

THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 17 TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1964 VOLUME XVI

Tourist Trickle Begins to Ram Neuse



Above, a lone out-of-state visitor pauses briefly to see the battered, charred, controversial remains of the only fragments of a Civil War combat vessel still in existence. Workers are now busy building a cradle in which the reclaimed hulk of the Confederate Ram Neuse will be restored to some degree so that future generations may have some small knowledge of what it looked like after it was built at White Hall (now Seven Springs) and fitted out in Kinston in the closing days of the Civil War.

Extra Help Voted for Court Clerk's Office

Tuesday the Jones County Board of Commissioners approved a \$1200 allocation to the office of Superior Court Clerk Walter Henderson for use in hiring additional clerical help.

Henderson asked for the additional help which will be used in typing, indexing and filing a considerable accumulation of special proceedings in his office.

Henderson says there are at least 40 boxes, which contain around 40 special proceedings each and under the law the cross-filing and indexing of these is required.

The commissioners also voted to transfer \$2500 from the general fund to the current expenses fund

of the county school system. Routine reports were heard from several county department heads and current bills were approved for payment.

Four Jones Arrests

In the past week Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports four arrests. Clarence Hill of Dover route 2 was charged with driving without a license, Otis Turnage of Pollocksville was accused of public drunkenness, Raymond Koonce of Trenton was charged with being drunk and disorderly and Roscoe Sutton of Trenton was picked up on a capias from Recorder's Court.

Revival Services at First Baptist Church September 21-26

Revival services will be held at the Maysville First Baptist Church, beginning Monday evening September 21 through Saturday September 26.

Services will begin each evening at 7:30 and guest speaker will be the Rev. Ralph B. Carpenter, of Mt. Holly, pastor of the Hickory Grove church.

A nursery will be available for those with small children and special music will be presented each evening.

A cordial invitation is extended to everyone to be present.

Suit for Debt Filed In Jones Sup. Court

Superior Court Clerk Walter Henderson reports the filing of one civil action in the local court during the past week.

In the action the Cities Service Oil Company is seeking to recover \$479.77 from David A. Collins of Jones County.

The suit alleges that Collins owes this amount and has failed and refused to pay it and it asks interest on the debt at six per cent from November 11, 1962.

PTA Meet Monday

The first meeting of the Maysville Elementary PTA for this school year will be held Monday evening in the school auditorium beginning at 7:30. Parents are urged to be present at this first meeting and visitors are welcome.

HELD ON FORGERY CHARGE

Recorder Buck Wooten this week after a preliminary hearing bound James Cleo Gooding of 1606 Cedar Lane over to superior court on two charges of forgery, in which he allegedly forged two checks, each in the amount of \$67.35 against the account of Adell Turner.

Kinstonian Bound Over In Jones Traffic Death

Among the 33 cases removed from the docket of Jones County Recorder's Court in the past two weeks was that in which a probable cause hearing was held for Ernest Bradley Benton of 314 East Vernon Avenue in Kinston.

Benton was charged with manslaughter and drunken driving after a wreck on August 16th on Highway US 70 in Northern Jones County in which a Kinston-area negro, Ben Lawson, was instantly killed. Judge Nick Noble ruled there was probable cause of Benton's guilt and ordered him held under \$1,000 bond for the next term of Jones County Superior Court on September 28th.

In non-traffic cases cleared from the court either by submission to the clerk or trial by Noble, Hardy and Mamie Collins of Maysville were found not guilty of simple assault charges. Roscoe Sutton of Trenton route 1 was ordered to pay the court costs of public drunkenness; Bobby Ray Roberts of Pollocksville appealed a \$50 fine for public drunkenness and carrying a concealed weapon; Thelmus Foy of Trenton route 1 paid \$12 for being drunk in public, Milton Rolison of Pollocksville was given a choice between 30 days in jail or making good a worthless check and paying the court costs and Frank Bullock of Kinston was given a choice between 90 days in jail or payment of \$40 per month for support of his family.

J. A. Ivey of Cove City route 1 was fined \$100 for drunken driving and a hit-and-run charge was dismissed.

Melvin E. Price of Camp Lejeune was fined \$100 for drunken driving.

Jesse Powell Jr. of Castleberry, Alabama paid \$40 for driving without a license. Ivey Lee Wiggins of Maysville paid \$25 for reckless driving and Linwood Earl Kellum of Jacksonville route 2 paid the same fine for the same offense.

Speeders paid off as follows: John Williams of Winston-Salem \$30, Joseph Thomas Holloman of Trenton route 1 \$30, and Richard Earl Gasperson of Maysville \$12.

For driving without license Augustus George Cheston paid \$15, Ernest Isaiah Miller of Pollocksville route 1 paid \$25 and William Henry Burke of Jacksonville paid \$15.

For assorted other traffic violations the following paid the court costs: Cedric Allen Hall of Trenton route 2, Jerry Columbus Jordan of Arapahoe route 2, Walter Lee Berry of Trenton route 1, William Earl Murphy of New Bern route 2, Melvin Lee Hudgins of New Bern, Benjamin O. Gray of Trenton route 2, Delma Leroy Meadows of Maysville, George Jansky of Camp Lejeune, J. C. McKinnie of Jacksonville, Glenn Miller Humphrey of Jacksonville route 2, Louis Edward Haddock of Pollocksville route 1, Bertha Taylor Smith of New Bern route 3 and William Allen Morgan of Pollocksville route 1.

September 28th Jury List Printed Here

The panel of jurors who will serve at the September 28th term of Jones County Superior Court is listed here:

J. S. Banks, R. B. Hawkins, Harry Brown, Altin M. Humphrey, Leroy B. Meadows, R. L. Fordham, Larry Driver, J. D. Cottle, James F. Cavanaugh, James T. Mack.

