

Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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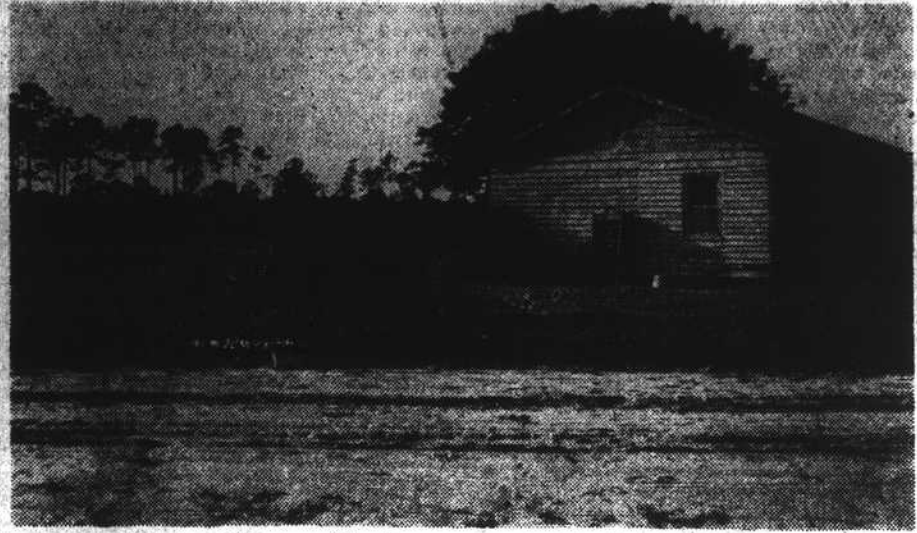
Tenant Farming Eastern Carolina's Most Costly 'Luxury'



This is a fine example of the type of home owned by many of the small live-at-home landowners of this section, who have relatively small tobacco acreages

but yield more to themselves and the community than the average dozen sharecroppers. Newly painted house, well kept yard, painted and kept-in-repair outbuildings, beautiful fur-

niture in the home, including modern plumbing all contribute to the comfort and well-being of the owner but also contribute heavily to the bank accounts of Kinston merchant.



This is a "fine" example of a sharecropper shack, many of which still exist in this Eastern Carolina land of "Tobacco Prosperity." Paradoxically the family that lives in this excuse for a house, with little furniture, no modern conveniences and not much protection from the weather, has a tobacco acreage as large as that belonging to the entire farm of the home at left. Shifting almost annually from one abused piece of land to another, with a family that is usually undernourished and anemic from hookworm in-

fection, with little incentive or training to do better, this type of farmer is not only a burden to himself but is as well to the community as a whole. Lack of education, lack of a chance to do better and even perhaps lack of the will to do better add up to a man that most usually winds up at the welfare level worn out and bitter at the world, old before his time. He is important to the business man because of what he does NOT spend for electrical appliances, plumbing, furniture, car, clothing and food.

Tenant Farming Rarely Contributes To Community In Same Proportions That Average Owner-Tilled Farm Does

In spite of the fact that over the nation as a whole farm ownership by individuals has shown great increases during the past 20 years, North Carolina in general and East Carolina in particular are exceptions. The tobacco prosperity and the purchase has become impossible for the young man starting out in life, unless buttressed by a family fortune. The few farms that have been for sale in recent years have been gobbled up by men who already had large farm holdings or by men of wealth in the towns who wanted a farm for a number of reasons.

This reversal of the national trend in Eastern Carolina has been an unwholesome thing from practically every point of view. It has been bad for the land, firstly and foremostly, since few tenants and share-crop farmers live long enough with a given farm to learn its peculiar characteristics and just how it has to "be farmed" in order to get the most out of it without permanently damaging that shrinking few inches of top soil.

One well known farmer recently said, "It takes many years for a man to learn how to farm any particular farm. He has to have a wet year, a dry year, an average year and he has to learn what each plot will do in those given weather periods."

The tenant, whose usual practice is to move every year, carries with him little interest, or affection for the land he lives upon. The absentee landlord is interested only in profit, with

rare exception.

This generalization about tenant farmers is, of course, unfair and untrue about that small percentage of able and intelligent tenant farmers, who are potential farm owners but who have been unable in recent years to purchase any size, due to the outrageous prices put on farm land in this tobacco producing area.

Little thought by the city dweller has been given to this tremendous problem. If he did give the problem a passing thought his inclination has been to say, "That it doesn't concern me."

But it does concern him, and greatly. No matter what work, trade or profession the city dweller is engaged in, this trend away from increased individual farm ownership has greatly concerned him.

The pictures included with this article are the clearest indication of just how much it has concerned everybody.

One house, immaculate, freshly painted, beautifully furnished, surrounded by a well-kept yard that includes sturdy out-

houses, strong fences.

The investment in dollars and cents represented in that house and its many counterparts throughout Eastern Carolina is in awesome contrast to the lack of investment in the tenant shack of the other picture. Just no furniture, no outbuildings, except an about-to-fall "two-holer."

The farm-living owner has a modern bathroom, modern kitchen equipment a freezer locker for farm produce: Every convenience, and they came from the stores and shops of Ye Olde City Dweller.

