

# INDUSTRIALIZATION MOVING SLOWLY, BUT SURELY ALONG IN LENOIR COUNTY

That prodigal Lenoir County town after an absence of even struck by the amazing changes son who returns to the old home a few years is immediately that have taken place in the

face and economy of our area.

present plant in Pennsylvania.

## THE JONES COUNTY

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### New Home for Old Kinston Business North of Kinston



This is not the home of a new Lenoir County business but the new home of an old business that has been serving the area for many years. Overnite Transportation Company, one of the state's major trucking line operators, moved into this handsome and efficient new home early this year after being in crowded and almost inaccessible quarters in downtown Kinston for many years. This brings to three the number of modern truck terminals being operated in the Kinston area. McLean, New Dixie, and now Overnite, all provide fast and efficient freight service for the area and much of the nation.

The farm boy returning is most sadly struck by the large number of old farm homes — some tenant houses, but many fine old homes that are rotting into history. Few farms in the county do not include one or more such weed and vine hidden relics of a bygone era when large amounts of hand labor were necessary for the local way of farm life.

Gone with the tenants are the mules; replaced by either tractors, pigs, or beef animals on a majority of our farms. Farming has changed from a way of life to a complex, highly competitive business, where huge investments in machinery, materials and land have replaced the man, and the woman with the hoe.

This is a process that has been going on since the end of World War Two, and it has now nearly run its course. This has created a tremendous economic and social problem since in Lenoir County, as all over the agricultural south farm-oriented families have been pushed into the towns and cities where they can find little, or no use for their green thumbs.

As farm employment has dwindled industrial and commercial employment has moved in. The area's huge complex of needle industries has expanded again and again and it still is expanding at this moment a great deal more.

That biggest single local employer, Du Pont, is now, as it began 13 years ago, continuing the expansion of its plant and its personnel.

Smith-Douglass, an old industry in Kinston is now rushing to what is hoped to be a September opening its new fertilizer and chemical plant just north of Kinston.

Wall Manufacturing Company is rapidly completing its new home where high quality, precision soldering irons are to be made, replacing the company's

South of town Blendspun is spinning along with something like 40 new local jobs in its textile operation.

A par-four distance from Blendspun the Daly-Herring Company is building a larger and more efficient home for its chemical plant.

Pink Hill is getting a nationally known needlework plant, La Grange is in the process of getting a similar industry.

Frosty Morn has plans for a two-stage expansion of its meat packing plant just west of Kinston.

A short skip and a hop down the road from Frosty Morn a new shirt maker has brought the old skating rink called "Wonderland" and is giving jobs to more local folks.

But no industry in the county has expanded so rapidly as the education industry, which has added more jobs in the past year, both in number and in percentage than any industry in the county.

Despite all of these many expansions of payroll the same economic and social problem remains: That all too few of those displaced persons from the farm have the skill or the temperament for these new jobs.

So while the total income of the county moves ever higher the welfare rolls of the county move in the same or perhaps a greater degree.

### Wednesday Suicide

Thurman Harper, 49, bookkeeper of the Kinston Tobacco Company, hanged himself last Wednesday morning at his home on Kinston route 6. Harper had been depressed for some time, according to reports, when he drove home at about 9:30, went to a packbarn behind his home and hanged himself. He was found and cut down shortly after he had gotten home, but efforts to revive him proved futile.

### Federal Figures Fix Local Lifetime Income at Over \$211,000; Got Yours?

The lifetime earning capacity of the average male resident of Kinston has reached new heights.

Under current conditions of employment, of national productivity, of education and life span, the average local man who is just starting out to earn a living has a prospective lifetime income of no less than \$211,000.

It is no pipedream. It is based on figures recently cited by President Johnson to indicate the dollars and cents value of a better education.

The estimated earning power of the average young man in Kinston, for the 40 to 45 years that he will be working, takes into account the amount of schooling he has received and the present level of income locally in relation to incomes in other parts of the country.

The data comes from the Department of Labor, the Department of Commerce and other sources.

It shows that 98.1 percent of the local male population, age 25 or older, have gone through elementary school, that 16.7 per cent have completed four years of high school and that 11.1 per cent have had four years or more of college.

From a purely financial standpoint, the figures show that whatever investment of time and money is made toward getting a good education produces a very high rate of return.

