

# THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

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## District Legion Auxiliary Meeting Monday in Swansboro

Mrs. Z. E. Murrell Jr., of Jacksonville, president of the North Carolina Department of the American Legion Auxiliary, will be guest speaker at the meeting of the third district at Swansboro on Monday.

The meeting will begin at 10:30 a. m. Mrs. Murrell will be introduced to the group by Mrs. Mary E. Best of Kinston, vice president of the second area.

On hand for the occasion will be Swansboro's Mayor Lisk, W. R. Keagy, Commander of Post 78 of Swansboro, and Mrs. Mary Matthews, president of the hostess unit.

Mrs. F. L. Noe of Wilson, Department Membership Chairman, will report on state membership.

The Third District comprises New Bern, Davis, Beaufort, Newport, Trenton, Morehead City,

Jacksonville and Swansboro.

Miss Macy Mallard of Trenton is president of the third district and urges all members of the American Legion Auxiliary to attend this meeting.

Mrs. Jeanette Lowery is president of the Trenton unit. Any member desiring to attend is urged to contact her.

## Two from Jones on Board Directors State Farm Bureau

Two Jones Countians have been elected to the North Carolina Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

They are Mrs. Rom Mallard, president of the Jones County Farm Women, and Alva B. Howard, president of the Jones County Farm Bureau.

## Elementary Schools Cage Tourney Set For Saturday Night

The Jones County Elementary Schools will hold their basketball tournament Saturday night at Jones Central High School.

Games are scheduled as follows: Trenton girls vs. Comfort girls, 6 o'clock; Maysville boys vs. Comfort boys 7 o'clock; Pollockville girls vs. Maysville girls, 8 o'clock; Pollockville boys vs. Trenton boys, 9 o'clock.

## Maysville Revival

The Maysville Methodist Church will hold a week's revival beginning Sunday evening March 6. Guest speaker will be Rev. John R. Poe of Fuquay Springs. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

## Wild Jones Bovine

Earl Thomas of Dover route two brought a cow to market Tuesday but the cow, of Brahman lineage had other notions. She fled from Hooker's stockyard and was finally brought to heel near Teacher Memorial School. There some fancy footwork, several rounds from police pistols and a final coup de grace from a .30 caliber carbine brought the mad mama cow down. Captain Fred Bates learned that a .38 caliber pistol does not have as much "knock down power" as he once thought it had.

## Home Club Schedule Listed for Month

Home Demonstration Club and special meetings scheduled for Jones County for March are as follows:

March 4 — Friendly Club will meet with Mrs. Lee Wilcox at 2:30 p. m.; Teen-Age Nutrition Council will meet at the Agriculture Building at 3:30 p. m.

March 7 — Health and safety leader training at Agriculture Building at 2:30 p. m.

March 8 — Piney Grove Club will meet with Mrs. L. L. Ogden at 2:30 p. m.

March 9 — District Music School at Trenton at 10 a. m.; Comfort Club will meet at 7:30 p. m.

March 10 — Clothing Leader Training at Trenton at 2:30 p. m.; The Chiquapin Club will meet with Miss Katherine Lowery at 7:30 p. m.

March 11 — Dogwood Club will meet with Mrs. Charlie Brown at 2:30 p. m.

March 14 — Maple Grove Club will meet with Mrs. H. L. and Mrs. M. E. Murphy at 2:30 p. m.

March 15 — Tuckahoe Club will meet with Mrs. Ralph Banks at 2:30 p. m.

March 16 — Oak Grove Club will meet with Mrs. E. V. Scott and Mrs. Linwood Scott at 3 p. m.

March 17 — Hopewell Club will meet with Mrs. Earl Jones at 2:30 p. m.

March 18 — Pleasant Hill Club will meet with Mrs. R. L. Fordham at 2:30 p. m.

March 21 — Mallardtown Club will meet with Mrs. Osborne Mallard at 2:30 p. m.; 4-H County Council will meet at 2:30 p. m.

March 22 — Beaver Creek Club will meet with Mrs. Minnie Greene at 2 p. m.

March 23 — Wyse Fork Club will meet with Mrs. Robert White at 1:30 p. m.

March 24 — Maysville Club will meet at Methodist Church at 2:30 p. m.

March 25 — Public relations leader training at the Agriculture Building at 2:30 p. m.

