

# Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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## Lenoir Commissioners Authorize Revaluation by Professional Men

After 18 years of delay due to one reason or another the tax listed valuations of Lenoir County real estate are due a considerable overhauling. The board of county commissioners Monday voted to give Tax Collector and Supervisor Milton Williams authority to negotiate with professional tax evaluators for the huge job of revaluing every piece of property in the county. The only stipulation made by the commissioners in granting Williams this authority was that the men who do the job be from "outside Lenoir County."

Williams had explained prior to this action by the board that there are three possible methods for doing this much-needed and long-delayed job. To employ local experts to do the job. This notion was quickly vetoed by the board which has had plenty of time to study every aspect of the situation and agrees unanimously that no in-the-county group could do the job as fairly or impartially as an outside group.

Secondly, Williams said there are groups of professional tax evaluators who do this work all the time. They are expensive but they do a very thorough job, Williams said. Thirdly, Williams said there is the possibility that the county may be able to "borrow" a team of evaluators from

the State of Virginia. This latter method is favored by Williams, but he pointed out that he didn't know if it would be possible to get a team from Virginia. He indicated that if it were possible that would be his recommendation.

In a revaluation every home, every farm, every business, every plant in the entire county is visited and a detailed survey of the property is made. The basic purpose of a revaluation is not to boost valuations but to establish a greater equity between all types and parcels of property. It is readily agreed by everyone who has any knowledge of the present situation that a great many gross inequities exist. The fundamental purpose of this revaluation is to clear up as many of these inequities as is humanly possible.

Williams says that it will not be possible to use these new values earlier than the 1953 list taking. The rest of this year and all of 1952 will be needed to complete the huge and complicated job.

No action was taken on Williams' suggestion that a panel of farmers, home owners and business men be named as a board of review for the work done by what ever evaluators are finally employed.

## Jones Board Has Routine Session In August Meet

The Jones County Board of Commissioners meeting Monday in its regular August session passed on a number of routine matters, including the passage of a resolution approving the sale of \$130,000 in school bonds as authorized in a special election held in May.

Other matters acted on included the naming of W. B. Yates, Roy F. Mallard and Cyrus Griffin as delinquent tax collector until January 1952. The three collectors will receive the same salary paid to previous delinquent tax collectors and each will be bonded for \$500.

The board also voted to pay the \$5 per month telephone bill of Deputy Sheriff Yates.

On recommendation of the Jones County Bar Association and Clerk of Superior Court Murray Whitaker the August term of Jones County Superior Court was cancelled. The next term of court will be held during the week of September 17th. Clerk Whitaker announced.

The board approved expenditure of \$300 for office furniture and equipment for the welfare department on request of Acting Superintendent, Mrs. J. R. Burt.

The board voted to grant the usual discounts for prepaid taxes for 1951 and voted to amend the minutes of the June 4th meeting which had stated that insurance for the court house and agriculture building would be purchased from J. H. Foscue and Murry Whitaker. The amended minutes delete the name of Foscue.

## At Raleigh Meeting

Home Agent Mrs. Madge Jarvis and Mrs. Annie Hay of Maysville were Jones County's only representatives at the annual Farm and Home week meeting which was held last week in Raleigh on the campus of State College. Both report an interesting week.

## Don't Forget Tour

Jones County farmers were this week reminded of the five day, four state tour that is to be conducted for their entertainment and education September 3-7 under the supervision of the county agent's office. The tour which will include trips to the Norfolk area and the huge shipyard at Newport News, the government's experimental farm at Beltsville, Md., a trip through Washington, D. C., a trip down the Skyline Drive, a visit to the Luray Caverns, a tour of the Fieldcrest Mills rug plant in Leaksville Spray and a trip through the Chesterfield cigarette plant in Durham is one of the best yet planned for Jones farmers. A \$5 deposit is asked now of those who plan to make the September trip. Full details can be obtained by calling at the county agent's office.

town which is to open soon beside Paul Baker's Wayside Furniture Store on West Vernon Avenue. This grocery business is the thing to be in, that's where 60 per cent of everyone's income is being spent.

## Small Grains Do Well On Manley Foscue Farm

By WAYLAND J. REAMS  
Jones County Agent

Who said that Jones County soils were not adapted to production of wheat and oats? Here is evidence that shows that that Jones County soils are well adapted to all types of small grain production.

J. Manley Foscue, Jr., of the Pollockville Community harvested 10 acres of fulgrain oats and three acres of Arlington oats early in June of this year and produced an estimated average yield of 70 bushels per acre, or a total yield of just over 910 bushels on the 13 acres.

Foscue also produced 10 acres of No. 4727 wheat and five acres of Atlas 86 wheat and he estimates that his average yield was approximately 30 bushels per acre for both varieties, with a total yield of 450 bushels for the 15 acres of wheat.

All of this wheat and oats produced by Foscue has been inspected and approved for certification by the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association.

