

Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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It's a Little Early, But Let's Warm Up The Political Pot

Spring may seem a long way off to most people but there are indications in the air that a growing number of people interested in things political feel that spring, and the Democratic Primaries are just around a couple of more corners.

The big political conjecture that has stolen most of the fall and winter political talk has had to do with how badly Kerr Scott would beat Alton Lennon for the junior United States Senate seat now held by the latter. The coy attitude of Scott has kept headline writers busy and Lennon has done his best, which until this time has been pretty poor, to get himself a few off those so-necessary headlines.

But if the big seat on the "board of directors of the United States," as the Senate has been called, has gobbled up most of the headlines that is certainly no indication that other offices have not been much in the minds of those who ponder on things political.

At the county level this spring's primary will bring contests in that vote-pulling battle to see who will be the High Sheriff for the next four years.

Along with this comes county commissioner, school board, state legislative posts, clerk of Superior Court, constables, magistrates, and the like.

In Lenoir County this promises to be an exceedingly warm spring—at least politically speaking.

Sheriff Sam Churchill will be back in the race for this post he has held since his father retired from the sheriff's position back in 1938.

At least two of the men who ran against Churchill for sheriff

in 1950 will be after "Sam's hide" again next spring. Clay Broadway, who ran second, and M. E. "Zeke" Creech, who placed third, in that 1950 tussle for the highest police job in the county.

Broadway came within 500 votes of scalping Churchill in the second primary run-off and he feels that he has not "lost any ground and may possibly have gained a little" in the past four years.

Creech, the youngest of the three strong contenders for the post, has also been exceedingly busy "winning friends and influencing potential voters" and he, like Broadway, feels that his chances are somewhat better now than four years ago.

Churchill, who is now 63 years old (born August 12, 1891) is recognized as the county's smartest politician. Testimony to that fact is the fact that he has been sheriff since December 1938 and his father held that post for nine years prior to that. So for over 24 years a Churchill has held the post.

Until recently Churchill has been operating his office with only one deputy and a jailer but pressure from the grand jury and other sources caused the county board of commissioners to supply him with three more deputies and three new radio-equipped cars.

Some who watch the political pot boil are sure that more deputies will make Churchill's task of reelection easier, while others argue that it may be the rope that hangs him politically.

The larger part of the criticism levelled at Churchill has been his alleged tolerance to gambling joints about the county and several shoddy houses of prostitution. Others have charged that Churchill was also

Corn Allotments

A producer who intends to plant corn in 1954 on a farm on which no corn was planted in any of the years 1951, 1952 and 1953, should, if he desires price support on the corn to be produced in 1954, apply in writing for a 1954 corn acreage allotment by January 8. Blank applications and Acreage Report forms are available at the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (formerly FMA) offices for filing requests for allotments.

too tolerant of the bootlegging industry over the county.

Churchill's answer to this criticism has been, in the past, that he did not have sufficient manpower to cope with the situation. Now that he has more men and equipment Churchill will have to find a new answer. The manner and efficiency with which these new men and new equipment are used between now and election time will have a pretty profound connection with Churchill's tenure of office.

County Commissioner Race

At this early time there is no outward sign of mass unhappiness with the county board of commissioners. The present board listed in order of seniority:

Sutton, Cameron Langston, Chairman Ike Whitfield and Johnnie Davenport. There is every likelihood that all will have their name in the pot when the county's political pot is put on the fire.

There has been a faint but hard-to-pin-down rumor that Measley might toss his Stetson into the sheriff's race. If this were to happen Churchill would

Three Important Schools On Tap for Jones Farmers

Jones County Farm Agent

Jimmy Franck says that he wants Jones County farmers to make plans in advance to attend any or all of three important school sessions that are to be held January 12-13-14th in the court house.

Each of these three sessions is to begin at 10 in the morning. The first will be on tobacco production and marketing. The second will be on tractor maintenance and the final will include illustrated lectures on corn and soy bean production

and on weed control.

Specialists from State College in each of these particular fields will be on hand for these schools and Franck urges a large turnout.

The Farm Agent reminds that every thing points toward an ever-tighter squeeze for the farmer and that it is important that the farmer learn everything possible that can possibly place him in a better position to cope with the price-cost squeeze he finds himself in at present.

have another formidable opponent. One who has been in the political game a long time and one who knows his way around in every part of the county.

The county commissioners have a few soreheads, such as this paper, who still have a pretty low opinion of the manner in which the hospital affairs of the county have been handled. But this is not expected to result in any considerable trouble for them at the polls.

There are other points on which considerable heat has been generated. The present incumbent board of commissioners perhaps the largest being the revaluation of taxable property in the county last year. But most folks have gotten used to this situation and here again although it can be safely stated that some votes will be lost to the incumbents they will not be too many.

Guessing at this early date about opposition for the com-

missioners would be even wilder than this paper is capable of doing. About the only fairly safe prediction that may be made is that there is likely to be more candidates from the City of Kinston than in the recent past.

Representative's Race

County Representative Tom White will very likely be a candidate to succeed himself in the General Assembly. White who is a very tough fighter when the blue chips are down faces a rough time from the present incumbents from the county. He stands on the "Secret Law" passed by the 1953 session of the Assembly.

Local politicians have for many years, however, pointed out that the best help to election available in Lenoir County or Kinston was to have the 100 per cent opposition of Editor See Politics Page 10

Speed the Biggest Killer on Lenoir Highways in 1953

The year just ended saw 16 persons killed on the streets and highways of Lenoir County.

