

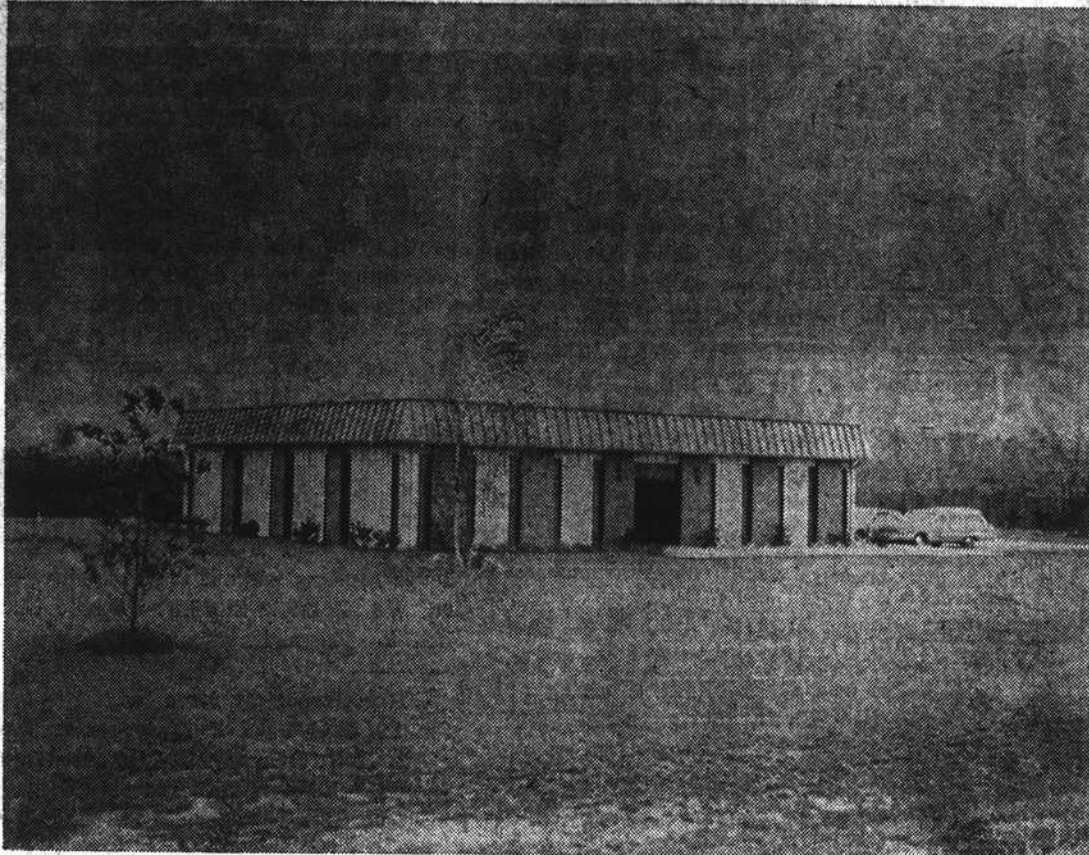
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Handsome Home of One of Newer Lenoir County Businesses



This most attractive building just north of the Kinstonian Motel on US 258 is the home office of one of Lenoir County's newest businesses: SMS Contractors. Frank Rouse, a native of the Moss Hill section, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rouse, is president and general manager of the company. The principal business of SMS is fencing and guard rails along highways and its contracts have carried its highly specialized crews all over the United States. The firm is a new one to Lenoir County but it has been in operation in the Piedmont for many years. Rouse, who flies his own plane about the country to supervise his company's operations, got tired of commuting so far to the old Piedmont offices and late last year decided to bring headquarters closer to home. A large amount of the mechanical equipment belonging to the company is serviced, and occasionally stored in a large building which is located immediately north of the handsome headquarters building.

State Veterans Board Awards 350 College Scholarships on Tuesday

Tuesday of last week the State Board of Veterans Affairs awarded 350 college scholarships to children of veterans.

Of this total 150 are scholarships awarded to children of men who died in combat, or who suffered 100 per cent disability as the result of wartime service.

Another 100 of the scholarships went to children of veterans who have a disability rated over 30 per cent but less than 100 per cent by the Veterans Administration.

The final 100 scholarships were awarded to children of veterans on the basis of their financial needs and academic ability.

