

# JONES COUNTIANS FACING CRUCIAL VOTE SATURDAY, WIDELY DIVIDED

Saturday Jones Countians will go to the polls and decide an issue that has divided the people of the county more than anything in recent years.

The question on the ballot is whether the majority of the people in the county favor or oppose authorizing the county board of commissioners to levy up to a maximum of 25 cents tax on the \$100 valuation to pay the county's part of a coun-

ty-wide drainage program. But the question on the ballot is far more simple than the real issues that divide the people.

Basically the vote is to determine if the people of Jones County are willing to cooperate with the Soil Conservation Service, the Army Corps of Engineers and the State Water Resources Board in an effort to more effectively control and use

the waters that fall on and through Jones County.

But before the three services involved can move further with their detailed analysis of the county's total drainage problem such a project offers them no it is necessary that they know that the people in Jones County are willing to cooperate and to pay a fraction of the project costs.

All Jones Countians know of

the severe losses from flooding in recent years — and of flooding that exists this week as this is being written, but those interested in this situation are widely divided on what, if anything ought to be done about it.

There is an unhappy attitude on the part of some people that direct benefit. This is a short-sighted point of view, and no more logical than having an absentee property owner in Jones County not pay taxes because his children do not attend Jones County schools and use other Jones County facilities.

In addition to the attitude of those who feel that a drainage project would not benefit them there is an abundance of misunderstanding about the function of a drainage system.

A drainage system — whether one as big as the Mississippi - Missouri or as small as a farm ditch is simply a funnel. It can

handle no more water than can pass through the lower end of the funnel.

Which means that every landowner who has tilled a field, drained a pot hole, paved a drive, built a larger home or barn — in fact, any farmer who has done anything to accelerate the flow of water into that "funnel" is complicating the problem — and this is as true of the farmer who lives on Island Creek Road as the farmer who lives west of Pleasant Hill.

Each time the state paves a road the flow of water is accelerated, each military facility that has a roof or a paved road or runway adds to the speed and finally adds up to the funnel not being able to take all that is poured into it and it slops over to damage not just the farmer on whose land it falls but everybody in the entire county and all those from adjoining counties who trade with Jones Countians.

Water resources are the major resources that the Southeastern United States has in greater abundance than any other area of our nation. For the future and for the present the wisest possible conservation and use of this great resources is of signal importance.

But if the people immediately concerned are not willing to even permit a careful analysis of the situation; to determine what can be done within the realm of economic and engineering feasibility; then it is axiomatic that the bureaus charged with this responsibility will be able to find more receptive places and people to do their work and to spend the funds allocated to their departments.

Saturday Jones Countians have an opportunity to give their elective officials the authority to have these studies made. If they vote to turn their heads out of any reason — selfish or selfless it will be a very long time before any such concerted effort is made again to help them help themselves.

One weak argument being used against the project is that the pulp companies who own tremendous acreages in Jones County have created much of the drainage problem with their own drainage programs.

Obviously this is true, but they pay the same rate of taxes and their land is valued at the same rate per acre as that of any other landowner, and these companies provide labor for a lot of Jones Countians and pump money into the area in a great many different ways. And aside from whatever fractional part of this drainage problem they may have caused; these pulp companies cost Jones County nothing.

It is further true that the Hoffman Forest Foundation is tax exempt as a property of State College, but if a major drainage project is found to be feasible in Jones County the State of North Carolina will pay far more of the cost of the project than the County of Jones and the same situation applies to any federally owned lands in the Croatan Forest.

At the present tax listed valuation of Jones County of just over \$10,000,000 a 25 cent tax levy would return \$25,000 per year. In the past five years in tobacco losses alone Jones County's economy has suffered over a \$10,000,000 loss. It would take a long time at the rate of \$25,000 per year to balance this loss in just a few brief years.

**MURDERESS SENTENCED**  
Last week Minnie Darden was given 5-to-10 years in Woman's Prison in Lenoir County Superior Court where she was convicted of murdering her husband, Chester.

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### Tobacco Loss Not Severe from Last Week's Excessive Rain in This Area

The general consensus among local observers is that the excessive rain that hit the general Kinston area in the past two weeks did damage the tobacco crop but not seriously.

