

# THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

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## Jones Fair Association Holds Supper Meeting; New Director Named

The Jones County Agricultural Fair Association held a supper meeting Feb. 13 at the Jones Central School cafeteria. The directors chosen for the next three year term were Dan Vernelson, W. W. Lowery and Mrs. Richard Harker. One of the items discussed during the business meeting was that of exhibits. A \$25 award has been offered to the Home Demonstration Club winning the most premiums, instead of the most exhibits, as in the 1956 fair. Also, it was announced that fireworks will be shown each of the five nights of the fair. The new committees for 1957 are as follows:

Fair Catalog — J. R. Franck, R. F. Wadkin and Dan Vernelson.  
 Program — J. H. Pollock, M. B. Wright and John Yates  
 Livestock — Denford Eubanks, Bill Duval, and Marjvern Banks  
 Beauty Contest — Mrs. W. W. Lowery, Mrs. Joe Becton and Mrs. Hugh Loftin

Tent Committee — P. N. Banks, Edward Banks and Elvert Andrews  
 Space — C. M. Gray Jr., W. J. Johnson and Donald Brock  
 Field Crop — Ross Johnson Jr., and Mack Curtis.

Horticulture — Rom Mallard and G. T. Koonce Jr.

Womens Division — Faytie Cox and Mrs. Ben Heeter.

The dates for the fair week are October 28 through November 2.

## Tuckahoe Industry Hit Another Low Blow As Sheriff Yates Visits

For the second week in a row the stumple whisky industry of Jones County's western frontier in Tuckahoe Township suffered at the hands of Sheriff Brown Yates.

Last Wednesday a small "family size" still was torn up just west of US 258, "not too far from the one we got last week", Sheriff Yates reports this week.

Four barrels of mash at the still site, indicated that it was not competing too strongly with Schenley.

## T-3 Bryant Griffin New in 11th Division

MUNICH, GERMANY (AHTNC) — Army Specialist Third Class

## Tax Research Report Furnishes Interesting Comparisons in Jones, Lenoir, Other Counties

The biennial report of the North Carolina Tax Research Department again confirms the wide difference among North Carolina's 100 counties in their willingness to tax themselves. A pair of examples which reflect extreme points of view are the sister counties of Jones and Lenoir.

Jones County had at the last official count 11,004 citizens and Lenoir County had 45,953 potential tax payers within its borders.

For the fiscal year 1955-56 Jones Countians through their board of county commissioners taxed themselves in the total amount of \$136,280 while Lenoir Countians were bleeding much more freely to their county government which exacted \$798,302 from their thin hides and then took another \$222,210 that year from them in profits from county-owned liquor stores. Which proves to be a county government bite in Jones of \$12.38 per year for each citizen. In Lenoir the price goes up to \$22.25 per capita.

But this is just a tiny part of the grossly different cost of taxation in Jones and Lenoir counties. Those figures merely represent the difference at the county level.

When you start adding up and subtracting city taxation the picture grows worse, insofar as Lenoir Countians are concerned.

Jones County only has two towns that collect taxes, Maysville and Trenton, and in the 1955-56 report Maysville collected \$11,052 and Trenton's tax collections amounted to \$9,079. But in Lenoir there are three city tax departments, Kinston, La Grange and Pink Hill, and their collections ran \$389,573 for Kinston, \$13,932 for La Grange and

Bryant Griffin, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Griffin of Comfort, is a member of the 11th Airborne Division in Munich Germany.

Specialist Griffin is assigned to Company M of the division's 503d Infantry Regiment. He entered the Army in August 1954 and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C.

The 19-year-old soldier attended Jones Central High School, Trenton.

\$7,271 for Pink Hill. When the taxpayers of these Lenoir County towns figure up, if they do, they have been bitten at the rate of \$43.49 per capita in Kinston, \$41.08 in Pink Hill and \$29.77 in La Grange.

Trentonians are taged at the rate of \$31.73 per capita by their town and county governments and Maysvillians are asked to pay \$25.89 per capita to their city and county tax collectors.

