

# Jones Journal

A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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## Section's Most Headlined News Stories in '52 Insignificant But Important Things Did Happen

Looking back at the 365 days that made up 1952 it is a bit difficult to pick out the single biggest news story of the Kinston area. It is difficult for one to pick out the biggest and most important thing that happened while they were happening were of insignificance when the history of 1952 is viewed from this end of the line. Other stories that grabbed far fewer and smaller headlines will remain important and perhaps grow more important as time passes.

The two stories generated in the Kinston area that grabbed the biggest headlines outside the Kinston area were so-called "Corrupt Practices Act" charges brought against two Lenoir Countyans who were charged with distributing defamatory handbills in the gubernatorial elections last spring and the rape charge levied against a cadet at the local flying school. After much more attention than either case deserved they reached most anti-climatic endings and will be little noted and not long remembered.

The most significant goings-on in the Kinston area were largely economic. Du Pont's announcement that it would add a three million dollar laboratory to its 44 million dollar Dacron

ciated or reported by the press. Perhaps most significant of all the 1952 stories, to this agricultural area, was the decline in farm prices with special emphasis on the drop of some three and a half million dollars for the tobacco crop sold in Kinston in '52.

Farming is now and will be for a long time to come the major part of the economy in Eastern Carolina and Eastern Carolina's press has failed to report just what the impact of this price decline means now and what it may possibly mean in the near future.

Although tobacco is the big part of the picture the declining prices paid to farmers for beef, pork and poultry are also important for the past seven years have seen amazing investments in livestock in every part of East Carolina. Whether the losses being experienced at present by livestock producers are a bookkeeping loss or an actual out-of-pocket loss of cash money is something that only the individual grower perhaps can answer.

The sobering impact of a national administration change after 20 years under Democrat Rule has caused most of this Democratic section of the woods to grow cautious to

one big story that has not been written out as clearly and frequently as it might have.

Death on the highways and streets of the section has called for its share of the headlines

and during the same year that three Lenoir County boys were killed on a Korean battlefield some 13 persons have been killed on the streets and highways of Lenoir County.

New businesses, new faces and old expansion problems were a big part of the 1952 parade in this section. The City of Kinston came more and more like the "Old Lady in the shoe, who had so many children she didn't know what to do." Money for expansion of this "shoe" was partially provided in a most controversial bond issue election in October 1952 and this election along with the spring primaries and the November presidential election were worth a lot of ink and space in the front pages of the area's press.

The more than 2,000 Republican voters in Lenoir County came as a shock and rallying point to local Democrats who had grown fat and complacent since the end of the carpet-bag era.

It was an interesting year. A happy one for most Eastern Carolinians. A sad one for just a few. May 1953 be as happy and prosperous to everyone, everywhere.

Corn cobs should be considered as a cheap roughage comparable to cottonseed hulls, which are more valuable as a supplementary feed, say State College specialists.

Americans consumed three times as much chicken in 1952 as they did in 1940.

## Camels Still Head Puff Parade and By Billions

The 1952 cigarette business set another all-time record as is the way with this fabulous nicotine burning trade. Some 395 billion of these tiny white-clothed weed gadgets were burned up by the nervous population.

There were a few shifts in the puff picture but all in all it stacked up just about the way the 1951 business wound up with Camels still on top of the trade and as their ad says, "By Billions." The biggest shift noticeable in comparing the figures for the two years was in the gains shown by the so-called "King Size" smokes. From last year when the "Kings" had 12.1 per cent of the business they moved upward to 18.1 per cent in 1952.

Camels were huffed and puffed at the colossal rate of 104.5 million. The number two cigarette was Lucky Strike with a whopping 73.5 billion but that is 31 billion behind the Winston-Salem Camel family. The No. 3 variety was Chesterfield which with its "King Size" version and its regular size added racked up a total of 68 billion smokes.

The No. 5 spot went to Phillip Morris with 36.5 billion and Old Golds came in 6th with 23 billion.

The largest selling "King Size" brand was Pall Mall and it ran an overall 4th spot with 41.5 billion, an increase of 9.5 billion over 1951.

Another "King Size" brand came in 7th spot and that was Winston-Salem with 12.5 billion.

Kools came in 7th with 11.5 billion and Raleighs were 8th with 8.3 billion.

Other brands in the billion class included Fatima (King) three billion, Cavalier (King)

1.5 billion, Viceroy (Filtertip) 2.7 billion and Parliament (Filtertip) 1.9 billion.

The '52 figures gave Camels at 1.5 per cent increase, Luckies a 5.8 decrease, Phillip Morris a 7.1 per cent decrease. Old Golds a seven per cent increase, Kools a 9.5 per cent increase. Raleighs a 3.8 per cent increase.

The really giant-sized increases went to the fancy brands with Pall Mall logging a 29.7 per cent increase, Herbert Tareyton 31.6 per cent boost, Fatima 20, Cavalier 87.5, Viceroy 50 and Parliament 35.7.

Overall the "King Size" smokes jumped by 54.4 per cent and the filter tips went up by 65.6 per cent.

The regular size cigarettes, however, held firmly to the bulk of the trade with 315.6 billion out of the 395 billion grand total. King sizes accounted for a total of 71.5 billion and the filter-tips were puffed up at the rate of 5.3 billion.

Chesterfield which split its business up between a regular and a king size in mid '52 dropped from '51's 64.1 billion for its regular size to 57 billion but with 11 billion king sized Chesterfields consumed in flame it still pulled up with a total of 68 billion for the year which was a considerable increase.

### Home Club Notes

Jones County Home Demonstration Club women are urged to attend a meeting at 10 M.

in the ag building in Trenton and all members of the County Council of HDC women are reminded by Home Agent Mary Olive Owens to attend their meeting at 2:30 Monday afternoon also in the ag building.

