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Monday Afternoon Fire Damages Home of the John Yates Family

By Mrs. Fred Pippin

The Trenton Volunteer Fire Department rushed to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Yates Monday afternoon at about 4:30 after children reported seeing smoke coming from the roof of the house.

In a matter of minutes, the department was on the job with many neighbors rushing to help. The fire began in a back bedroom and spread to the bathroom and attic before being extinguished. Those two rooms were completely burned including furniture and clothing, but the remaining items

were safely carried out by many helping hands.

Considerable damage was done to the walls and ceilings of the other four rooms and hall through intense heat and water. At the time of the discovery, Mrs. Yates was on the stage at the elementary school taking part in a play given by the teachers for the County NCEA meeting.

The children, David, Barbara and Beth were attending youth programs at the Baptist Church and Yates was working out in the county.

Trenton PTA Meeting Largely Attended for Program and Picnic

The Trenton School PTA held its regular meeting and a study course last Wednesday from 5 until 9, with a large attendance. W. B. Moore opened the study with a talk on "Finance", followed by a talk and illustration on "Reading", by Fred Pippin. Mrs. Marvin Thomas then spoke on "Religion in the Home, School and Community."

A picnic supper followed and at 7:30 the study continued with a panel discussion on the "PTA" with Mrs. Wallace Banks, Mrs. V. L. Pollock, Mrs. Wilmer Mallard and Nick Noble taking part. During the business meeting of the PTA Mrs. Eliza Hammonds second grade and Mrs. Ethel Strobel's seventh grade tied for room count. Mrs. Jim Allen's room was second high.

Jones ABC System Has Slowest Month To Date in February

February was not only a short month insofar as days were concerned, but was also the slowest month the year-old Jones County ABC system has experienced. Gross sales in the county's three legal whisky stores fell to \$17,682.25.

While the overall gross was falling Store No. 1 in Trenton suffered its second straight defeat in gross sales by Store No. 2 at Hargett Crossroads.

Sales were \$6,130.80 at No. 1, \$6,920.95 at Store No. 2 and Store No. 3 at Wyse Fork also reported a very poor month with gross sales of only \$4,640.50.

In January the three stores grossed \$20,234.95 and the first six months of the current fiscal period (July 1-December 31) reported gross sales of \$133,801.25—an average of \$22,300.63 per month.

The February sales bring the eight-month sales total to \$1,717,728.45.

The six-month operating statement of the system revealed a net

County Extension Advisory Boards To Be Established

The North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service has begun an ambitious program to organize advisory boards in each of the state's 100 counties.

Robert W. Shoffner, assistant Extension Service director, in announcing the statewide movement, said "The Extension Service's staff and program have always been built on local needs. The county advisory boards will provide a formal means of advising Extension agricultural and home economics agents and thereby assist them in building a program which best meets the needs of the people in the county."

The advisory boards, said Shoffner, will represent all segments and interests in the county. The function of the boards will be to advise on both current and long-range Extension Service programs. But the boards will not necessarily replace any useful Extension boards or committees already established in the county, declared Shoffner.

County agricultural and home economics agents, in setting up the boards, will give consideration to the fields of service prospective members represent—such as farmers, homemakers, home demonstration clubs, 4-H Clubs, farm

profit of 10.76 per cent. Presuming that the same percentage of profit is maintained throughout the fiscal year, the net profits of the system through February now stand at just under \$18,478.

Tremendous Christmas Boosts Retail Sales in This Section

January sales tax returns prove what business folks were smiling about in the Christmas season, to wit, a king-sized jump in retail sales. Statewide the January 1958 sales tax returns (which cover December sales) were \$7,758,057.59 and January '59 zoomed to \$8,882,674.95. This is an increase of over 13 per cent.

Locally things were even better. Lenoir County's sales tax returns jumped from \$94,027.34 to \$109,522.02—better than a 16 per cent increase over the previous December.

Kinston returns went from \$82,139.26 to \$95,426.34, just under 16 per cent—an indication that non-Kinston retail outlets were doing even better than those located in Kinston.

Jones County tax returns went from \$3,992.77 to \$4,311.58 and this is just under an eight per cent increase.

Craven County shared in the

general good news as its sales tax take moved upward from \$95,681.76 to \$94,795.72, which is an 11 per cent climb.

Again in Craven County, as in Lenoir, the non-New Bern retail merchants did better than those in the county seat, since the increase in New Bern was only a little more than six per cent.

Goldsboro, basking in the warmth of a flood of tax dollars, had a better than 24 per cent jump in its Christmas business month. The figures were \$95,834.57 for '58 and \$118,248.93 for '59. Wayne County as a whole did not quite get as big return on the Air Force windfall as Goldsboro, but business outside Goldsboro was still up over 23 per cent over the previous December.

Only four counties out of the 100 failed to report a better Christmas for '58 than '57. They were Anson, Caswell, Montgomery and Transylvania.

Newcomers to Jones County Doing Outstanding Work; Receive FHA Certificate

The R. O. Moss family, which lives two miles south of Pollocksville on Highway 17 has been awarded a special certificate of achievement by the Farmers Home Administration for their farming operation.

The family came to North Carolina from Louisiana in February 1957 and purchased their farm from Richard Harker. Moss was a farm owner in Louisiana but had never had experience with producing tobacco.

