

# Little Relief Expected for Farmer With Mixed Tobacco

## Farm Bureau Initiates Mixed Seed Investigation

An investigation of the mix-up in tobacco seed planted in North Carolina involving varieties 711 and 244 was initiated on July 18 by the board of directors of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.

The board action is an effort to determine who is responsible for the sale of mixed seed resulting in growers unintentionally planting variety 244. This variety has been classified as undesirable and will be supported at 50 per cent of the normal support rate.

While a study group is being set up by Federation President Randolph Eagles, Farm Bureau leaders are working with USDA officials and representatives of other flue-cured interest to devise a plan offering some degree of relief to growers innocently caught in the mix-up.

In a meeting held in Florence, S. C. on July 23 Farm Bureau leaders from North Carolina and other states met with USDA representatives including Joe Williams, director of the Tobacco Division and Clarence Miller, director of the Commodity Stabilization Service, to work out a plan permitting innocently involved growers to sell their mixed leaf at the best possible advantage. Officials of Tobacco Stabilization met with the group and offered their support for a workable plan.

Several plans were discussed but one which received support from all sides would call for notation as to the percentage of undesirable leaf contained in each individual crop. This leaf would go into regular market channels. If the mixed leaf is not purchased at prices placed in stabilization storage and offered for sale shortly after regular market close.

This would permit stabilization to grade and class the mixed tobacco according to the percentage of undesirable leaf and place it in a special pool. It is felt that such an arrangement could mean higher prices for lots containing small percentages of undesirable varieties.

Any increase above support rates received by stabilization would be passed on to the growers having leaf in the special pool after deduction of handling. This would be accomplished by paying growers a special dividend reflecting any price advantage received.

Further announcements on the details of the plan will be made after the proposal has been checked for legality by the USDA and other agencies concerned.

This proposal would provide a degree of relief to all growers who unintentionally planted undesirable varieties of tobacco seed by placing their tobacco into a special pool. While it would not insure prices to be received by farmers it would place their tobacco in a position where it could be sold at the best possible advantage.

To take part in such a program each grower would be required to offer proof to his county ASC committee that he planted the undesirable varieties unintentionally.

### Pistol Death Called Suicide by Coroner

The death early Sunday morning of Ethan Harrison of 310 Short Street in Kinston was ruled suicide after an investigation by police and Coroner Raymond Jarman.

Harrison died instantly from a .38 caliber pistol wound in the chest. The pistol was still firmly gripped in his hand and a suicide note indicated that the 31-year-old negro was upset over some business situation.

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## Jones County Commissioners Haven't Given Up Their Efforts To Tax Timber and Pulp Wood

Although the County of Jones lost the first round in a fight to tax timber and pulp holdings there are indications, and off-the-record mutterings around the court rouse to the general tune that more will be heard soon on the same subject.

County officials admit quite freely that a mistake was made in the evaluation effort made earlier this year in the quadrennial re-valuation of the county's taxable property.

The mistake was that valuations were only placed on the pulp and timber holdings of the larger landowners and not placed upon every acre of timber and pulp land.

Some over \$400,000 valuation had to be stricken from the tax books because representatives of these large landholders pointed out, correctly, that everybody had to

be taxed alike.

The apparent intent, based upon the unwritten but frequently spoken word around the court house is that this error which has now been corrected by removing all timber and pulpwood valuations from the books will soon be amended to place such valuations on all lands in the county.

One official pointed to a number of instances where at present the absentee landowners are paying less taxes than before, which is certainly a result nobody ever planned when the valuation process got underway this past spring.

At present the only valuations on timber and pulp lands are a flat value per acre. The rescinded effort had placed an additional \$10-per-acre value on timber lands and a \$1.50 value on each estimated cord of pulpwood on such lands.

## Trenton Teacher Honored With Experimental Work In Television Teaching

Trenton Teacher Myrtle Brock has been honored by the State Department of Public Instruction with her selection as one of two teachers from the public school system who will conduct daily lessons over Television Station WUNC during the coming school year.

Miss Brock, a native Trentonian and veteran teacher, will teach history in daily classes beginning in September and will be televised from the studios of the state-owned educational TV outlet located on the campus of the Woman's College at Greensboro.

WUNC also has studios on the campus at Chapel Hill and Raleigh in the other two branches of the Greater University of North Carolina.

## Branch Banking Buys Lot for New Offices

This week purchase of a lot in Trenton was announced by the Branch Banking & Trust Company but plans are not yet complete for construction of a new home for the Trenton office of this well known organization.

The lot is directly across Cherry Street from the present offices of the bank and was purchased from Attorney Darris W. Koonce. The purchase includes the present offices of Koonce as well as the remainder of the large lot which at present has no building upon it.

The construction of the new bank office building is expected to get underway in the early fall.

## Jones County 4-H Leader Speaks at Georgia Meeting

Donald Jones, a member of the Jones High Senior 4-H Club, newly elected president of the State 4-H Club Council has been invited to appear as guest speaker at the Georgia State 4-H Club Week program this weekend.

The state 4-H club week program is being observed at the 4-H club center in Dublin, Georgia from July 29 — August 3. Donald will speak on some phases of 4-H Club Work in North Carolina.

He will be accompanied on this trip by Fletcher Barber, Jones County Agent.

## Ayden Man Sought in Girl Friend Shooting

Oscar Hill of Ayden is being sought by Lenoir and Pitt County officers on charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. The victim of Hill's assault, his former girl friend Mary Banks of 401 East Washington Street in Kinston, is under treatment in a Kinston hospital from two pistol

wounds.

