

# Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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## Personalities



WILLIE L. MEASLEY

December Seventh is a date that most Americans today associate with Pearl Harbor and the sneak attack the Japs pulled there in 1941 but to Willie L. Measley of Lenoir County's Moseley Hall Township that date, December 7, has another meaning that is a lot less unhappy than the 1941 date.

On December 7, 1936, Measley was sworn in for his first two year term on the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners and since that time he has served without interruption on the county's top ruling board, for 12 of those 16 years he has been chairman of the board, a job that he passed on to the Present Chairman, the Whitfield on the first Monday in December of 1950.

When Measley first raised his hand and promised to do his best to help run the affairs of the county of Lenoir his fellow members were Chairman Herber Worthington, F. P. White, Joseph Williams and J. L. Kilpatrick.

In recent years there has been no commissioner who has equalled the record Measley has set of serving 16 consecutive years on the rulemakers of the county government.

Measley is what is usually accepted as a "self-made man." He started out in life with very little property but with a willingness to work and a shrewd business ability that has permitted him to become one of the county's "best fixed" farm owners. Today in addition to ex-

tensive farm holdings, over which he exercises an active control, Measley is also engaged in the operation of a cotton gin in La Grange.

In spite of the considerable pressure of his own affairs, Measley has always managed to give freely of his time to county business and during the 16 years he has been a member of the board he has seldom failed to be on hand when any discussions of importance on county affairs was being had.

Being able to satisfy the voters of the entire county for such a long period is a considerable distinction within itself but coming from Moseley Hall Township where politics are taken in deadly seriousness and where the political death rate is alarming Measley has almost performed a modern-day miracle by keeping the faithful of his home township in line for so long.

The first budget for the county that Measley helped prepare was 1937-38 and it totalled just \$342,860.90. This figure has grown through the years with the increase in services demanded from the county and with the decrease in the value of the individual dollar. The all-time high county budget was prepared with Measley's assistance for 1947-48 reached \$1,167,757.50 which was almost 300 per cent higher than the first budget he helped prepare. The current budget has dropped considerably down to \$972,336.25 which is due to a falling off in school house construction.

Measley, who is generally considered to be "right" with the dollar and is always lined up on the side of cutting the various departmental budgets has in his 16 years on the board assisted in the preparation of budgets which approved the spending of \$8,969,588.81, which is a lot of dollars even if they are deflated today.

Measley is currently engaged in a fight for reelection, as he seeks nomination to his ninth term on the board. With 11 men in the race for the five jobs on the county board it is certainly a little reckless to start making predictions a month in advance, but it would not be too absurd to say that Measley will not run last by a long shot.

## Work Progressing On Trent River's Face-Lifting Job

Workers under the supervision of the Army Corps of Engineers are moving along rapidly on the much-needed and long-delayed cleaning out of Trent River which was made possible by an appropriation of \$50,000 by the Engineer Corps and another \$15,000 raised among property owners in Jones County who own land by Trent River.

The work was begun three weeks ago at the Lenoir-Jones County line and has been moving down stream rapidly and a check recently at Pleasant Hill reveals that a thorough job is being done.

Nick Nobles of Trenton who was chairman of the committee which raised the \$15,000 in Jones County says that the largest share of comment he has heard about the work has come not from farmers but from fishermen who are considering the advantages of being able to maneuver a boat from New Bern to the Lenoir County line in search of the perch and bass that abound in Jones County's principal river.

## More Business Going "Across The River"

The Jenkins-Jones Motor Company has purchased the building and area formerly used as the body repair shop of the Carolina Motor Company which is located about one mile from Kinston on the Richlands highway. Plans call for the conversion of this building into a sales, service and show room for Ford Tractors which are distributed locally by Jenkins-Jones.

This addition of another tractor peddler to the row that begins with West Machinery Company in the edge of Kinston and includes the Turner Tractor and Implement Company just across the river and extends to Keith Williams' Kinston Tractor and Implement Company makes this one and a half mile stretch of road well able to take care of just about any tractor needs that might arise.

To "feed the multitudes" that will be buying tractors and selling tobacco "across the river" Ed Smith is putting up a first class drive-in eatery just south of the Co-op Warehouse and will be ready to begin "feeding" in a few more weeks.

## Kinston Aldermen Bow Before Pressures of Merchant Groups

### Lenoir Board Gets Look At 52-53 Budget Figures

The Lenoir county commissioners meeting Monday had as its first and biggest order of the day the job of listening to the city and county school budgets as presented by City Superintendent Jean Booth and County Superintendent Henry Bullock.

The city asked for a total of \$564,666.28 and the county schools are wanting \$370,920 for the coming year, making a total of \$935,586.28 that will have to be raked up in one way or another to keep reading, riting and rithmetic program going during the next budget period.

