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Home Agents Receive National Awards

This year four farm agents and four home agents from the several thousand in the United States have been recognized for their fine work through the years. It is of some significance that three of these eight from all across the nation are natives of Jones County.

They include Verna Belle Lowery, Joseph F. Koonce Jr. and Vernon Reynolds. Miss Lowery is recognized in the accompanying article, Koonce is Lenoir County Farm Agent and Reynolds is Duplin County Farm Agent.

Four North Carolina home demonstration agents are among the group of 73 home agents from all over the United States being recognized for Distinguished Service Awards during the 1958 meeting of the National Home Demonstration Agents' Association in Chicago, November 2-5, 1958.

The four agents, as announced by Flora McDonald, Moore County home agent, chairman of the state recognition committee, are: Mrs. Mary K. Routh, assistant home agent, Forsyth County; Miss Verna Belle Lowery, home agent, New Hanover County; Miss Elizabeth A. Watson, home agent, Stanly County; and Mrs. Lydia M. Booth, assistant home agent, Nash County.

Having served as assistant home agent in Forsyth County for more than 12 years, Mrs. Routh has seen the 4-H program which she heads grow from 18 organized clubs in 1946 to 24 in 1958. The number of entries in the 4-H Dress Revue has increased from nine to 218; while dairy foods demonstration participants have increased from three to 62.

Through the Farm, Home and Community Improvement program, Mrs. Routh has had the opportunity of working with families in 16 organized communities. She has taken an active part in the State Home Agents' Association, has held a number of district chairmanships, as well as served in several committees in the North Carolina Home Economics Association.

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VERNA BELLE LOWERY



ELIZABETH A. WATSON



MRS. MARY K. ROUTH



MRS. LYDIA M. BOOTH

Jones Central PTA Adopts Plan to Aid Band Boosters Club

During the business session Monday night at the first meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association of Jones Central High School, the group adopted a plan for aiding the newly formed Band Boosters Club in its drive for funds to purchase band uniforms.

Edward Parker, president, strongly urged the some 35 members present to urge all parents to attend future meetings.

The program consisted of brief talks by Mrs. Alma Phillips, homemaking teacher; John Hughes Pollock agriculture teacher; and Mrs. Marie Swiggett, Business Education teacher.

A social hour was held in the

Scholarship Fund Dinner October 28

The Trenton Rotary Club is sponsoring a Scholarship Fund supper next Tuesday night, Oct. 28 at 7 in the Jones Central Cafeteria. William Carmichael, vice president of the University of North Carolina will be the guest speaker.

This supper is to raise money to send some deserving student to college, and everyone is asked to attend if possible.

Approximately 175 persons are expected to attend. Those who do not have tickets, may purchase them at the door for \$2.50 a plate. Remember, this is for a good cause.

A social hour was held in the cafeteria following the meeting.

Jones ABC Stores Net Profit Jumps Sharply in Quarterly Report July 1-September 30

Adult Sewing Class Open to the Public

Mrs. Alma Phillips, homemaking teacher at Jones Central High School, announced that the public is cordially invited to attend a series of adult classes on sewing. Which began Tuesday, October 21 at 7:30 p. m. These classes are sponsored by the Jones Central Homemaking Department. Following is an outline of dates left and topics:

Thursday, October 23—2nd Lesson, Fitting (pattern adjustment cutting).

Thursday, October 30—3rd Lesson, Unit construction, basting, fitting.

Tuesday, November 4—4th Lesson, Seams and seamfinishes, zipper.

Thursday, November 6—5th Lesson, Finishing (buttons, buttonhole, collar, cuffs, leveling and hemming).

Tuesday, November 11—6th Lesson, Evaluation and fashion show.

Land Transfers

Real estate transfers recorded during the past week in the office of Jones County Register of Deeds Mrs. D. W. Koonce include the following:

From Jasper Lee Hall to Cecil E. Miller .71 acres in Tuckahoe.

From W. Edward Haskins to Wayne Stillely 3.5 acres in Chinquapin.

From Bernice King Andrews to Walter L. Adams 191 acres in Cypress Creek.

From Norman E. Eubank to Charles D. Crane .53 acres in White Oak.

From Furney Morton to Billie Morton one acre in White Oak.

From James R. Quinn to C. R. Quinn one lot in Cypress Creek.

One Jones Arrest

Last Saturday Ambro Roosevelt Williams of Pollocksville was indicted on a charge of drunken driving. This is the only arrest reported during the past week that required as much as a \$100 bond.

Football Friday

The Jones Central Rockets are scheduled to play Pamlico next Friday, October 24. The game is to be played on the Jones Central Athletic field at Trenton.

Both the percentage of profit and the net dollars profit of the Jones County ABC store system took a sharp upward turn during the first quarter of fiscal 1958-59.

In the first financial statement of the state's newest ABC system covering the period from the opening, on December 6, 1957 through June 30, 1958 the stores had realized a net profit of \$5,880.15 on a gross sales of \$89,233.05, which is a 7.32 per cent rate of net profit.

In the three-month period July 1-September 30, the stores grossed \$61,925.60, upon which they netted \$5,867.30, which is profit at the rate of 11.08 per cent.

The financial statement shows that Store No. 1 in Trenton still tops the other two in gross business, but by a tiny margin. No. 1 grossed \$22,329.90, No. 2 at Hargett's Crossroad grossed \$21,081.75 and No. 3 at Wyse Forks grossed \$18,513.95 in this three-month period.

