

King Tobacco Begins Journey to Market Once Again

Tobacco was a major Kinston business before Kinston was Kinston.

The earliest histories of Kinston mention a tobacco warehouse on the banks of Neuse River.

Today, despite the amazing growth of beef and hog production for market in the Kinston area, despite the huge Du Pont Dacron plant and despite the concentration of needle work factories in the Kinston area TOBACCO is still the kingpin of the Kinston economy.

Dollar-wise, employment-wise and certainly emotion-wise tobacco has no close competitors for top billing in Eastern Carolina in general and the Kinston area in particular.

From January 1 to December 31 tobacco IS king, but King Nicotine holds court each year from mid-August until early November when the faithful pay homage in the huge "palaces of tobacco" where

the peculiar song of the auctioneer and the sign language of the tobacco buyer combine to indicate whether King Tobacco has been good or bad to his servants.

Although Kinston exerts every effort to become something more than a seasonal "market town" it still glistens in its most material splendor when it IS a market town, and the royalty checks pour forth from the dozen tobacco warehouses.

In 12 to 13 weeks while King Nicotine's court is in session well over a half million dollars a day will pour out—in the good years—and the happy tune of cash registers ringing brings smiles to the habitually long faces of the merchant classes.

Into town come people who haven't been to town since "last tobacco selling." They cash their checks, make their purchases and

return to their scattered, secret retreats to talk through a long winter about the things they saw, and some times did.

But these frightened, strange looking residents of "Tobacco Road" grow fewer each year. Twenty years ago they were nearly the majority. Today they are strange sights even to the more urbane tobacco growers who live more nearly in the middle of mid-20th Century civilization.

Into town comes the "young son" to sell his first acre of tobacco. He's "his own man now." Papa and, mama will never be able to keep him down on the farm again.

Some wise few of these young sons selling their first acre of tobacco will salt it away in a bank or savings institution for a college education, but nine out of ten will invest their sudden wealth in a flivver or perhaps even a new

car with a little help from "ma and pa".

The girls get an acre of tobacco too in this time of "equal rights" but they depend on riding in the cars of "young sons" and spend their money on fine clothes, a glorious relaxation in the beauty parlor and come out looking like Fifth Avenue models.

And there are the older rogues. The kind with loose money, looser morals and an inclination to howl.

But as each year passes a larger percentage of those men and women who work the long, hard sticky hours that it takes to make a tobacco crop handle their tobacco money more wisely. In savings accounts, trust funds for children, new or greatly improved and modernized homes.

Tobacco farmers who for generations lived in a "feast and fam-

ine" fashion have happily reached that point where hard work, know how and reasonable good luck guarantee them a little, if not all of the finer things every year.

Now they visit the beauty parlors as regularly as their cousins who live in town. They dress, on the average better than town folks. They drive newer, and bigger cars, and they have bigger and more stable bank accounts.

Any analysis of savings deposits in banks and other savings institutions in TobaccoLand, USA would quickly reveal that the tobacco farmer is sharing the nation's prosperity.

The laborers, the sharecroppers still live a hand-to-mouth life; but the better class tenants and land-owning farmers—they never had it so good.

And the best of good times is tobacco selling time.

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Jones County Tobacco Crop Called Biggest in History

Jones County Farm Agent Jimmy Franck says this week, "I believe this'll be the biggest tobacco crop—acre-for-acre—ever harvested in Jones County."

Even the water damage that came with heavy July and early August rains has not materially damaged either the poundage or quality of the Jones County crop, in Franck's opinion.

Franck says with the exception of a narrow streak in the Statesville area crops are beautiful all the way to the mountains. He recently returned from a trip to the mountains and got a chance to see tobacco from the coast to the mountains.

Other farmers who have taken loads of tobacco down to the border markets say there is a strip of sorry tobacco in the lower part of the state which was badly hit by dry weather.

This year Jones County farmers are expected to fare much better than last year when drownings of field after field of tobacco made it impossible for many to "pay out".

Tenant farmers were badly hit last year, and landlords also felt the loss from excessive rains. This year with price supports fixed at the same levels as last year the only Jones County farmers who stand to lose money on their tobacco crop are those who might suffer loss by fire in a packbarn before they get it to the warehouse floor.

From the Pink Hill section on the west to the Stella section in the

east, heavy crops of tobacco that have, on the whole, cured well were grown.

Big Corn Crop

Bolstering the good tobacco news is what everybody is calling the biggest corn crop in the history of the county. More acres, and more bushels of corn to the acre are expected this year than ever before in the county.

Every farmer who possibly can is urged NOT to sell his corn on a crash early fall market, but to hold it in storage or sell it through hogs, poultry or beef cattle.

This year in particular many farmers are studying the possibility of buying some feeder steers in September to consume some of their grain during the fall and winter for another "cash crop" in the spring.

Murder Still Unsolved

The continuing investigation by Lenoir County authorities of the murder of Sgt. Robert Eugene Schroeder is still without clues. The veteran Marine's body was found on July 25 and an autopsy set the death time as late in the night of July 21st. His body was found in the trunk of his own car which was parked by a filling station 3 miles east of La Grange on the Kinston highway. Three .45 caliber bullet wounds—one in the left temple, one in the left neck area and the third in the left chest section—were inflicted by the murderer after the Ohio Marine's body was placed in the car.

