

# THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 11 TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY JULY 28, 1954 VOLUME VIII

## Summary of Services Given in Report Jones Health Department

JONES HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO THE CITIZENS OF JONES COUNTY:

This is the third report to the officials and citizens of Jones County since the Health Department opened on March 1, 1948. The first report was made in July, 1949 when the organization of the department was explained. The second report was made at the end of 1949, which explained and listed many of the duties and accomplishments of the Jones County Health Department.

This report will consist of a few remarks and list of accomplishments concerning the Jones County Health Department during the seven years it has been in operation.

Present staff: R. J. Jones, M. D., Health Officer (part-time), Mr. Henry G. Swiggert, Jr., Sanitarian (part-time), Mrs. Alma B. Vassey, Public Health Nurse, Mrs. Doris W. Oliver, Clerk.

### Contagious Disease Control

This is one of the most important duties of the Health Department. Cases of diseases found and reported—26 cases of Diphtheria—25 cases of Whooping Cough—3 cases of Typhoid Fever—56 cases of Tuberculosis—152 cases of Measles—18 cases of Scarlet Fever—12 cases of Infectious Hepatitis—3 cases of Polio-myelitis—3 cases of Meningitis. The cases are given below:

Communications and Vaccinations

This public health program is familiar to everyone— even the tiny tots— and has done a rushing business since the department was opened.

Persons protected against:

Diphtheria	1558
Whooping Cough	1539
Tetanus	1050
Smallpox	1539
Typhoid	2400
Polio	1200

### Veneral Disease Control

A vast amount of work has been done for the control of syphilis and gonorrhea in Jones County. This has included much investigation into the home and private lives of individuals. A special veneral disease investigator has been working part-time with the Health Department most of the time. Every new case gives the department leads to several more persons to investigate and examine.

Blood test made	4139
New cases of Gonorrhea	147
New cases of Syphilis	140

### Tuberculosis Control

This is another everyday job for the Health Department. Looking for new cases of T. B. and watching old cases will not end for many years to come. Fifty-six new cases of T. B. have been found since 1949. The X-ray survey trailers have been brought into Jones County 3 times since 1949. The Jones County Christmas Seal Sale Committee co-operated in this work. There have been 18,000 chest X-rays made on Jones County citizens since 1949. Much T. B. work is done throughout the weeks, months and years by the Health Department—through the Jones County Health Department. There has been 325 T. B. tests done and 332 sputum ex-

## Farmers Now Asking Who Sold Them on Planting 244 Tobacco

That's the question a lot of flue-cured tobacco growers are asking now that curing time has gotten in-to full bloom and the first general reports on the curing characteristics of the new breed of tobacco, 244, begin to circulate.

Last year a major part of the tobacco acreage was planted in a long, rich, breed tagged 139 but some complaints were made by manufacturing companies who alleged that the 139 did not store well and was "pale and slick".

At about the same time that the complaints were filing in from manufacturing sources the Extension Department announced the new 244 breed, which it insisted was better than 139. But in the same breath it announced that there was not enough 244 seed to go around for the 1954 planting.

The rush was on. Farmers felt they just HAD to have some 244 seed, by hook or crook, and the majority wound up getting some by simply paying exorbitant prices to a few cold-blooded bloodsuckers who got a lot of the 244 variety and jacked the price up to as high as some instances as 25¢ per pound.

But they felt, and understandably so. They had, in general, produced more pounds per acre with 139 and sold it for a better average than most any variety they had ever tried.

At about this same time the experiment stations of the state compared their 1953 yield and sale averages for the various types of tobacco they had been growing. There again the much-cussed and discussed 139 stood far and away at the top of the list. More pounds, more dollars. But another branch of the extension department still stuck to its recommendations of this new and untried 244.

But farmers, in general, are cautious folks. Although a majority of them got some 244 seed, they didn't put all of their tobacco eggs in that one 244 basket. And now they're mighty glad they didn't.

Why? Because last year it was largely the tobacco companies who complained about 139; this year the farmers—or at least a goodly group of them, are sick with the 244 fever.

Old 139 might have cured up a trifle pale and slick, but 244 just won't cure.

One farmer says he's afraid to eminations for T. B. made since the department opened. The T. B. condition of Jones County at this time is considered as good and all known cases are in sanatoriums or back home continuing their care and treatment.

