

# 'FOR OF ALL SAD WORDS OF TONGUE OR PEN, THE SADDEST ARE THESE: IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN'

## Farmers Caught Without Hogs During Current High Prices Singing Blues

By Jack Rider

Poetry is hardly being resorted to by those reluctant farming dragons who have been caught in this high-priced pork season without any hogs to sell, but Whittier's famous line aptly describes their situation.

With top hogs going for \$28 per hundred pounds it is easy to see that only a few 200-pound top hogs could take a lot of wrinkles out of Eastern Carolina farm bellies left by last year's drastic tobacco production drop. But if one ain't got 'em, it's

hard to sell 'em.

Hogs, bless their grunting time, did take up a huge part of the slack caused by reduced tobacco income. . . but there was still a \$43 million dollar gap between 1965 and 1966 farm income in North Carolina.

What's worse, North Carolina still imported over 158 million pounds of pork last year while thousands of farmers had nary a porker on their farm.

Old Nicotinus Tobacum has reigned for two generations as the king of North Carolina's

farm economy. This year for the first time in the history of the state income from meat — pork, poultry and beef passed the income from tobacco.

Various estimates agree that no less than 16 million bushels of corn are shipped out of the Kinston trade-area each year. Even with sloppy management and far below average hogs each 10 bushels of that departed, and departing corn could produce one top hog for market. The corn leaves this area at an average of about \$1.25 per bushel.

Which means that all too many farmers have sold all too many 10-bushel lots of corn for \$12.50 when it could be selling — on the hoof for \$56.

Obviously the difference be-

tween 10 bushels of corn for \$12.50 and a top hog for \$56 is not a net \$43.50 profit, because hogs are not that efficient in converting corn into cash. But even after amortization of investment in farrowing houses, pig parlors, feeders, supplements, fencing, medicine and sometimes additional labor there is quite a bit of profit in that \$43.50 difference between the price of hogs and corn.

Especially when full consideration is taken of the proven fact that good hogs, well cared for do regularly reach market weight long before they have chomped up anything like 10 bushels of corn.

Recent events in this area point toward a continuing strong mar-

ket for hogs. Recent visitors to Kinston from the middle west said that the higher prices had not attracted farmers back into the hogs in the great hog-producing states, and that, if anything, more and more farmers were going out of the hog business.

Climate, land prices, taxes, labor and distance from market are all factors contributing to the decline of hog growing in the middle west. The Kinston area has made amazing gains in the years since the end of World War II.

The middlewest's loss is the Southeast's great gain. But as the poet said in the long ago, it's sure sad that all our farmers are not sharing in the gravy.

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## Accident Award of \$42,000 Still Not Finally Settled by Contending Parties

One of the largest jury awards in recent Jones County history is still unsettled.

Last week a jury awarded William D. Metts \$41,000 for personal injuries and \$1,000 for damage to his car from an accident in which he and a truck driven by Richard E. Whitfield, belonging to David, Inc. were involved.

Defense attorneys made a motion that Judge George Fountain set the verdict aside as too high was made when the award was announced by the jury. Fountain did not grant the motion at that time but promised to rule on the motion within 15 days.

Other actions in the week of court included divorces to Myrtle Grady Quinn from Esley Sutton Quinn, Calvin Simmons from Hattie Mae Johnson Simmons and Lott Sanders from Nettie Mills Sanders.

A non-suit ordered in the action brought by Hezekiah Murrell against Jesse Baines was appealed to the supreme court.

No appeal was made in the

non-suit of the action of Novella Hunter against James Coy Griffin.

Judge Fountain held open until January 21st a ruling in the action for possession by Mortgage Investment Company of Winston-Salem for the home of Johnny and Mary Belle Brown of Pollockville.

## Seeks Divorce

One civil suit has been filed in Jones County Superior Court in the past week in which Hazel West Moore is asking a divorce from Cecil Edward Moore on grounds of separation. The suit alleges the couples marriage on January 24, 1964 and their separation on August 11, 1964.

## One Jones Arrest

The only Jones County arrest reported during the past week was that of Jesse Franklin Foy of Maysville route 1 who was jailed on charge of violating the terms of a probationary sentence.

## Jones County Hog Grower Ties for Top National Honor

Bobby Cox of Trenton route 2, long known nationally as one of the top breeders of Poland China hogs, tied for the highest honor bestowed by the Poland registry in 1965.

Cox and the Lang Company of Wisconsin tied for the individual lead in certification program sponsored by the association.

Both producers certified 14 litters each. Cox certified the majority of the 20 litters certified in North Carolina, and had a major hand in pushing North Carolina into the top five states in the nation in Poland China certification. This past year North Carolina passed Ohio and Indiana in this department.

In addition to tying for top 1965 honors Cox also ranks 11th in the nation for all time certification records with 192 certifications.

And in the longtime records North Carolina ranks 13th among the 50 states, also largely due to the work Cox has done in this field.

Cox is holding a sale of 97 of his finest animals — including 42 bred gilts, 25 open gilts and 30 boars on February in the Pitt County Livestock Building at Greenville.

## Peace in the Valley?

Jones County Attorney Donald Brock said his interpretation of letters received this week from Raleigh indicates that the State Personnel Department has approved the present pay scale of Jones County welfare workers. This matter has been at issue for some months now with the welfare office in Raleigh complaining that Jones County welfare workers were not being paid as well as Jones County health department workers. . . as well as not being paid as well as Jones County health department workers in other counties. Jones County officials have cited the fact that they approved the budget requests of the welfare department and that the average pay in the welfare department is far higher than for comparable jobs in a majority of the other county offices.

