

Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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Armistice Day Is To Be Harvest Festival Day In Kinst'n Everyone Invited

Plans are moving along toward completion for the Kinston Harvest Festival, which is to be held on Armistice Day, November 11th. Everything points at this time to one of the biggest and most enjoyable days in the history of the World's Foremost Tobacco Center. The whole day is to be an expression of thanks from the people of Kinston to their neighbors who sell and buy in the community during the rest of the year.

The Harvest Day program will get underway at 9 in the morning when the Old Knott Warehouse, which will house the many industrial, agricultural and educational exhibits, will be opened to the public. At 10 o'clock the day's program gets officially under way with Radio Stage Show which is to feature the Bailey Brothers string band of Raleigh Radio Station WPTF.

Following the string band stage show there will be a band concert at 10:45. Guests will be recognized after this concert and following this the featured speaker of the day, Carl Goerch, editor of the State magazine, will deliver an address.

Following Goerch's speech a parade will be held through the downtown section of Kinston which is to feature a considerable number of floats, bands and

marching units. After the parade, lunch will be served by the Lenoir County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs. This lunch will be the only part of the day that is not provided FREE. A nominal charge will be made for this mid-day meal but the rest of the program will be entirely free to everyone, officials of the festival have declared.

After lunch at 1:30 there will be a show and sale of purebred Hereford cattle at the New Carolina Warehouse.

At 2:30 the annual 4-H Club achievement program and awards will be presented at the Old Knott Warehouse.

Following the 4-H Club program, at 3 p. m. another stage show will be given free in the same warehouse.

At 7:30 a band concert will be held in the same place and at 8 p. m. a beauty pageant with girls from Lenoir and seven surrounding counties will be held and immediately after the beauty pageant a round and square dance will begin and last until midnight.

Any girl between 15 and 23 years of age whose home is in a community of less than 2,500 people in Jones, Onslow, Duplin, Wayne, Greene, Pitt, Craven and Lenoir Counties is eligible to enter this contest and invitations

John Larkins Is 'Campus Sweetheart' For Salem Coeds

Much to the embarrassment of the "glamor boy" set in Winston-Salem, the coeds at Salem College have selected State Senator John D. Larkins Jr. as their "Campus Sweetheart" for the 1950-51 school term. Larkins has sent a telegram to the girls, including his daughter, Polly, in which he asks that every one of his supporters be given a big kiss and he has expressed regret that he has not been able to attend to this personally.

Larkin was one of 65 young men entered in this contest and he has not been able to determine whether his good looks, his ever present smile or the political ability of his daughter were responsible for his winning this election in a sphere usually closed to professional politicians.

Larkins has under study a "glamor school" in which, for a nominal tuition fee, he will pass on some of his ability to win friends and influence voters even in a most conservative girls' school.

Mountain Laurel is one of the 10 North Carolina plants most poisonous to livestock, according to animal husbandry specialists at State College.

have been extended to all social and civic organizations in these counties to enter a girl. First prize will be \$100, second prize \$50 and third prize will be \$25. All entries must be received before midnight November 8th.

Three More Days Left of Jones County's Annual Fair: Attend One Or All

Everything is rolling along toward the most successful of the four Jones County Agricultural Fairs that have been sponsored in Trenton by the Glen Newton Post of the American Legion. Still three of the biggest and best days of the fair remain for the people of Jones and surrounding counties to enjoy.

Today (Thursday) is Farm machinery Day at the fair. Farm equipment dealers in Jones and neighboring counties are putting on a show to let the farm folks know what the various types of equipment will do and how to best take care of this equipment. Thursday night the Veterans Farm Training Classes in Jones County Schools are putting on a fire works show which they are not only managing but are also paying for from their own funds. On Friday all school children in Jones and surrounding counties are to be admitted free throughout the day. During the afternoon the annual 4-H Club poultry show sale will be held and a flock of special events have been lined up for participation by the school-aged boys and girls. Friday night a two hour concert is to be given at the fair grounds by the Cherry Point Marine Air Station band.

On Saturday the fair will come to an end with the annual beauty

contest in which 18 Jones County girls will parade before judges for the honor of being chosen Miss Jones County of 1950. United States Senator Clyde R. Hoey has accepted an invitation from Fair Director John D. Larkins Jr. and will have the honor of crowning the winner of this contest.

Purebred Swine To Be On Sale Friday At Kinston Show

On Friday of this week hog growers in this part of the country will have an opportunity to attend a Purebred Hog Sale which is being put on at 1 p. m. in the New Carolina Warehouse in Kinston under the sponsorship of the Lenoir County Livestock Development Association.

