

# THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 2

TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1961

VOLUME XIV

## Jones and Lenoir Tenant-Farming Takes Sharp Drop from '54 to '59

Farm tenancy in North Carolina decreased sharply from 1954 to 1959, reaching its lowest level since 1880.

A preliminary report from the 1959 Census of Agriculture shows that 31.4 per cent of the farms in North Carolina were tenant operated in 1959 as compared with 36.9 per cent five years earlier. The national percentage was 20.5 in 1959.

In Lenoir County the census of '59 shows 2,429 farms, with 1,385 of these, or 57 per cent tended by tenants. This is a considerable drop from '54 when 68.3 per cent of Lenoir County farms were tenant-tilled.

In Jones County for '59 there were 1,083 farms, of which 440 were tenant farmed. This is 40.6 per cent, compared to 55.6 per cent in '54.

Translated into actual numbers, North Carolina had 59,925 tenants in 1959 as compared with 98,819 in 1954. The total number of farms in the state declined from 267,906 to 190,567 during the period. A change in definition of a farm accounted for 18,661 of the loss.

Dr. Selz C. Mayo, head of the Department of Rural Sociology at State College, says that farm tenancy in North Carolina reached its peak about 1930.

While the percentage of tenants has been declining since then, the decrease in North Carolina has not been as rapid as in other Southern states.

He attributes this slower decrease to tobacco, which has been called America's last great unmechanized crop.

In 1959, for example, 18 Tar Heel counties still had over half their farms operated by tenants. Edgecombe led the list with 74.1 per cent. Others (listed in order of tenancy percentage) were Greene, Wilson, Pitt, Nash, Robeson, Hertford, Granville, Scotland, Person, Lenoir, Martin, Vance, Halifax, Wayne, Bertie, Hoke and Caswell.

## Education Board OK's Plans for Lenoir Community College; Meet Thursday to Make Further Plans

A meeting was set for 5:30 today by the steering committee working to establish a community college for Lenoir County after last week the green light was given to the effort at a special meeting of the Lenoir County Board of Education.

Co-Chairman Don Henson and Bob Gilbert appeared before the school board and outlined all that had been done through last week; which including the setting up of the steering committee and a survey of 20 schools within a 25-mile radius of Kinston to determine the number of potential students such a community college might have.

After getting approval from the county school board, and making the survey to determine the need the next step is to appear before the State Board of Higher Education, which will either accept or reject the proposal.

If the state board approves, then it will be necessary to hold a referendum to determine if the voters of the county will support the college with a sufficient tax levy to underwrite the establishment and operation of the facility.

All counties falling in the over 50 per cent category are heavy producers of tobacco with the exception of Scotland, Bertie and Hoke, which produce either cotton or peanuts in large amounts.

Watauga had the distinction of having the lowest percentage of tenants in 1959 — 1 per cent as compared with 8 per cent in 1954.

Most mountain counties had very few tenants. Alexander, Alleghany, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Macon, and Watauga, for example, had less than 5 per cent.

Hyde, Jackson, Mitchell and Orange had more tenants in 1959 than they did in 1954. Percentage of increase was small in each of these counties however.

Dr. Mayo says that where tenancy rates are low the tenant is usually in one of two categories: first, he may be a young farmer without much capital working toward farm ownership; or secondly, he may be a relative of the landlord beginning to assume ownership.

"In either case," Dr. Mayo added, "his position is much different from the traditional tobacco or cotton sharecropper."

## Many-Named Negro's Probation is Revoked

Monday Judge Rudolph Mintz revoked the probationary provisions of a 3-to-5 year prison term of a negro youth brought before him by Probation Officer Robert Everett.

Everett told the judge that James A. Green had been given a 3-to-5 year term in Onslow County for stealing a record player. Then under the name, "James A. Davis," he was convicted in May in Kinston of auto theft.

