

Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

VOLUME THREE

TRENTON, N. C., Thursday, December 27, 1951

NUMBER 33

Attempt to Get Bond Fixed For Prominent Craven Man Charged With Tenant's Murder is Likely

There is a strong likelihood that a habeas corpus proceeding will be held in the near future before the presiding judge of Craven County's Superior Court, Judge John Burney of Wilmington, in an attempt to have bond fixed for Newton Hanes, prominently connected Craven County farmer, who has been held in the Craven County jail since November 4th without privilege of bond on a first degree murder charge.

Hanes is indicted on the murder charge that grew out of the death of Iahmon Simmons, who had been a tenant with Hanes for 11 years. Simmons' partially clad body was found about two miles from the Hanes Home which is located a few miles from New Bern up Trent River. Guy Hamilton, New Bern cafe proprietor found the dead man's body crumpled into the foot of his own car.

Simmons died from one of two .25 caliber pistol wounds, one between the eyes which penetrated into the brain and the other behind the left ear which also lodged in the brain.

Following the coroner's inquest held shortly after the shooting which occurred on Sunday, November 3, Hanes was ordered held without bond. District Solicitor W. J. Bundy has refused to allow bond in the case and now according to informed sources the habeas corpus hearing is to be held before Judge Burney. Bundy has scheduled Hanes for trial on January 8, the second day of the first term of criminal court set for Craven County in 1952.

It is apparent, however, that counsel for the defense, which is headed by Fred S. Hutchins of the Winston-Salem law firm of Deal, Hutchins and Minor and

by New Bern Attorney John Beaman, does not contemplate having the case tried at this January term of court, since a habeas corpus proceeding less than 10 days before the trial date would not seem to be pressingly called for in view of the fact that Hanes has remained in jail nearly two full months since his arrest a few hours after the tenant farmer's body was found.

Evidence available to the state includes blood stains on the back porch of the Hanes home, and a trail of blood leading from the back porch around the side of the house and to the front where a car had been parked. The trousers, shoes and socks which were missing from Simmons' body when it was found were found at Hanes' home, along with the key to the dead man's car.

Hanes with his wife and 11-year-old son had returned to Simmons-Nott airport by plane at about 3 p. m. on the day of the shooting. Medical estimates of the time of the shooting place Simmons' death at about 4:30—about an hour and a half after the Hanes family had returned from Winston-Salem.

One witness who'll probably be called to testify in the case says that Hanes "blowed" (blown) when Simmons' body was found. Hanes is said to have needed to collect checks for some tobacco that had been sold during Hanes' absence.

Mrs. Hanes told officers that her husband and the tenant were arguing over this tobacco sale when she and her son left and went to the nearby farm of O. C. Crump at just after 4 p. m. on the afternoon of Simmons' death.

Investigation Is Underway Into Woman's Injury

Officers Wednesday began an investigation into the five day old injury of Mrs. Leatie Roberson who is under treatment at Duke Hospital for a compound fracture of the left elbow, a fracture dislocation in the left shoulder and several broken ribs which she reportedly suffered last Friday night when she fell from a car driven by Quincy Clark. The accident reportedly happened near Caswell on a dirt road when a turn was being made into a private home where Mrs. Roberson and Clark were started for a visit.

Thursday afternoon, just a little over 24 hours before the accident happened, Mrs. Roberson and Clark were each sentenced to 12 months in prison on prostitution charges that grew out of the unexpected return from Korea of Mrs. Roberson's husband, a Marine, who had been in Korea and had been sending his wife a \$140 per month allotment check for the 13 months of his absence. The couple appealed the sentence in Superior Court which set aside the charges and set for hearing in District Court.

According to local records no report of the accident had been made as late as Wednesday morning and Clark was in technical violation of the law for failure to report the injury to Mrs. Roberson.

Mrs. Roberson was given emergency treatment shortly after the accident at Parrott Memorial Hospital in Kinston

Farming Still Foundation Under Local Economy as Industry Begins Move in

The past year for Lenoir and Jones Counties has been one of the most rewarding if not the most rewarding in their respective histories. Tobacco has played its usual dominant role in the success story of the past 12 months for these counties and although the past crop was admittedly one of the most expensive ever housed it still sold for far more money than ever before in the history of this nicotine weed's production and sale by these sister counties.

In Jones County a daily increasing emphasis on a more balanced farm program with livestock slowly building up as a big second in the farm-income parade has been just behind tobacco in the importance of the year's developments.

In Lenoir County this move toward increased meat production has been more than overshadowed by the construction of a 33 million dollar Du Pont plant up in Contentnea Neck and the November opening of an Air Force pilot training school at Stallings Field just five miles northwest of Kinston.

Beef and swine production, however, have played a tremendous part in the increased prosperity of Lenoir County and the overall production of beef, pork, poultry, eggs, milk and milk products has added many more dollars to local bank accounts during the past year than Du Pont's part and all new industries combined and with food prices still at astronomical levels it is likely that the income from these sources will more than outweigh the returns from the big new industries for several years to come.

In spite of the sudden upward surge in industrial employment, which has not yet hit its high and will not until the completion of the Du Pont plant, the

Du Pont is planning for a three and a half million dollar per year payroll at its plant and at peak operation the pilot school at Stallings Field will also dump about that amount out each year in paychecks. But balanced against this is the very large fact that the Kinston tobacco market paid out well over 44 million dollars during the past selling season. Considerably more than half of that tobacco money went to Lenoir and Jones County farmers.

foundation for this two-county section's economy is still the farm and its produce.

