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Tobacco Picture for '56 Up in the Air

Acreage Decrease Uncertain

Speculation and misunderstanding seem to be the order of the day in this heartland of the flue-cured tobacco producing world.

Firstly, there is considerable confusion in the minds of most growers on the specific and all-important subject of How much terminated origin.

The home, owned by Norman Casey of Kinston, was valued at a tentative \$8,000 and the furnishings were valued at around \$6,000.

The home was all but totally consumed by the time Kinston firemen arrived. The fire alarm was phoned in at 2:45 a. m. Tuesday, and by the time firemen had made the 18-mile trip to the Western Edge of the county — just east of Seven Springs — the home was nearly gone.

will the 1956 tobacco acreage be out? At the moment the only positive answer is that the crop will be cut 12 per cent. This has already been ordered by Agriculture Secretary Ezra Benson.

But on top of this 12 per cent acreage slice already ordered by Benson there is overpowering sentiment in the vocal elements of tobacco land for a much larger slice. Up to as high as 25 per cent is being urged by some of the so-called tobacco experts.

But the final answer to this question cannot be known until late in January when Congress has been re-convened. Only Congress can order more cut than the present 12 per cent reduction decreed by Benson.

Secondly, there is a great deal of argument on the specific subject of what kind of tobacco to plant in 1956. Which puts the tobacco farmer in a double bind. He doesn't know how much or what kind of tobacco he will be growing next year; which is confusion to an alarming degree.

Criticism has been leveled at varieties 139 and 140 developed by a South Carolina seed producer. The daily paper headlines are recently filled with charges and counter-charges on this specific subject. Tobacco men from as far away as Germany are hollering that the 139 and 140 varieties look like tobacco but don't "taste" like tobacco.

It would appear from this criticism, which is supported in a major degree by State College tobacco scientists, that tobacco growers have now succeeded in going a little too far in the development of a light, thin leaf of cigarette tobacco. This growing of the de-nicotined leaf in the field has now reached the point of diminishing returns, or so it would appear.

Another "expert" has said, "There's nothing wrong with this tobacco (Coker 139 and 140) that a short crop wouldn't cure."

Some are pointing at the weatherman and blaming him for the problem. Firstly, the weatherman combined with the ingenuity of the farmer, and the persuasiveness of the fertilizer salesman, to cause an unprecedented drop of tobacco in 1955. The same old story of MORE TOBACCO ON LESS ACRES of land.

But at the same time that this high-octane fertilizer and perfect weather were making tobacco grow a foot a week an extremely thin leaf of tobacco was on the way to the warehouse floors. Last year and year before last the weather condition in a large part of flue-cured tobacco land was dry to drier, which meant a slower, tougher leaf of tobacco and then the cigarette folks were bellyaching about too thick and too much nicotine in the leaf.

Which all combined, just about puts the tobacco farmer where he was last year. Where? He didn't know then and don't know now, never has known and it's not likely he ever will know. And this is no reflection on the See Tobacco Picture Page 5

Dollar - Per - Mile Fine Slows Down Speeder But Only Temporarily

In Recorder's Court last week Marine Private Russell L. Rose was found guilty of speeding 100 miles per hour and Judge Albert Cowper fined the young leatherneck \$100 and the court costs and lifted his driving license for a 12-month period.

The size of the fine, and the loss of driver's license slowed the young Marine down, but only temporarily.

As he left the court room he exhibited six other driver's licenses from other states, which gave him a continuing right to jeopardize the life and property of those persons unfortunate enough to have to travel the same road he selects to speed upon.

James Odell Rogers Suffers Neck Injury In Tuesday Accident

Early Tuesday morning James Odell Rogers of Grifton suffered a severe neck injury when his car was wrecked three miles south of Grifton on the Kinston highway.

Rogers was riding alone at the time of the accident and apparently lost control of his car while travelling at an excessive rate of speed. It was first believed that he had suffered a broken neck but attendants at the Memorial General Hospital reported his condition as "satisfactory" Tuesday morning.

Facing Two Charges

Tenant Farmer James Jones of Kinston route one is charged with first degree burglary and breaking, entering and larceny following his arrest Friday night by Deputy Sheriff Odell Stroud. He is charged with breaking in Parrish's Super Market at the Fort Barnwell-Greenville forks and later breaking into Clyde Taylor's store in the same vicinity. Part of the loot in the Parrish robbery has been recovered. The Taylor Store was occupied when Jones allegedly entered it.

Lenoir County Ranked Fifth In 1954 In Per Capita Retail Sales in the State

Census figures released this week by the Department of Commerce indicate that 1954 should have been a happy one for the 468 retailers in Lenoir County.

In the first census taken of retail trades since 1948 Lenoir County had an excellent relative showing among its 99 sister counties in Tar Heels.