County Welfare Superintendent R. W. Tyndall also handed in a summary of what he thinks his department's needs for the next year will be and that totalled another \$179,00 of these currently deflated dollars.

The board voted to waive license fees for a group of four blind merchants that operate shops in Lenoir County and listened to Yates Creech of the Kinston Production Credit Association explain why he thought that his unit of the United States Department of Agriculture should be included in the office building now being added to the ag building at King and McLewean Streets.

The board passed a resolution approving the interest rate on bonds recently sold to apply toward the construction of Memorial General Hospital.

The board also approved renegotiated contracts for the plumbing and electric work on the ag building addition and this work went to Bill Stapleford and Horace Ervin.

Monday night a jampacked city hall audience had headaches for the city council. First William Henry Moore, speaking for the Citizens Welfare League made a strong case for the retention of the present Adkin Park as a part of the recreational system for Negroes in Kinston. A spokesman for the recreation commission told this group that this was the intent and hope of the recreation commission that this park could be added to the campus of Adkin High School and the larger 35 acre park now under study could also be bought so that future generations would have a suitable and adequate play area.

Roger Sutton, a spokesman for Queen Street merchants said that his group was in favor of cutting a section of the sidewalk off Queen street and going back to diagonal parking. Sutton was followed by a dozen or so merchants who more or less repeated his suggestion.

Then Allen Bowden, spokesman for Heritage Street merchants, came forth and restated his wish for two-way traffic on Heritage Street.

When the shooting had cleared away the City Council voted to return two-way traffic to all present one-way streets except McLewean and Atlantic Avenue effective next Monday morning.

The council was very flat in stating that it was not about to cut a section of Queen Street off and it appears that if the Queen Street merchants want a more narrow strip of sidewalk they will have to elect a completely different board of aldermen.

Aside from the tremendous cost of cutting the sidewalk off it was pointed out by Alderman Jesse Pugh Wooten that every inch of the present sidewalk is needed and at times even a little more could be used.

The board voted to extend the jurisdiction of the city planning commission to one mile beyond the present city limits and named four residents in that area. In this group are Wilbur King, Mrs. Speight Stroud, Joe Shackelford, and Beck Bland. In the future all subdivisions developed in this area or in the present city limits must first have the approval of the city utilities department before presentation to the council. This move is aimed at duplication of sewer, water and electric lines which may be caused by failure of different property owners tying in their developments.

## Small Grain Field Day To Be Held Tuesday At Jones County Seed Farm

The Davis-Speight seed farm, which is known among Jones Countians as Ravenswood Farm will be the scene of a small grains field day next Tuesday, May 13, beginning at 1:30 p. m. The farm is one mile south of Pollocksville on Highway 17 and everyone in this part of the state who is interested in the profitable production of small grains is urged to attend the event.

A number of small grain experiments are now underway at the farm. These experiments show the part that (1) time of seeding (2) grain varieties (3) fertilization and (4) time of top-dressing play in the successful production of small grains. Storage and marketing problems will also be discussed and a special new type steel storage bin will be on exhibit at the farm during this field day.

The event is sponsored by the Extension Department, the Experiment Station with the cooperation of the Davis-Speight farm owners.

## Jones Board Holds Quiet Session on First Monday in May

The Jones County Board of Commissioners held a quiet routine session on this past Monday with all members of the board in attendance, including Chairman J. W. Creagh Jr., Thomas Stilley, Harold Mallard, James Barbee and Paul Westbrook.

A resolution was ordered addressed to the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in which it is asked that the right-of-way of the company be sprayed with chemicals to assist in the effort to bring the white fringed beetle under control in the county.

County Auditor E. E. Franck made a report on delinquent tax collections and after County Attorney George Hughes had made a report on his investigation of the requested reduction of the tax valuation of a tract of land owned by J. P. Taylor the board voted to keep the same values on this tract.

## Fountain Managers in Lenoir



A. H. "Bootsy" Jeffress and A. Forrest Waller, two of Lenoir County's best known young men, will jointly manage the campaign in their home county for L. H. Fountain of Tarboro who is seeking to unseat John Kerr of Warrenton from the United States House of Representatives. Jeffress was recently named commander of the American Legion Post in Kinston and Waller is a member of the county board of education.



## Patrol Report is Made by Sergeant

Sgt. John Laws, commanding officer of District Five of Troop A, this week released a report of activities under his direction during the month of April in Pitt, Greene and Lenoir Counties, showing that a total of 470 arrests for traffic violations had been made.

Lenoir County's five patrolmen accounted for 230 of this 470 total with 21 reported accidents that involved injuries to eight persons. No fatalities were reported for the month in Lenoir County but Pitt County had two highway deaths during the period.

The estimated property damage in Lenoir County ran to \$10,510. For the three-county area the estimated property damage for the 59 reported accidents was \$29,515.