

THE STATE WE'RE IN - AN APPRAISAL OF AN APPRAISAL OF OUR ECONOMY

By Jack Rider

Since the establishment of the North Carolina Fund in 1963 I have kept reasonably close tabs on this effort to break the cycle of poverty that binds so many people. I have read the frequent reports and watched the experiments conducted in pilot projects in this end of the state.

It is difficult to criticize charity or to cuss Santa Claus, but a large part of the effort of this Fund has been spent on hiring sociology majors to write theses that reflect mountains of desk-acquired statistics and precious little practical research.

The latest in a long line of these theses is "The State We're In", called by its author, Carol Van Alstyne, "a candid appraisal of Manpower and Economic Development in North Carolina".

What it really is, is another typical desk survey which compares North Carolina with the other 49 states and the District of Columbia. I suppose the state can stand another of these "Thank God for Mississippi" pieces, but they shed very little new light, and offer no help toward greater utilization of our state's basic resources.

At the risk of sounding too theoretical, I declare the goal Miss Alstyne has set for North

Carolina is impractical and possibly impossible.

Her goal, "Simply stated, is to close the income gap". Between what?

Miss Alstyne suggests, between North Carolina and the other 49 states. But is income the only factor to be used in a formula for deciding how well off or how bad off a state, or an individual happens to be?

None of the many graphs and statistical charts used by Miss Alstyne shows accurately what the per capita income of North Carolina really is.

She uses the same tired, inaccurate figures that have been waved in the face of our state since a department of sociology was set up at Carolina.

All such collections of figures overlook a primary consideration: That much of North Carolina's income is from farming, and no statistician, nor internal revenue agent knows how many pigs a sow has or how many bushels of corn are grown on every acre of North Carolina soil.

Some farmers report every penny of their farm income, but most of them are just as honest with their income tax report as the average non-farmer, which leaves something to be desired,

from the government's point of view.

Miss Alstyne touches lightly on another aspect, which is the cost of living in North Carolina compared with other states: She says, "The income which we have used for setting economic development targets is money income. The value of such goods and services as home-grown food or rent-free tenant houses is not included. A full measure of economic well-being, however, must include not only the goods and services consumed but also the resources devoted to producing them. Thus, if we were to balance adding in the value of home-grown tomatoes, for instance, we would also have to take into consideration the labor time spent and LEISURE FOREGONE to produce them."

Well! And with such a well-manicured brush of the statistical pen Miss Alstyne wipes out all the smoke houses, freezers, pantries, hen houses, milk cows and vegetable gardens in the State of North Carolina.

But Miss Alstyne doesn't hesitate to set North Carolina beside Alaska in her statistical tables, when she in "Table 4" shows Alaska ranking 1st in the nation in hourly wages to factory workers and North Caro-

lina ranking in flat last-place tie with Mississippi.

And in another sentence of "socialese" she says, "Taking both the positive and negative non-monetary factors into consideration, state comparisons of relative well-being using per capita income may not be materially altered".

I haven't seen so much horse manure since the livery stable was torn down.

To even infer in this high-blown special language that a family living in town is as well off as a family living on a farm if each family has the same cash income is too ridiculous for serious rebuttal.

But quite aside from Miss Alstyne's desk survey of warmed over statistics, she has missed the most basic point.

Which is that North Carolina more than any other state has passed through a fantastic agricultural revolution in the past 20 years and this has cast up on frequently hostile shores people who lack the skills for much of modern industry.

Among the facts of North Carolina's economic life that Miss Alstyne overlooks, or ignores is that a far higher percentage of North Carolinians live on the farm than in any other

state in the union.

In addition to unjointing usable income comparisons this also creates a considerable reservoir of labor that is productive at a lower wage than in urban areas. The farm wife, whose children have all reached school age and whose husband is able to handle the farming operation can and does often take a job in town. In textiles, garments, chemicals, clerking, nursing and practically every other area. The income she adds to that of her husband is the difference between borderline and prosperous living. It adds the second car — or a car to supplement the farm pickup truck. It means college to their children, a new home and pursuit of the leisure activities that the sociologists love to sprinkle their dreams with.

Miss Alstyne dwells at length on the fact that much of the industry added to North Carolina in recent years has "exploited" this reservoir of cheap labor.

This is ridiculous. Nobody has seen a chain gang working in these industries but on the other hand these industries have been the only ray of hope for many families whose farm-income has been hedged ever more (Continued on page 8)

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Jones Representatives to Girl State



Pictured here are Annette Lowery at left, and Claudia Armstrong, the two Jones County delegates to Girls' State being held in Greensboro June 25 to July 1. The two rising seniors will study government and citizenship at the university of North Carolina at Greensboro. Claudia is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Armstrong, and Annette is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Lowery.

The girls will attend the District Demonstration Day at North Lenoir High School on Tuesday, June 27. Claudia will compete in the Dress Review and the Home Improvement Demonstration. Annette will compete in the sewing and talent demonstrations, and is a candidate for district reporter.

