

THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 34

TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1968

VOLUME XVI

Guilty Pleas Comprise Majority of District Court's First Work Week

The pattern was the same, only the price was slightly changed as the first week of Jones County District Court went into the record books, replacing the old recorder's court which expired with the opening of the new court on the first Monday of December.

The majority of cases cleared were traffic cases, and the majority were cleared with pleas of guilty before either a magistrate or the clerk of court.

Paying fines and court costs for speeding were Rufus Newkirk of Jacksonville, John J. Iwanick of Camp Lejeune, Donald Rudolph Teel of Fort Bragg, Roosevelt Morgan of Chocowinity, William Everett Sutton of Wilmington route 2, Jerry Wayne Moseley of Cary, James Franklin Murphy of Pollocksville, route 1, Charles Ray Henderson of Trenton, Robert Lee Smith of Tomahawk, Edward Kenney Riley of Fayetteville, George Dodson of Camp Lejeune and Raymond Edward Lewis of New Bern route 1.

John H. Skahill of Camp Lejeune was found not guilty of speeding.

Leroy Koonce of Pollocksville was fined \$100 for drunken driving.

In non-traffic cases David E. Daniels of Kinston route 3 was fined \$10 and costs for hunting with an unplugged gun, Thomas Lee Berry and Steve Morgan of Pollocksville route 1 and Jasper Stevens and Talbert King of Trenton route 2 were each taxed with the court costs for public drunkenness.

Eugene Strayhorn of Pollocks-

ville had a 30-day jail term suspended for carrying a concealed weapon, on condition the shotgun be confiscated, that he pay the court costs and not violate any law for one year.

Other minor traffic violators who paid the \$15 court cost include Archie David Benson of Kenansville route 1, Malcolm Bloomfield of Trenton route 1, Nettie Holt Mattocks of Maysville route 1 and Charlie Koonce of Trenton route 2.

Judge Walter Henderson heard all the cases in which trial was required. He is assigned to both the civil and criminal dockets of Jones County District Court for the rest of December.

Vandals Hit College

Last Friday night vandalistic thieves broke into Lenoir County Community College and stole equipment, and money and did damage estimated near \$5,000. Principal items missing were eight typewriters. Five of nine vending machines in the building were also torn open, but since they are emptied of money each afternoon there was little money in them for the thief, but damage ran to several hundred dollars. The sheriff's department is also investigating the reported theft of \$50 in cash, a .38 pistol and a woman's watch from a trailer belonging to Frank Hedgepeth at the Mayflower Trailer Park.

Jones County Hog Breeder Bobby Cox Conducts Slaughter Tests on 16 Head

The results of an official performance test lot of 16 Poland China pigs owned by Robert E. Cox of Trenton route 2 have been announced by the National Poland China Record Association of Galesburg, Illinois.

The sire of the group tested was Exciting 2nd, top selling boar in the Chappell's 1967 fall sale. He is a full brother to Exciting CSMS, the National Barrow Show Premier Sire in 1967.

The 16 head were all farrowed between February 9 and May 12, 1968. They were placed on test on April 29th and July 8th at an average weight of 47.7 pounds. They were officially weighed at that time by J. R. Franck, Jones County Extension Chairman, who cooperated in

running the test along with Clifton Barbee of the Richlands Milling Company and the Poland China Record Association.

The 16 head were weighed off test in 2 groups, the first group going to slaughter on July 24th and the last group on October 25th. They averaged 220.9 pounds at an average of 158.9 days of age and required 315.8 pounds of food for each 100 pounds gained.

All of the 16 head were slaughtered at Frosty Morn Packing Company in Kinston, where their pork carcass measurements were taken. In spite of their young age at slaughter, they averaged 4.59 square inches of loin eye muscle and 1.37 inches of average backfat. They had

Basic Ground Rules Set Forth for Jones County's New District Court

As one part of the new district court set up a simple system for accepting pleas of guilty has been established by Presiding Judge Walter Henderson.

