There among many others they talked with Walter C. Harbo, head of the Federal Rural Electrification Administration. The federal officials learned their business was municipal and not political.

The projected idea was liked by the federal officials, but no

commitments were made. Seymour told the municipal officials the plan would be given careful consideration from a policy side, but that the cities must find a way to get together on a cooperative basis if the proposed power lines are to be built and maintained by the REA.

No applications for the Buggs Island power have yet been processed by the federal government. An office for that purpose is expected to be set up by the Department of the Interior

early in 1950 and the execution of power contracts is expected to take place about the middle of the year. The federal officials are agreed that the combination of Buggs Island hydro-electric power and a loop of municipal steam plants would be economical for all concerned in the relief of peak loading of facilities.

The latest move in the power project took place in Tarboro on Friday in a meeting of the officials of the four cities with REA officials and a group from that section beginning the formation of a cooperative association. Representing Kinston at that meeting was Utilities Superintendent W. G. McAdams. It was there that the progress of the planning took on a legal aspect.

The REA officials told the group that in the event such a plan could be effected the REA must be able to purchase the power on a stable rate. The four cities in the loop must set such a rate cooperatively between themselves, as well as other negotiations incident to such an arrangement. The question was also raised as to whether the cities under the governing statutes could enter into such an arrangement.

As well as the legal study now being made by the attorneys of the municipalities, their engineers are studying the technical problems involved. The officials of the REA in this district told the representatives of the municipalities that they would shortly begin a "board" study of their requirements in view of such a cooperative tie-in. Intense research and preparation by all those involved in the proposed project is required.

The next meeting for the continuing study of the Eastern Carolina municipal electric power cooperative is expected to take place in about 10 days. Much vital spade work required in the preliminary processing of the project is expected to be completed by that time. In the meantime, also, the enthusiasm of those concerned in the planning is growing. It offers not only great assistance to the program of rural electrification, they feel, but also relief from a lonely responsibility the four towns now have in supplying electric power to their citizens.



PROPOSED ELECTRIC LOOP