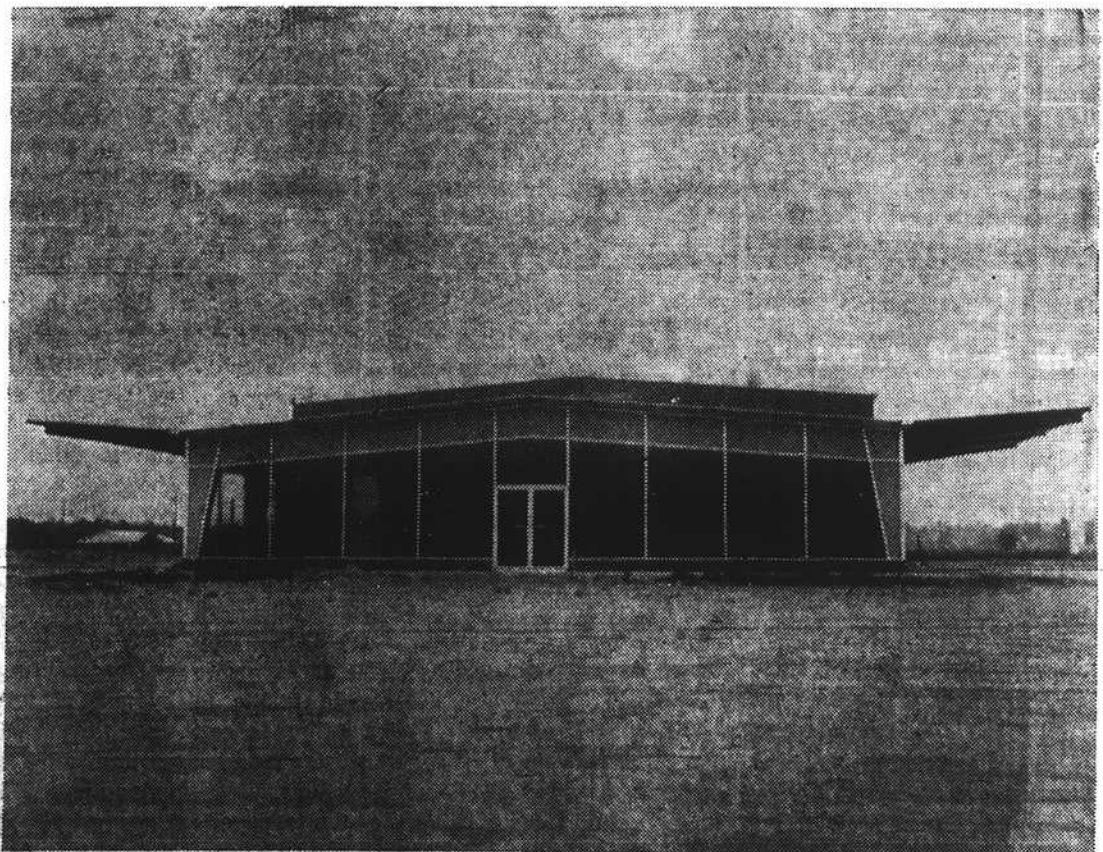
Effective this year the General Assembly has made these state scholarships available in all accredited North Carolina colleges. Until July 1st of this year the scholarships were only available in state supported institutions of higher education.

Members of the State Board of Veterans Affairs are Chairman Wesley Cullipher of Elizabeth City, John R. Dickerson of Monroe, William E. Bass of Hickory, Dudley Robbins of Willard and Jack Rider of Kinston.

Ex-officio members of the board are the state commanders of the American Legion, The Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Disabled American Veterans,

World War I veterans, AMVETS and Spanish American War Veterans.

Another Firm Deserts Kinston for Falling Creek Township



This is the soon-to-be home of Poole Buick Company which is the latest business addition to the economy of Falling Creek Township. This large and attractively designed building is located at the intersection of US 70 with Highways US 258 and NC 58. Occupancy is expected late this month. Two other Kinston automobile dealers have purchased tracts of land in Falling Creek Township and plan early construction of new homes in the area. Just east of the Poole Buick Company Building Starr Beaton Chevrolet Company has purchased a large tract of land and W. H. Jones Motors has purchased another large tract a bit further east and adjacent to the Richard Caswell Park where its new home is to be built in the near future.

Debt Service, Schools Major Causes

Lenoir County Budget Up \$575,096.36.