In general, the average high school graduate will earn approximately \$60,000 more than a person with only an elementary school diploma and a college graduate will earn about \$180,000 more than the high school graduate, according to the latest estimates.

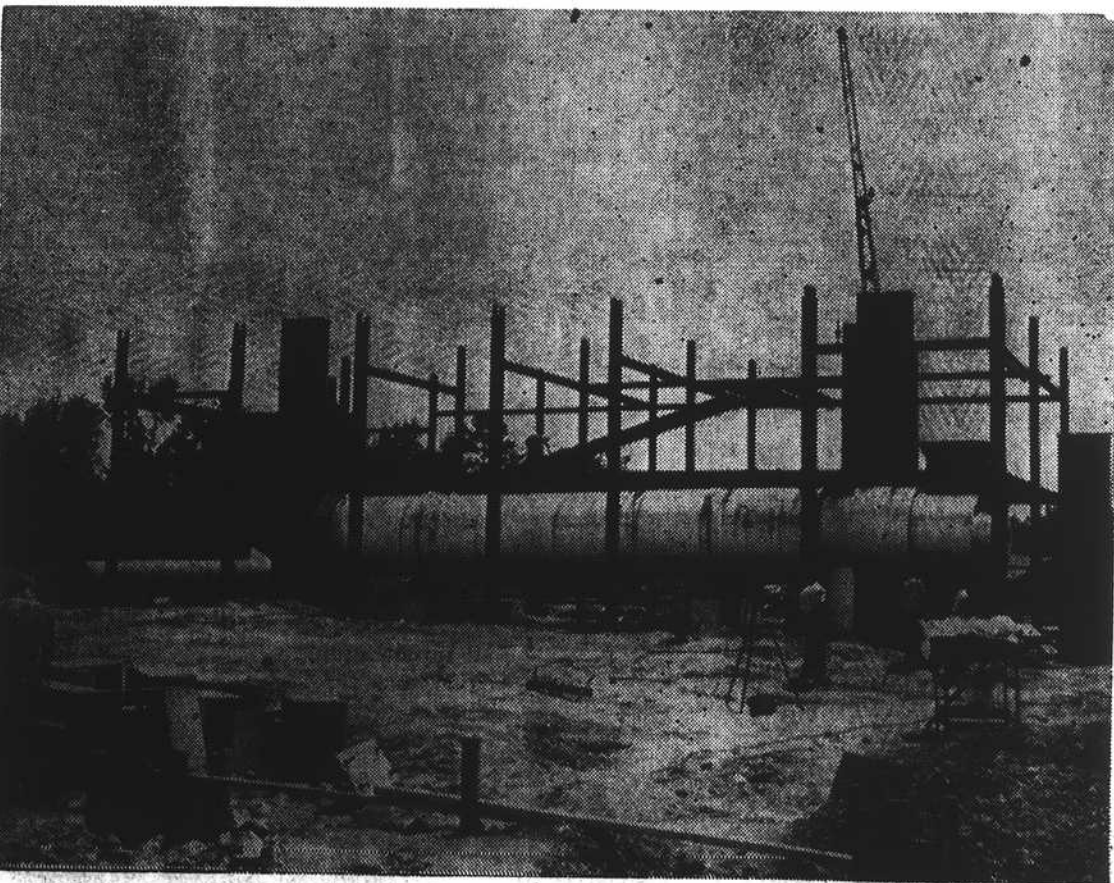
In Kinston, the educational level of the population is relatively high and is steadily moving higher. The median years of schooling, locally, is now 9.6 years for male residents.

This is more than most men in the State of North Carolina are getting, the median being 9.1 years.

For young parents who look forward to seeing their new offspring entering college 18 years hence, now is the time to start preparing for it, say the bankers.

They figure that it will require savings of \$25 a month, invested at 4½ per cent compound interest, to yield \$8,300 in 18 years, just about enough for a college education.

### Huge Machinery Installed In Smith-Douglass' New Plant



Dozens of workers and machines are being pushed in the summer heat to install the huge machines and the buildings to house them at the plant site of Smith-Douglass Company just north of Kinston. The long cylinder shown in the picture here is one of many large and complex pieces of machinery that will make possible a greater production of much more complex chemical products by this newest plant of this old company which has had one of its plants in Kinston since the 30's. A September completion is hoped for by company officials. The old plant on West Bright Street will be used for storage and sales purposes after this manufacturing unit goes into production.