

# Nightmare Weekend Claims 12 Lives on Lenoir Highways

From 4:45 Friday afternoon until 3:40 a.m. Sunday 12 lives were snuffed out in head-on collisions on Lenoir County highways and five other persons were injured.

The grim reaper first struck on Highway 55 southwest of Kinston when on rain-slickened asphalt the car of PFC Cecil Allen Batchelor skidded into the path of the west-bound car of Joseph Stallings of Clinton.

The 19 year-old soldier and 59 year-old Clyde Smith in the Stall-

ings car were instantly killed. Stallings was critically injured.

Backseat passengers Sam Beaman, 58, and Thomas Wells Jr., 36, in the Stallings car suffered less serious injuries.

Young Batchelor, son of Waldo Batchelor of Kinston and Mrs. Ruth Batchelor of Deep Run, was riding alone when the crash came.

## County's Worst

The county had not recovered from the shock of its 10th and 11th auto deaths of the year when at 3:40 Sunday morning two large

cars, each with six passengers ground together three miles south-east of Kinston on Highway 70, leaving 10 persons instantly dead and two others critically injured.

Stephen Lyman Kearney, 41, of Snow Hill route 5 was driving a 1959 Buick west, toward Kinston with Thad Harris Jr., 41, of Maury, Mrs. Doris Harris Smith, 42, of Walstonburg route 2, Mary Speight, 34, of Stantonsburg and Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Wade of Snow Hill route 3. All died instantly except Mrs. Wade, who suffered ex-

tremely critical injuries.

Speeding eastwardly six more passengers rode in a 1959 Cadillac, believed to have been driven by Gracie May Conner, 20, of Dover route 2, and including her brother, James, 26, of the same address and four migratory tobacco workers from Castlebury, Alabama: James, 22, Mary, 16, and Ollie Powell, 14, and Earl McMillian, 16. All died instantly except Miss Conner, who suffered extremely critical injuries.

There were no witnesses to the crash except those in the two cars

but physical evidence tended to indicate that the eastbound Cadillac crossed into the wrong lane and crashed almost exactly head-on into the westbound car.

Both Mrs. Wade and Miss Conner were transferred to upstate hospitals for specialized care after receiving emergency treatment in Kinston hospitals. On Wednesday both were still on the critical list.

At 3:30 p.m. Friday the 1964 death toll from highway accidents in Lenoir County was 9. At 3:45 a.m. Sunday the toll was 21.

## THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 11

TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1964

VOLUME XVI

### Fertilizer Suit is Filed; Agreement in Oil Bill Litigation

Jones County Superior Court Clerk Walter Henderson reports filing one new suit in his office during the past week and signing a consent judgment in another.

The new suit was brought by the Wilmington Fertilizer Company against Carl Flowers and it alleges that Flowers has only paid \$60 on a \$370.08 promissory note he signed in its favor July 17, 1963, that was due September 15, 1963.

On this pleading the company asked to recover \$324.93 from Flowers, with interest from the note's due date.

The consent judgment was reached between Pollock Oil Company and Mr. and Mrs. James West.

This suit sought judgment on a debt for oil of \$523.62. The consent judgment orders the Wests to pay \$300 on the debt on or before October 15th of this year and the balance on or before October 15, 1965.

### Nine Jones Arrests

During the past week Sheriff Brown Yates reports nine arrests in Jones County, including the following: Milton Cleo Brock of Trenton for non-support, Frank Davis of Comfort for passing a worthless check, Theodore Hill of Stella for drunken driving, Earl D. Crawford of Hampton, Va. for speeding and driving without a license, James Roberts of Pollockville on a capias from Recorder's Court, Joseph Meadows of Trenton, Booker T. Jackson of New Bern, Ellis Jackson of Hubert, who were all accused of being publicly drunk.

### LAND TRANSFERS

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker reports recording one land transfer in his office during the past week, that of a lot in Pollockville from Daniel J. Walton, trustee, to Modern Homes Construction Company.

