

THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 47

TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1961

VOLUME XII

Young Jones County Farmer Recognized for Accomplishment

Harold L. Smith of Trenton route 4 has been chosen for the outstanding award, given annually for the past three years to a Jones County Farmers Home Administration borrower family.

Smith was presented a Certificate for outstanding accomplishment for "efficient farm management and production, from 1956 through 1960." At the same time several merchants in the vicinity further recognized him with a cash award of \$52.

Smith, who is 28, is married to the former Annie Laura Heath of Jones County and they have two sons, age 5 and 2. He was reared on a farm in the area of Jones Central High School and is following in the footsteps of his father, Will Smith, a successful farm owner.

Harold is a veteran, honorably discharged in May, 1955. During 1956 and 1957 he attended Veteran Farmer Training School as a GI benefit, which was a step forward with his ambition to farm.

In February, 1957 he was one of two young farmers in Jones County sponsored and selected by local bankers to attend a special two week short-course on modern farming at State College.

He says, "this was a course covering various phases that I feel has helped me with producing my crops and livestock more efficiently. I, of course benefited from the Veteran Farmer Training School. Another source of considerable assistance has been the farm planning, money management, farm management and the keeping of accurate records as a result of Farmers Home Administration loans."

Smith purchased his farm in 1959. It consists of 41 acres, 40 of which is in crop and pasture. His tobacco allotment is 4.6 acres and he markets 30 acres of corn through hogs. In addition he rents two adjoining farms and his total operation is about 12 acres of tobacco and 70 acres of corn. He has 4 acres of good permanent pasture with an 8-brood-sow enterprise.

He has a 5 year average of 1836 pounds of tobacco produced per acre with \$1071 per acres gross sales; 52 bushels corn average and for the past 3 years has averaged \$2520 per year gross hog sales.

This way he realized in 1960 a return of \$2.15 per bushel for his corn marketed through hogs, rather than about 90 cents per bushel had the corn been marketed in the fall.

In 1960 Smith averaged 2485 pounds of tobacco per acre on his 11.7 acres of tobacco and a gross income of \$1448 per acre.

For 1961 and future years, Harold is not content to sit still. His goal now is 3000 pounds per acre tobacco production.

Last fall he dug a pond which will supply sufficient water to irrigate his tobacco from four to five times during the growing season as needed. He financed the cost of the pond with his own funds and with the help of a \$2000 operating loan has purchased his irrigation system.

He has operated with a one-row tractor but his operation now warrants greater mechanization and this year he also purchased a new two row tractor. This loan for the tractor and irrigation system of \$6200 is set up for repayment over a 7-year period.

County Supervisor J. E. Mewborn Jr. states that "it is a pleasure to work with a farmer of this type-efficient manager and a sound type investment that will help the farmer achieve greater success."

Smith is making good progress in paying off his land purchase debt on the farm owned and when he has reduced his debt sufficiently, the family plans to build a new dwelling since they prefer to build new rather than repair their present dwelling.

The Outstanding Farmers Home Administration Award went to the R. O. Moss family of the Pollockville area in 1958 and to Jack Dempsey Metts family in the Comfort area in 1959. These two families continue to make progress like Smith, the 1960 award winner.

Mrs. Betty Keyes is New President of Maysville's PTA

The final P.T.A. meeting of the Maysville Elementary School for the 1960-61 year was held Monday evening with Mrs. Robert Buck presiding.

The program was presented first with children from Tarawa Terrace School performing pantomimes.

During the business portion final plans were made toward purchasing items for the school.

Mrs. Buck led the installation of the new officers for the coming year after which the group gave a rising vote of thanks to the retiring officers.

On behalf of the P.T.A., the newly elected president Mrs. Betty Keyes presented Mrs. Buck with a surprise gift.

Mrs. Martha Henderson led in prayer which closed the meeting and a social hour followed during which refreshments were served.

Assemblymen Speak to PTA; New Officers Installed in Final Meet of School Year

A study course was held last Wednesday afternoon at Trenton School on "The Mecklenburg Plan", concerning various methods of teaching. Mrs. Eliza Hammond and Fred Pippin taught the course, which was followed by a covered dish supper.

At 7:30 the county school band, under the direction of Charles Post, rendered a selection of numbers before the regular meeting of the PTA began.

Representative John M. Hargett introduced Senator Tom White who spoke on Governor Sanford's tax program. They left after his talk, to return to Raleigh.

Darris Koonce presided over the business session and Miss Hildegrade Brock read the minutes, followed by the treasurer report by Mrs. Glifton Pollock.

Officers for the coming year were installed by J. R. Franck as follows: Mrs. Elbert Smith, president; Joe Becton, vice-president; Mrs. Darris Koonce, secretary and

Lillie Faye Banks Shows Top Steer in Kinston Stock Show

Three Jones Central Girls to Receive Highest FHA Award

Mrs. Alma T. Phillips, local F. H.A. Advisor for Jones Central Future Homemakers, has been notified that three Jones Central girls will be eligible to receive the State Homemaker Degree which will be conferred in the afternoon session of the State F.H.A. Convention in Raleigh on April 15.

Girls to be honored at the Convention are: Gretchen Davis, Margaret Jones, and Martha Pruitt.

In order to receive the degree the girls set up goals and activities which indicate their growth as: (1) an individual, (2) a member of a home or family, (3) a member of the chapter, (4) a member of a school and community; and (5) a member of the State Association.