## Croatan Forest Pays Jones County \$10,075.98 for 1965 Sales Share

Jones County has received a check from the United States Forestry Service for \$10,075.98, as the county's pro-rata share of the profits from sale of timber during the year from Croatan National Forest.

This is the largest such check Jones County has received since this program was started.

Croatan Forest covers 306-300 acres, which includes 71,800 acres in Jones, 125,300 acres in Craven and 109,200 acres in Carteret counties.

North Carolina has a total of 1,124,152 acres in national forest reserves, all of which is managed and systematically timbered to encourage both maximum conservation of soil and water resources and production of timber.

The federal government in all owns 1,899,994 acres of land in North Carolina, but the national forests are the only acreages

## Dies of Exposure

Lewis Koonce of Trenton route 1 was found dead this week in a tobacco bar on the B. E. McDaniel farm. Jones County Coroner Dr. George Davenport ruled Koonce's death came from exposure, 'since he was not warmly dressed and sub-freezing temperatures prevailed on the night preceding his being found in the barn. He was a tenant on the McDaniel farm.

upon which payments in lieu of taxes are made to local governmental unit.

The next largest holder of North Carolina lands among federal agencies is the National Park Service which owns 331,494 acres.

The Navy holds 144,258 acres — most of which is in the Marine Corps stations at Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point.

The Army holds 142,894 acres — most of which is on the huge Fort Bragg reservation.

The Air Force has 3,278 acres, the Corps of Engineers 36,517 acres, Fish and Wildlife Service 83,414 acres, Tennessee Valley Authority 22,144 acres, Coast Guard 1,406 acres, Maritime Administration, 1,879 acres, United States Information Agency (Voice of America) 6,193 acres and the Farmers Home Administration holds 1,669 acres.

The remainder of the federal holdings are in lots of less than 1,000 acres spread among a wide assortment of federal bureaus.

The smallest tract is one acre owned by the public health service, which is now in the process of buying much more land in the Research Triangle for its environment health center.

Also the purchase of 15,800 acres for the Cape Lookout National Seashore Park and 12,287 for a wildlife refuge in Hyde and Washington counties is authorized.

## Jones Cancer Chapter Makes Plans For Activities During Coming Year

By Mrs. R. L. Mattocks II

The Jones County unit of the American Cancer Society met at the Health Center last Wednesday with Mrs. Ruth Peterson, Field Consultant, attending.

Mrs. Grace Pollock, Acting Treasurer, reported that the Chapter had a balance of \$353.82 and \$747.25 on savings. It was discussed and decided by the group that an applicant could receive up to but not more than \$50. per application. However, he may re-apply if additional funds are needed at a later date. The policy that funds can only be administered to patients whose diagnosis of cancer had been confirmed by Dr. John H. Thompson, medical advisor.

Mrs. Peterson suggested that we set up two bank accounts for Jones County Unit — one — an operating account through which current expenses would be paid (a total of 40 per cent of county contributions). The other would be a crusade account

(monies raised through crusade, memorials and their contributions which are sent to the State Unit).

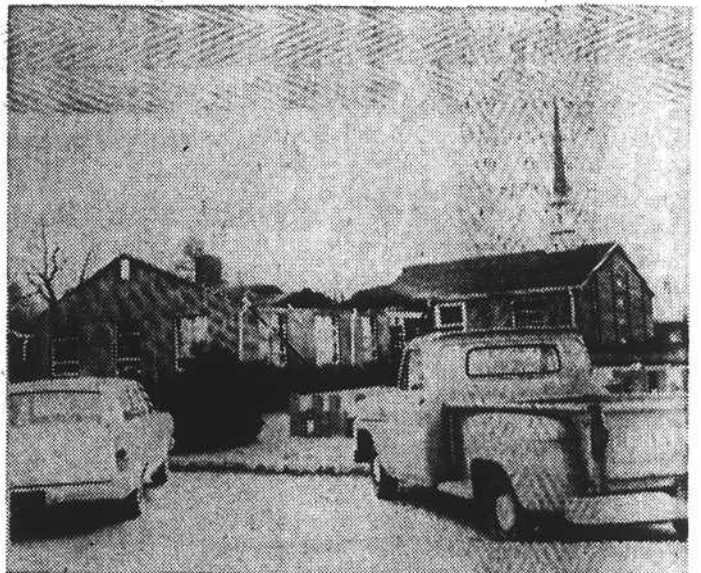
Tom Foscoe recognized two new members of our Executive Board — Mrs. Carol Mattocks, Publicity Chairman and Mrs. Lottie Carroll, Crusade Chairman. He expressed a desire to see them push forward in helping to reach higher goals.

The president stated that E. E. Bell was resigning as memorial chairman. John W. Creagh of Pollockville was elected to fill this vacancy.

Members were encouraged to attend the mid winter conference to be held in Raleigh, February 2. Mrs. Peterson extended her appreciation to the Jones County Unit for having been represented by three members at the annual meeting in October.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned to April 13.

## South Lenoir Church Destroyed by Fire



Howard's Chapel Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 11 miles south of Kinston was destroyed by fire Tuesday night. Some furnishings of the church were saved but the interior was gutted and a majority of the church personal property was damaged or destroyed in the blaze which was found at about midnight. Kinston firemen arrived too late to save the church and its Sunday School wing from the estimated \$70,000 damage suffered in the fire which is believed to have come from the church heating plant. Howard's Chapel is one of the oldest Mormon Congregations in this area, and it is expected that the church will be immediately rebuilt.