

# JONES COUNTY HAS 2.9 PER CENT LESS PUPILS, 40.5 PER CENT MORE TEACHERS

## Kinston Students Increase 69.9 Per Cent, Teachers Increase 169 in 20 Years

by Jack Rider

For a state in which the teacher shortage is one of the oldest and most constant myths North Carolina has done pretty good in keeping the supply at least up with the demand in the past 20 years.

Since the 1949 school year there has been an increase of 33.7 per cent in the total state enrollment of public school students, but in that same period teachers have increased over 81.8 per cent. Pupils rose from 843,745 in 1949 to 1,195,583 in the current school year, an increase of 301,838. Teachers on the payroll in '49 numbered 24,625 and this year their number, in spite of the "great shortage" has risen to 54,225.

At the local level the figures are even worse, or better, depending on which side of the education fence one stands; paying or the spending.

Jones County has fewer pupils this year than it had in 1949, largely due to the stupid help of the health, education and welfare department and the federal courts. The Jones County enrollment in this period fell from 2963 to 2875, a drop of 2.9 per cent, and teachers on the payroll rose from 101 to 142, an increase of 40.5 per cent.

The Lenoir County school system enrollment rose in that 20-year period from 6538 to 8150, which is a 24.8 per cent increase and during the same period the teachers on the county system payroll rose from 213 to 400, which is an 87.7 per cent increase.

In the Kinston system, things get even worse, or better. The number of students in this 20-year period rose from 3699 to 6298; an increase of 69.9 per cent. Teachers on the Kinston payroll skyrocketed from 113 to 304; which is an increase of 169 per cent.

### The Federal Hand

But the vast majority of this proliferation of teachers did not get into full flight until the federal government moved into the public schools with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which dumps something close to \$60 million per year into the North Carolina public school system, and added a lot of feather-bedding to the educational apparatus, something it never could afford under local financing, which was to some reasonable degree under local

controls.

However, when the federal money became available local school boards that had been very careful with the taxpayers' money began a mad scramble, powered by that universal propellant: "If thy're gonna throw it away we may as well get all we can get while the getting is good."

And look what has happened in the brief five years since the heavy federal hand got in the act:

At the state level the increase of enrollment was just 8,925 (from 1,186,568 in '63 to 1,195,583 this year) and that increase has only been possible through a wasteful assortment of make-do programs at the high school level which has resulted in keeping many students in high school whose ability to absorb further education is most doubtful. Also the Vietnam War which has kept a lot of other boys in high school who otherwise would have been out at work, paying taxes rather than having tax money wasted on them.

For the past year high school enrollment in the state rose, but elementary school enrollment fell. The actual figures: 5,339 fewer elementary pupils and 7,655 more high school students. This reflects the absence of something like 55,000 elementary students now enrolled in private schools to escape the enforced racial integration that the public schools are suffering.

While the total student load for the state rose by only 9,925 students in the past five years the number of teachers on the payroll rose from 44,452 to 54,225, an increase of 9,773, a gain of 21.9 per cent more teachers than pupils. In percentages this reflects an 0.75 per cent pupils and an increase of 21.9 per cent in teachers.

Again the picture is even worse, or better at the local level.

In Jones County there was a drop of 296 in total enrollment (from 3,171 to 2,875), reflecting a 9.3 per cent drop in students, while the number of teachers rose from 122 to 142, an increase of 16.3 per cent.

In this five-year period Lenoir County's school system lost 686 students in total enrollment, (from 8,836 to 8,150), a drop of 7.9 per cent, but at the same time the Lenoir County system

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## Record Highway Spending in Jones, Greene, Lenoir

District Highway Commissioner W. W. Exum of Snow Hill this week filed a year-end report on road work in the various counties of his district and this report, covering almost four years shows record high spending in Jones, Greene and Lenoir counties.

And the report indicates also that work in progress or under progress will continue for at least another year this trend toward greatly expanded road building in these counties.

In Lenoir and Jones counties the major expenditures have been for the widening of US 70 to four lanes for the full length of that highway through both counties, and in Lenoir County another major project is the widening of NC 11 from the Du Pont plant northwardly to four lanes into Greenville.

was gaining 42 teachers, or a gain of 11.7 per cent. Or 686 fewer pupils and 42 more teachers!

In the Kinston system the enrollment shrunk by 255 students (from 6,563 to 6,288), or 3.8 per cent, while teachers increased by 66, or 25.6 per cent.

It is impossible, of course, to say what the average teacher salary is, because there is a daily fluctuation in the experience and educational background of the overall teaching staff.

But the lowest salary in the 1967-68 school year for an elementary B certificate teacher with no experience was \$315 per month for nine months and five days, and the highest salary to a graduate certificate holder with 13 years experience was \$763 per month for the same time period.

All of which would indicate that \$5,000 is very close to the median nine months and five day pay of teachers.

At the state level over the

## Eternal Triangle

Thomas Hetzel was on the painful apex Friday night of an eternal triangle involving himself and a girl who was courting both he and James F. Harper of Al bertson route 1. Harper admits shooting Hetzel under the left eye with a .22 caliber pistol. The bullet left Hetzel's head just behind the left ear, apparently without doing too much damage, since at Noon Saturday hospital attendants said his condition was satisfactory. Harper said he shot him for advancing on him with a knife after he had told him not to slap their mutual girl friend again. Harper was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

## Milling Co. Seeks Collect \$1,369

One civil suit was filed in the office of Jones County Court Clerk Rogers Pollock during the past week.