The impact of the rain was less nerve-racking to those farmers hit because of the new poundage controls governing the production of flue-cured tobacco.

With a huge crop in the fields it was agreed before the rains came that there were few, if any farmers, were not headed toward production of more pounds of tobacco than their allotted poundage.

The slight reduction in pounds which the rains undoubtedly causes will not materially alter the dollar-income of very many farmers.

And under the program adopted in May of this year if a farmer does happen to be severely hit by anything—flood, drought, disease, insects, fire or theft — he will be able to produce additional poundage in the coming crop year.

With a big crop in the fields — the majority of which had

been transplanted before the new program was adopted — most observers feel that there will be no major change in the overall quality of this year's crop but they are hopeful that next year's crop will be spaced more widely both in the row and between the row to permit better penetration of sunlight which is necessary for production of high quality tobacco.

### Vandalistic Thieves

A crew of vandalistic thieves broke into Sportlanes bowling alley on US 70 bypass south of Kinston over the weekend, tore open 13 vending machines, stole about \$1200 in cash, \$300 in merchandise, a safe with valuables with an estimated value of \$1,000 and left behind an estimated \$900 damage to the building and the assaulted equipment, which was sprayed with fire extinguishers to wash off fingerprints.

### Recorder's Court Disposes of 28 Cases

In the past week trial before Judge Joe Becton or pleas of guilty to Clerk Walter Henderson have cleared 28 cases from the docket of Jones County Recorder's Court.

As usual the majority of the cases involved traffic violations. Among non-traffic judgements were the following:

Donald Price and Grover Worthington of Kinston warrants withdrawn for receiving stolen property and plaintiff paid the costs in each case.

Jim Denkel of Allentown, Pa. was found guilty of stealing gas-

oline from P. C. Armstrong and drew a 30-day jail term which was suspended on condition he pay Armstrong \$10 and court costs.

Carl Wilson Shivar Jr. of Trenton route 2 was found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon for which he was given 60 days in jail with the jail term suspended on condition he pay a \$25 fine, \$35 doctor bills. Shivar appealed to superior court.

An assault charge against Philip Dixon of Trenton route 2 was nol prossed and a worthless check charge against Joyce Rob-

### Janice Lowery Represents NC 4-H Members at VPI

Janice Lowery of Trenton, Route 1, left by plane Monday, June 28, to attend the Virginia Short Course to be held on the VPI campus at Blacksburg, Virginia.

Janice and David Sink of Lexington were chosen by the Agricultural Extension Service of North Carolina State University at Raleigh to represent North Carolina's 4-H Club members. They will return on July 3.

erts of Maysville was also nol prossed.

Probable cause in a false pretense charge against Cedric Hall of Trenton route 2 was found and bond for his trial in superior court was set at \$25.

James Ray Moore's sentence for non-support was suspended on condition he pay the court costs.

A reckless driving charge against Sidney Earl Sandlin of Beulaville route 2 was nol prossed. Other traffic charges nol prossed included failure to yield right of way against Robert Jackson Murphy of Maysville route 1, improper equipment against Frank Cleo Farrow of New Bern route 3.