Foscue used exactly the same fertilization for both wheat and oats. He applied 400 pounds of 2-12-12 at seeding time per acre and top dressed with 200 pounds of Calnitro and 50 pounds of muriate of potash in the latter part of February.

That is producing small grain for any part of the county, and at a profit too.

## This Ain't Good

Jones County PMA Secretary, Nelson Barker Tuesday said that he had tallied up the first 28 tickets that had been returned to his office for Jones County tobacco that had been sold on the Georgia-Florida Markets. The total figures ain't good. There were 20,961 pounds of tobacco that sold for \$7,127, an average of exactly 34 cents per pound. Barker, of course, has no way of knowing what kind of tobacco went for this extremely low average. He just took the first 28 tickets returned and averaged them up for his own information.

## Visiting Wisconsin

County Agent and Mrs. Wayland J. Reams are vacationing at present with relatives of Mrs. Reams in Wisconsin. Holding the local Ag. Building business down in his absence are Assistant County Agent Henry Swiggett, Home Agent Mrs. Madge Jarvis and Secretary Macy Mallard.

About 95 per cent of the home demonstration club women of Clay county already have started fall gardens, according to Mrs. Velma Beam Moore, home agent. Most of the members have planned gardens according to the needs set forth in a food conservation plan prepared by specialists of the State College Extension Service.

## 'Water-Conditioning' Is Latest Innovation Tried Locally; Grocery is Sold

Recently a lot of attention has been paid in the local public print on the new businesses that are popping up about town but not too much attention has been given to the new things that are happening around the edge of town.

Jake West is beginning to believe now that he will get into the handsome new home of his International Harvester business before Jake, Jr., is old enough to vote. There was a time when it looked as if scarcity of steel and other gadgets needed for this swanky tractor sales house would delay construction until Jake The Senior was drawing his

social security.

Jake's building in addition to being the nicest tractor peddling and tractor repairing joint in this section of the woods will have another distinction that is worth a word or two. Instead of being an air-conditioned building, it will be a water-conditioned building. On the roof of this large structure there will be a four-inch layer of water. This layer of water is supposed to keep the building inside considerably cooler. At anyrate one observer has advised Jake that if the tractor business blows up he can always go into the live-bait business, with such a big pond for producing minnows and up where the cats can't eat 'em too.

This stretch of the highway between the city limits of Kingston and the prison camp is rapidly becoming "tractor row." With the completion of the West Machinery Company building there'll be three tractor peddlers in something like a mile. Turner Tractor and Implement Company with Allis-Chalmers gadgets is just across the river and down the road a short distance Keith Williams is busy trying to persuade his friends to buy Ferguson Tractors and the gear that goes along with them.

In town another business change that has nothing to do with building or tearing down is the sale of the Fairfield Grocery on West Washington Street by Julian F. Everett to Popular Louis K. Wilson who has for many years been manager in Kingston of the Colonial Stores outlet. Wilson is scheduled to take over the management of this popular neighborhood grocery as soon as his replacement can be found at the Colonial Store.

As Wilson is marking time before leaving his bosses for such a long time work is being rushed on the second Colonial Store in

## 'Ulcer Season' at Its Height Now As Everyone Adds Up and Sees How Much is Invested in Crop

This is the "crying season." Farmers begin to faint and falter every time they think about the kind of money they have tied up in their tobacco crop and business people begin to baby their ulcers when they look at their books and see how much they have tied up directly or indirectly in the tobacco crop. The crop is all but made and between now and the time that the checks are cashed and the bills are paid a lot of sweating, gray hairs and wrinkles will be cultivated. Some people will loose hair, as well as money.

This season is nothing new under the tobacco growing sun of Eastern Carolina. It happens every year. Strangely enough, the fellows that holler the loudest, weep the most tears and go through the worst horrors are the same fellows who are deapest

in the pit again next August when the "crying season" comes around again.

Tobacco is perhaps the world's number one gamble for the producer. The manufacturers of the nicotine weed get their margin of profit come hell, come wind or taxes and the taxes seem to grow and grow. The biggest profit, by far, from tobacco goes to the government, which in this land is still you and you and you.

To add to the palpitations of that favorite ulcer there are reports of lower and lower prices coming from the order Markets, from Georgia and Florida and daily more bad news is piled on to the already large pile that is "home grown."

Labor is scarce, expensive and to a great extent lazy. One farmer reports hauling six field hands out to his fields and be-

fore lunch time five of the six were stretched out in the sun from the "heat."

Fertilizer is exorbitantly expensive, fuel oil is higher, tobacco sticks are scarce and also expensive, but in spite of it all if the farmer-owner or tenant manages to break even he is ready to start fighting the same battle again as soon as October rolls around and it is time to start "deweeding" the plant bed sites.

Somebody has to grow tobacco to help keep the government running. The billion dollars a year that the government is getting from tobacco is a huge chunk of change even in these inflated times. So far as this writer is concerned, however, that tobacco growing can be left up to somebody else. He'd rather be broke.