They will return to Greensboro the same day to finish out their stay at Girl's State.

Recorder Becton Lets Drunken Driver Off With Costs

Clerk of Court Walter Henderson reports eight cases tried in recorder's court in the past week, the majority of them traffic violations.

German Lindell Johnson of Washington, and Carl Weldon Franks of Rt. 1, Pollocksville paid fines for not having inspection certificates on their cars.

Dennis Ray Stillely of Comfort and Elmo Jones of Route 1, Maysville paid \$26 dollars for reckless driving.

James Carrol Sanders of Route 1, Edward, N. C. was found guilty of drunken driving, received a prayer for judgment continued on payment of the court costs.

Clifford Ross of Cherry Point was found guilty of failure to yield the right of way from a private drive and paid the court costs. David Larnell Barfield of Route 1, Trenton paid \$13 for failure to report an accident.

Julius "Baby Ray" Jordon Jr. of Pollocksville pled guilty to damaging personal property and was given thirty days to work the public roads suspended on the condition he pay for a broken windshield and the court costs.

Nellie Ruth Batts on Dean's List at Bob Jones University

Twenty-two students from North Carolina are included on the Dean's List of Bob Jones University at Greenville, S. C. Students listed earned at least a B average during the second semester.

Nellie Ruth Batts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Batts of Pollocksville Route 1 was among this group.

Suits Totalling \$160,000 Filed in Jones Court from Lenoir Accident

A New Year's Day accident in Lenoir County has resulted in

two law suits being filed in Jones County Superior Court during the past week.

James Nelson Basden, administrator of the estate of Mary B. Basden is asking \$150,000 damages in the death of his wife. Basden is suing for another \$10,000 as next friend to a minor, Rose Marie Basden, who was injured in the same accident.

The actions are brought against the drivers and owners of both cars that were involved in the accident.

The Basdens were riding in a car owned by Corace Lee Basden and driven by James H. Basden that collided with another car owned by Frances Dudley and driven by Judy Lawrence Dudley.

The accident happened at about 2:30 p.m. New Year's Day five miles north of Kinston on the Greenville Highway.

Mrs. Basden lived for about five days after the wreck.

At the time of the accident Miss Dudley was charged with failure to yield the right of way and manslaughter, but the manslaughter charged was dismissed in a preliminary hearing in Lenoir County Recorder's Court.

ARTHUR BACK IN STATES

Signalman Third Class James M. Arthur, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Arthur of Pollocksville, recently returned to Newport, Rhode Island, aboard the destroyer leader USS Willis A. Lee, after a six-month Mediterranean cruise.

Memorial Baptist Bible School Has 85 Daily Average

The Vacation Bible School of Memorial Baptist Church was held during the week of June 12-18, with an average attendance of 85.

Every day each department had a Bible story and a character story told by their teacher. After the Bible study, the different departments worked on creative activities.

The teachers for the Vacation Bible school were: Nursery Department, Mrs. Helen Mills, Mrs. A. J. Jones, Charlotte Gardner, Linda Philyaw;

Beginner Department, Rebecca Parsons, Mrs. Dorothy Morton, Sonda Rowe;

Primary Department, Mrs. Elaine Kellum, Mrs. Sam Moore, Mrs. Virginia Freeman, Mrs. Ethel Humphrey, Betty Southard;

Junior Department, Mrs. Grace Monette, Mrs. Peggy Bond, Jane Buck, Mrs. Pauline Davis;

Intermediate Department, Mrs. Frances Hughes, Mrs. Sarah Jo Meadows.

Pianist was Ann Strobel. Refreshments were served daily by Mrs. Guy Eubank and Mrs. Robert Gerock.

Son Undergoing Psychiatric Tests Following Slaying of His Father

Jones County authorities have taken 32 year-old Manley Campbell Jr. to Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro following his arrest Saturday for murdering his father at their home on Trenton route 2.

The younger Campbell was arrested last Wednesday on a simple assault charge that grew out of a family argument.

After his release from custody on the assault charge he went back home and he and his father got in a fight which re-

sulted in the father's death some hours later from head injuries he suffered.

After brief detention in Trenton Sheriff Brown Yates decided it would be in the best interest of the accused man to take him to the mental hospital for treatment and examination.

Other arrests in the past week included that of James Carroll Sanders of Edward who was charged with drunken driving and Graham Hill Jr. of Stella who was also accused of drunken driving.

Two Jones County Boys on Dean's List at State U.

Educators at North Carolina State University have honored two Jones County students who achieved high academic honors in the demanding study of electrical engineering.

William Clay Adams of Trenton and Robert Theodore Noble of Rt. 2, Dover were among a

record number of NCSU men and women to win places on the Dean's List.

To qualify for the honors, NCSU students must compile scholastic averages of "B" or better.

Adams, a junior, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Adams of Trenton.

Noble, a sophomore, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Noble of Rt. 2, Dover.

They are both graduates of Jones Central High School.

Both were on the Dean's List for the fall semester.