

# Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

VOLUME THREE

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## Kinston Meeting Monday Night On New Elementary School Site

Lenoir County Board of Commissioners Chairman Ike Whitfield has called for a joint meeting next Monday night at 7:30 of his board with the city board of aldermen, recreation and schools for the purpose of studying every aspect of the desirability of obtaining about two acres on the northern tip of the Fairfield Playground as a site for an elementary school.

After prolonged discussions at the January session of the commissioners it was unanimously voted that such a meeting be called since it was the opinion of the entire board that the playground site was more desirable than the site under option.

This option has been obtained on a \$30,000, 10-acre tract of land back of the country club that has been tentatively scheduled for use as a site for this much-needed school facility but members of the board, as well as some members of the school board, feel that this site is not nearly as good as the site on Perry Park Drive, plus the fact that an investment of \$30,000 is needed.

The 14 acres on which the Fairfield Playground is located was bought by the city and county in the '30's as a site for an armory which never materialized and the county later gave its share of the tract to the city on condition that it be used for a playground.

western tip of the playground for a school site has developed on both the recreation commission side of the fence and on the school board side. To soften this air of disagreement the commissioners have unofficially but publicly offered to invest the \$30,000 scheduled for a new site in a recreation building that could be used by the school and the recreation commission as well.

Directors of the school and recreation program fear that a jointly owned building cannot be used without too many headaches cropping up and to buttress this complaint, of course, other considerations have been brought to play.

Refusal of school authorities to permit the recreation commission to use the recently finished Grainger High School gymnasium as well as the old one, without payment of a rather high rental is seen as the basis for much of this unwillingness to cooperate by the two governmental units.

Members of both the Town Council and the Board of Commissioners, who hold the purse strings for the recreation commission and the school board, feel that this is an unreasonable attitude that may be ended with a full and public discussion of every aspect of this situation.

It is reasoned by some members of each of the four boards involved in the matter that the

there is no logical reason for so much "line drawing" on the specific subject of who uses what and when.

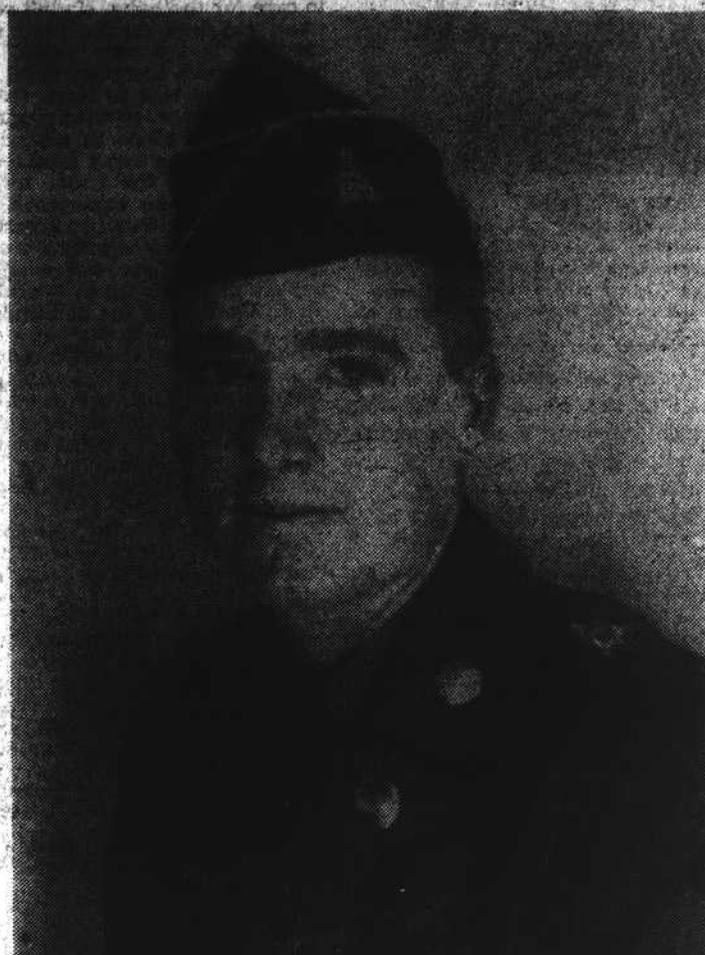
It has been pointed out also that the cost of extending streets, water and sewer facilities to the proposed site back of the country club would make the site exorbitantly expensive, particularly when it is considered that paved streets, water and sewer facilities are already available at the playground site.

It has been further argued by these officials that a recreational building on the playground site would make for a more perfectly balanced school athletic program as well as giving the recreation commission a much-needed building on this large playground.

It is pointed out that the \$30,000 site back of the country club is on the absolute perimeter of the possible future city limits (it is not in the city limits at present).

The geographical, economic and public service considerations that have been aired in preliminary discussions of this subject tend to favor by a wide margin the compromise that would permit the school to be built on the northwestern tip of the playground area; at least that is the consensus of the entire board of county commissioners, several members of the town council, several members of the recreation commission and at least one member of the school board.

