

Meet The Dean

man to run the Kinston Daily Free Press.

So on May 1, 1914, Henry Galt Braxton arrived in Kinston as Editor and Publisher of this paper which has played such a vital part in the modern history of Kinston.

On February 22nd Editor and Publisher Braxton passed his 73rd birthday Anniversary and he is still in the fullest sense of the phrase, "Editor and Publisher of the Kinston Daily Free Press." Soon his 40th anniversary with this title will arrive and although the History of Kinston spans nearly 200 years, it is more than true that the 40 years in which Braxton's "Free Press" has been recording the history has been the fullest period in the entire Kinston era, with possible deference to the 1861-65 period.

From a town of 7,000, Kinston has grown into a small city of more than 20,000. From that hesitant circulation of 500 Braxton has seen "The Free Press" pass the 10,000 mark. From a tiny space, largely filled with machinery two jumps ahead of the junk pile, Braxton's pride and joy has grown into a large, handsome, neatly kept two-storied building housing the very latest machinery for turning out a daily newspaper.

Braxton, who was born February 22, 1881, on a Hancock County, Virginia farm, where his ancestors had lived for nearly two centuries, has also grown with the years.

This year in addition to marking his 40th year as "Editor and Publisher of The Kinston Daily Free Press" also marks the 60th year since he got into the newspaper business.

He began as a carrier boy for the Birmingham News while still in high school, moved up to route inspector after two years as a carrier boy and after another two years in that spot he moved up—at the age of 18—to the top spot of Circulation Manager of the News. For 10 years he held down that responsible post and then moved to an even higher bracket as General Business Manager.

Finally the bug to become a "Publisher" bit Braxton and he bought a part-interest in the Greensboro Telegram, and so moved to North Carolina. This was later sold to the News of Greensboro and then he moved to Raleigh where he was work-

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THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

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Jones and Lenoir PMA Boards Trim Herbert Jones' Tobacco Acreage 39.2 Acres Because of 1953 Overplanting

The State PMA Committee accepted the recommendations of the Jones County PMA committee almost to the letter in sustaining a 31.1 acre cut in the tobacco acreage of farms in Jones County belonging to Mrs. Lula B. Jones, wife of Pink Hill and Kinston businessman and farmer W. H. Jones. Through her attorneys Wallace & Wallace and George B. Greene, Mrs. Jones has filed notice of appeal.

In 1953 the farms owned by Jones in Jones County (The Goldsboro Lumber Company Farm in Tuckahoe Township and the Lowery Farm in Beaver Creek Township) had a total tobacco allocation of 190.3 acres.

Late-season checks by State PMA spotcheckers working with Jones County spotcheckers revealed that the Jones farms had 221.4 acres. All but .8 acres of that 31.1 acreage resulted from inaccurate measurements that had been made by Raeford Blizzard of the Jones County PMA office who had measured the Jones' farms. The .8 acre was hidden in a corn field on the Lowery Farm.

The only variation in the recommendation of the Jones County Board that was made by the State PMA Board was the allowance of increased 1954 acreage because of these overplantings.

Because of the elements of fraud involved in the overages the Jones County Board had ruled that Jones not be given these allowances. The State Board permitted percentage increases since Jones' farms had a small percentage of tobacco for the number of cleared acres they contained.

The Jones County PMA Committee had asked that the Pink Hillian's allotment for 1954 be set at 159.2 acres. The State gave him 165.7 acres against the 190.3 acres he had last year.

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Furniture for Community Center Goal Of Benefit Supper At Pollocksville

Food, fun and frolic are the general program of a benefit to be held beginning at 5:30 Friday in the Pollocksville Community Center. The purpose: To raise funds to buy furniture and install plumbing for the Community Center.

A barbecue and chicken stew supper with 50 cents plates for children and \$1 plates for adults will start things off and will be served from 5:30 until everyone is served.

After the supper a technicolor movie on North Carolina will be shown.

Prizes will be given to lucky ticket holders and a "Baby Contest" will be held.