Twenty one registered animals from several different breeds will be on sale at the show, officials have announced. Lenoir County Livestock Specialist Raymond Upchurch has pointed out that this is a golden opportunity for swine producers to add some fine blood to their herds.

Animals to be on sale include Spotted Poland China, Duroc, Poland China, Hampshire and Tamworth breeds.

Historic Home in Poor State of Repair Now

Few homes in Lenoir County or North Carolina have a greater aura of history about them than "Burns Place" which now stands crumbling from lack of appreciation, paint and repairs just east of the Wayne County line in the western edge of Lenoir County. The men who built and lived in this once fine old home have helped write a considerable portion of the history of Lenoir County, North Carolina and the United States. Today, like a great majority of East Carolina's historical landmarks it stands, abused and unnoticed by the hundreds who pass it daily on the two highways that intersect in its front yard, which is located at what was once called Cedar Lane and is today perhaps best known as Hussey's Store.

The men whose children built "Burns Place" were among the first white men to settle in this part of North Carolina. In the 1770's Bryan Whitfield who was born at White Hall settled at what came to be called "Rockford", which is several miles down the river from his birthplace. This first Bryan Whitfield operated a ferry and general store at "Rockford" and was a most successful man for his day.

Prior to the Revolutionary War this Bryan Whitfield saved the life of an Englishman named Benjamin Burns, who was fleeing from some of King George's militia. In gratitude, Burns gave Whitfield a great plantation along the Neuse River of several thousand acres.

When General James Bryan Whitfield built the manor house, for this great plantation to replace the family home at "Rockford" which had burned he named the house, "Burns Place" in memory of the man who had given his father the huge tract of land. Misses Hattie and Junie Whitfield, great-granddaughters of that first Bryan Whitfield, who live

at 703 North Queen Street in Kinston still have in their possession this deed which gave their family the Burns land.

Hand-fluted columns from the original home at "Rockford" and handcarved mantels were part of this "Burns Place" when it was completed in 1835—115 years ago.

The first Bryan Whitfield was born February 19, 1754 and reached his majority at the beginning of the Revolutionary war. He served with the Continental Army with great distinction, was a member of the North Carolina House of Commons, voted in favor of a bill to build the

Dismal Swamp Canal which had been surveyed by George Washington and served on the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina from 1805 through 1808. He died June 23, 1817.

His son, General James Bryan Whitfield was the builder of "Burns Place". He was born at Rockford May 23, 1809. He was a general in the State Militia.

From General Whitfield the plantation passed to Colonel Nathan Bryan Whitfield, who was born at "Burns Place" December 21, 1835. Colonel Whitfield served with great valor in the Eighth North Carolina Regiment in the

War Between The States and during a long and most useful lifetime he became one of Lenoir County's most honored and respected citizens.

At the age of 23 he served his first term in the North Carolina General Assembly, another at the age of 24 and later at the age of 56 in 1891 he served his county in the State Legislature. He served as chairman of the county board of commissioners, was for 24 years a magistrate and for 11 years a judge in the Inferior Courts of the county. He was also one of the founders of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in

the Moss Hill Community.

Colonel Whitfield died March 21, 1914 and today the only children from his family of six who are living are the Misses Whitfield of Kinston. From the Colonel his plantation passed to his son Dr. William Cobb Whitfield and from him it went to his children who had moved to Florida. These two children having lost contact with their family ties in North Carolina sold the plantation to Alton Mewborn who owns it today.

During the War Between the States when the Battle of White-Hall was fought "Burns Place" was converted into a "Yankee hospital". The Whitfields had taken refuge in Richmond county while Colonel Whitfield was away with the Confederate Army. The huge but sturdy old dining room table of the home was used as an operating table. This table is still in the home of the Misses Whitfield today. Another family heirloom still with the Whitfield sisters is a giant sized buffet which was converted into a feed trough for Yankee horses while the home was being used as a hospital.

After the Yankees had gone an epidemic of typhoid fever hit the Whitfield family and the people working around the place and it was found that this epidemic was caused by the pollution of the plantation well by amputated arms and legs that had been thrown there by the makeshift operators of the war-time hospital.

The Confederate Ram Neuse was built in "The Grove" which was part of this plantation.

Much history has been written in this house and much more has been written by the men who once called it home. No one with any sense of historical appreciation can pass it today without feeling a small lump over its present condition.



This is "Burns Place", one of Lenoir County's most historic homes. It is located on the Kinston Seven Springs road at what is today called Hussey's Store. In spite of the poor state of repair that the old home has been permitted to fall into, it still presents a com-

manding countenance to the hurried travelers who fly by today at a mile a minute with no appreciation for it or the men and women who lived in it and helped write a goodly portion of the county, state and nation's history. (Photo by Jack Rider)

Still Three More Days of The Jones County Fair