Everett says the negro youth has also "done business" under the surnames of Winfield and Lewis. He is also serving four months for the auto theft.

## In, Out, In Again For Local Peddler Of Illicit Elixirs

Last week Craven County officers caught a load of stumppole whiskey, but the driver escaped and left Willie Bennett of 532 South Queen Street in Kinston, who was "riding shotgun".

Bennett convinced New Bern authorities that he was an innocent hitch-hiker, who knew nothing of the contraband cargo. He told them Vincent Newkirk of the "Big Wheel" in Kinston was driver of the car.

Newkirk was indicted, but a Craven County judge turned both men loose, despite the fact the each has long records of liquor law violation, and both are currently under indictment for such activities in Lenoir Courts.

Friday Lenoir County ABC officers arrested Bennett, once more for having a small quantity of this potent portion in his possession.

## Trenton Teachers Visit Charlotte to Study New Methods

Eleven of the thirteen teachers at Trenton School went to Charlotte Sunday to observe the Charlotte school plan, which is called "The Meckenburg Plan."

They met Monday morning at the board of education with their supervisors and then went to visit one of the county schools. They stayed all day at the school, observing in the grade that they will teach next year in Trenton.

Attending were Principal Fred Pipin, Amos Taylor, Mrs. Clifton Pollock, Mrs. Wallace Banks, Miss Letha Pridgen, Miss Tiny Hammond, Mrs. Hazel Turnage, Mrs. Jason Arthur, Mrs. W. H. Hammond, Miss Hidegrade Brock, Mrs. Louis Strobel, and Miss Sallie Murphey, supervisor in Jones County.

## Canoe Trip Down Roanoke is Taken by Trenton Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 109 of Trenton went on a canoe trip over the weekend with 17 scouts attending. The trip started at Scotland Neck where the canoes were put in the river at 3 Friday. They spent the night on the Clark Farm at Norfolk. Then they spent Friday night near Hamilton near an old Civil War Fort which the scouts toured.

They landed at Williamston at 2 Monday which made the trip a total of 64 miles in eight canoes. Bill Parker carried food and sleeping equipment and met the boys every night. R. H. Davenport, C. M. Pollock and Rogers Pollock furnished transportation.

Scouts who went with their leader, J. R. Franck were Butch Huffman, Keith Green, Kenneth Mallard, Bobby Davenport, Phillip Cox, George W. Cox, Eddie, Phillip and Robert West, Billy Parker, Rich Franck, Jimmie Pollock, Charles Pollock, Ronald Hawkins and Rodney Johnson.

## Funeral Friday for George G. Noble

Funeral services are to be held at 2 Friday afternoon from Garner Funeral Home in Kinston for 91-year-old George G. Noble retired Jones County Register of Deeds, who died Wednesday after a long period of declining health.

Burial will be made in the graveyard of Pleasant Hill Christian Church.

Noble, a native of the Pleasant Hill section, served almost 30 years as Register of Deeds and stepped down in 1956, when his assistant, Mrs. Dorothy Koonce, was elected to take his place.

## Funeral Friday

Funeral services will be held at Three Friday for 16 year-old DeLores Ann Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Jones of the Haskins Chapel section of Jones County, who died early Wednesday after a brief illness. The last rites will be held from the home and burial will be made in Westview Cemetery in Kinston.

## Pancakes and Square Dancing Friday for 4-H Clubber Fund

Pancakes and square dancing will be the order of the day on Friday, June 2nd at the American Legion Building in Trenton.

Jones County 4-H'ers, in trying to complete their quota in the 4-H Development Fund will put on a square dance that night.

The pancake supper will be served from 5:30 to 8 and will consist of sausage and "all the pancakes you can eat." Cost will be \$1 per plate.

The square dance begins at 8 and will feature a performance by the Maysville Cloggers. Prices for the dance are: ADULTS 50c — CHILDREN 25c.

