

# Jones Journal

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## Personalities



B. Cameron Langston

B. Cameron Langston, the distinguished Commissioner from Contentnea Neck, is a personality by many—or perhaps any yardstick. If nothing but his size were taken into consideration he would stand out in practically any congregation but added to his six foot four inch frame which is adorned with about 250 pounds of "flesh" this far east

man of many parts.

Langston is a member of the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners and is now busy serving his third term on that top board of the county. Among those who frequently come to seek funds from the purse-holders Langston is known, at times, as "Scrooge" because his Scot temperament causes him to be cautious in passing out money—even when it isn't his own.

Several years ago he promised former newsman, Fred Whitaker, some ham for some nice things that had been written about him. Whitaker years later got the ham—it was the "sawdust" from a ham that Langston had sawed up at the local freezer locker plant.

Not too many moons ago Langston exhibited some more of his personality with all of the subtle weight of a brick by sending a mess of country sau-

sage and pork brains to the editor of the local semi-daily newspaper. A note with the gift explained that the sausage were for "mama" and the brains were for "papa" who had said a cutting thing or two about the "Commissioner from Contentnea Neck."

Langston recently spent a while visiting with his daughter, whose husband is stationed with the Army Air Force in Texas. When he arrived back in the same east he was adorned, as pictured here, with a considerable outlay of cowhide and rabbit fur in the jacket and hat that had been picked up south of the border.

Every two years Langston swears that he is through with politics but by the time the filing deadline has arrived he has managed to get his name in the political pot. Two years ago he came within six votes of being trimmed, which was the closest squeak he has had in his political career.

In a "Thank You" note published after the election Langston said, "I want to thank everyone of the voters who cast a ballot for me, but I most particularly want to thank that last five."

So far and with election just around the corner he has given no indication of whether or not he will be seeking those last five votes this year.

Our money says he will.

### Recital Scheduled

Miss Foy is a graduate of the school of music of East Carolina College in Greenville and she has appeared in solo performances in many North Carolina and Virginia communities. Ellington is a student at the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N. J., and has given solo performances in many North Carolina New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The scheduled recital is to begin promptly at 8 p. m. and everyone is invited to attend for the nominal admission fee that is being asked.

## Jones and Lenoir Politics Warming up As John Hargett Announces Desire to Represent Jones in State's Assembly

Spring is just around the corner according to the calendar and in the even numbered years that means county politics all over North Carolina and a great many other states. So far there has been very little outward political activity at the county level in either Jones or Lenoir counties.

In Jones the only announced candidate is Register of Deeds George Nobles who has not been opposed during the many years he has held this office and it is most unlikely that he will have opposition this year.

The five members of the Jones County Board of Commissioners have made no expression on whether or not they will seek another two year hitch on the county's top board and the same is true in Lenoir County where the five commissioners are keeping quiet in two or three different languages on the subject of running or not running.

Not announced but rumored to be strongly considering a try at county commissioner seats in Lenoir County are Kenyon Whaley of Southwest Township, J. D. Paschal of Kinston and Jack Alexander of Kinston Township.

Whaley has had his hat in the sheriff ring on two occasions but has never had a crack at the county's ruling board. Alexander two years ago ran a very strong race in the county commissioner competition in his first formal try at the business of politics. He is a newcomer to county politics but is expected to get a pretty flattering vote since he is well known.

Still very much in the rumor state is the candidacy of Mollie Hart for the Register of Deeds post in Lenoir County that is now held by Camille Aldridge. Miss Hart, most observers agree, would have some extreme difficulty in beating Miss Aldridge at the polls but the thought of a race between two well known women always tends to add flavor to the political pot boilings.

School boards in both Lenoir and Jones County are up for reelection and in each there is bound to be competition but so far there are no announced candidates either from the incumbents or the would-be board members.

In Lenoir County Incumbent Representative Marion Parrott long ago snatched his derby out of the race and up until now Pink Hill Lawyer Harvey Turner

is the only announced candidate for this post. Jones County's incumbent representative, Robert

Wednesday morning John M. Hargett, one of Jones County's best known citizens, became the second publicly announced candidate for Jones County office, when he issued a statement announcing his candidacy for the county's seat in the North Carolina General Assembly. Hargett, long active in the public affairs of Jones County is the son of a former sheriff of the county who served four terms in the State Senate and was head of the Inland Fisheries Division of the Department of Conservation and Development. The County's second announced candidate graduated from Trenton High School in 1917 and from the University of North Carolina in 1921. He married the former Iona Thigpen of Duplin County in 1942. He served for 22 years as teacher and principal in the public schools of the state but hasn't taught since 1945. He is at present engaged in operating a community store and livestock farming operation. He served on the county PMA committee and a number

P. Bender of Pollocksville, is also keeping his plans to himself but those who have observed the Jones political scene for many years will give good odds that Bender will be a candidate for reelection.

The seventh district senatorial race for the two posts representing Greene, Craven, Onslow, Carteret, Jones, and Lenoir counties is still stagnant and with the filing deadline just around the corner. Incumbent Carl T. Hicks of Walstonburg and John Larkins of Trenton "ain't talking." There are no other names officially in the pot. Libby Ward of New Bern and Luther Hamilton of Carteret County are reported to be "itching to run." Lenoir County does not have even a rumored candidate for one of these senatorial posts.