Persons may plead guilty without waiting for a session of court on the following charges by paying the \$15 bill of costs, plus as indicated, in some instances an additional fine.

Public drunkenness, improper parking, failing to have vehicle inspected, following too closely,

failing to yield right of way, making improper turns, giving improper signals, failing to stop for stop sign or stop light.

Speeders not exceeding the posted speed limit by 15 miles an hour, or not exceeding 75 miles per hour may plead guilty and pay fines based on one dollar for each mile they are charged with exceeding the speed limit.

Driving without a license, permitting an unlicensed driver to drive, driving with an expired license or permitting it, driving on the wrong side of the road all carry \$25 fines plus the \$15 costs.

Fines of \$10 are levied in guilty pleas for improper passing, driving too slowly, failing to dim lights and littering.

Weight, registration and equipment violations pay the costs unless false papers or statements are involved.

All persons charged with felonies, with a second moving traffic violation within 12 months, in wrecks involving more than \$100 damage or personal injury, drunken or reckless driving, racing, passing stopped school buses, failing to yield right of way to emergency vehicles, failing to obey an officer or a fireman at the scene of a fire, leaving the scene or failing to report an accident, driving while license are revoked, or permitting this to be done, any violation of the financial responsibility law, any violation involving altered or stolen plates, licenses or registration papers and any false statements have to appear in court.

TRAY RINGS STOLEN

Last Friday afternoon, while clerks at Whitfield Jewellery Store were busy waiting on high school students who'd come in to pick up class rings a sneak thief stole a tray of about 12 diamond rings from the front section of the store. The theft was not discovered until closing time, when clerks began picking up and found one tray missing.

Albert Mitchell Helps Keep Army Choppers Flying

The Chinook helicopters of B Company, 228th Helicopter Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Division, require extensive daily maintenance. One of the men who works at this continuous job is Private First Class Albert A. Mitchell Jr., of Route 2, Trenton.

"The routine repairs get a little monotonous after a while, but, the job gets challenging sometimes when one comes in with something out of the ordinary wrong with it," said PFC Mitchell.

Before entering the Army, PFC Mitchell worked on the family farm, and attended a technical school in his home state. He plans to take up farming again after leaving the service.

GETS EXTERNAL HEADACHE

Ralph Clark of Dover route 2 was given a sudden, external headache Saturday night at a place operated by Johnny Flowers in the Caswell Corner of Jones County. He didn't know "who dunnit" and was patched up and released at Lenoir Memorial Hospital.

a pork carcass length average of 30.1 inches.

These tests are being run in an effort to locate the lines of breeding that produce the most superior meat type carcasses in the shortest time and on the least amount of feed.

TAX STUDY COMMISSION REPORT MAKES MOST SENSE OF SPECIAL REPORTS YET FILED

by Jack Rider

Each session of the North Carolina General Assembly wisely defers actions on broad and controversial matters by authorizing studies, and providing funds so that a long, cool look can be taken at such projects in order that succeeding legislatures will have the benefit of such information.

This year as in all recent years these reports begin to fall rapidly as the convening of the next legislative session approaches.

The first heavy drop fell from the State Board for Higher Education, and much of it made sense, but it had major flaws, largely because it was too far too oriented to the single-all-powerful board concept, which would be utterly dominated by the University at Chapel Hill.

The second big report was in the highway department, and its content was simply another heavy dose of the same old stuff, largely neglect of the far east and far west and continued subservience to the hogs of the Piedmont.

Finally a good report has come out and the citizens of North Carolina, from the sea to the mountains, in big counties and small all owe a vote of thanks to the nine members of the commission who have made such a fine and courageous effort to provide the state with a more equitable tax structure.

These nine are Chairman James Currie of Raleigh, Ernest Machen Jr. of Charlotte,

John Alexander McMahon of Chapel Hill, Wills Hancock of Oxford, Harry Caldwell of Greensboro, John A. Williams Jr. of Raleigh, Clarence Leatherman of Lincolnton, Sneed High of Fayetteville and Phillip Godwin of Gatesville.

