

# Goldsboro Driver Is First 1955 Traffic Fatality In Lenoir

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### Building Boom Eases Off Slightly In Kinston Area in 1954 but There Was Still Plenty of Construction Going on

Kinston Building Inspector Deyo Southerland Monday filed a report on building permits issued during 1954 by his office which showed a total construction of \$4,188,133 in Kinston or within one mile of the city limits during the past year. Which was a \$874,567 drop from the 1953 figure.

Inside Kinston's corporate limits during the past year Southerland issued permits as follows: New dwellings, 165 at an estimated cost of \$1,696,527; 173 renovated dwellings at a cost of \$191,798; 19 new commercial buildings at \$203,347; 53 commercial renovations at \$208,110; 52 private garages at \$19,017; one six-family apartment \$17,000; one recreation building \$36,496; one school addition \$19,400; one new church \$68,000; one church renovation \$8,000.

For Kinston Southerland issued 537 electric work permits and 364 plumbing work permits.

Within the one-mile area just outside the city limits permits were issued for 74 new houses at \$1,010,900; three new commercial buildings at \$50,400; one

### Lenoir Hospital Gets \$5,183.79 Advance on Next Budget Period

Monday the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners voted approval of an extra apportionment of \$5,183.79 to Memorial General Hospital for the purchase of additional X-ray equipment.

Hospital Administrator Ellis Pierce and Hospital Board of Trustees Chairman Jesse Oglesby made the request which was unanimously granted.

The commissioners pointed out that this was an "advance" on the anticipated budget for 1955-56, since the hospital during the present fiscal period has already been allocated all the funds it could legally receive.

Under the vote of the people which accepted the hospital for expansion and renovation a majority vote was cast in favor of a 10-cent tax levy to equip and maintain the hospital, when and if necessary.

At the time this 10-cent levy was approved the county's tax listed valuation was just over 36 million dollars which made possible at that time, an annual maximum allocation of \$36,000.

Since then, however, the county's tax valuation has been changed by a process of re-valuation and addition of new properties, both real and personal, to the level of just over 72 million dollars which had increased the maximum annual hospital allocation to just over \$72,000. That has already been used for the current fiscal period and this \$5,183.79 will be subtracted from the 1955-56 allocation to the hospital.

### Reckless Driving Rap

J. W. Ervin Jr. Monday was found guilty in Recorder's Court of reckless driving and was ordered to pay a \$50 fine and the court costs by Judge Albert Cowper. Patrolman J. C. Surles testified that Ervin Sunday afternoon—just before dark—was coming into Kinston from La Grange and was "passing everything on the highway" driving most of the time on the left side of the road and riding within three to five feet of cars when he did have to hesitate briefly before passing. Surles said that he drove as fast as possible in chasing Ervin but was unable to catch the local electrician until Ervin was caught in heavy traffic near the Caswell Training School.

The number of hens and pullets now on Tar Heel farms means larger supplies of eggs through at least mid-summer, 1955.



These two pictures show the horrible impact in which 37-year old Jesse Owen Sutton of Goldsboro became Lenoir County's first traffic fatality of 1955.

Sutton, driving a Helms truck line tractor-trailer, was headed toward La Grange. As he approached the narrow Falling Creek Bridge a Seashore bus approached from the opposite direction.

From eye-witness accounts and the little physical evidence available after the crash, it appeared that Sutton was trying to get as far to the right as possible. He got too far. His right front wheel hit the bridge, causing his truck to jackknife and slam almost directly head-on into the bus.

O. N. Dixon of New Bern, driving the bus, said that he saw the truck driver was in trouble and had almost brought his bus

to a full stop by the time of the impact.

The truck was ripped loose from the trailer which crushed the cab from the rear while the solid resistance of the heavy bus pushed the truck motor back into the truck cab. Sutton was instantly crushed to death.

In the bus 41 draftees from Craven County were being returned from pre-induction examinations in Raleigh. Several were given emergency examinations at Memorial General Hospital in Kinston but none was seriously hurt.

Traffic on US 70 was blocked for nearly two hours, during which three wrecking truck crews worked to untangle the fatal roadblock.

Another hour was required to extricate Sutton's badly mangled body from the wreckage. (Polaroid photos-in-a-minute by Jack Rider)



### Decides on Jail

Patrolman Lloyd Pate Monday afternoon said that Eddie Tolbert of 401 Oak Street made the mistake of trying to outrun him on a dirt road with a 1941 model flivver. Said flivver wound up in a ditch, and Tolbert and his girl friend were slightly shaken up. Pate asked, "What's the hurry?" Tolbert replied, "We're going to get married". Pate, always helpful, then offered to take the couple on to a Justice of Peace, if not to the JP, then to jail. After a few moment's meditation Tolbert decided on jail where he was held under \$100 bond charged with reckless driving and driving without a driver's license.

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armory at \$93,900, one church at \$38,900, and one school at \$441,279.

### This Fellow Was Saving Time' He Thought



This is what often happens when a driver tries to save two minutes and winds up wasting a couple of hours, and perhaps many more dollars; sometimes even his life. This driver Monday morning was driving very slowly. He was inching his way along to work, certainly not breaking any speed limits, but he was trying

to drive blind. His windshield was covered with frost and rather than take the few minutes necessary to clean the windshield he "got in a hurry". When he got to where he "thought" a corner was located on Atlantic Avenue he made a very slow and careful right turn and wound up as pictured here. (Polaroid photo-in-a-minute by Jack Rider)

## Jones Commissioners Hire New Home Agent, Ask Conference to Discuss Dirt Road Improvement

The first meeting of 1955 proved to be an active one for the Jones County Board of Commissioners with several important matters acted upon during the Monday morning session.

Hilda Lee of Pink Hill was employed as Jones County Home Demonstration Agent, replacing Mrs. Marvin Thomas who has resigned effective January 13th. Miss Lee is working at present in Beaufort County in the extension department.

No action was taken on a request made in behalf of the Glen Newton Smith Post of the American Legion by Bill Johnson and Edward Banks which had to do with obtaining a veterans service officer for Jones County.

County Attorney George

Hughes read a letter to the board from the United States Public Health Service in which it was pointed out that there was a pressing need for a clinic building in Jones County and further pointed out that a majority part of the necessary funds for such a building could be provided by the federal government if Jones County would provide a suitable site of not less than one acre and provide the balance of the needed money.

The board voted to ask Jones County Representative John Hargett to have introduced a bill permitting an additional five cents from the tax levy to be used for supplementing extension department activities in the county.

Reports were made by Accountant Earl Franck and Welfare Superintendent Mrs. Zeta Burt. Mrs. Burt was authorized to employ a secretary at not more than \$160 per month to fill in for the present secretary who is taking a maternity leave in the near future.

Attorney Hughes was instructed to write Highway Commissioner Maynard Hicks asking for a meeting between Hicks and the board on the first Monday of February at which time the board hopes to persuade Hicks to do something about a number of almost impassable dirt roads in the county.

Former County Commissioner J. W. Creagh appeared before the board to discuss the possibility of... (Continued on page 10)