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Strong Effort Planned by FHA to Aid More Worthy Rural Families in Getting Family Size Farms and Decent Homes

James T. Johnson, State Director of the Farmers Home Administration, and members of his Real Estate Loan Division met with the Agency's County Supervisors from 13 eastern counties of the State in Kinston, on August 21-22.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways and means of assisting more worthy rural families to obtain decent homes and to purchase and develop family farms.

Special instructions were given for carrying out the Agency's responsibilities in connection with interest credit home loans authorized by the Omnibus Housing Bill of 1968. The group also received advice on processing loans for rental housing to both profit and non-profit applicants in rural areas.

Johnson pointed out that the average age of farmers in North Carolina is increasing and stressed the need for assisting more worthy young farmers to become established farm owners.

A study was made of the real estate loans processed during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969, which showed a great number of real estate loans made than in any previous year of the Agency's history.

Johnson informed the group

PRISON TERM INVOKED

Last week Samuel Bryant of LaGrange route 3 began serving a 5-to-7 year prison term for involuntary manslaughter after the court of appeals had found no error in his trial last year in which he was convicted after an accident that claimed the lives of two of Bryant's children and a woman who were riding in his car when it went out of control and hit a tree and utility pole in the Bucklesberry section of western Lenoir County.

that the outlook for real estate loan funds for the current fiscal year is favorable in that the budget recommended by President Nixon provides substantial increase in lending authorizations over the previous fiscal year.

Senator Sam Ervin Reviews New Military Justice Procedures

The Military Justice Act of 1968, which I helped to draft and pilot through Congress last session, went into effect several weeks ago and constitutes one of the most important revisions ever made in our military judicial system.

In general terms the Act makes nine major changes in the Uniform Code of Military Justice:

(1) It provides that legally qualified counsel must represent an accused before any special court-martial empowered to adjudge a bad conduct discharge; in other special courts-martial, legally qualified counsel must be detailed to represent the accused unless unavailable because of military conditions. In addition, a military judge must preside over a special court-martial empowered to adjudge a bad conduct discharge unless unavailable because of military conditions.

(2) It creates for the first time an independent judiciary for the armed services, composed of military judges who are insulated from control by line commanders and who will now preside over military trials with functions and powers roughly equivalent to those exercised by federal district court judges.

(3) It modernizes outmoded and cumbersome military trial procedures to conform more closely with federal court practices.

(4) It permits an accused to waive trial by the full court and

Notice Boaters

The Kinston Power Squadron will offer its FREE course in small boat handling on Tuesday, September 2nd at 7:30 p.m. Registration will be held for this fall Piloting Class at Building 31 at the Kinston airport. This U. S. Power Squadron course is open to everyone over the age of 16 and ownership of a boat is NOT required.

to be tried by a military judge sitting alone, much as a civilian defendant can waive a jury trial and be tried by the judge alone.

(5) It strengthens the bans against command interference with military justice.

(6) It bars trial by summary court-martial — where there is no right to defense counsel, no independent judge, and no jury — if the accused objects.

(7) It transforms the intermediate appellate bodies from "Boards of Review" into "Courts of Military Review" with independent military judges.

(8) It authorizes for the first time a military form of release from confinement pending appeal.

(9) It extends the time limit for petitioning for a new trial from one to two years, and strengthens other post-conviction remedies available to servicemen.

These changes have modernized the Code of Military Justice, which for generations was little changed from the system which prevailed at the time of the American Revolution. The 1968 Act equates military justice with that dispensed by federal and state civilian courts in most respects. However, there is one major area of reform which the Military Justice Act does not touch at all. This concerns administrative discharge boards, which are established within the armed services ostensibly for administrative rather than disciplinary pur-

Marine Plane Crash in Sand Hill on Tuesday Morning Kills One, Hurts One

At 9 Tuesday morning an A-6 Marine Corps plane nosed into a corn field on the Leamon Daughety Farm seven miles northeast of Kinston, killing one of its crew members and seriously injuring the other.

Both had ejected a split second before the plane roared into the ground, plowing out suddenly a crater 20 feet deep and over 30 feet in diameter. The surviving crewman landed about 200 feet from the point of impact and the dead crewman was tangled in his parachute within 50 feet of the crater.

Sidney Hill of 17 Mitchell Wooten Courts, who was visiting the James Cox Family saw the plane coming in from the northwest, headed to the southeast, flying almost straight down into the soft sand.

The force of the impact disintegrated the plane and scattered small bits of it and large amounts of dirt over a 20-acre area.

One or two scattered pieces of the plane did burn, but there

was no general fire.

Highway Patrolmen and Sheriff Deputies were the first officials upon the scene with Kinston firemen, who stood by in case of any general fire.

A helicopter from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base arrived about an hour after the crash, being delayed because it had to wait to be refueled. About 10 minutes after the Air Force team arrived a Marine Corps helicopter arrived and later in the day a rescue unit arrived by road from Seymour Johnson.

The surviving crewman was given emergency treatment at Lenoir Memorial Hospital for two broken legs and was then transferred to the Camp Lejeune hospital.

This is the second military craft to crash in Lenoir County this summer and in the other crash in Falling Creek Township one member of the three-man Air Force plane was killed.

Both planes were on routine training missions at the time they crashed.

Plane Crash Reports Show Weakness Of Eye-Witness Testimony by Reporters

By Jack Rider

One rather frightening reflection on Tuesday morning's plane crash near Kinston was the wide variation of accounts written by "trained" newsmen who were on the scene shortly after the crash.

Roy Hardee of the News and Observer with a half day of file his story reversed the order of helicopter rescue unit arrivals. He was taking pictures as they landed, but gave the Marines credit for landing first, rather than the Air Force.