Babies entered by various churches in the Pollocksville area who will compete for the Finest Baby prize to be offered at Friday night's open house include Thomas Waller from Piney Grove Baptist Church, Jeffrey Humphrey from Lee's Chapel, Sue Booth of the Pollocksville Methodist Church, Pate Phillips from the Pollocksville Baptist Church, Frank T. Bender from the Pollocksville Presbyterian Church and Pamela Pritzer from the Oak Grove Church.

Larkins and Wife Attending Annual Cancer Society Meet

Senator and Mrs. John D. Larkins left Saturday for San Francisco where the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society is being held this year. Larkins is a member of the society's board

Files In Jones Race



W. "Brown" Yates, above this week became the first official candidate for Jones County office, paying his filing fee to Election Board Chairman John D. Jenkins and announcing his candidacy for Sheriff of Jones County. Yates who is now acting as sheriff served for the past four years as Chief Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Jeter Taylor who died last week of a heart attack.

Paul D. Westbrook, at present a member of the Jones County Board of Commissioners, has not filed for sheriff but he has indicated to friends that he will also be a candidate for this highest police job in the county. (Polaroid photoin-a-minute by Jack Rider.)

of directors.

Larkins will be back in his office on March 24th.

H. GALT BRAXTON

Dean of Local Newspapermen

In 1914 Kinston was flying high on the wings of its rapidly growing and prosperous textile industry. It had more than 7,000 citizens and among these were leaders who recognized that a strong, cleanly operated newspaper with "hair on its chest" was a prime need in any community.

Three such leaders purchased the Kinston Daily Free Press from D. T. Edwards who then operated the paper. They were N. J. Rouse, Lovit Hines and Fred Taylor.

Recognizing the need for more capital to expand the facilities of the paper other leaders joined with this purchasing trio. These included Herman Canady, H. E. Moseley, T. V. Moseley, Felix Harvey, Dal Wooten and Edwards.

Then these nine men began a search for a competent newspaperman to operate the Kinston Daily Free Press, and it was a man's job for most of the equipment was old, slow and in need of constant, but gentle attention. A circulation of 500, with a few of those paid and none too certain advertising revenues made it mandatory that a man be obtained who could not only supervise the "nursing" of antique machinery but one who could also put some life, and money into the advertising and circulation departments.

At that time in the spring of 1914 a young native of Virginia was working with the Raleigh Times. One day a friend from Birmingham, Alabama, where this Virginian had grown into manhood, met this "Soreback" expatriate and told him that the Kinston Group was seeking a

How Many Can You Identify Before Reading Below?

The trained ear can almost hear the crack of bats down in Florida now as the major league baseball teams lumber up for the season which opens next month. Again this year it looks as if Kinston will have to depend upon High School baseball along with a mixture of amateur teams during the summer months. All of which makes this the season for dusting off some old pictures of famous Kinston teams of another time.

The picture here is not only of a noted Kinston High School baseball team, but it is also worth taking another look at because a good many of the players are still prominent in Kinston's business life.

The coach, at left, was named Mulligan, that's all that is recalled about him, but he must have been pretty fair, since this team was of state championship caliber.

The players from left to right included George Knott, out-



field; Clay Brewer, outfield; Alban Barrus, shortstop; Will Lewis (brother of Meriweather Lewis), second base; Harry Bizzell, outfield; Merrill Mewborn, outfield; Guy Churchill (brother

of Sheriff Sam Churchill), pitcher; Kirby Tyndall, catcher; Wooten Moseley, third base; Phil Hines, pitcher and Joe Temple, first base. Bizzell is the brother of Nor-

wood Bizzell and Mrs. Marvin Baker. Brewer is now connected with a college at Rome, Georgia. Mewborn was a brother of Carlotta Mewborn. Those remaining in Kinston of

this group are Barrus, who is president of the Barrus Construction Company, Hines, who is president of Hines Brothers Lumber Company, Moseley, farmer and Temple tobaccoist.