## Lenoir's Liquor Situation Much Better Under Controls

At this week-before-beginning time of the 1953 North Carolina General Assembly it is becoming more apparent each day that one of the strongest fights yet made to return the state to "dry" status will be made. That this long-standing problem offers a big headache to the legislators goes without saying but the size headache it presents to the men of the Assembly is tiny compared with the pains it gives the administrators and officials of those counties and cities of the state that have been legally "wet" while the rest of the state was doing its drinking under a legally "dry" tag.

But aside from financial aches and pains that this poser pushes forward it is agreed on all sides that the paramount issue involved in any consideration of controls of alcohol is the general welfare of the community as it reflects not only in the bank balances but also in the homes, hospitals and courts where the effects of alcoholism are more glaringly evident.

Since Lenoir County was one of the first counties in North Carolina to become legally "wet" there might be some evidence of improvement or worsening of this human side of the alcohol picture in the court records where the final chapters of so many individual problems are written. A study of these figures is interesting for it reflects how one county has made out under the county option system of liquor controls.

The last full year before county operated stores were opened in Lenoir County was 1934, since the stores were closed on

July 26, 1935. The court records of the county reveal that in 1934 2.15 per cent of the county's 35,000 people managed to get themselves arrested for public drunkenness. That year 752 warrants were issued charging either public drunkenness or drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

In 1951, the last full year with complete figures available, Lenoir County which has grown to more than 50,000 people had only 1.45 per cent of its people halled into court on similar charges—a total of 728. Quickly put these figures mean that the 35,000 Lenoir Countyans under the so-called "dry" conditions of 1934 had pushed themselves up to the bar of justice 752 times while the 50,000 population of 1951 showed not only a decrease percentage-wise but also a drop in total number.

In 1934 when Lenoir County had just over 2,000 trucks and cars in its limits and when the per capita income of the county was only \$290 the courts of the county processed 228 drunken driving charges. Which was .65 per cent of the then 35,000 population. In 1951 with over 12,000 trucks and auto registrations in the county drunken driving charges before the county courts numbered 173—a drop of 55 in total number and a drop to .34 per cent of the popula-

tion. This figure is all the more impressive when it is considered that in 1934 the county had only two highway patrolmen and Kinston had only eight policemen.

In 1951 there were six patrolmen in the county and Kinston has 28 policemen. Briefly put the "wet" picture turned out with nearly a 100 per cent drop in drunken driving charges with six times as many vehicles and more than three times as many officers.

Peculiarly enough there was also a decrease in liquor law violations with the 1934 figure of 161 violations dropping by just one to 160 for 1951, but when viewed from the per capita point of view the decrease is more impressive; 46 per cent violations in 1934 against .32 per cent violations in 1951.

Unless one is prepared to say that these court records lie and that the law enforcement officers of today are not as good as those of 1934, the inevitable conclusion forces itself forward that the "human" aspect of the liquor situation in Lenoir County is much better today with legal, county-operated whisky sales than it was in 1934 with liquor sales delegated, by law, to hundreds of assorted bootleggers in every crook and corner of the county.

With nearly a 50 per cent in-

crease in population, with a 600 per cent increase in auto registrations with another 600 per cent increase in per capita income and with better than a 300 per cent increase in officers the TOTAL violations in every category traceable to whisky have shown drops.

On the other side of the fence in the financial backyard the picture is also strongly pro-legal whisky. In 1934 the county had exactly NO income from the sale of whisky. But in the 17½ years since the county started in the legal liquor business and through September 30, 1952, the county, Kinston, LaGrange and Pink Hill have together received exactly \$2,853,292.38 from this legal dispensation of liquors. During this same period the State of North Carolina has received from Lenoir County stores a total of \$1,519,541.92.

Since the Lenoir County stores opened their doors in 1935 and through September 30 of 1952 gross sales amounted to \$18,610,416.31. The first year the stores operated was the smallest with gross revenues of \$229,774.30 and 1951 was the biggest year so far with a gross sale of \$2,231,361.05 and when the final figures are in for 1952 it is likely that even the '51 high will be beaten.

During the past seven years Lenoir County has been able to build more than three million

dollars worth of new schools and do so without an increased tax rate or having to issue school bonds.

Until July 1, 1947 the county received all of the profits from the liquor stores but since that time Kinston, LaGrange and Pink Hill have each received 25 per cent of the profits from the store or stores inside their city limits. The total since that time that these three towns received is \$308,623.73.

Perhaps more important than the decreased violations in the courts and far more important than the dollars and cents received by these various governmental units has been the respect for law and order that has gradually returned to the county after having been absent during a great majority of the time under so-called prohibition.

In those days the majority of the people broke the law by buying, selling or drinking something that was forbidden by law and it lapped over and resulted in a feeling shared by most people that all law enforcement officers were corrupt because it was widely and generally known that some were corrupt.

Today after more than 17 years of legally sold, legally purchased and legally drunked whisky Lenoir Countyans have become more law abiding and have also come to accept their officers as honest and diligent servants of the public welfare.

And becoming "Better," as the court record proves, the county, towns and state are nearly four million dollars "Better" financially.

Year	Population	Autos	Drunk Drivers	Public Drunks	Liquor Violators	Tax Revenue
1934	35,000	2,000	228	752	161	None
1951	50,000	12,000	173	728	160	\$2,853,292.38*

\*County and City Profits Since Stores Opened July 26, 1935 Through September 30, 1952. Through this same date The State of North Carolina has received \$1,519,541.92 from Lenoir County's four liquor stores and gross sales of legal whisky in that period were \$18,610,416.31.