Mrs. W. W. Lowry, president of the Jones County 4-H Leaders, says "We still need to raise \$525 to meet our Quota of \$1650.00 which is Jones County's share of the million dollars being raised for the 4-H Development Fund. This money is to be used to improve 4-H camps, provide scholarships and to improve the 4-H Club program in general."

"We hope to go a long way toward raising this \$525. on June 2nd" stated Mrs. Lowry. She urges folks to "come out for a good meal and a good time while helping a good cause."

## DRIVING CHARGE

Osbie Norwood Dixon of New Bern, Arthur James Holmes of Kinston route 2, Emmett Murphy Wade of Kinston route 3 and George Mooney Ham of Goldsboro have been arrested during the past week on charges of drunken driving.

## John Yates Family New Baptist Pastor And Wife are Honored

A picnic supper was held Saturday night in honor of Mr. and Mrs. John Yates, who moved to Burgaw, and the Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Ponder, who moved to Trenton last week.

All of the neighbors on one street took part in the picnic for the two families.

They were, Mrs. Alma Vassey and Susan, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Calvert and family, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Swiggett and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Hodges and family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pippin and family, Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan Fowler and son, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Oakley, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Pollock and family, and guests, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Pippin.

## Assault Charges Made Against Man Who Wielded Baseball Bat

Earl Grady of 11-E Simon Bright Homes was charged Saturday with assault with a deadly weapon in connection with investigation that came after two negroes were hospitalized with head injuries admittedly given them by a baseball bat being used by Grady.

Grady, and R. H. Cauley told police Monday night, May 18th, when the injuries were inflicted that the two negroes and a third, who escaped, were cutting auto tires in a parking lot at Simon Bright.

They also said that the group rattled Grady's front door and dared him to come out and they would "fix him."

Grady said he came out, they pulled a knife on him, and he began laying about with the bat.

Saturday Police Chief Fred Boyd said the indictment against Grady came after questioning of the two negroes, Jether Edwards of 1218 Oak Street and Leo Oliver of 407 Forest Street, whose versions of the incident varied greatly from

## Patricia Huffman is Named Dairy Princess Of '61 in Jones County

Wednesday night the ag building in Trenton was crowded for the annual Dairy Princess Contest in which Patricia Huffman was chosen winner from the seven entrants.

Susan Vassey was No. 1 runner-up and Diane Shepard was the No. 2 runner-up.

Princess Patricia will represent Jones County in the district contest that is to be held June 12th in New Bern.

District winners will then compete in Raleigh later in June for the Miss North Carolina Dairy Princess crown.

## Kinston and Trenton Rotary Clubs Hold Joint Meeting

The Trenton Rotary Club met Tuesday night in the Trenton School Cafeteria with Fred Pippin presiding and eight members present. The Kinston Club was also present with Trenton, Kinston's offspring club, as guests. Weston Reed of the Kinston Club was guest speaker. Other member from Kinston were President Bill Page, John Page, Ely Perry, Tolbert Midyette, Dick Parker, Pig DuVal, Albert Stroud, George Carter, John Gray, Chris Giles, Norman McCaskill, George Harper, Gus Leggett and Charlie McCullers.

It was a good meeting, and Trenton members were very happy to be guests of Kinston members.

## Conservation News

by Emmett Waller Jr.

Fourteen Cooperators in Jones County received bass fingerlings recently. The fish were obtained by the Lower Neuse Soil Conservation District from the Fish and Wildlife Service Hatchery at Edenton. This was the final delivery in the stocking of ponds on these cooperator's farms.

Bream were furnished last fall at an approximate ration of four bream to one bass.

Cooperators in Jones County receiving fish were; Archie Davis, J. K. Dixon, Floyd Hill, T. D. Holoman, Thomas Hood, H. B. Johnson, Carl Killingsworth, Jedious Metts, Ely Perry, W. E. Phillips, John H. Pollock, Lynwood Pollock, J. W. Rhodes and R. C. Tyndall.