### Contracts Let for Bridges on NC 58

Monday among highway improvement bids approved in Raleigh by the highway commission was the bid of Kitchen Construction Company for two new bridges on Highway NC 58 between Trenton and Pollockville.

The bid for \$61,478.62 calls for replacing the narrow bridge over Mill Run with a wider bridge and replacing the narrow bridge over Little Hell Creek with a large culvert.

Barrus Construction Company of Kinston was also low bidder on two projects: 9.4 miles of resurfacing in Pitt and Beaufort Counties and 735 of new streets in Jacksonville for \$116,356.60.

### Opening August 27th

The world's biggest flue-cured tobacco belt will begin sales August 27th. Officials of the Eastern Warehouse Association voted Tuesday to begin sales at the Belt's 17 markets on that date, which is five days later than it opened last year. The first leaf sales of the season began Wednesday on the Georgia-Florida Belt. The next belt to open will be the Border Belt, which begins August 6th.

### Recorder's Docket is Lighter by 24 Cases

During the past two weeks submissions to Clerk Walter Henderson or trial by Judge Nick Noble have cleared 24 cases from the docket of Jones County Recorder's Court.

All but five of the cases involved traffic charges. Those five were Fred Thomas Smith of New Bern Route 5 found not guilty of assault on a female and malicious damage to private property, Isaac Adams

### Freak Accident

Four year-old Danny Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Moore of Morehead City, suffered serious injury Saturday night while visiting in the Elwood Moore home in the Rivermont community. The child after being put to bed got an electric cord in its mouth and chewed through to the naked wires, causing it to suffer serious burns to its mouth and face.

### FAMILY REUNION

The family of the late H. K. Scott will hold its annual reunion Sunday, August 2, at the Community Building in Pollockville. The public is cordially invited to attend. A picnic lunch will be served at one o'clock.

### ESCAPEE NABBED

Sammp Ray Mitchell, a former Kinstonian, was picked up by the sheriff's department over the weekend and then turned over to prison officials as an escapee from that department.

of Trenton, Ellis Jackson of Hubert route 1 and Booker T. Jackson of New Bern, who each paid the costs for public drunkenness, and Frank Davis Jr. of Comfort paid the costs and made restitution for a bad check.

For speeding the following paid as noted: Isaac Odell Jones of Rockville, Md. \$30, Neil Bryant Riggs of Pollockville route 1 \$25, Glen McKay Smith of Wilmington \$25 and Earl Dean Crawford of Hampton, Va., for speeding and driving without a license \$53.

Benjamin Franklin Ward of Trenton route 2 was given a 90-day jail term for driving while license revoked but the jail term was suspended on payment of a \$200 fine within 60 days.

A charge of improper auto registration against Rosa Taylor Jones was dismissed as was one against Roy Kellum of Maysville route 1.

Adele Franklin of Pollockville route 1 paid \$40 for driving without a license. Frederick Jones of Pollockville was found not guilty of making an improper turn.

Others who paid the \$12 court costs for minor traffic violations included Everell Lee Williams of Pollockville, route 1, Oscar B. Jones of Pollockville, Edward Oliver West of Trenton route 1, McCree Hill of New Bern, William Benson of Camp Lejeune, Lela Hatchell of Maysville, James Bright of Maysville route 1, Cleatrice Burner of Trenton route 1, Henry Moore of Pollockville route 1 and Andrew Abney of Maysville route 1.

## How The Tax Dollar Is Used, And Abused

Many people living in rural areas have been perplexed recently by the sudden and solid resistance on the part of metropolitan areas to rural domination of the legislative process.

This is a revolt that has been long in the building and there are countless good reason why the city cousin should resent the manner in which he has been forced to support his country cousin through inequitable distribution and collections of tax money.

The major use of state funds, and a considerable portion of federal funds go to public school education, funds from these sources are supplemented to varying degrees by county and school district tax levies.

Even a casual examination of the wide differences in the use of these assorted funds is more than enough to convince the city cousin that he has been given a commercial raping.

Consider in the 1962-63 school year: Mecklenburg, the largest and most urban North Carolina county, spent from its own county funds \$117.87 for each pupil in its school system in the operating budget of its school system which embraced 62,633 pupils.