One of the most interesting races already offered to Lenoir voters is the choice between 29-year-old veteran John Kerr of Warrenton and L. H. Fountain of Tarboro for the second district's seat in the United States House of Representatives.

Kerr with 29 years of very politic political appointing in the district is naturally rated as a favorite over the young Tarboro attorney but the general consensus seems to indicate that Fountain has a fair to good chance of "scaring hell out of Kerr."

Kerr has never been a stump thumping vote getter but has rather relied on the smoke-filled room style of politics. Those who have long favored a change in the district representation say that Fountain will have an excellent chance of licking Kerr if he wages an all out person-to-person campaign. If Fountain follows the pattern of fence mending and alliance building in which Kerr excels, these same friends of Fountain admit that the Tarboro hopeful has little chance.

Fountain's appeal, they insist, must be to the so-called unorganized vote rather than to the so-called party liners. An interesting spring is with us.

### Demonstration On Terracing Thursday

A terracing demonstration will be held on the farm of Robert Taylor, Pink Hill, on Thursday, March 20th at 2:00 p. m. This farm is on the highway between Jones' Forks and Pink Hill.

The construction and use of terraces and the use of the string row method to lay out rows will be demonstrated.

This demonstration is being arranged and conducted in cooperation with Dave Dixon, Soil Conservation Service representative.

### Preston Collins On Oak Ridge Honor Roll For Term

Cadet Preston A. Collins of Maysville has been included in the select group of cadets making the scholastic honor roll at Oak Ridge Military Institute for the six-weeks period ending last week, according to an announcement from Col. T. O. Wright, president of the Institute.

Cadet Collins will be authorized to wear a special ribbon signifying his scholastic achievements. To make the scholastic honor roll at ORM, a cadet must make an average grade of "B" or above and must have no grade below "C".

## Liddell Community Short Fused and Dynamite Charged

Since the dawn of the bootleg whiskey business back in the roaring twenties the Liddell section which lies in the westernmost edge of Lenoir County has been notorious for its connection with the illicit liquor business.

There have been a number of reasons for this unhappy situation. Perhaps the first is geographical. Lying as the community does at the maximum distance from the county seat and the law enforcement headquarters and on the Duplin and Wayne County lines the simple mechanics of violating the liquor laws have been easier there than in any other section of Lenoir County. The community is also at a great distance from both Kenansville and Goldsboro.

When the first "easy money" flooded into the community back in the twenties a great many of its residents were converted to this method of making a

living. Never, of course, were all of the people in the neighborhood engaged in breaking the law but there was a time when the majority was not greatly interested in enforcing the law.

With the paving of roads and the distance between police and the community cut greatly in time, if not in miles, and with the more stringent enforcement of the illicit liquor regulations added to the general farm prosperity the backwoods distillery business has gone from bad to worse and is now hanging grimly on in a kind of "Custer's Last Stand."

A few of the old and more hardened and habitual processors of the sumphole variety of booze still survive and these have lately caused this prosperous community, which is now trying to live its rowdy past down, a great deal of trouble and there are indications that more trou-

ble will be forthcoming unless some positive action is taken in the direction of heading it off.

On Sunday, March 3, Melvin Stroud, was viciously and badly beaten, he says, by John Cruse and Norman Jones. Stroud says they told him the reason for his awful beating was "sticking his nose in their business."

Cruse whose only semi-permanent address since 1932 has been either the state or federal prison has a record that began on June 8, 1932 when he was given six months for forgery. On May 11, 1933 he was given 18 months for breaking, entering and larceny and larceny and receiving stolen goods. Five days later he was given 10 more months on another larceny and receiving charge. On September 5, 1934 he escaped from prison and when caught was again charged with larceny and given an additional eight months.

In 1935 he escaped again from prison, stealing a car in the process, and for this he drew another three years and two months. Somehow, apparently through the leniency of a parole board, he was out and on December 24, 1936 he was sentenced to a term of two to six years on two charges of felonious assault.

July 31, 1943 a reckless driving and improper license indictment against him was not pressed. In federal courts in September 1943 he was given a year and one day for violation of the Internal Revenue Code. On February 1, 1946 Cruse was given 10 years for highway robbery and two years for secret assault not with intent to kill—these two sentences to run concurrently. Two years after being given a 10 year sentence he was arrested in Wayne County for stealing a car and drunken driving and the

court gave him a six month jail sentence suspended on payment of a \$100 fine and court costs.

The arrest and trial of Cruse and Jones during this week has brought to a head the aggravated and dangerous situation that has been growing steadily worse in this community. Still it is rumored that the "head of the gang" is not caught and further it is rumored that he has threatened to "have two more men beat up like he had Melvin Stroud beat up."

Arson, poisoning of livestock and damage to personal property are part of the vicious story that is today causing this community its greatest anxiety in many hectic years.

Those who know and watch the situation feel that it is rather like a charge of dynamite with an extremely short fuse and there is danger that the fuse may burn out at any minute.