Report the Fool; May Save a Life

Police have been unable to turn up any evidence and few facts on the heavy explosions that have jarred a considerable part of the community on Christmas Eve and Christmas nights. It is believed that some imbecile, or imbeciles, are exploding dynamite apparently just for the fun of it, since no reports of property damage have been received yet by the local gendarmes. Police urge that anyone having knowledge of these acts inform them immediately so that the offender or offenders may be taken out of circulation for a while to ponder on the danger and ignorance of their acts.

Several demonstrations on control of stored grain insects have been set up on farms in Harnett County. George D. Jones, State College leader in extension entomology, is assisting with the demonstrations.

Many Costs of Desertion May Bring Federal Legislation

Naturally it is an impossibility but if it were possible to divide the population of the United States equally among the 2941 counties Lenoir would turn up with very nearly the same number it now has in its borders. Which means that, in a population sense, Lenoir County is about the average for the nation. The smallest county in the United States, population-wise is Lovin County, Texas which has less than 300 population according to the latest census figures and the largest county in population is Cook County, Illinois with nearly four and one half million people.

So for studying some of the general situations of the nation Lenoir County may be taken as an average county and in this sense some current figures on the functions of the Public Welfare Department of Lenoir County are interesting and a little awesome.

During the past month 408 families in Lenoir County received checks from the welfare department for aid to dependent children. These 408 families included 1,387 children. Presuming upon the "averageness" of Lenoir County this adds up to something like three million children who are receiving partial or total funds for their basic necessities from their respective welfare departments.

The average check per child last month in Lenoir County was \$12.50—and North Carolina is

among the lower paying states of the nation in this respect. Multiplied by this low-average and still the MONTHLY cost to the taxpayers of the nation for this particular category of welfare aid totals well over 37 and one half million dollars. Per year this figure then reaches into the really big cash by passing the 450 million dollar bracket—almost a half BILLION dollars.

Of course, the large majority of this money is spent in families where the breadwinner is absent for one reason or another. Death, disability, detention and desertion might be termed the four "D's" which comprise practically every case of this type. The first three of these "D's", death, disability and detention are very largely in a realm that refuse correction or modification in any sense.

As to desertion, however, the story is different and that is the one cause for dependent children that could be greatly minimized by passage of proper nationwide statutes which would make this most venal of crimes less frequent and more thought provoking than it is at present.

Well over 17 per cent of the dependent families in Lenoir County are caused by desertion. In the 109 cases of this type that were reviewed at the December meeting of the welfare board 19 were the victims of this crime of abandonment and non-support. These 19 cases were approved for grants totalling \$895 per month.

With the average grant per family for November running at \$42.48 it is revealed that these 19 cases have an average grant of just over \$47 per month, reflecting the larger sized families that are generally found in this unfortunate category.

But forgetting the larger size of these deserted families and considering them as basically the average a staggeringly large figure still remains when one computes the nation-wide cost of mass refusal by parents to assume the responsibilities of their position.

Seventeen percent of the nation-wide cost of aid for dependent children adds up to well above 76 and a half million dollars. This is the dollars and cents side of this most prevalent crime.

On the human side consider more than a half million children left on the mercy of the world and the scant comforts of a check from their respective welfare departments. Children who cannot generally be expected to grow into an adulthood of full productivity because of the many things they are denied during their formative years. Absence from the home of either parent causes a general relaxation of family discipline. Particularly the absence of the father since the mother is then usually forced to seek employment to provide the essentials to the deserted children.

For many years leaders in the

field of public welfare have felt the need for better legislation aimed at the correction of this costly and heart-rending business of packing up and leaving a family on the not too tender mercy of the world.

Several states have strengthened their laws pertaining to this particular crime of abandonment and non-support and several states have reciprocal agreements for the return of men or women charged with this crime. On the whole, however, there is very little in the law of any state or in any agreement between states that can do the job that needs to be done.

For several years now it has been a federal offense to carry a stolen vehicle across a state line. Welfare authorities and others interested in correcting down to the smallest possible minimum this business of deserting small children protest that a stolen car is hardly as valuable or costly to the state as a whole as a deserted family.

The need for a federal law to cover abandonment and non-support is more than supported, it is also argued, by the fact that three fourths of the money used to support these deserted families comes directly from the federal government.

These 69 fathers absent without leave from their families in Lenoir County will this year alone cost the taxpayers of the nation well over \$35,000. Multiply this average county burden

by the 2941 counties of the nation and the need for a strong deterrent for this popular crime becomes more pressing with each tick of the clock.

Recently criticisms have been leveled at the courts of various levels for their apparently unrealistic approach to this particular type case when one is brought for trial. This criticism comes from those who think that the courts are being naive in their frequent presumptions that a child can be reared decently, or at all, on payments that range frequently as low as \$5 per week and in some instances even lower than this for larger families.

Judges of the several court levels are faced with the harsh fact of legal life that they must make the best of a bad situation. If they place a realistic support amount to be paid by the absent parent then that parent will quickly put a state line between himself and the jurisdiction of that particular court.

Judges must admit a half loaf or even sometimes less than a half loaf — is better than no bread at all. No judge expects that the allocations ordered by his court are sufficient but they know from frequent experience that placing an adequate allocation upon a defaulting parent will mean that nothing will be paid.

Arguments on the subject of states rights could be handled Continued on Back Page