But if one thinks the spread between the Lenoir and Jones County tax bite is something, consider Mecklenburg County. There in Charlotte the per capita tax is \$79.22 per year, and in the county the rural rate without any city tax collections added the Mecklenburg tax levy is \$23.51 per capita per year.

Further study of these vast gaps between the tax paying habits of Tar Heelia's 100 counties comes when such counties as Avery where the per capita tax payment per year is \$8.51. For the citizen of Charlotte who pays \$79.22 per capita city and county tax also have to assume some of the obligations of the citizen of Avery County, who pays only \$8.51 per capita per year county tax is a problem that state governments, and now the federal government have tangled with.

In school bond issues for the State of North Carolina the theory has been to give such counties as Avery a much higher percentage of the money derived from the bond issues than such counties as Mecklenburg receive; that is on a per capita division. Federal monies are made available upon this same formula of taking from the rich counties and giving to the poor, only with federal handing out is based on taking from the rich states and giving to the poor states.

Statisticians and sociologists labor over the implications of such a situation, as do people interested in principles of government. The status of North Carolina as a state is comparable to that of Jones as a county.

Among the 48 states North Carolina has by far the largest proportion of its people working in agriculture. Among the 100 counties of North Carolina there are few, if any with higher percentage of their citizens engaged in farming than Jones County.

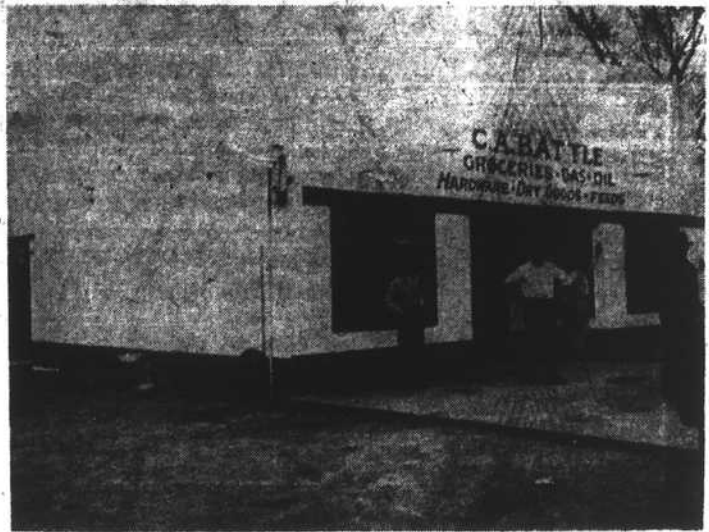
Comparisons of per capita annual income make both North Carolina and Jones County seem pitifully low. The statisticians must try to answer the question: is this a reflection of un-reported income from farmers, or is it simply a brutal gap between urban and rural incomes? The sociologist tangles with another aspect of the same problem: Which is a more accurate index to health and happiness, per capita income or actual standard of living?

Even North Carolina Governor Luther Hodges would be reluctant to insist that the low per capita income farmer of Jones County is not living at a level superior to that of a high per capita income worker in New York or Chicago.

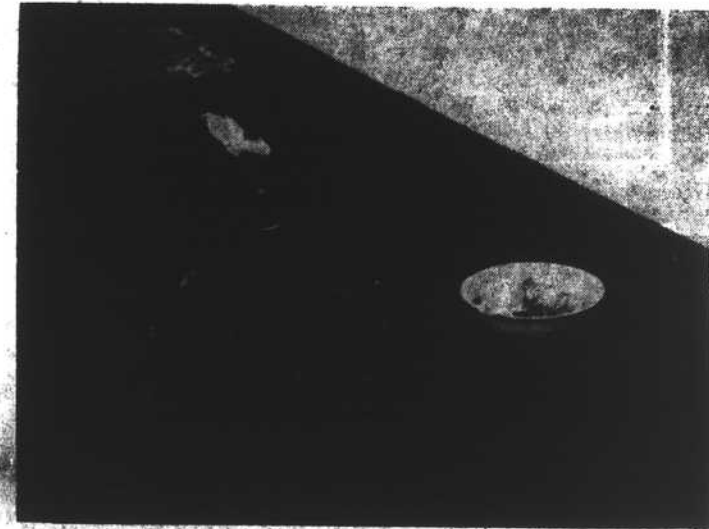
Whether the importance of actual cash in pocket or final manner of living should be given precedence