## Sgt. Mercer Awarded Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star



Sgt. George Mercer, whose parents live near Phillips' Crossroads in Jones County has made an outstanding record for himself in the Korean fighting and the following General Orders speak eloquently for his achievements. They announce in official language that Sgt. Mercer has been awarded on two different occasions the third highest award for bravery above and beyond the call of duty that the nation bestows on its military personnel. The orders follow here:

### HEADQUARTERS

2nd Infantry Division  
APO 248 c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California  
GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 599

13 October 1951  
Section I

Award of the Silver Star—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress (approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul 43, 1918), and pursuant to authority in AR 600-45, the Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to the following named enlisted men:

Sergeant First Class George E. Mercer, RA14367260, (then Sergeant), Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company L, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 2 and 3 September 1951 in the vicinity of Kach'il-bong, Korea. On these dates, the platoon, of which Sergeant Mercer was a squad leader, was infiltrating the enemy lines in an attempt to secure domination terrain features in the rear of enemy positions. Under Sergeant Mercer's outstanding leadership not a man was lost during the infiltration, and he immediately directed the men in setting up a defensive perimeter. When the enemy counterattacked with a numerically superior force, Sergeant Mercer coolly moved about his men, encouraging them and assisting in rendering medical aid to the wounded. During the ensuing action, when a machine gun was put out of action, Sergeant Mercer went to the aid of the gunners and held the advancing enemy off with grenades and rifle fire until the weapon had been repaired. His courageous and outstanding leadership was directly responsible for the successful completion of the unit's mission, with a minimum

of casualties. The gallantry in action displayed by Sergeant Mercer reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered the military service from North Carolina.

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 610

17 October 1951  
Section II

Award of the Silver Star (First Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster)—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul 43, 1918), and pursuant to authority in AR 600-45, the Silver Star (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for gallantry in action is awarded to the following named enlisted men:

Corporal George E. Mercer, RA 14367260, (then Private First Class), Infantry, a member of Company L, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 30 May 1951 in the vicinity of Inje, Korea. On this date, while on an assigned mission, Corporal Mercer's unit was ambushed by the enemy and was forced to withdraw. During the withdrawal, Corporal Mercer, with complete disregard for his personal safety, set his machine gun in an exposed position and placed accurate fire upon enemy positions. He continued this action until his unit had reached positions of safety, then made his withdrawal under cover of his comrades' fire. Corporal Mercer's heroic action enabled his unit to withdraw safely while inflicting numerous casualties upon the enemy. The gallantry in action displayed by Corporal Mercer reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered the military service from North Carolina.

## Trenton Meeting Monday Night On Clearing River to Lenoir Line

The Citizens Committee for the Clearing of Trent River from Trenton to the Lenoir County line is this week in the process of collecting pledged amounts of money from landowners living in this watershed for the purpose of putting up the \$15,000 that is necessary before the Army Corps of Engineers will begin work.

Originally the engineers asked for a \$25,000 subscription from Jones County landowners to match \$50,000 it has allocated for this job but after efforts to pledge this amount failed it was agreed to go ahead with the work if \$15,000 were deposited to the Treasurer of the United States IN ADVANCE.

Nick Nobles, chairman of the committee, Mrs. Earl Frank, Fred Pollock, Leland and Bruce Foy, John Hargett, Alva Howard, Mike Phillips, W. W. Lowery, Zach Koonce and D. E. Taylor are the members of this committee now attempting to raise the \$15,000 and Nobles urges that every landowner in this watershed contribute immediately to this fund so the work may be started. Money may be turned over to any member of this committee or to Superior Court Clerk Murray Whitaker.

The engineers plan to clear the river and bank from Trenton to the Lenoir County line but they have pointedly stated that they will not make any move until a check for \$15,000 has been deposited to the credit of the United States Treasurer.

It is estimated that the work in this project would lower the river level, at high water, by at least three feet. Jones County Soil Conservationist Mack Grif-

## Lenoir and Jones Boards' First 1952 Meeting Not too Eventful

### Jones Board

The first meeting of 1952 for the Jones County Board of Commissioners was a relatively brief one in which a goodly part of the time the board sat was spent in hearing reports from the farm agents and home agents, who presented their annual reports for the board's consideration.

By unanimous vote the board reduced the valuation of 1435.7 acres of land owned by the International Paper Company in Beaver Creek Township to \$10 per acre. This is part of the Webb Tract of land.

H. C. Mallard was named a committee of one to investigate the damage done to a turkey flock on the farm of Jimmie Moore in Beaver Creek Township which was hit by some neighborhood hounds recently.

Chairman J. W. Creagh, Mallard, Tom Stille, James Barbee

fin says that this is an extremely conservative estimate. This work will be on 37 1-2 miles of the river and it is estimated that the damage done by the 1950 early summer floods of the river, which would have been avoided by this work, would total far more than the \$65,000 that this project is going to cost.

There will be a meeting Monday night, January 14, in which the members of this committee will gather with other interested parties to see how well collections are coming along. More than \$15,000 has been pledged but there is the usual difference between pledges and collections.

and Paul Westbrook were present for the session.

### Lenoir Board

In its first meeting of 1952 the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners set a record by adjourning just after 3 o'clock but during the time it remained in session a number of important matters were discussed and action was taken on several minor matters.

The closing act of the board before adjournment was the calling of a joint meeting of the Kinston Town Council, the Kinston School Board and the Kinston Recreation Commission to meet with the commissioners at 7:30 next Monday night, January 14, to explore the possibility of obtaining a portion of the Fairfield Playground as a site for a new elementary school for northwestern Kinston.

The commissioners voted poll tax exemptions to James F. Benton and Tince Taylor on disability grounds, voted \$66.66 remuneration to Will Hussey for hogs killed on his farm in southeast Kinston by dogs and tabled for further consideration the purchase of a \$28,000 lot at the corner of Heritage Street and Rhodes Avenue for a health department building site.

County Attorney Tom White was instructed to cooperate with city officials and private attorney, Albie Whitaker, in bringing about the public sale of properties owned by Mrs. Lizzie Mewborn Brown on Blough Avenue and Independent Street.