

Some Facts on Taxes, Whisky, Schools and Elections

By Jack Rider

On Saturday the voters of Wayne County will go to the polls again and decide if they want to continue buying their whisky from the the Lenoir County ABC store in La Grange or set up a system of their own.

For nearly 27 years the citizens of Wayne County have poured hundreds of thousands of dollars per year into the Lenoir County Treasury and into the treasury of the Town of LaGrange, which gets 25 per cent of the net profits from the ABC store in LaGrange.

In commenting about this situation last week it was suggested that the question is not whether to have whisky or not to have whisky, but is a determination of who gets the profits from whisky.

This aroused the indignation of at least one person who is totally opposed to whisky of any kind, and presumably to the profits from such sales as well.

This "Dry" suggested that Lenoir County was not so well off as Dup-

lin County, despite the fact that Duplin County has no ABC stores. That Duplin has consolidated its school system, has built a handsome county hospital and, he further suggested, that Duplin County has issued no bonds to build schools.

This caused a study of the relative position of Duplin and Lenoir counties to be made, and the facts are as follows:

Duplin County does not have ABC stores.

Duplin County does have a handsome hospital.

Duplin County has consolidated its school system.

But Duplin County does owe for some school bonds. The source of my information does not reveal when those bonds were issued, but in the last reporting year the interest on those school bonds in Duplin County amounted to \$22,053.

Also the farms of Duplin County are taxed far more heavily than the farms of Lenoir County. Due

to several reasons: One being that there is no large town and no large industry to collect the taxes from so what taxes there are have to be collected from the farms of the county.

The total tax listed valuation of all real estate in Duplin County in the year studied was \$45,604,802 and the valuation of all the farms in the county was \$29,970,593. In that same year the total value of all real estate in Lenoir County was \$58,647,290 and the farms of the county only accounted for \$20,845,955 of that total.

So, in Duplin County farm real estate pays 65 per cent of the total tax levied on real estate and in Lenoir County farm real estate that year paid only 35 per cent of the total tax levy.

Also that year on the tax books of Duplin County livestock was listed for \$1,084,110, while it was listed for only \$452,780 in Lenoir County.

That year Duplin County levied sufficient taxes to allocate \$475,712

for the operation of all its public schools. Lenoir County that year allocated \$1,095,947 for the operation of its public schools.

The population of Duplin County in the last census was 40,270 and that of Lenoir County was 55,276. Which means that Duplin County's per capita expenditure for schools was just over \$11, while that of Lenoir County in the same year was just over \$19 per capita.

Which brings one around to the meat of the coconut: The big reason that Lenoir County has been able to afford such an expensive school system has been its ability to devote such a huge part of its tax collection to schools while liquor store profits helped defray a major part of the other operating cost of county government.

Lenoir County's rural school system for white children is far higher priced than that of the entire Kinston school system and the rural negro system.

Counties that could not afford the

dubious luxury of scattered, small and expensive schools had to consolidate for economy's sake. Lenoir County has been the victim of its own governmental prosperity.

A further reflection of this is that the non-school bonded debt retirement item in the Duplin County budget in the study year (1961-62) was \$72,459 while the non-school debt retirement item in the Lenoir County budget was \$9,827.

During this year the net ABC store profits to Lenoir County were \$317,610, while at the same time the Lenoir County ABC stores paid an additional \$265,826 into the state treasury; part of which, of course, was spent in Duplin, as in all other "dry" counties.

Of course, there are no arguments, either fiscal or spiritual that will convince the true-blue 100 per cent "dry" that there is any merit in having the legal sale of whisky anywhere at any time.

Fortunately, such individuals are in the minority, and their number grows fewer each passing day.

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Jones Candidate List Growing Very Slowly

Jones County Election Board Chairman John C. B. Koonce reports this week that the list of would-be public office holders in Jones County is going very slowly.

With five seats on the county board of commissioners, another five on the county school board, the job of judge in Recorder's Court, the job of register of deeds, the job of county representative in the general assembly and assorted justice of peace and constable jobs open the list of candidates only includes seven names.

First to file and still unopposed is Incumbent Representative Mrs. John M. Hargett.

This week one more name came to the list of candidates for county commissioner; that of Clifton Hood of the Wyse Fork section of Beaver Creek Township, who joined Albert Bracey and Clinton Lancaster of Maysville as the only candidates for this board's five seats.

Former Election Board Chairman W. F. Hill of Trenton and Horace Faulkner of Beaver Creek Township joined Rogers Pollock of Trenton to make a total of three school board candidates.

Among these six board candidates the only incumbent is Pollock.

The filing deadline is Noon April 17th.

Candidate List

Representative
Mrs. John M. Hargett*
Commissioner
Albert Bracey
Clinton Lancaster
Clifton Hood
School Board
F. Rogers Pollock
W. F. Hill
Horace Faulkner
* Incumbent

TRIPLE TROUBLE

Carl W. Dorsey of Camp Lejeune was booked in Kinston last Thursday night on charges of disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and refusing to obey the orders of an officer.

Dr. Weston Reed to Conduct Revival at Memorial Baptist

Revival services at Memorial Baptist Church of Maysville will be led by Dr. W. C. Reed of Kinston each evening at 7:30 p. m., April 6-12.

Dr. Reed was a successful School Administrator in the public schools of North Carolina for a quarter of century. He has worked as Superintendent of Kennedy Home and as General Superintendent of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina for a total of 16 years.

At present, he is Promotional Consultant for the Homes.