Paradoxically, the tenant house pictured here is lived in by a family which tends, or pretends to tend, nearly the same tobacco acreage that goes with the farm that has the nice home.

The home-living farmer has a late model car, the tenant farmer has an "oil burner" that stays about leaps and a gasp ahead of the familiar "shade tree garage."

The physical contribution of
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Stallings Air Base To Be Dedicated Sunday In Honor Of Stallings Boys

Stallings Air Base will hold formal dedication ceremonies at 5 p. m. Sunday, June 28, when a monument in memory of Bruce and Harry Stallings will be unveiled.

The two Stallings brothers, both killed in action while flying in World War II, were lieutenants at the time of their deaths. Bruce was killed in combat in Germany, March 21, 1945, while piloting a P-51 on a combat strafing mission. Harry a navigator, succumbed to wounds received while flying a B-29 April 16, 1945, out of Eniwetok on a 39th Bomb Group mission to Guam.

Five Kinston civic organizations, in cooperation with Stall-Air Aviation Corp., and Base Commander Charles B. Lingamfelter are sponsoring the dedi-

cation. The clubs are Kiwanis, Rotary, Civitan, Lions and Jaycees.

Open house on the base will be held from 4 p. m. until 6 p. m. The public is cordially urged to inspect the base prior to the dedication and respectfully invited to attend the dedication.

Program of the ceremony follows:

Band selections — Pope Air Force Band.

Introductory remarks — Master of Ceremonies.

Invocation — Rabbi Jerome Tolochko.

Greetings — Truman W. Miller.

Greetings — Lt. Col Charles W. Lingamfelter.

Band selection — Pope Air Force Band.

Address — Colonel William A. Carpenter, Staff Judge Advocate, Air Training Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Band selection — Pope Air Force Band.

Biographical reading — The Rev. Mark W. Lawrence.

The Dedication.

The unveiling — Mrs. H. F. Stallings.

Dedication prayer — Chaplain (Major) Albert G. Karnell.

Band selection — Pope Air Force Band.

Benediction — The Rev. D. Edward Sullivan.

Call to Colors.

The National Anthem —

Kinstonian Elected to 'Congress'

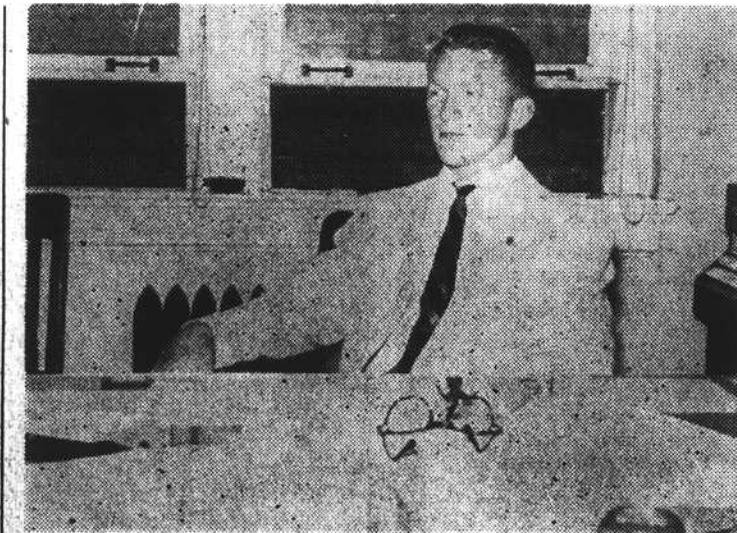
Ben J. Utley, prominent young Kinston "politician" was elected to Congress last week by his 306 associates in the "State" Legislature which was held in Raleigh as part of the annual "Boy's State" program of the American Legion.

Utley, along with Ted Mercer of Stanly County, was named to "Congress", which will convene later this summer in Washington under the sponsorship of the American Legion.

Utley, a student at Grainger High School, was nominated and elected to represent the Joseph Dixon Rountree Post of the American Legion of Kinston at the Boy's State event last week in Raleigh and Chapel Hill.

The force of his personality, his ability to "win friends and influence people" added to a jocular amount of "babe kissing" earned him this seat in "Congress."

Utley admits that the life of a politician is a difficult one. Work every night and all day



every day, but he says he enjoys it and is "happy to serve his electorate and if reelected he promises to do everything in his power to see that taxes are cut and services are increased."

Utley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Utley of Kinston.

He will, with Massachusetts Senator Ed Kennedy, be one of Washington's most eligible bachelors, but he says that he is to busy with his political career at the moment to have time for the fairer sex. Is this print fine enough?

Tobacco Disease Clinic July 2nd For Jones County

Jones County farmers will have a chance to get expert diagnosis of their tobacco disease on Wednesday, July 1 from 9-12 a. m. in the Agriculture Building in Trenton.

Mr. H. R. Garris will be present to assist in holding a tobacco disease clinic at that time. All farmers are being urged to bring in any diseased plants at that time.

The Picture Included

The picture which was run in this paper two weeks ago of an old-time hunting and fishing party and which included members of one of the best known families in this area has caused considerable attention and since positive identification of all those in the picture was not possible when it was published here is now the list of those who were in the picture: W. B. Scott, Jack Parrott, J. J. Egan, James Mewborn, John Mewborn, Mike Mewborn and James Mewborn.