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## 'Eternal Triangle' Blamed in Tuesday Murder of Jake Koonce By Jasper Metts in Comfort



This picture was taken from the direction of Metts, until he got to the corner of the filling station where he turned and started to run down the side of the station wall. He fell between this washpan sitting on the box and the towel just beyond and was dead a few seconds later.



This picture indicates where of water which was used to wash Koonce lay after being shot, beside the towel and near the panel away the blood from the two bullet wounds.

Although no one was willing to talk "on the record" conversation without direct quotes freely blamed an "eternal triangle" situation for the Tuesday afternoon murder of Jake Ezra Koonce of Pollocksville by 43 year-old Jasper Metts, Comfort filling station operator.

Koonce, 33, accompanied by a nephew, E. W. Jenkins also of Pollocksville, stopped in Comfort at about 2 p. m. Tuesday at Charlie Battle's general store for a Coke. Battle's filling station is about 75 to 100 yards west of the store operated by Metts, and on the opposite side of NC Highway 43 which runs through Comfort.

Witnesses say that while Koonce and his nephew drank their Coke Metts came from his filling station with a .22 caliber automatic rifle and engaged in a brief scuffle with his brother who tried to take the gun from him.

Koonce's car was parked to the southwest corner of the Battle store and Jenkins says that when he and Koonce came out of the station Metts opened fire. "I don't know how many times he shot", Jenkins admits he was too busy taking cover.

Koonce who was very near the southwest corner of the station, turned and ran north along the west wall of the Battle establishment, but he did not get far. Two of the .22 long bullets hit him squarely in the back of the head and he fell in the grass.

Metts returned to his filling station, surrendered the rifle to his brother and then got in his car and drove to Trenton where he surrendered to Sheriff Brown Yates, telling him, "I killed Jake Koonce."

A call from Comfort preceded Metts and the caller told the jaller

that Metts was on his way and that Koonce was shot.

Those first to reach Koonce turned him over on his back and say he gasped a few breathes and died.

Koonce, a native Jones Countian, had a long record of various law

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## Comfort Trio Booked After Fracas Where Knives Were Involved

Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates indicted three men from the Comfort section after a fracas last week in which two suffered knife wounds.

Haywood Philyaw and Hugh Garrison were each charged with assault with a deadly weapon and William Banks was accused of public drunkenness in the same scuffle.

## Patrolman Mercer Gets Three Lenoir Men on Liquor Charge

Trenton Highway Patrolman Bert Mercer last week indicted a trio of Lenoir Countians who came over into Jones while celebrating the visit of one who is now living in Augusta, Georgia.

The trio included Franklin Hill and Dallas Freeman of Deep Run route one and Blaney Hill, a former resident of the same section, now residing in Georgia.

The charges against each member of the party were identical: Public drunkenness and possession of stumple whisky. Mercer says they had "more in 'em than they had in the jar." Which reportedly was only about one-third full.



This rather repulsed Buick belongs to Hilton Moore of Kinston and it came to this sudden stop Tuesday afternoon at about 4:30 while Moore was driving east on NC 12 about a mile from the Jones County line in Lenoir County. Moore says he was driving about 30 to 55 miles per hour in a rather heavy shower falling at that time. The car hit a puddle of water in a curve just west of this scene, and caused it to swerve

sharply to the left. Moore said he was afraid sudden braking would have turned the car over, so he decided to steer his way out of the difficulty but the shoulder was too slick and the result is shown above. Moore and a passenger escaped injury and damage to the car was slight. Leland Tucker, an accommodating highway department foreman, used his truck to pull Moore onto the highway so he could proceed on his way.