Principal among the recommendations of this commission are county-option sales and income tax laws, which would permit each county to levy a one-cent sales tax and an income tax equivalent to 10 per cent of the state income tax, and permit cities to raise auto license from \$1 to \$5. There are other recommendations but these three are the real meat in the coconut.

What This Represents If the general assembly accepts these recommendations it will mean at last a shift from ad valorem taxes as the principal basis for financing city and county governments. Something that should have been done long ago.

When local governments were organized the services provided by city and county governments were very small. No public schools, no public hospitals, no public libraries, no public health programs, no public sewer and water systems, no public welfare programs, no fire departments, no police departments, no county-wide police organizations, or fire departments, and no public recreation programs.

But today's citizens not only expects these services, but expects these to be constantly improved and expanded and more

services added.

An assortment of so-called non-tax sources of revenue, plus ever-rising taxes on land and personal property have managed to half-way fill the local needs, but the time has now been reached when such a taxing program has reached a point of diminishing returns.

On the basis of present collections by the state these programs would bring to counties and corporate communities \$62,517,773 from the sales tax, \$21,143,076 from the income tax, and \$2,860,600 from the license tax increase.

To Lenoir County the impact would be in this fashion: The county itself would get \$552,308 from the sales tax and \$150,765 from the income tax. On the present \$140,449,052 tax listed valuation of Lenoir County each 10 cents of tax levy raises \$140,449.05, provided everybody pay's his taxes, which means the sales tax increment to Lenoir County would be the equivalent of a 39-cent tax levy, and the income tax increment would be equivalent to another 10 1/2 cent tax levy.

For the corporate communities of Lenoir County the yield would be \$163,145 from the sales tax, \$44,534 from the income tax and \$32,624 from the auto license increase for the City of Kinston.

For La Grange these figures would be \$8,121, \$2,217 and \$2,728.

For Pink Hill these figures would be \$3,210, \$876 and \$960.

And Grifton, which is in both Pitt and Lenoir Counties, would receive \$9,033, \$2,832 and \$2,648 from these sources.

Under this set up Jones County would get \$35,124 from the sales tax and \$17,349 from the income tax.

Jones corporate communities would share as follows:

Maysville \$1,069, \$528 and \$824.

Pollocksville \$659, \$325, and \$400.

Trenton \$540 and \$267, since Trenton presently has no license tag fee for car and truck owners in its town boundaries.

Objections

Many people have a first and serious impulse to oppose taxes on food, since the cry is immediately raised that this is a tax on the poor. This is absurd, and will not stand up under even casual consideration.

If the \$3000 per year income is used as a poverty yardstick, which is not a very practical one, but is one currently and frequently referred to, and if it is further assumed that a family with such an income spends two-thirds of that amount on food — which is also a high estimate, an additional one-cent sales tax would cost such a family only \$20 per year, or less than 50 cents per week.

If the ad valorem tax on the grocery store building and its inventory are increased the grocer has to raise the the price

of groceries, so the consumer is the ultimate payer of all taxes anyway, and the levy of a simple and easily collected tax transfers the burden of taxation from such inanimate objects as land and buildings to people. It costs a county very little to serve a thousand acres of farm land, but it costs the county very much to provide all the services demanded and expected for a family of five.

County-Option?

The first objection of many to this plan is that it proposes make the plan optional to each county, in that it may be implemented simply on motion of the board of county commissioners, or by a referendum called by the commissioners or if the commissioners refuse to call for such a referendum a petition of qualified voters equalling 15 per cent of the number of votes cast in the last gubernatorial election may also force a referendum to be held.

It is difficult to see how any hard-pressed board of county commissioners would refuse to immediately implement such a program, but it is possible and it is the feeling of many that the plan in order to be as nearly fair as possible to every citizen needs to be state-wide.

The question of voting it into law on a statewide basis or leaving it up to each of the 100 counties will be one of the points debated at greatest length by the legislature.