In that same year prosperous but agrarian Wayne County was taxing its citizens for a total of \$4.04 per pupil for its county school system which included 11,141 pupils. This is a disconcerting difference

of \$114.83 per child.

While this is going on Mecklenburg is getting only \$206.60 per pupil from the state tax collector and just \$7.91 per pupil from the federal tax collector.

Wayne County while putting up just 1.5 per cent of the operating revenues for its county school system is getting \$212.52 per pupil from the state tax collector and \$44.97 per pupil from the federal tax collector.

The spread in distribution of state school funds ranges from the top \$270.47 going to the Wilson

County system to the low of \$193.10 going to the Cumberland County system.

The spread in distribution in North Carolina of federal funds ranges from Craven County's grab of \$67.30 per pupil to the 60 cents per pupil allocated to Wilkes County.

The Wayne County system had to put up the staggering sum of \$44,909.64 in local tax funds in order to qualify for an expenditure of \$2913,767.84 for the operation of its county school system.

Mecklenburg on the other hand

had to tax \$7,386,087.81 out of its citizens in local taxes in order to get matching funds that brought its total school operations budget up to \$20,828,404.31.

Which means Wayne Countians were having to put up much less than two per cent of their total school operating budget while Mecklenburg Countians were having to put up over 35 per cent of the funds spent to operate their schools.

This is only one of many "matching-fund" instances in which the urban tax payer gets clobber-

ed heavily in the name of "equalization."

Even after weighing one's feeling with the fact that Mecklenburg is the major trade center of North Carolina and as such draws its wealth from all other parts of the state there is still not sufficient justification for such a wide difference in the allocation of public funds.

This is especially true when one takes notice of a few more facts that exist in the relationship between these two counties.

Mecklenburg's '60 population was 272,111; Wayne's was 82,059. Which means that Mecklenburg has roughly 3.3 times as many people as Wayne. But in the most recent year of record Mecklenburg collected in local taxes \$14,459,508 while Wayne collected \$1,595,768. This indicates that the citizens of Mecklenburg paid roughly 9 times as much taxes as Wayne's citizens although it only has 3.3 times as many people.

Or in dollars and cents it means that the per capita local taxation in Mecklenburg was over \$53 per year while in Wayne County was just over \$19 per year. This leaves the local taxing ratio at roughly 2.8 times higher in Mecklenburg than in Wayne. There cannot be such a wide difference in ability to pay taxes between prosperous Wayne County and prosperous Mecklenburg County.

### Kinston Gets High Market Rating

On the basis of a national study of business activity, just released, Kinston stands out as a solid, vigorous market with a level of income and spending above that found in most communities.

Marked gains were made in its trading area during the past year as local families, with more money at their command, indulged in large-scale buying.

The facts are brought out in Sales Management's new copyrighted "Survey of Buying Power," which presents comparable income and sales figures for every section of the country.

The strong consumer buying in Kinston enabled retailers to top their previous year's records. Local stores closed the year with a sales volume of \$43,172,000, an increase

over the 1962 total of \$43,025,000.

From the standpoint of population, this was more than should have been expected. With a local population equivalent to .0132 percent of the national population, the local volume of business should have been approximately that proportion of the national.

Actually, however, it went beyond that amount, accounting for .0175 percent of the national.

The spending surge was felt, in varying degrees, in most parts of the country. It proved a boon to retailers generally, but benefited the automobile business more than any other.

The affluent public opened its purse strings wide, also, for other products. They bought more household appliances, more fancy foods,

more books and magazines and did more traveling than ever before.

The answer is that, despite the many people who are still unemployed, the number who are holding down jobs has gone up, and their earnings have increased.

The survey shows that net income locally, after payment of taxes, reached \$44,476,000, a rise from the previous year's \$42,351,000.

This boils down to an average of \$6,093 per household, which is arrived at by dividing the overall income by the number of households.

Just how one locality compares with another in purchasing power and business volume is revealed through an "index of sales activity."

Kinston's index is given as 133, or 33 percent above the national average.