March 28 — Lee's Chapel Club will meet with Mrs. Denford Eubanks at 7:30 p. m.

## Amateur Safe-Crackers are Busy; Taylors in Hookerton Hardest Hit

A collection of Kinston-based hoodlums with more luck than brains is giving law enforcement agencies in this area a very hard time.

Painfully amateurish but occasionally lucky these low-order safe cracksmen operate upon the apparent premise that if enough safes are torn open some will be found with money inside.

Their batting average is pretty low in two categories: First, in getting said safes open, and secondly, in finding any considerable amount of money in those old "tin cans" they do manage to pen.

Using the "main strength and awkwardness" approach to thievery these characters during the past week have torn open a door of the Charlie Herring home on West Vernon Avenue in Kinston and ripped open a large but weak safe which yielded no dollars and

no cents. They left the Herring home with a few baubles, bangles and beads—an estimated \$50 worth of costume jewelry.

The Colonial food store, also on West Vernon was opened Friday night and a small quantity of cigarettes taken.

The A&P store on North McLevean was also entered Friday night or early Saturday by this wrecking crew who ripped a hole in the roof, dropped through to the ceiling where two more holes were made and then inside beat and banged on two small safes without success.

Failing to get to the small amount of change in the two safes the thieves loaded up a large cart with cigarettes and started toward the back door. But several shelves laden with beer, wine and champagne caught their eye and they spent a half hour tanking up on

these liquids while slicing chunks off a cured ham borrowed from the meat department.

Finally they departed with 56 cartons of cigarettes and the strong possibility of a king-sized hangover.

Tuesday night they entered a rear door of the Pepsi-Cola plant also on West Vernon Avenue and tried to tear open the office safe. Failing again they took their spite out on vending machines and went on their weary way with a pocket-full of nickles and pennies.

Tuesday night saw thieves of the same intellectual incapacity also roll a large safe out of Morris Brothers Motors on South Heritage Street and try to rip its bottom out, without success.

Taylor's super market in Hookerton was the prize package of the past week. There an estimated \$5,000 in cash was hauled off after

## District Mormon Rally Sunday in Kinston

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will hold its district conference Sunday, March 6.

There will be two sessions, one at 10 a. m. and a second at 2:30 p. m. in the auditorium at Grainger High School.

Elder Hugh B. Brown, a member of the Council of Twelve Apostles from Salt Lake City, will preside at the meeting.

Also in attendance will be George Z. Aposhian, President of the Church's Mission.

## Accident Wednesday Badly Injures Child Near DuPont Plant

Six year-old Stanley Armstrong Jr. of Grifton route two was badly hurt at about 8 Wednesday morning when he ran into the path of a car near his home just south of the Du Pont plant between Kinston and Grifton.

Mrs. Dawn Smith Hodges of 101 Church Street in Grifton, a teacher at Harvey School in Kinston, was driver of the car which was headed south.

Three witnesses told Investigating Patrolman C. E. Edwards that the accident was unavoidable insofar as Mrs. Hodges was concerned. The child was headed from its home to Abbott's grocery, and

a weak safe yielded up its weekend receipts from this large establishment.

A collection of rumheads, loose on the countryside with an allergy to honest endeavor and a weakness for larceny; they are making life miserable for the local gendarmierie who reason, "If they're so damned dumb, we ought to be smart enough to catch them."

apparently did not see the approaching car and suddenly darted into its path.

A fractured right thigh and possible skull fracture were the most serious injuries reported early Wednesday.

## Jones Tobacco Income Since '25 is \$108,695,856

Since 1925 Jones County tobacco growers have grossed \$108,695,856.

Which is a lot of lugs, anyway you smoke 'em.

Saying it fast, and with heavy emphasis on the MILLION part makes the tobacco story sound happy, but there are more tears than champagne along Tobacco Road.

Tobacco never has been the utterly important crop to Jones County that it is in many Jones County is basically a county of small farmers, who are farmers in the finest sense. They were practicing "live at home" before Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus began preaching it.

The fellow with a smokehouse hanging full, the pork barrels heavy, the pantry shelves covered with fruits and vegetables, a barn full of corn and a yard full of chickens is never so nervous as the tobacco hand who has a stack of pop bottles in his backyard and a junked flivver as his principal collateral in a tough year.

There are some of this latter breed in Jones County, but they are in the minority.