Dr. Payne Dale says the woman is in critical condition from the puncture of her intestine in several places by one of the bullets which struck her in the lower stomach. The other bullet fractured the bone in her right thigh.

Police reported that the 27-year-old negro woman had sworn out a warrant Friday night for Hill, charging that he had shot at her with a pistol but had missed. When he returned Saturday night his shooting was more effective.

## Mrs. Pollock Kills 68-Inch Rattlesnake

"He raised his head up like he was going to strike me, but I kept hitting him with the hoe" said 74 years young Mrs. Callie Pollock. With the assistance of her daughter who pitched in with another hoe, she succeeded in killing a 68-inch rattlesnake in her front yard late Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Pollock lives about two miles from Leslie White's store in Jones County and was canning tomatoes while her daughter, Eunice May, was clipping hedges in the front yard when she saw the snake crawling across the yard. Her white collie dog guarded the snake while Mrs. Pollock went for the hoe.

Mrs. Pollock says this is the third rattlesnake she has killed in her seventy-four years. "But, this one yesterday was the biggest snake I've ever seen. I thought I'd dream about him last night, but I didn't".

## More Jones Land is Purchased by Outside Timber Corporation

The trend which has seen nearly 40 per cent of the timber lands of Jones County pass into ownership by pulp and timber corporations outside the county continued during the past week.

Records in the office of Jones County Register of Deeds Mrs. D. W. Koonce show that Frank Brock sold the Halifax Timber Company 200 acres of land in Cypress Creek Township on July 27th and on the same date another tract of 92 acres in Tuckahoe Township was transferred to the same company by J. P. Marshburn.

Other real estate transfers in the past week included two lots in Cypress Creek Township transferred to Joe R. Metts by Donald Brock, commissioner of court and one lot in Trenton transferred from Darris W. Koonce to the Branch Banking & Trust Company of Wilson.

## Hodges Names Mallard To Board of Elections

H. Manley Mallard, for a generation the "Mr. Republican of Jones County" has been named as one of the two Republicans on the State Board of Elections by Governor Luther Hodges after having been recommended for the post by the State Republican Executive Committee.

Mallard, a resident of the Mallardtown community east of Trenton, has served as postmaster of Trenton, chairman of the Jones County Republican Executive Committee and in numerous other party posts. He is also a director of the Jones-Onslow Electric Member Corporation.

## Marriage License

Jones County Register of Deeds Mrs. D. W. Koonce this week reports the issue of only one marriage license during the past week and that went to James Koonce Jr., 38, of Petersburg, Va., and Elsie Lewis Carter, 37, of Kinston route four.

Friday night an estimated 200 farmers from a nine-county area gathered in Pink Hill High School auditorium to discuss ways and means of improving the tight bind a percentage of the tobacco farmers are in from either innocently or intentionally planting one of the three types of tobacco that are supported this year at only 50 per cent of parity.

Instigator of the conference was Quentin Stroud of the Pink Hill area who earlier in the month had attempted to sell some tobacco from a farm on which teams of ASC specialists have said he had a mixture of Golden Gem 711 and Dixie Bright 244 tobacco. Since 244 is one of the three types of tobacco penalized with the lowered parity (Cokers 139 and 140 are the others) Stroud was naturally selling the tobacco under a blue marketing card. He became understandably alarmed when no buyer would bid on his tobacco.

Then it was found that no buyers from any company were bidding on blue marketing card tobacco on any of the Georgia-Florida markets.

A full scale investigation is under way by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to determine if the mixed seed were the result of a deliberate or innocent mistake by a seed producer, since an estimated 350 farmers in the flue-cured tobacco area were found to have mixed fields of tobacco, ranging from mixtures as low as two per cent of 244 and high as 99 per cent, all of which was supposed to have been planted from tobacco beds sown with Golden Gem 711 seed of the Bissette Seed Company in Wake County.

The Pink Hill meeting was aimed primarily at generating sufficient political steam to alter the hard and fast ASC ruling. The meeting ended in the passing of several resolutions asking relief.

Individual farmers commenting after the meeting said, "The fellows who may have been innocent victims of mixed seed let the folks that deliberately planted the wrong kind of tobacco take over the meeting. I don't think they'll get very far".

Another said, "I don't see how the ASC can weaken without throwing out the whole program and there's not many farmers who want to go that far".

Another added, "We are all sorry for the fellow who is innocently caught in this mixed up seed mess, but most of these fellows at this meeting — at least those who were doing most of the talking knew what they were doing".

Still another said, "The fellows who are victims of the mixed up seed problem know who is guilty and if they don't want to tell they'll just have to sink along with the fellows who are guilty".

Another comment was, "I was talking with a fellow this morning who was at the home of one of these fellows when he personally mixed these seed he's hollering about now."

Most of these had remained silent during the public discussion, and after 20 years of tobacco program it looks as if the majority opinion of farmers is more solidly concentrated behind the program than in sympathy for the farmers who have the wrong kind of tobacco this year.

The only concession so far made by ASC — and it is admittedly a slight one — is to identify the mixed up tobacco and indicate the percentage of the "wrong tobacco" in each lot. Then permit the tobacco to go into the stabilization pool at the 50 per cent of parity level and then immediately work the tobacco and sell it as quickly as possible, which might take from one to five years and pass any increased income from that tobacco directly back to the farmers.