In 1957 his average yield per acre was only about 1150 pounds which is low, however, this was about the average in his immediate community due to unfavorable weather.

In 1958 his yield was 2127 pounds per acre compared with the Jones County average of 1812 pounds. Quality-wise, his tobacco average was \$52.50.

Moss sold his property in Louisiana and invested in the farm as a down payment and with the assistance of a long-term farm ownership loan through FHA which he received in 1958, is making the hoped for progress on becoming the outright owner by making two annual payments his first year rather than the required payment of one installment.

The family also was assisted with an operating loan for the annual family living and farm operating expenses which was promptly repaid along with the real estate payment from tobacco and hog income.

The Moss swine enterprise has now reached seven brood sows with a maximum of 12 to be reached by 1960. For this enterprise, there are 10 acres of good ladino clover pasture which was established in the fall of 1957, being properly limed, fertilized and fenced.

An up-to-date pole type farrowing house for eight pens is now in the process of being completed. Should more than eight farrowing stalls be needed during the same three weeks period, his plan is to insert two farrowing stalls in each pen which has been determined to be also an efficient method and a way of economically in-

creasing this type facility.

Sixty one bushels per acre was produced in 1958 on 30 acres of corn for livestock grain. His goal is to increase yields to 80 or more bushels per acre.

His gross hog sales in 1958 were \$1070 with pigs sold from four brood sows so with eight brood sows in 1959 this income should be doubled, and with 12 sows, tripled in 1960.

Moss is aware that he cannot depend solely on his 4.1 acres of tobacco and that if he is to be successful a lot depends on his hog operation.

Another resource has considerable prospects, which is 50 acres of woodland with a rather dense stand of pine about 10 to 15 years in growth. A plan for selective thinning and cutting on an annual basis, improving a few acres each year, has been made recently by John Yates, Soil Conservationist.

FHA Supervisor J. E. Mewborn Jr. reports under this plan of annual marketing, this income can be applied as annual repayments on the FHA loan. Normally the sale of timber must be applied to the last future years installment rather than the next installment coming due.

A visit on most any day to the Moss farm would find them industriously engaged in their farm activity. They live very wholesome with a good garden, family cow, layers and broilers, pork, veal and canned and frozen fruits and vegetables. They are doing an outstanding job with a well rounded live-at-home program.

A large asset to the apparent success of this farm and family unit is their young son, Larry, who finished high school in 1958. Larry was one of two young farmers selected to attend a two-week short course in modern farming at State College recently.

The selection and sponsor was the First Citizens Bank and Trust Company at Maysville.

Larry is renting several acres of tobacco on an adjoining farm for his first venture as a farm operator. He has arranged his financing but will no doubt turn to his father at times for farm management tips.

Unusual Trial Takes Four Days in Jones County Court

One of the most unusual trials ever held in Jones County Superior Court last week consumed four and a fraction days of the court's time. Unusual in that it originated in Onslow county, was prosecuted by Solicitor Walter Britt of Clinton, whose district does not include the Jones County Court, and that it was the third trial of the three defendants before the court.

The defendants were Brooks Wheeler of Virginia, Walter English of Raleigh and Myrtle Oliver also of Virginia. In 1956 they had been convicted in Onslow County Superior Court of armed robbery of a spinster who lived in rural Onslow County. Testimony indicated that the trio had gotten \$1,000 in cash and a considerable amount of jewelry.

Wheeler and English were each given 25 years in prison and Miss Oliver drew a 15-year term.

After serving nearly two years of their long terms the trio asked a new trial on the ground that their constitutional rights had been abridged in the first trial.

Their duties.

The new still, 3,000 gallons of mash and 80 gallons of freshly run whisky were destroyed by the raiding party.

A Superior Court judge who heard their plea for a new trial turned them down flatly, but the State Supreme Court ruled that the lower court judge was wrong and ordered a new trial. The trio's contention was that certain witnesses had not been notified at their request and had not been subpoenaed to the trial.

At the February term of Onslow County Superior Court this new trial was begun and on the second day of hearings one of the jurors became suddenly sick and a mistrial had to be declared.

Since Presiding Judge Rudolph Mintz was to be in Jones County the following week it was agreed to transfer the case to the court of that county.

After some more than three hours of deliberation a Jones County jury at 9 p. m. Saturday reached a verdict of guilty. Judge Mintz then sentenced English to 18 to 21 years, Wheeler to 15 to 17 years and Miss Oliver to a term of 7 to 9 years.

The trio has filed notice of appeal, again.

Jones County Court Clerk Murray Whitaker says he has not completed computing the bill which will be dropped in the lap of the Onslow County Board of Commissioners for use of the Jones County court, but he says the bill will run between \$1,200 and \$1,500.

Still Operators Get Warning but Several Nabbed in Raid

Operators of a backwoods distillery between Kinston and Fort Barwell Monday night were alerted when an alleged "sight seer" accidentally discharged a shotgun but Lenoir and Craven ABC Officers and Federal ATU officers captured William Clarence Frazier of Ayden and indicted William C. Davis of Dover route one, owner of the farm where the still was found.

A new pickup truck loaded with empty fruit jars with a frightened driver fled into the night, scattering jars as it went.

The alleged sight seer, Willie Washington Jr. and a "friend" were indicted for interfering with officers in the performance of