Tobacco instead of being a "life and death" crop for Jones County has been the meringue on the pie, the whipped cream on the cake. It has been the difference between

a good old-fashioned living on the farm and new cars, new homes, college educations.

But, not everyone of the past 35 years has seen tobacco doing these nicer things.

During the Twenties tobacco was contributing about a million and a half dollars a year to Jones Countians. \$1,775,770 in '25, the next year it was \$1,351,110, for '27 it was \$1,380,500, and the year Hoover was elected, '28, Jones Countians planted more tobacco than they ever had before or since—11,560 acres. It sold for an average of 19 cents and the average yield was 740 pounds to the acre. This brought them \$1,626,620.

In 1929 as the country rocked along toward the "Great Bust" Jones Countians reeled their tobacco sails and planted only 9,230 acres. The weatherman helped cut the crop by dropping the yield to 660 pounds per acre. The auctioneers in the warehouses did their part and dropped the price just a notch to 18.7 cents for a gross of \$1,140,040.

With the "Big Depression" all around Jones Countians still stuck 9,710 acres of tobacco in the ground in '30 and the weather turned better and produced a yield of 808 pounds per acre but the auctioneer soured everything with his chant

that wound up the year with an average of 13.5 cents and the "take home pay" of Jones County for tobacco that year was just \$1,059,550—the lowest since World War I.

But it was not to remain the lowest figure for long.

With the country suffering from the creeping paralysis of fear and indecision in '31 Jones County farmers cut their tobacco crop to 8,320 acres, the yield fell to 671 pounds per acre and then the auctioneer gutted the farmer when he went to sell that crop with the terrible average of 8.9 cents per pound. Only \$497,690—\$59.95 per acre.

Next year the price was better—12.4 but the yield per acre fell to 616 and only 6,420 acres were planted so for '32 tobacco paid only \$489,860 to the farmers of Jones County.

But that was the bottom.

The election of Roosevelt in '32 and that hope which springs eternally in the human heart forced things upward in '33. That year 9,000 acres of tobacco were planted, it averaged 820 pounds to the acre and the auctioneer had a little more warmth in his voice as the crop averaged 15.1 cents and brought \$1,111,620 for Jones County's part. Came the first crop controls in

'34 and the acreage was cut to 6,200 acres in Jones County. The yield was the highest ever—917 pounds as farmers unlimbered their artillery against acreage allotments. The price was the highest since 1919—averaged 27.5 and again tobacco income in "The State of Jones" marched past the million and a half mark, to \$1,562,680.

The romance was on. The stability of acreage allocations not only brought production and consumption somewhere near in line, but guaranteed prices made it possible for even a sensible farmer to plan a marriage with Miss Nicotina Tobacum. And so they were wed.

Jones County's tobacco income hung in the million and a half dollar area until World War II and its inflationary pressures set in. Then in '42 Jones Countians sold 6,573 acres that averaged 1,053 pounds per acre for an amazing \$2,656,900. The average price was 38.4 cents.

Money, money, money—\$2,612,980 in '43; \$3,558,320 in '44, another \$3,558,000 the year the war ended.

But when the war ended world markets begged for American tobacco and Jones Countians did their part to let them have it: 9,250 acres that averaged 1,000 pounds to the acre, 52.2 cents per pound on

the warehouse floors and \$4,839,300 in the pockets of Jones County tobacco growers.

The price of farms was no longer quoted on the basis of total acreage; now it had become a price directly pegged to the tobacco allotment the farm might have. Outsiders began slipping in as estates were divided and other land hogs began casting covetous eyes on the rich acres of Jones County.

In '51 Jones County tobacco growers thought they had found the pot at the end of the rainbow. It held \$6,335,790 for their 8,540 acres of tobacco which averaged 1,356 pounds to the acre and 55.5 cents per pound.

Even this record was broken in '55 when high yielding varieties of tobacco, explosive fertilization, excellent weather and loving care by mama and papa tobacco growers saw the per acre yield move to 1,731 pounds per acre and gross them \$6,897,500.

By then lung-cancer, scare and "homogenized tobacco scrap" had combined to reduce materially the consumption of cigarette tobacco.

The acreage was sliced in '56, again in '57, again in '58 and last year with only 5,256 acres, the worst crop year in a decade and a 1,306 pounds per acre yield the tobacco income was \$4,428,306.