

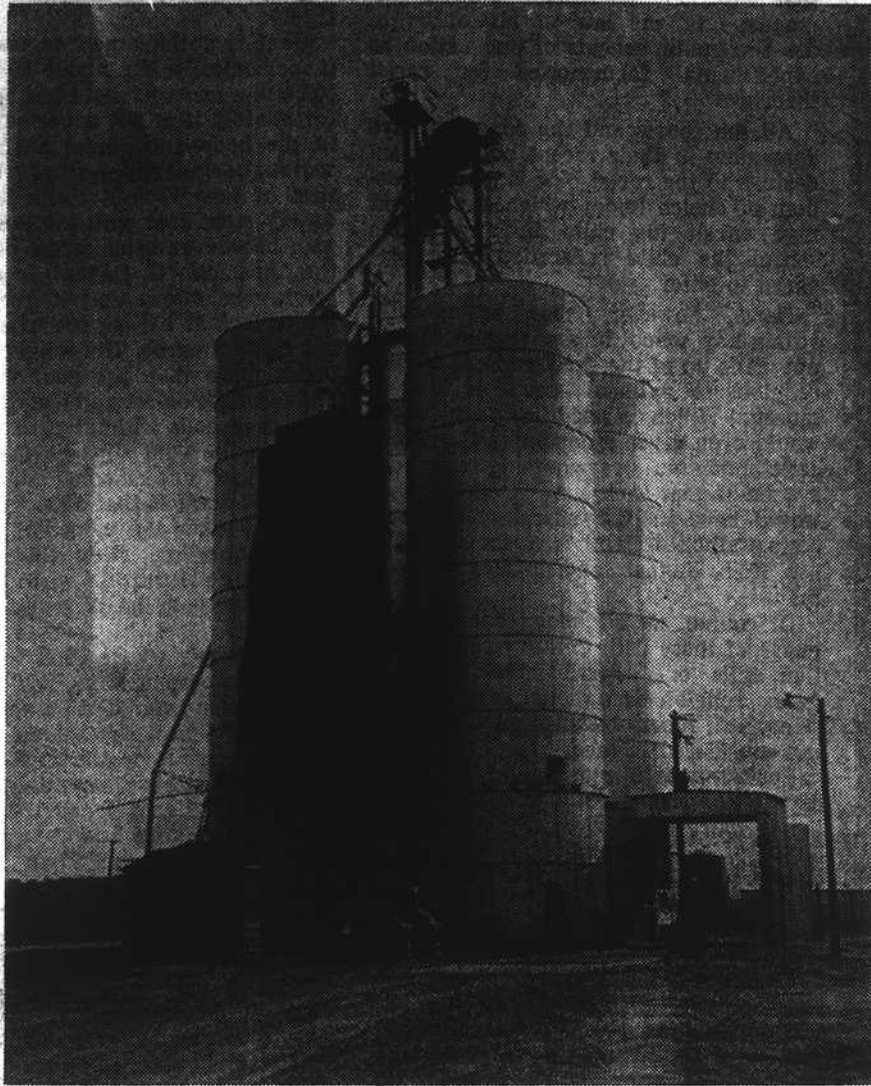
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Corn Business, Increasingly Bigger Business in Eastern Carolina; Carolina-Dixie Grain Company Latest Modern Facility Locally in This Category



This is Lenoir County's newest and most complete grain handling facility, the plant of Carolina-Dixie Grain Company located just off Highway US 258 North of the Kinstonian Motel, on a siding of the Atlantic and East Carolina Railroad.

Going into operation with this harvest season the plant includes the most modern handling and drying facilities and it is a branch of L. Harvey & Son Company of Kinston.

Horace King is general manager of this facility, Laurie Wetherington, formerly with the Lenoir County FCX, is plant manager, assisted by Horace Hardy of Moss Hill and Vernon Kennedy of Southwood. Donald Lane works in the plant office and the grain grader for the plant from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture is Wayne Rigsby.

The storage capacity of the Carolina-Dixie facility is 65,000 bushels and it has an intake capacity of 7,000 bushels per hour and a drying capacity of 1,000 bushels per hour. The most modern hydraulic lift arrangements permits unloading the largest tractor-trailer trucks in three minutes.

From weigh-in to weigh-out on government inspected scales there is only a 10-minute turnaround at this plant. King invites the public to stop by and inspect the operation at any time.

In the most recent reported year corn was planted on one third of all the cultivated acres of North Carolina; this despite the fact that North Carolina farmers were paid \$35,156,000 for NOT growing corn.

Still left in the fields were 1,378,000 acres planted to corn which produced \$115,752,000 worth of corn, with an average state-wide yield of 70 bushels to the acre.

In 1963 North Carolina farmers grew \$98,656,000 worth of corn, in 1964 they grew \$104,608,000 worth of corn and by last year the figure had grown to that listed above, indicating an increase in three years of over \$17 million dollars in the value of the state's corn crop.

The local impact of this corn revolution is reflected in the fact that Lenoir County's cash value of corn moved from \$3,352,000 to \$3,583,000 between '63 and '64. Final tabulations for '65 have not been reported. In the same period Jones County's corn income jumped from \$1,116,000 to \$1,361,000 over a 20 per cent increase.

Despite this healthy increase in corn's contribution to the state economy it still has a long

way to go to overtake tobacco. In the last reported year corn contributed only 5.6 per cent of the cash farm income in North Carolina while tobacco's contribution was 65.1 per cent.

But there is good reason to believe that now with the stabilization that the poundage allocation system has brought to the tobacco end of farming more and more of the farmer's ingenuity will be turned to boosting his income from corn. This has already been reflected in the steady increase in the yield per bushel in North Carolina, which has climbed without hesitation from 32 bushels per acre not so many years ago to last year's record 70 bushels per acre.