William D. Spence Jr., F. V. Small, Joe Ed Collins, Ernest David West, Harold Smith, Nobe S. Jones, James Eubanks, Pearl D. Register, Sidney Taylor.

H. V. Wilson, Manley Foy, C. L. Foscue, Tobe Heath, Cecil Jones, Troy Lee Yates, A. B. Parker, J. P. Garner, H. M. Quinn, Walter Blizzard.

Lewis Philyaw, Horace Quinn, Otis Murphy, James M. Bender, Allie L. Turner, Ross Johnson Jr., Bruce Johnson, Ralph Howard Jr., Chris Mercer, Kincheon L. Dixon.

Robert Ray Harrison, Harvey Andrews, Douglas Nobles, William McArthur, Albert Mitchell, William Wiggins, Rex Mills, Earl D. Jones, L. W. Simmons and J. M. Foscue.

Benefit Feed Saturday

Lee's Methodist Chapel is sponsoring a barbecue and chicken salad lunch and supper at the Community Building in Pollocksville from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. Saturday. There will also be pies and cakes on sale with all proceeds going into the church parsonage fund.

Downtown Kinston Has 23 Serious Problems

No town that is struggling to become a city ever has, or ever will escape the problem which seems to be plaguing Kinston worse than usual at present.

In that area between Peyton, Bright, Heritage and McLewean streets in Kinston there are 23 business locations now sitting empty. Among those are a dozen of the finest locations in the city.

Ask a dozen different people: How come? and one gets a dozen different answers:

Rent's too high one will protest. Property owners won't fix up their property.

Business is off another will lament.

Not enough parking is often offered.

Kinston needs a city bus service. Women don't like parallel parking is heard again and again.

Kinston merchants are not really competitive unhappy shoppers say from time to time.

Kinston stores are not well merchandised.

Too many neighborhood shopping centers are springing up around town comes from a downtown business source.

The big chains — usually Sears — are gobbling up too much of the town's gross sales.

But Sears executives are lamenting that their share "ain't enough."

And so on, and with many more screwy ideas and perhaps even a few sensible ones.

Actually, it is likely that there is a little bit of truth in all of these allegations.

What can be done, if anything to alter the picture. To sharpen up the downtown business community and to stimulate growth and sales?

For years spasmodic efforts have been made to get a city bus service organized and an inactive committee is still in existence headed by News Editor Jack Rider for this specific purpose.

But efforts to interest private capital in such an enterprise fell suddenly through: two years ago when Senator Tom White killed a bill approved by the city and county boards under which a private bus program would have been guaranteed a minimum income.

Now, this bus committee subscribes to the obvious view that the only way to get a bus service is to have it operated as a city-owned public utility.

Getting such a show on the road costs money. In recent budget making the city fathers have indicated that with new city halls, sewage treatment lagoons, king-sized drainage problems and all of the other ever-increasing costs of government they could not see in sight the necessary funds for such a public

service.

City and county officials agree that such a service is badly needed to protect this blighted downtown area where near 20 per cent of the county's tax listed valuation is found and where more than 3,000 people are presently employed.

So the bus committee has lapsed into an understandable silence because in this, as in many other problems it is still money that talks.

What about parking?

The city has a parking authority too. It is a full-blown statutory organization with considerable power, some money (proceeds of the old city hall sale) but an apparent great deal of indecision.

Fortunately, however Kinston is much better off than a majority of small towns in this respect, having much more off-street parking than any town of comparable size in the state. Unfortunately very little of this is of a permanent nature, however, and all of it could be withdrawn on very short notice.

The price of downtown real estate is a factor in the headache of the parking authority. A sufficient area to provide even a relatively few parking spaces costs much more than the authority has in its treasury.

The parking authority has the legal right to issue revenue bonds for purchase of such sites, but this

is an expensive method of financing.

Lastly in the downtown business community there is dissension as to the best possible location for an off-street parking lot.

Of all the excuses for the condition of Downtown Kinston the weakest is that business is off. Business is not off generally but a few weak spots obviously could be found if one examined the situation carefully, but generally these individual business that are off have suffered because of poor management at one level or another.

The more aggressive merchants are doing extremely well, and are likely to continue to do so.

Sears is in competition with just about every business in the downtown area except the undertakers, and they do sell tombstones.

But Sears, in spite of being the biggest retailer in the country, is not completely invulnerable to competition, and it is perhaps because Sears pays such careful attention to its competitors that it is so strong a competitor itself.

The addition of a full-line store such as Sears to a business community can be a stimulus to other businesses if they merchandise, advertise and compete aggressively.

An example of this situation where lack of aggressiveness penalizes a very big business is as between Sears and Montgomery

Ward. Ward's quality, prices and reputation are equal to and in many instances superior to those of Sears, but Sears gets more business. The same analogy follows between little merchants as between huge merchants in the Sears-Wards category.

Too many merchants — especially Sears — are reluctant to carry big inventories — even of stable items and they are not much more than order-taking counters.

The small merchants who specialize in a given field can out-merchandise the huge catalogue stores, which brag about having a half million items for sale but only about 500 in stock. This is an exaggeration of course, but the point is the same, and it is a point that has been well taken by good merchants who in a buyer's market never permit themselves to be caught twice without a specific stable item of merchandise.

Except in the fairland of women's fashions there is no really good excuse for short-merchandising, except the unwillingness of the merchant to invest in an adequate inventory.

Whatever the cause the business operators and property owners in Downtown Kinston would greatly appreciate some workable ideas to stimulate business in this 12-block area.