The State Homemaker Degree is the highest award the Future Homemakers can achieve in their organization and represents much planning and work on the part of those who achieve this honor.

Jones Countians did very well in the annual Coastal Plain Fat Stock Show this week in Kinston with Lilly Faye Banks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Banks, showing the Grand Champion Steer.

Marvin Barks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Banks, took top showmanship honors and his steer placed third.

Others from Jones County showing beef animals included Robert and Eddie West, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Charlton West; Morris Pike, son of Mr. and Mrs. Garland Pike; Lawrence Mallard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mallard; Faye Griffin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Griffin and Ellis Banks Jr.

The Jones Central Future Farmers unit also showed three steers they had finished out.

In the swine category Jones County did not have so many entries as in beef, but Bobby Cox of Trenton route two showed the reserve champion in the adult class.

Marvin Banks also showed a pair of hogs and The Durwood Green Boys had two hogs each in the show.

Farm Agent Jimmy Franck said the Kinston show had the stiffest competition in the hog category that he had seen in a long time.

Negro Out on Bond Steals, Wrecks Car; Back in Jail Again

Ellis Howard, a negro tenant farmer of Trenton route 1, is back in custody of Jones County authorities this week after having been bonded out of jail last week where he was waiting trial on charges of breaking in two Pollockville businesses.

Tuesday afternoon Howard was accused of stealing Billy Eubanks' car from in front of the Trenton Elementary School and wrecking it several miles east of town.

Howard was all accused of public drunkenness.

Romeo Phillips Gaskins of New Bern route 2 was accused of drunk-driving.

Ed Green and Gince Moore of Trenton, Benjamin Franklin Bryant of Dover route 2 and Herman Phillips of Kinston route 5 were all accused of public drunkenness.

How Did Private Offices First Get in Court House?

Since early last year when Ex-County Commissioner D. A. Jones began a "crusade" against persons renting space in the Jones County Court House it is likely that many citizens have wondered how private offices got in the court house in the first place?

Certainly, Jones County in this immediate vicinity is unique in that arrangement, although across the state there are other court houses in which private offices are located.

Back in 1937 when the effort began to get a new court house for the county, the fiscal affairs of Jones County — like many other counties — were at the lowest ebb.

Nobody paid taxes — or nearly nobody and the county owed a great deal more than it could pay, without going further into debt for a new court house.

But because the New Deal, through WPA and PWA, were passing out new buildings in an effort to put men to work and to get money into circulation the Jones Coun-

ty Board of Commissioners agreed to "get some of that Roosevelt money" for Jones County.

County Attorney J. K. Warren and State Senator John Larkins Jr. were delegated the tenuous task of scraping up that part of the cost of the new court house which the county was required to pay, \$30,000.

There was no bank in Trenton. The depression had folded up the bank that had served the community until the bust in the early 30's.

The two attorneys went from bank door to bank door in Raleigh, trying to get some kind-hearted banker to finance Jones County's part of the cost of that new court house. (The old court house, a wood-frame shanty, was hardly more than a shell and certainly not a fit repository for the vital records which must be housed in each court house.)

But in that troubled time there were no bankers in Raleigh who would dare risk their clients' money on such a risky thing as the

credit of "Poor Jones County".

So the two Trenton lawyers turned in defeat down the highway toward Trenton.

But as they neared Smithfield, Larkins suggested that they stop by and visit a friend of his in Smithfield, who was president of a small bank, that had weathered the depression storms, and who might be talked into helping "Poor Jones County."

That banker was Robert Holding — better known as "Bob" to those who had ever shook his hand; and of course, Larkins even then had shook every hand that had ever come within range. Before he died in the '50's Holding had become president of the 2nd largest bank in North Carolina.

Holding listened to the two attorneys, asked a few questions and told the surprised pair, "I'll lend you the money on one condition!"

The two lawyers almost jumped at the offer without even asking what "one condition" was. But they did ask, and Holding replied,

"On the condition that each of you personally endorse the county's note!"

Lawyers have a built-in reluctance to sign notes for anybody except themselves, but back at home in Trenton the folks wanted a court house, and the jobs that the construction of the court house would provide.

So, without letting their wives know they were putting the family jewels in hock, and hardly daring to consult their better judgment they signed their names as individual endorsees of an \$30,000 note for the County of Jones" and came hesitantly back to Trenton to let their families know what kind of damned fools they had been.

But fortune smiled on the pair, the New Deal took the kinks out of the farm economy and people began paying their taxes, and the note was paid off on time, and Warren and Larkins were never called upon by Banker Holding for their guarantees.

The county commissioners out

of gratitude to Warren and Larkins put suites of offices in the court house for them at a stipulated rental, which was well above the going rental for comparable square footage in Trenton at that time.

Larkins was the first occupant of the court house. Since his offices were in the ground floor, they were completed first and he became the first person to go to work in the court house.

In the 23-year interim since Larkins became the first occupant of the court house he has paid the county some over \$11,000 in rent, and has at his own expense re-decorated his offices several times.

When Warren died George Hughes was named to succeed him as county attorney, so he too over Warren's site of offices and continued paying the same rental paid by Warren.

This innocent, honest and profitable arrangement for the county has been painted a livid hue by innocent and honest politicians who either did not now or have forgotten how it all came about.