Maternal Health  
Any pregnant woman can be examined and followed by the Health Department until delivery. This is done by the Health Officer and the Nurse in the office and in the home. Early danger signals are

open the curing barn door. "That tobacco's, so mean looking I'm afraid it'll jump outa the barn and git me".

In the field, another farmer described his 244 as "looking like a bunch of rabbit ears sticking up in the breeze".

One says, "My 244 looks about the color of oak leaves, and most of it's just about the same size."

Another says, "It cures like a prune. Curls up, darkens up and just won't dry out right".

Some, however, are satisfied. They feel 244 has done a good job on their farms; but they are in the vocal minority if they happen to be in the numerical majority.

That vocal bunch of 244 "knockers" has one question, which nobody seems anxious to answer: Who talked them into planting 244? Whodunnit?

## Herman Parker's Home Burns



These are the smoking remains of the Herman Parker Home which burned after being struck by lightning Wednesday afternoon.

looked for and several mothers have had to be sent to hospitals due to complications. This program saves lives just as the other programs do. There has been 107 maternity patients examined and treated and 578 visits made by the nurse to the homes of maternity wives are controlled entirely by the Health Department. There have been 15 midwife meetings and 181 visits to midwives by the Health Department.

### Infant's Program

The first year is the most dangerous year in anyone's life. Here we see, examine, vaccinate and treat hundreds of infants (children under 1 year old)—every year a life saving program. There were 1032 home visits made to infants.

### Pre-School Children

These are children from one to six years old. The same work is done for these children as for the infants. There were 936 home visits made to these children.

### Pre-School Clinics

A clinic is held every Spring at all the schools. Mothers are given information concerning sending their children to school in the Fall term for the first time.

### School Children

The Nurse, Health Officer and See Health Report Page 12

## Most Jones Parents are Denying Their Children Polio Vaccine Protection

### 'Chaingang Lawyer' Springs Tommy Guy; But Still in Himself

Late in May Tommy Guy, a local habitual drunkard, was given six months in prison for public drunkenness by Judge Albert Cowper in Recorder Court. Under a recent law persons convicted more than three times within a 12-month period of public drunkenness may be given up to two years in jail. It was under this statute that Guy was sentenced.

In the New Hanover County prison camp, however, Guy ran into what he calls "a chaingang lawyer", who found a tiny flaw in the bill of indictment under which Guy was sentenced and a writ of habeas corpus was brought in Guy's behalf in the New Hanover County Court and because of that flaw Clifton Moore ordered Guy released after he had served "just over 30 days" of his 180-day term.

Monday Guy was back before Judge Cowper. He had surrendered Sunday night at the police station, asking the desk sergeant to lock him up, so he could sober up.

Judge Cowper gave him another six month prison term and made certain that no technical flaw was present in the indictment. He told Guy to go back down to Wilmington "see if your lawyer can spring you again".

With the polio season reaching its dread peak the Jones County Health Department reports this week that only 1653 Jones County Children have completed the protection available from the Salk vaccine.

Last year Jones County had a school enrollment of 3039, which indicates that only about half of the school-age population of the county has had the proven protection of this vaccine which gives from 60 to 85 per cent immunity to the crippling virus of infantile paralysis.

Since the vaccine is available, FREE, to all children 19 years of age or under the department logically suspects that less than a third of these eligible for the protection have had it.

The department recognizes that the scare last year when the Salk vaccine was fouled up for so long in politics and incompetent laboratories is the big factor in making so many parents balk at giving their children this proven protection.

Public Health Nurse Mrs. Alma Vassey says there has not been a single unfavorable reaction to any of the shots given so far in Jones County.

Well over one thousand children have had the first shot but have not yet come in to get the second in the series.

Mrs. Vassey stressed that no matter if the first shot was taken a year or more ago the child now only need take the other two to have the maximum protection afforded by this newest miracle of medical science.

The shots are available FREE each week day, Monday through Friday, at the Health Department clinic in the basement of the court house in Trenton, or may be obtained from the family physician when he is available.

Guy made such an eloquent plea for a chance to work in green tobacco and spoke so forcefully of how "hot it is on the chaingang" that Cowper suspended the term upon the condition that Guy remain sober to "make good this time".



The large house in the upper part of this picture all but hidden by the trees was destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon after being hit by lightning. The home of the Herman parkers, located between Trenton and Pollockville, the old home was not only one of the county's oldest but was one of the most beautiful homes in the county. The Trenton Fire Department answered the call to the home but was only able to protect adjoining property. Reports indicate that the Parkers were able to save some of their furnishings but the house was a total loss.