This week the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners approved the budget estimate for 1969 - 70 and it totalled \$3,542,872.25, which is an increase of \$575,096.36 over the '68-'69 budget and to bring it in balance an increase of eight cents in the tax rate will push the countywide tax rate to \$1.73 on the \$100 valuation.

Principal items in this half-million dollar increase were a jump of \$277,617.25 in the debt service department and an increase of \$248,272 in the school budgets.

Sale of \$3 million hospital bonds at 5.67 per cent interest last month and retirement of \$1 million in bond anticipation notes accounted for the major jump in the debt service department, which went from \$240,139 last year to \$517,756.25 this year. Total allocations to schools moved from \$1,418,061.41 last year to \$1,664,333.02 this year.

General fund allocations rose from \$554,059.52 to \$579,889.12. Hospital funds went up from \$134,000 to \$153,500.

The welfare budget climbed from \$307,149 last year to \$363,701.26 this year.

The Health Department budget rose from \$106,068 to \$111,192.60.

The community college fund rose from \$122,500 to \$144,000.

Under the general fund allocations for auditing and accounting rose from \$20,326 to \$22,410, the extension department rose from \$37,364.73 to \$38,260.73.

The airport's fund went up from \$20,855.98 to \$25,785.66, defense allocations dropped from \$2,240 to \$1,700, the coroner's fund rose from \$1,900 to \$2,250, the county commissioners' fund rose from \$8,500 to \$9,500, courthouse maintenance dropped from \$56,207 to \$11,680, the election board fund rose from \$13,636 to \$17,772, the \$2,500 allocation to the fat stock show remains the same.

Forest and rural fire protection rose from \$13,243 to \$55,651.51, industrial development rose slightly from \$27,429.38 to \$27,489.34, insurance and re-

tirement costs fell from \$36,975 to \$34,845, jail operation rose from \$13,430 to \$14,900, legal expenses went up from \$4500 to \$4600, planning commission funds were reduced to \$700 from \$1100, library funds rose from \$35,563 to \$37,200, recreation programs went from \$18,000 to \$19,176, register of deeds office went from \$27,952.90 to \$30,981.90, repairs and sales tax went from \$2100 to \$7400, sheriff department rose from \$79,099 to \$94,853, surplus food went from \$6500 to \$12,000, tax department rose from \$62,961 to \$66,700, recorder's court and clerk of court which were in last year's budget in the amounts of \$10,421.85 and \$11,735 respectively were eliminated since the cost of court operation is now borne by the state and the item last year for superior courts of \$10,184 was eliminated for the same reason.

The contingency fund was reduced from \$26,383.80 to \$25,736.60.

With the first big block of hospital bonds sold at 5.67 per cent interest, which is 41.07 per cent higher than anticipated, when the hospital bond issue election was held, and with the hospital trustees authorized to spend \$2 million more than originally promised — an increase from \$5,775,000 to \$7,775,000 — the projected 35-cent tax rate increase now looms something more nearly like 60 cents, and this presumes that the interest rate will not go higher.

The general assembly has passed legislation calling for a vote in all 100 counties in November 1970 on an additional one-cent sales tax which would be divided between the county and the municipalities in the county.

If this is approved by the voters of Lenoir County something very near to \$1 million would be divided in this fashion, and presuming that the county received half of that million this could absorb about 30 cents of that looming 60-cent tax rate boost.

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Trouble and Bananas Come in Bunches

At about 11 Tuesday night a Wayne County Deputy Sheriff fell in behind a car that later was found to be driven by Willard Jones Jr., of 3702 Tyler Drive in Mount Vernon Park just west of Kinston. Jones took off with the deputy in hot pursuit. Then the deputy called in Highway Patrolman K. R. Ross and when the high speed caravan hit Lenoir County Patrolman D. O. Wiggins joined the parade, which ended shortly after Jones' car hit that of Ross at the entrance to Mount Vernon Park. Jones took off on foot, resisted strongly being put under arrest and suffered lacerations in the tussle which caused the officers to take him to Lenoir Memorial Hospital. While there a Lenoir County Deputy came in and served a warrant on Jones charging him with kidnapping a 14-year-old LaGrange route 3 girl on June 23rd. For the chase he was charged with speeding 90 miles an hour, drunken driving, driving while his license was revoked, hit and run driving, resisting arrest and failing to stop for a police car.