In 1964 North Carolina farmers also sold \$369,911,000 worth of livestock and livestock products, and this end of farming is very closely tied to corn in every instance.

In the recent past the greatest investments in agri-business in Eastern North Carolina have been in corn-oriented businesses. All along the railroads that slice through Tobaccoland, U.S. A. Tall granaries are sprouting and the boom has just started.

In Lenoir County and just across the line in Jones County in the past year huge additions have been made to this end of the business. The major contribution these grain handling facilities offer is competition between buyers, assuring the farmer that on a given day he will get the top market price for his corn, rather than as in the past having to take on a given day whatever was reflected in the prices paid by smaller operators who were operating on a much less competitive basis.

But even with the addition of these large facilities Lenoir County is still far short of adequate storage for grain, and this despite the fact that very large installations of on-the-farm storage have been made in the past few years.

The trading area served by Kinston grows each year about 16 million bushels of corn and the vast majority of this is shipped away, to the detriment of the farm economy, since the farmer cannot realize the maximum income from his corn operation unless he markets it through livestock. Selling the raw corn is a quick and easy

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Insurance Commissioner Says Probe Ended in Hail Insurance Fraud; to Bring Indictments in Near Future

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Edwin Lanier said Monday that a prolonged investigation into hail insurance fraud in Eastern North Carolina is now ended.

And the commissioner added, "We are going to indict everyone we believe criminally involved in this affair in the very near future and highly competent legal aid has been approved to assist in the prosecuting of these charges".

In mid-July Lanier held a brief news conference in which he revealed that certain instances of hail insurance fraud had been uncovered, involving insurance agencies and farmers and at that time Lanier promised more information at a later date.

In patience has grown since this promised additional information has not been given after four months. Farmers who have been put under a blanket of suspicion by Lanier's July

statement have gotten increasingly madder, especially when they take into further consideration that because of this hail insurance fraud on the part of a few farmers all honest farmers have had to pay greatly increased hail insurance premiums over a period of several years.

This week Lenoir County farmers were talking of raising money for private prosecution of the charges, and of making requests that Lanier and his investigative staff be called before the Lenoir County Grand Jury to answer questions on this affair.

On Monday, however, Lanier assured that there was no need for farmers who had already been penalized with higher hail insurance prices to spend any more of their money on this matter since the study was his to prosecute those he believes to be criminally involved and this he said he was going to do to the limit of his ability.

Eight Cities Study Recorder's Court Co-op Power Plant Has Slow Week At Greenville Meet

Last Thursday night representatives of eight Eastern North Carolina cities met in Greenville to discuss studies that have been made on the construction of a large electric power plant to serve all involved.

The preliminary studies indicated the need of a plant with an estimated price tag of slightly less than \$70 million dollars, which would be financed by revenue bonds issued against the plant's income.

Monday night the Kinston City Council named its attorney, Fitzhugh Wallace Jr., as its interim director on the board of the co-operative power plant that is under study to serve the cities of Greenville, Washington, New Bern, Tarboro, Wilson, Rocky Mount, Farmville and Kinston.

Held For Murder

James "Mink" Williams of Trenton route 2 is being held without bond in the Kinston City Jail, charged with first degree murder in the shotgun death of Dora Davis Miller of 223 Lincoln Street. Police say Williams has admitted firing the 12 gauge shotgun blast that struck Mrs. Miller in the upper chest at about 9:30 Sunday night at her home. Williams is scheduled to be given a preliminary hearing at 2:30 Thursday afternoon in recorder's court.

Fish Sampling Next Wednesday; Public Invited to Watch

The N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission will conduct a fish census program in Trent River on Wednesday, October 12.

Commission fish biologists will meet at Pollocksville around 10:30 a.m. and the fish sampling will be done in areas from Old River to Quaker Bridge, using an electro-sampling device and chemicals.

The public is invited to witness this program, which will determine the types and growth rates of fish in this area. People who wish to watch may launch their boats at Pollocksville.

Recorder's Court Has Slow Week

An unusually light week was reported in the past week for Jones County's Recorder's Court.

Only nine cases were cleared from the court docket and as usual traffic cases were in the majority.

The only non-traffic cases were those of James Willie McClain, alias Bill Shaffer of Maysville who had a charge of breaking and entering noll pressed and Linnie James Mattocks of Maysville, who was given the same treatment for a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

Speeders who paid off included Jesse Hines of Swansboro, Llewellyn Daniels Jr. of Wanchese and Jerome Marshburn of Hampton, Va.

Hezekiah Harper of Maysville, Louise Bland Smith of Goldsboro and Mon Haynesworth of Kinston each paid \$13 for not having their car inspected.

James Prescott of Jacksonville paid \$13 for driving an improperly equipped car.

Quiet Session Held By Commissioners

One of its quietest sessions in many months was enjoyed Monday by the Jones County Board of Commissioners.

Routine reports were heard and approved and minor budgetary adjustments were made to bring the county's budget in line with matching fund budgets in state departments.

The board also voted to ask for a pay raise — not for itself but for future boards. The request which will be passed to the county's representatives in the general assembly will seek raises from \$25 to \$75 per month for regular board members and from \$50 to \$100 for the chairman. The same raises were also asked for school board members.

The board also agreed to appropriate Jones County's part of the cost of a mental health clinic being set up in New Bern to serve Pamlico, Craven, Carteret and Jones counties.

ONE JONES ARREST

The only person booked at the county jail in the past week, according to the records of Sheriff Brown Yates was Herbert Green of Trenton who was accused of drunken driving.