If each of the 100 counties in the state had equalled this record the North Carolina traffic death toll for 1953 would have been 1600 instead of the approximately 1,100 with which the year finally staggered to an end.

Examination of each of these 16 deaths reveals some interesting facts.

Sunday was far the most deadly day to be loose on Lenoir County highways. Seven of the 16 who died from traffic causes died on Sunday. Saturday was next with four fatalities. Friday and Tuesday shared the dubious honor of ranking third with two each and one person was killed on Wednesday. Thus, leaving Monday and Thursday as the only day of the week that did not see at least one person killed on a Lenoir County road or street.

The first person killed was 20-year-old Maurice Arnold Bayson of Pink Hill Route two who was killed at 11:45 p. m. January 16th three miles east of Deep Run on a rural road. Cause: Excessive speed.

No. 2 was Wendell Waddell, also of Pink Hill route two, who

died at 3 a. m. February 8th five miles north of Kinston on NC 11 when his car went out of control at a high rate of speed and hit a bridge. He was also 20 years of age.

No. 3 was Jesse Frederick Evans, aged 31-2 years, who died from head injuries he suffered when he fell from the car of his father on a street in Kinston. This happened at 12:30 p. m. February 18th.

No. 4 was Marine Ronald F. Smith of Camp Lejeune—another 20-year-old—who died at 12:15 a. m. on February 18th after his car went out of control while travelling at a high rate of speed on Tower Hill Road three miles east of Kinston. There was also evidence that he had been drinking excessively.

No. 5 was Billy Puckett, 27-year-old Mount Olive resident, who was killed at 11:50 p. m. February 21st four miles west of Kinston on US 70. Speed and too much drinking were put down as the cause for Puckett's sudden departure from this veil of tears.

No. 6 was Cecelia Dick, 19-year-old Kinston, Ohio, girl who was killed at 11 a. m. March 18th eight miles west of Kinston on US 70 when slick tires and wet pavement tossed her into a ditch where a tree stump

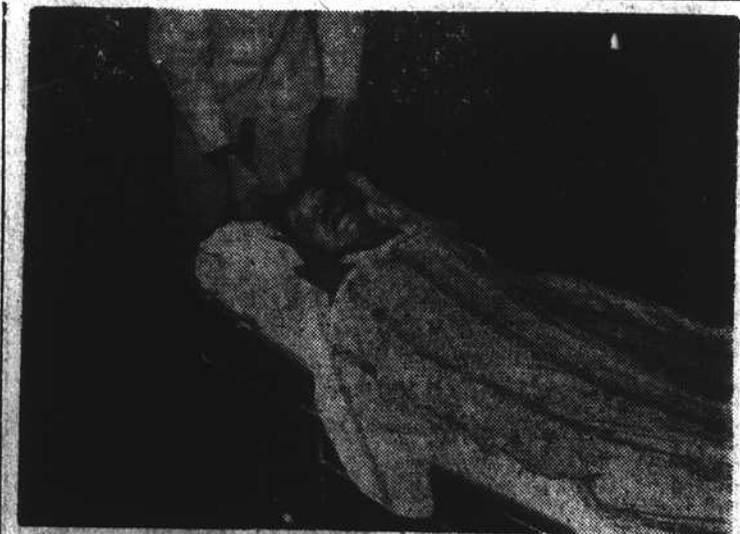
stubble punctured her brain.

No. 7 was Henry D. Hargrove of Kinston Route four who died at 11:15 a. m. April 12th 51-2 miles south of Kinston and the evident cause was excessive drinking.

The most horrible of all the many tragedies during the year on Lenoir's roadways was to come on May 17th at 9:20 p. m. five miles north of Kinston on US 258 when a car driven by Carl Zinc rammed head on into that of Charlie Midyette also of Kinston, killing Mrs. Midyette and their six-year-old only son. Cause of this accident was the insanity of Zinc, who is still under psychiatric care in a Maryland hospital. There were the 8th and 9th deaths of 1953 on Lenoir's streets and roads.

From that tragedy which took half of the Midyette Family death then took a well-earned holiday. June, July passed by without a highway death. But on the 15th of August at 6:05 a. m. 60-year-old Hardy Barnes of LaGrange was instantly killed when a skidding car climbed onto a LaGrange sidewalk and knocked the life out of Barnes. A jury found the driver of the car not guilty of manslaughter. Barnes was No. 10th.

From then, until October 11th at 7:45 a. m. death took an-



Above ambulance attendants rush into Memorial General Hospital in Kinston with Cecelia Dick of Kenton, Ohio, who became the sixth highway fatality in 1953 for Lenoir County. She died from brain injuries suffered when the car she was riding

in hit a curve eight miles of Kinston on US 70 a little too fast for the wet pavement and slick tire combination that threw her into a reed patch where reed stubbles pierced her car. (Polaroid photo-in-a-minute by Jack Rider).

other holiday in Lenoir but on the 11th Mrs. Dorothea Dillahunt of LaGrange route three died from injuries suffered in a collision on a rural road 15 miles southwest of Kinston when her husband failed to stop for a stop sign. A directed verdict of not guilty was issued in this case when her husband was

brought to trial for manslaughter. Mrs. Dillahunt was No. 11 on the death parade.

No. 12 followed shortly afterwards on October 17th at 5:30 p. m. when Dennis Ray Jones, a 14-month-old infant of Kinston route four toddled onto the road and into the path of a car. See Highways Page 7