Actually such boards are empowered to give "undesirable" discharges for acts or omissions which could — and often should — be the subject of courts-martial. Since the American Bar Association has recommended legislation in this area and since the Defense Department has indicated an interest in such reform, I believe that legislation can be enacted this year in this vital area. I have re-introduced my earlier proposals on this subject, and shall pass for enactment of them at the earliest possible time.

Several reporters from the Kinston Daily Free Press saw evidence of fire and explosion and had stretched the crater to 80 feet in diameter.

In summary, the shock of such a tragedy always exaggerates some things in the eyes of startled beholders, and it is easy to understand how people viewing the same scene can come up with such greatly different versions.

This reporter was shocked by the size of the crater plowed out by the plane and by the wide area over which dirt and tiny bits of the plane were scattered when the plane disintegrated on impact. The roadway at least 250 feet from the crater was solidly covered with dirt and with thousands of tiny scraps of the plane.

One bit of conjecture all seemed to agree upon was that the crew had next to no notice that the crash was about to take place since both ejected from the plane just a split second before it hit the ground and the survivor "hit the silk" an apparent half of a split second earlier than the one who died on impact with his parachute never fully opened.

JONES COUNTY RETAIL SALES INCREASE 62 PER CENT IN FOUR YEARS; STATE UP MORE

By Jack Rider

Lenoir County's retail merchants could relax and smile if they took into consideration just the fact that the county's retail sales between 1965 and 1969 increased by a whopping 75 per cent.

Jones County's retail sales gain was 62 per cent, climbing from \$4,814,000 to \$7,844,941 in this period.

But a second glance at this tabulation offered by the state department of revenue is more a cause for gloom than joy. . . since retail sales in the state as a whole increased 122 per cent over that same period, which means among other things that Lenoir County's retail sales fell 47 per cent behind the state in that brief period.

In 1965 Lenoir County's gross retail sales amounted to \$70,842,000 and in the fiscal year just ended on June 30th they hit \$123,546,800.

The state, however, jumped from \$4,975,292,000 in 1965 to \$10,938,485,772 in the year just ended.

Lenoir County was running but getting further behind all the

time.

In 1965 Lenoir County sales represented .0146 per cent of the total sales in the state but last year Lenoir County's slice of the total retail sales pie had fallen to .0112 per cent of the state total.

When percentages are shaved that finely it is hardly impressive except to the people so directly involved but a slippage of .0014 per cent in four years is a matter of vital concern to the entire community.

Viewed from the automatic viewpoint; that additional small slice would have meant an additional retail sales in 1968-69 of \$15,313,880 if Lenoir County had maintained its same slice of the total state sales that it had in 1965.

Sister counties to Lenoir generally fare better than Lenoir with its 75 per cent increase in this four-year period.

Craven County climbed 98 per cent from \$57,101,000 to \$113,805,840.

Duplin County climbed 125 per cent from \$31,524, to \$71,095,627.

095,627.

Greene County did most poorly of any area county with only a 22 per cent increase from \$9,886,000 to \$12,143,177.

Onslow County despite the war boom expected around Camp Lejeune just climbed 70 per cent, rising from \$71,373,000 to \$122,265,062.

Pitt County with a college boom on its hand saw retail sales climb 78 per cent from \$82,455,000 to \$146,629,052.

Wayne County also nursing a big military base fell behind the state average increase but still had a 98 per cent gain from \$80,502,000 to \$160,185,795.

Wilson County almost met the state average gain with an increase of 113 per cent from \$59,502,000 to \$126,969,269.

And a very good question is: Where were the big gainers?

Percentage-wise the biggest gainer was one of the so-called poor counties in the Lost Colony area: Currituck, reflecting the tourist trade, hunting and fishing jumped a whopping 271 per cent, but its overall sales were still a tiny part of the total. It rose, however, from \$2,368,000

to \$8,791,866.

The next ranking gainer percentage-wise was also the biggest gainer dollar-wise, The real state of Mecklenburg which did not suffer because it had added an additional one-cent sales tax saw retail sales climb 207 per cent in this period and its sales move from \$438,710,000 to \$1,345,017,019.

These were the only counties to boost as much as a 200 per cent increase in retail sales during this period. There were 10 counties that had percentage gains over the state average.

They were: Catawba, posting 153 per cent gain from \$99,550,000 to \$251,430,048.

Chatham, posting 141 per cent gain from \$23,908,000 to \$56,446,852.

Dare, also basking in the tourism dollar gained 183 per cent, moving up from \$8,719,000 to \$20,783,047.

Forsyth's sales moved upward 129 per cent, from \$245,801,000 to \$563,125,184.

Small Graham notched a 158 per cent increase from \$2,648,000 to \$6,844,856.

Big Guilford clung to its second place in the retail sales competition, moving up 173 per cent from \$352,557,000 to \$927,370,932.

New Hanover, fighting back after the low blow it was hit by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, and also sharing in the almighty tourist dollar gained 127 per cent, moving from \$100,545,000 to \$227,474,253.

Orange County was busy slicing the higher education pie and jumped 128 per cent from \$39,693,000 to \$89,630,001.

Sleepy Pender had an agricultural boom, gaining 163 per cent and moving up from \$7,736,000 to \$17,319,102.

Last, but far from least, Big Government, Big Education Wake County climbed 179 per cent from \$246,823,000 to \$687,637,429.

There are a lot of retail merchants in every part of Lenoir County and in three major shopping centers in Kinston who are making a lot of very elaborate plans to see that Lenoir County's slice of the retail sales dollar grows larger and not smaller in the years ahead.