Dover Man Seeks to Transfer Daughter to Kinston 7th Grade

Lloyd Taylor, a resident of Dover, who is X-ray technician at Parrott Memorial Hospital and has been for the past 14 years, Monday night asked permission of the Kinston School Board to transfer his daughter, Marilyn, to the 7th grade of Kinston schools.

The controversy that has arisen over consolidation of Western Craven County schools and his feeling that a better educational opportunity was available to his daughter in the Kinston schools were Taylor's reasons for asking the transfer.

He was told that permission would be granted for his daughter to attend Kinston schools if a release were obtained from Craven County school officials.

Warehouse Operator Draws Heavy Fine

Liddell Lawson, negro farmer of the Liddell section of western Lenoir County, drew the heaviest fine ever imposed by Recorder Emmett Wooten last Friday when he was found guilty of having in his smokehouse 204 jars of non-taxpaid whisky.

ABC officers who raided the "warehouse" said that Lawson was merely a pawn of large white bootleggers in Duplin County, who were using his smokehouse as a "warehouse" for their "wares".

A Duplin Countian with a handfull of \$100 bills paid the fine for Lawson, and commented that they were lucky to get off so light.

Seymour Johnson Airman is Drowned Near Hardy's Bridge

At press time Thursday the search by military and civilian authorities continued for a Seymour Johnson Air Base enlisted man who is believed to have been drowned Monday afternoon in Neuse River in the vicinity of Hardy's Bridge.

A capsized boat and motor and other boating items were found late Monday afternoon in a whirl near the bridge, and earlier in the afternoon residents of the area report seeing a single man in the same boat.

Air Force officials have asked that the name of the airman be withheld until notification of his family and until his body has been recovered and identification is positive.

Rescue squads from Mount Olive, Goldsboro, Kinston and the air base are participating in the search, which is made extremely difficult because it is not known where the boat capsized, and it might have drifted a few yards or a few miles from the point where the airman was thrown in the water.

Local Paratroopers In Big War Game

Pvt. William E. Wiggins whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lamb B. Wiggins, live in Maysville, PFC Woodrow Ham Jr. of Kinston and T-4 George Jones of Maysville, are scheduled to participate in Exercise Bright Star at Fort Bragg, Aug. 13-28.

A massive airborne assault involving 30,000 troops is scheduled as one phase of the Strategic Army

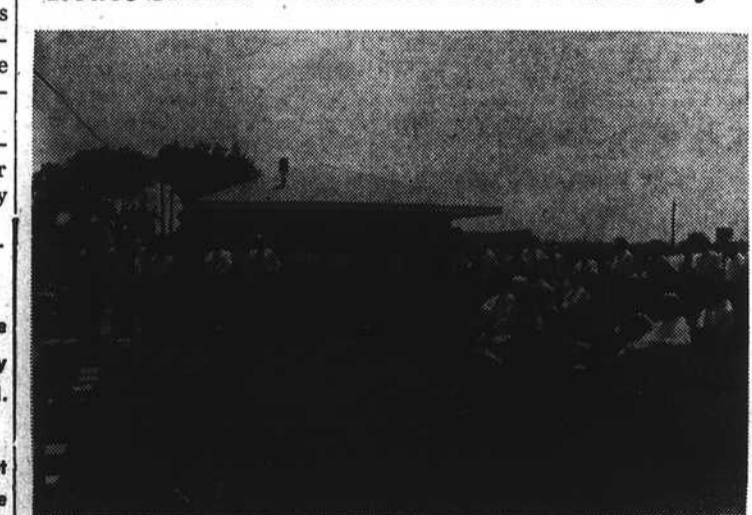
Fisherman Got Lost



This is a picture that got lost in the vacation shuffle, but it proves a good point; that E. W. Humphrey of Deep Run knows where the big ones hang out in Ellis Davis millpond. Humphrey said he never fished until he was 65 years old, but he is catching up the slack now. The string above included four largemouth bass. One weighed in at 8 pounds 6 ounces another at a fraction over six pounds the other two "wouldn't weigh more than two pounds a piece." All caught in a couple of hours one morning in July.

Corps (STRAC- exercise. This single-day mass air-drop will surpass in numbers any similar drop during World War II and the Korean War.

'Peace Shelter' Dedicated Last Wednesday



This is part of the gathering last Wednesday that came for the dedication of a new dual purpose fallout shelter designed and constructed by Smith Concrete Products Co. of Kinston. Mayor Guy Elliott of Kinston is extending an official welcome to the group, which included Congressman L. H. Fountain, who made the dedicatory ad-

dress, and both state and federal officials of the Office of Civilian Defense.

The "Peace Shelter" as it is called by its builders was designed by the company VEEP, John E. Kelly, and Bill Gower. It meets the requirements of radiation protection and can also be used as a playhouse for children, a den for adults or an attractive party room.

Tobacco Barn Fire on Cheston Farm Could Have Been Worse

This was the scene that greeted members of the Trenton Volunteer Fire Department last Thursday afternoon when they answered a call to the A. H. Cheston Farm, five miles west of Trenton.

Prompt action upon their arrival put the fire out and saved a major part of the tobacco barn, but the vast majority of the tobacco in the barn was destroyed.

Cheston commented, "I bragged too soon . . . Just this morning I was talking about what good burners I had in that barn, and now look at it!"

Unlike neighboring Lenoir County which has had one of its worst years for tobacco barn fires the Trenton Department reports answering calls to fewer barn fires this year than last.