In this suit Maysville Milling Company asks the court to award it \$1,369.01 with interest from August 1, 1967 from Tommie Meadows, this being the balance it alleges to be due for goods delivered to Meadows prior to that date.

past five years with an increase of 8,925 students and 9,773 teachers this adds up to something in the order of an annual additional cost for teachers of about \$48,865,000.

At the Lenoir County level with a drop of 686 pupils the annual cost of teachers in this period has risen a minimum of \$210,000.

Cost of teachers in the Kinston system with 255 fewer pupils has risen by not less than \$310,000 and in Jones County the minimum increase in teacher cost has been \$100,000 per year with 296 fewer students.

## Sharp Increase in Highway Deaths in Lenoir County 1968

Traffic fatalities jumped from 17 in 1967 to 25 in the year just ended, but the corresponding statistic involving injuries and property damage did not rise in the same ratio.

Still by far the worst year in Lenoir County in traffic was 1964, when 35 persons were killed on the county's streets and highways, and 10 persons died in a single accident just south of Kinston.

As the year begins the highway patrol is pushing every effort to keep the accident toll down with an all-out drive against speeding and drinking drivers.

On the happy side of this tragic annual total is the fact that for about 10 years the number of deaths, number of accidents and number of disabling injuries per million miles driven has dropped.

This year across the state, with the final toll not in because of some delayed deaths that always push the record a few notches higher, the statewide toll will fall just short of the 1900 mark.

## LAND TRANSFER

The only land transfer recorded during the past week in the office of Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker was that of 12.32 acres in Pollocksville Township from James Black to Burley J. Black.

## BROTHERS HAVE TROUBLE

The Lenoir County Sheriff Department charged J. C. Thomas of Goldsboro route 4 with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill after he slashed a five-inch gash in his brother, J. C. Thomas' neck, as they road in a car on US 70 just west of Kinston last Thursday night.

# STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ADDS 2,316 PUPILS AND 1,372 TEACHERS FOR THIS YEAR

The 13th annual fall Public School Survey, just completed by the State Department of Public Instruction and based on figures reported by the State's 157 county and city school superintendents at the end of the first month of school, indicates that the "holding power" of the high schools is increasing — fewer pupils are dropping out of school.

For the third straight year, enrollment increases at the high school level have been far greater than at the elementary level. This year's survey reveals a marked reduction in elementary enrollment; 5,339 fewer elementary pupils, primarily due to a decreased enrollment in the first grade — 110,418 in 1968 as compared to 112,292 in 1967.

Meanwhile, this year's high school enrollment increased by 7,655 pupils. Overall increase for the year totals 2,316 and the number of public school pupils has increased 18.4 percent (from

1,009,382 in 1956 to 1,195,583 in 1968) during the past 13 years.

Forty-one of the State's 100 counties have an overall enrollment decrease from 1956 to 1968 while seven counties, during the same period, have shown enrollment increase of over 40 percent — Cumberland, 89.3 per cent; Mecklenburg, 68.4; Onslow, 57.7; Wake, 52.9; Guilford, 46.5; Forsyth, 42.1; and Orange, 40.6. The numeric increase in these counties has amounted to 115,007, or nearly 62 per cent of the net overall increase for the State.

A "plus" pointed out by State Superintendent Charles F. Carroll was the fact that 31,405 of the State's 54,225 professional school personnel (57.9 per cent) are receiving local salary supplements. Although this percentage has increased at a steady rate each year since 1956, it did not reach the 50 per cent point until 1966. The number of certificated personnel receiving

local supplements was 28,971 last year, only 54.8 percent of the total.

The number of "brand new" teachers this year (teaching for the first time) is the largest increase for any one year in the public history of the State — jumping from 3,823 last year to 4,343. The number of men in the public schools is now 12,863, an increase of 570 over last year and representing 23.7 per cent of the total staff. And another "plus" — vacant teaching positions were reduced at the end of the first month to 183 from 289 vacancies at the same time in 1967.

Dr. Carroll pointed out, however, that the number of personnel teaching out-of-field (areas other than those for which they are certificated) more than 50 percent of each school day increased from 570 in 1967 to 613 this year; also, the number of personnel holding less than a class "A" certificate (college

graduates) increased from 2,441 to 2,740 in the one-year period.

"Meanwhile, 51,777 of our 54,225 certificated personnel hold either the class "A" or Graduate certificate (master's degree) representing, 94.4 per cent of the total and an increase of 1,001 over last year," he said.

Dr. Carroll also pointed out that the public schools continue to add professional personnel at a faster rate than new building facilities, resulting in more mobile and temporary facilities. The increase in certificated personnel employed for the current year totals 1,372; new classrooms made available during the past year were 2,008 with 1,130 obsolete and inadequate classrooms being abandoned for a net gain of only 878 classrooms. The survey indicates 7,123 additional classrooms are needed at the present time: a total of 2,923 to take care of existing excess enrollment and 4,200 to take care of students now being instructed

in unsatisfactory facilities. Only 1,904 classrooms are scheduled for completion during the present year, 5,219 too few to fulfill the current need.

This year, 8.72 percent (a total of 104,280) of North Carolina's children are attending school in temporary, improvised, or overcrowded classrooms. The shortage of classrooms has resulted in 1,250 of the pupils attending school on a "double-shift" or less than full-time basis.

The State superintendent said the classroom findings in the new survey are approximately the same as those indicated in a special study conducted by the Division of School Planning last January. Projections made from that study indicated that at least 22,233 additional classrooms will be needed by the public schools of the State within the next 10 years to replace those that will become obsolete and to provide for increased and shifting student populations.