In spite of ranking 31st in population among the 100 North Carolina counties, Lenoir ranked 18th in retail trade volume, which puts it 13 notches above its population rank.

These figures show a gross retail trade of \$49,242,000 by those 468 retailers of Lenoir County in 1954.

Lenoir with a population of 45,953 was by far the smallest county in population or in area in the top 18 retail trade counties of the state.

Only New Hanover (population 63,272), Wayne (population 64,287) and Pitt (population 63,

789) and Robeson (population 87,769) topped Lenoir in this important economic listing.

Mecklenburg, as usual, was at the top of the list, with retail sales \$267,595,000. Guilford a close second with sales of \$24,724,000. Forsyth came in a poor third with \$155,349,000 in retail trade last year and Wake County landed in fourth place close behind Forsyth with sales in its 1,366 retail outlets of \$153,253,000 last year. Sixth place went to Durham County where 962 retailers took in \$102,288,000 last year.

Just beneath that charmed hundred million dollar circle in seventh place boom military County of Cumberland with retail sales of \$99,943,000. in the past year.

Eighth place went to Gaston County at \$83,875,000. Ninth spot to New Hanover with \$78,830,000. Tenth place to Rowan County

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Couple Celebrates 60th Anniversary



On Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Louis Napoleon Williams, above, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at their home 503 West Lenoir Street. Approximately 100 friends of this well known couple called to express their congratulations and well wishes for many more anniversaries.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams were married in Wilson on November 26, 1895. Mr. Williams was Mamie Watson, a native Wilson

Countian. Williams came from Franklin County.

On January 1, 1901 the Williams family moved to Kinston and have remained in Kinston since that date. They have two children, Christine and Cope land, both of the home.

Kinston had a population of less than 1,000 when they became residents in 1900 and they have watched it grow through the years and both agree today that it is a "right nice town".

Heavy Loss In Fires Thursday In Lenoir County Rural Areas

Three fires in widely separated parts of Lenoir County last Thursday caused heavy damage, according to reports by the Kinston Fire Department.

At 2:30 Thursday afternoon a \$2,000 loss was estimated for Hewitt Fields at his corn mill in Vance Township. There a shack shed was burned to the ground when it was accidentally ignited.

At 1:30 Thursday afternoon some 30 acres of timber land on the farm of Tom Herring in Neuse Township was burned over when a grass fire got away from some field workers.

At 9:35 Thursday night the New Birth Holiness Church in Falling Creek Township was totally consumed in a blaze that cost the congregation an estimated loss of \$5,200. Origin of the fire was not determined.

Farm House Burns In Western Lenoir And Loss Put At \$14,000

Kinston firemen were unable to do anything but standby and protect surrounding property early Tuesday morning when the home of T. M. Evans of Seven Springs route one was totally consumed by a fire of unde-

Weekend Police Activity Totals Thirty - Two Indictments by Lenoir Enforcement Officers

Police activity in Lenoir County over the past weekend included 32 indictments, with traffic violations heading the list, as usual.

Clyde E. Suggs of Snow Hill route two, Thomas Earl Haskins of the Queen Street Inn, Rutlin Hill of Kinston route one and Willie Bryant of Kinston route one were all booked for drunken driving. Haskins was also charged with driving after his license had been revoked.

Frank J. Riley, a Camp Lejeune Marine, and Earl Roland Roberson Jr. of J. C. Carver Courts were booked for reckless driving.

Five other persons were booked

for less serious traffic violations.

Roosevelt Houston and Elsie Simmons of Kinston route two were charged with fornication and adultery.

Johnny Bryant of 505 Sunshine Street was booked for assault.

Tony Maxwell of 12 N. Carver Courts was charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and damaging city property.

William Bolden of Hookerton route one was charged with driving without a driver's license and possessing obscene literature.

Willie Wilson of Kinston route two was charged with the theft of \$550 from Ruby Wade of Kinston route two.



This was the unhappy scene that greeted Carl Garner Jr., foreman in the print shop of the Lenoir County News, last Thursday when he finally found his car to go to lunch.

Garner had seen the 1955 Studebaker pass by a rear window of the News office but thought some worker at the shop had borrowed it for a minute or two. That was at about 9 a. m.

He thought no more of it until lunchtime arrived and he couldn't find his sport-model flyer. He inquired in the shop about his car and wanted to know where it was parked. But nobody in the shop knew the answer to that question.

After reporting the car to be

stolen to the police department, a telephone call reported the car at the location seen above—flat on its back between Roland Dawson's filling station and Dawson station in Falling Creek Township.

Workers at the packhouse near the scene of the accident, reported a young man in a dark brown jacket had flipped it over and then run away from it as they approached to offer help.

The highway patrol is still looking for the joy riding thief and Garner is busy looking through new car catalogs. Damage is estimated at around \$300 to the car which was stolen so nervily, literally under the eyes of its owner.