Dr. Reed has been very active in civic affairs in his own community and county. He has worked with the State Welfare Department in setting up standards for Children's Homes, Foster Homes, and Day Care Centers.

He has participated in similar projects in other Southern states.

FRIDAY ACCIDENT

Friday morning at about 7 cars driven by Bernice Hall Thompson of Grifton route 2 and Terry Glen Owens of 710 Darby Avenue collided with damage estimated at \$450.

SHOPLIFTING CHARGES

Over the weekend Milford Keys of 607 Fields Street, Mable Hall of 3-D Carver Courts and Thomas McKinley Faison of 305-C Richard Green Homes were charged with shoplifting in downtown Kinston stores.

THUNDERBIRD MEET

The Thunderbird 4-H Club met recently with Claudia Armstrong presiding. The pledges were given by Judy and Brant Banks and the devotion by Betsy Armstrong.

Deborah Jenkins was in charge of the program on Outdoor Meals. Project reports were given by Mary Lindell Cox on Sewing and Claudia Armstrong on Foods. 10 members, 4 adults leaders and 2 visitors were present.

Jones County's First '64 Auto Death Recorded Monday

Fifty seven year-old Leonard Hunter of Trenton route 2 was instantly killed at about 6:15 p. m. Monday and became Jones County's first highway fatality of 1964. Hunter was riding in a pickup truck being driven by James Coy Griffin, 56, of Trenton route 1 when Griffin lost control of the truck on a rural paved road that runs southwardly from NC 58 from Doc Killingsworth's store.

Patrolman C. W. Oakley, who investigated, indicted Griffin on charges of reckless driving and manslaughter. A preliminary hearing is scheduled to be given Griffin at 9:30 a.m. Friday before Recorder Nick Noble.

Land Transfers

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker reports the only transfer of real estate recorded in his office during the past week was that of one lot in Tuckahoe Township from Martin Cromartie to Southern Holding Company.

ONE JONES ARREST

The office of Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports the only arrest in the county during the past week was that of Floyd Edward Roberts of Pollockville who was charged with being publicly drunk.

Child Welfare Month Observed in April By Legion Auxiliary

During the month of April the American Legion Auxiliary in Jones County and throughout the nation will observe Child Welfare month emphasize a major year-round program of the Legion.

Funds expended by the American Legion represent only a part of its child welfare program effort. Of vital importance has been the Legion's endeavors for establishment of sound State and Federal legislation concerned with the protection and care of children.

Kinstonian Absolved In Bike Rider Death

Tuesday night a Craven County Coroner's Jury ruled that J. A. Ormond of 1500 North Queen Street in Kinston was not at fault in the Saturday afternoon death of Rom and Lawson, 51, of Dover route 1.

Testimony before the jury indicated that Lawson was riding a bicycle between Dover and Fort Barnwell at about 2:15 p.m. Saturday when his bike swerved suddenly into the path of Ormond's car.

Lawson was killed instantly when he was knocked about 30 feet upon contact with the Ormond car.

Housewife Pleads Guilty to Lottery Violation, Fined \$100

Tuesday before Recorder Buck Wooten Mrs. Sallie Banks Simmons of 609 E. Washington St., Kinston pled guilty to violation of the state lottery laws by having in her possession tickets of the kind used in the "numbers" or "butter and egg" racket.

At the time of her arrest, mixed in with the tickets police found \$6,265.34, which was impounded and held until Tuesday when Judge Wooten ruled that the money should be returned to her.

PAPA MUST PAY

Milton Dove Jr. of 601 Beech Drive was booked last week on charge of being an illegitimate father and refusing to support his child.

Supreme Court Orders Trial of Jones County Suit Over Wilcox Farm

In a recent decision the North Carolina State Supreme Court set aside a demurrer granted by Judge Henry Stevens in Jones County Superior Court last year in litigation over the farm of the late Steve Wilcox.

The suit had been brought by nine of the 11 daughters of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox against two other daughters and their husbands.

The defendants in the action are Mr. and Mrs. Lee B. Fordham and Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Moore.

The nine complainants allege that the farm was deeded to the Fordhams on condition that the land would ultimately be divided among the 12 Wilcox children.

In addition to seeking the division of the land now they also seek a rental of \$3,000 per year for each year since 1952 when the Fordhams were named Wilcox's guardian.

The Moore's were deeded part of the 194.54-acre farm after the death of Wilcox.

Heavy Fines Levied For Hauling Whisky

Wednesday Kinston Recorder Buck Wooten fined Obediah Bowden of 723 Tower Hill Road \$500 and fined Doris Lee Bowden of 217 Tyree Road \$300 for their part in hauling 48 jars of stumphole whisky.

The pair was caught on March 5th by ABC officers in a 1955 model car, laden with the light load of stumphole. The car was confiscated.

Other judgments Wednesday included 8 months in jail for Carrie Fordham of 208 Lincoln Street for violating the liquor laws, \$150 fine to Emma Rollison of 911 Thompson Street for the same offense.

Jethro McLawhorn of 1100 Chestnut Street was fined \$25 for speeding, reckless driving and failing to stop for a stop sign.

ANOTHER ON FRIDAY

At 11 p.m. Friday cars driven by Ernie Pule Rouse of Seven Springs route 1 and Frederick Kennedy of Kinston route 2 collided at the corner of Queen and Capitola with \$800 estimated damage and two passengers in the Rouse car suffering painful but not serious injuries. Rouse was charged with failing to yield right of way and Kennedy with driving without a driving license.