The statement shows that the whisky sold cost the county \$43,884.72, thus making a gross profit on the \$61,925.60 sales of \$18,040.88.

Gross operating expenses for the period totalled \$11,174.86, thus creating a net profit of \$6,866.02 and \$1.11 interest was earned during that period from funds of the system that were on deposit in a savings account.

Officials of the system have set their sights on a 10 per cent net profit for the entire year on roughly a \$250,000 gross business.

Marriage License

During the past week two marriage licenses were issued by Jones County Register of Deeds Mrs. D. W. Koonce. One went to Clinton Eugene Metts, 18, and Edna Faye Jones, 17, both of Trenton, and the other to Larry Dan Moss, 18, and Ann Arthur, 18, both of Pollocksville.

Nervy Prisoner

Paul Suggs of 305 North Tiffany Avenue has proven at least to the complete satisfaction of Kinston police that he has plenty of nerve. He was arrested Friday on a charge of false pretense. His alleged crime was that while pulling a jail term working in and around the police station he was busy drawing an unemployment compensation check.

Governor Hodges Says North Carolinians Prefer Paying Taxes Hard Way

(Editor's Note: In a Greenville news conference last week Governor Luther Hodges preferred not to answer a question from Editor Jack Rider on his preference between a state land tax and a tax system similar to that of the State of Florida. The Governor may have inferentially expressed a preference when he admitted, "We prefer to collect our taxes the hard way. Down in Florida they decided to do it the easy way." The article here spells out a part of what Editor Rider had on his mind when he asked The Governor this question.)

There are countless good political reasons for taking a careful look at the taxing policies of North Carolina, but far better reasons can be found in the more exact field of economics.

Faced with the possibility of shrinking income from the present tax structure, or at the best a levelling off of the money that can be expected from present sources, North Carolina legislators and members of the executive side of government must seriously study a number of very obvious alternatives:

1. The reduction of state services.
2. Salary cuts.
3. An ad valorem tax at the state level.
4. An increased, across-the-board sales tax.
5. Or new, presently untapped sources of taxation.

Even a juvenile politician will recognize the explosive nature of the first four of these alternatives.

Which brings us to the sphere of new, presently untapped sources of taxation.

Naturally, there is little, if anything new under the tax sun. But there are tax sources that are used in one area that are not used in another for what have generally passed as "good political reasons" through the years.

North Carolina, the home of a majority part of the tobacco industry, has refused to tax tobacco at the retail level because of the political power of the tobacco industry, plus the farm vote which has been easily excited on this particular subject.

In the past fiscal year Florida with a population of 2,771,000 has collected \$24,688,062.23 from its cigarette tax, North Carolina with a population of 4,061,000 collected

nothing from this source.

Florida, of course, did not have the political pressures for tobacco that exist in North Carolina, but a method was used there to secure passage of this tax that would work equally well in North Carolina. Of that more than \$24 million collected in Florida \$18,483,255.07 was distributed on a per capita basis to the corporate communities of the state, who at the same time are carrying a much larger share of governmental services than in North Carolina.

In North Carolina a majority of the counties have no direct and over-riding concern with the tobacco industry; this is even more true of the corporate communities. Legislative support for such a tax is logical if its proceeds were shared in some ratio that would be dictated to whatever degree these communities were willing to shoulder governmental responsibilities.

Last year Florida also collected \$25,278,919.22 from racing fees, taxes and licenses. North Carolina collected nothing in this category too. This is another tax source that has been lost to North Carolina by the fear of politicians.

Presume from the Puritan point

of view that racing and betting on races were made legal in North Carolina. How many counties would have race tracks? Certainly a very small percentage of the 100 counties. Only those larger areas where tourists gather such as Asheville, Wilmington, Morehead City, the Norfolk Metropolitan area, the Southern Pines section and possibly one or two more.

The population of Florida is some different than that of North Carolina, but not much, philosophically speaking. Florida, in spite of its great tourist centers is still largely a rural state, devoted largely to farming of one kind or another. This majority part of the people of Florida view with the same kind of rich suspicion as their brethren in North Carolina anything connected with "race tracks, whisky and fast women".

So how did this \$25 million dollars a year creep into the Florida budget from such a shady direction as racing? By another simple political device. Each county in Florida, which has 37, gets \$175,000 per year from racing revenues. How difficult would it be to line up legislative support for a bill that would practically balance the

budgets of half the counties in the state? Especially, when each and all of these small counties would know to a reasonable certainty that its righteous confines would not be inhabited by one of these money-making gadgets.

Twelve North Carolina counties have annual levies for taxes of less than \$150,000. Thirty eight counties in the state have annual tax levies of less than \$300,000. Such attractive incentives as those tendered to rural-area legislators in Florida might not work in North Carolina, but there is that possibility, and it is a strong one.

And one more look at Florida official finances: Last year the State of Florida collected \$39,945,795.98 from its beverage taxes. North Carolina in an average year collects about \$14 million from its beverage taxes. (In fiscal 1955-56 it collected \$13,943,123 from beer, wine and whisky sources.)

Presumably the residents of Florida and their visitors may drink a little more heavily than their more abstemious friends in North Carolina but hardly in the ratio accented in these gross tax

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