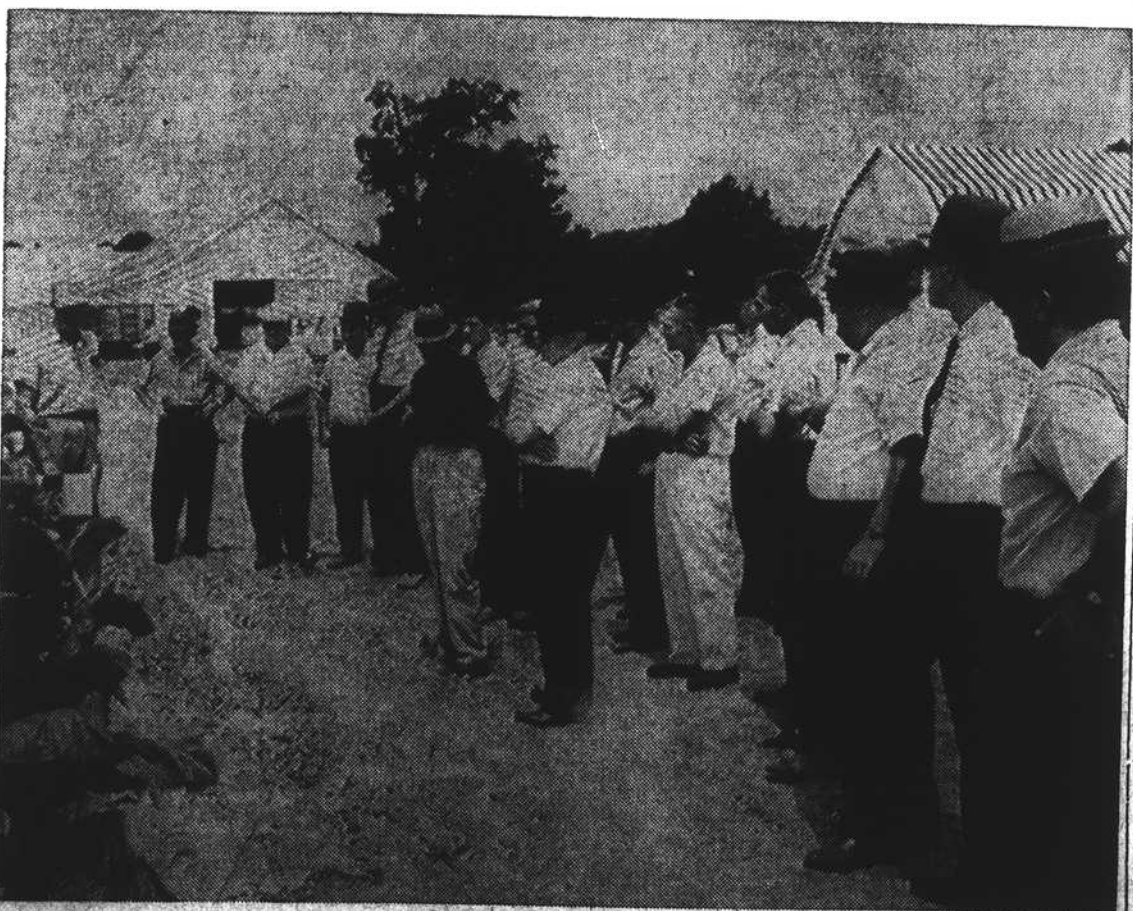
A drunken driving charge against Robert Glenn Whitfield of Trenton was withdraw by the plaintiff who paid the court cost costs.

Paying small fines, or in some instances just court costs for minor traffic charges were Charlie O'Neal Grant of Jacksonville route 3, Everett Lee Williams of Pollockville route 1, Alton Lester Bruinton of Trenton route 2, Fred Smith of Jacksonville, Johnnie Streeter of Trenton route 1, Lillian Brown Barber of Trenton, Don Edwin Smith of Salterpath, Theodore Roosevelt Harper of Maysville, Frank Carroll Klutz of Raleigh, John Jones Jr. of Trenton, John Claude Blake of Raleigh, Douglas Lee Hinkle of High Point, Ronnie Lee Burns of Trenton, Simon Soloman of Kinston route 3, Bruce Alvin Wright of Trenton route 1 and John Dennis Carraway of Maysville.

### Four Jones Arrests

In the past week Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports four arrests in the county, including those of Rufus Giles of Maysville and Paul Bellamy of Pollockville who were charged with assault with a deadly weapon, Jim Denkel of Allentown, Pa. for larceny and Wilbur Metts of Trenton route 2 for non-support.

### Local Group Sees Latest Tobacco Varieties on Coker Farm



Last week a group of Lenoir and Jones County farmers visited the Hartsville, S. C. offices and farms of the Coker Seed Company for a look at the latest developments of this internationally famous seed firm. In the picture here, at far left, Jim Brown, the top aide to Dr. Hoyt Rogers, is seen describing some of the improved varieties to a part of the group. Robert Coker, president of the firm, welcomed the group and top geneticists in various seed lines told the group at a lunch break about the latest developments in tobacco, corn, oats, cotton and soybeans. D. H. Taylor of Leco Feed Mills, area representative of the Coker firm, arranged the visit to a small part of the 12,000-acre operation of the firm around Hartsville.