

PRELIMINARY CENSUS FIGURES SHOW TREMENDOUS GAP BETWEEN REALITY AND RECORD

George Thomas, who is listed as the District Manager of the census bureau, last week released rather ridiculous figures which were declared to be "preliminary" population counts for 1970.

This uneducated guess shows a drop of 1,282 in the population of Jones County and a decrease of 503 in the population of Lenoir County.

Also the "preliminary" 1970 population of Kinston was revealed to be 2,979 less than in 1960.

Jones County's 1970 population was put at 9,723 compared to 11,005 in the last census, Lenoir County's '70 count was put at 54,773 compared to 55,276 10 years ago.

And Kinston's current headcount was put at 21,840 compared to 24,819 in the last counting.

The vital statistics department of the State Board of Health put the 1969 population of Jones County at 11,005 and the Lenoir

County population at 63,897.

The board of health figures do not attempt to evaluate out-migration or in-migration figures and represent only the net difference between births and deaths in each county.

Experts agree that purely agricultural counties such as Jones have lost population in the past 10 years but there is total local disagreement with the view that Lenoir County has lost population since it is by a wide margin the most heavily industrialized county in Eastern Carolina, except New Hanover.

Mayor Simon Sitterson says he discussed the matter with Thomas who said, "This is my first contact with federal red tape and it will be my last." Thomas also agreed that the figures were absurd, but they were the figures so far turned in to his district office.

In Kinston many census forms were not picked up by census takers and all were supposed to have been, and faint publicity

was given to the fact that all persons who might have been missed by the door-to-door workers should mail their returns to Goldsboro. Very few did.

The disagreement with these preliminary figures is not purely local but is being heard from every part of the nation.

In North Carolina, and quite likely in most other states, official census figures have an extreme importance in the allocation of specific public funds.

Kinston stands to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars over a 10-year period if this ridiculous drop in population is permitted to go by as the official figure.

Allocation of money from the new one-cent sales tax is predicted totally on population and highway department funds under the Powell Bill are in part based on population.

The Kinston City Clerk's office reports this week that it has 7,304 residential utilities customers inside the corporate limits, plus 612 units of housing be-

longing to the Kinston Housing Authority, whose housing units do not have individual metering.

This makes a total of 7,916 housing units inside the corporate limits of Kinston. In an area with nearly 40 per cent Negro population the average size family is well over four per family, but presuming upon only an average of four to the family would give Kinston in excess of 40,000 population and if this broad average system of estimating population is reduced even to the extremely low of three per family Kinston's population is well over 30,000.

The city utility system also has 2,163 residential customers

outside the city limits and Carolina Power & Light Company serves over 9,000 customers in Lenoir County but its local office does not have a breakdown between commercial and residential customers. There are also smaller numbers of residential customers served by three REA co-operatives in the fringes of the county.

But on the basis of the absurd discrepancy between the actual daily home count maintained by the city utilities department and the "preliminary" 1970 census report there is no doubt that somebody has goofed, and goofed very badly.

Kinston Fire Chief Retires, Former Department Officer Named to Position

City Manager Jim Blue announced at a press conference Monday morning the retirement of Fire Chief Bob Faulkner and the appointment of Former Kinston Fireman David Lee to succeed him.

Faulkner has been a member of the department since May 8, 1938 and was named Chief after the death of Joe Hailey in January 1969.

Lee served with the local department for 16 years, leaving in August 1961 to work in the State Department of Insurance as an instructor in the fire and rescue service.

Lee left that post in 1967 to coordinate the fire protection program of Guilford County, serving as that county's fire marshal.

In June of 1969 he formed the David Lee Fire Equipment Company in which he remained active until his appointment to the Kinston position.

Assistant Chiefs O. D. Lee and Carl Davis will continue in their capacities until July 1st, when Lee's appointment becomes effective.

The fire department, which enjoys the state-wide reputation of being one of the state's finest, has recently been suffering a unionism attack, which continued through the Monday night meeting of the city council at which more demands were listed by union spokesmen.

Already a lengthy list of demands has been presented and twice the city council has refused to recognize the Kinston Firefighters' Association as the lone bargaining agent for all the city's firemen.

Monday night the spokesman added these further demands: That the promotion system within the department be changed, that written tests for promotions

of North Carolina's School of Business It is designed to further elevate the real estate business through education of the (Continued on page 8)

count 20 per cent rather than 45 per cent, that service of five years be necessary for lieutenants, 10 years for captains and 15 years for assistant chiefs, and that all vacancies be filled as quickly as possible — and the climax was the demand for a 25 per cent pay hike in the 1970-71 budget period.

The city council listened and made no comment on this latest collection of demands.

Final Approval is Given Instrument Landing Locally

Last week the Federal Aviation Agency gave final approval to a grant which insures the installation of an instrumented landing system for Stallings Field at Kinston.

This grant plus matching funds from the city and county which own the airport is considered a major step forward in competing for commercial air service in Eastern North Carolina as well as insuring continuation of service for the foreseeable future at the local facility.

At a joint meeting of the two boards Friday with the airport commission formal acceptance of the grant was made, along with the implementing legislation necessary from local governmental units.

Drowned in Pond

At about 7 last Wednesday afternoon Keith Randall Byrd, 20, of Pink Hill route 1 drowned in a farm pond near the Pink Hill airport. His body was recovered at about 10:30 p.m. by the rescue unit of the Kinston Fire Department. Reports were conflicting about the death; one saying he was alone in the pond and another that there were others present who watched Alphin go into water over his head without warning him or making any meaningful effort to rescue him.

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Health Board Figures for 1969 Show Burdensome Per Cent Venereal Disease Suffered by State's Colored Citizens

	Population	White	Colored
Lenoir	63,897	40,129	23,768
Jones	11,005	5,665	5,340
State	5,013,318	3,784,242	1,229,076
Venereal Disease 1969			
Lenoir	332	24	308
Jones	3	0	3
State	19,423	3,244	16,179

This tabulation from the annual report on communicable diseases from North Carolina State Board of Health emphasizes one major concern many parents suffer from total racial integration of the public schools.

This shows that 24.5 per cent of the state's population had over 83 per cent of the venereal diseases reported to the health board in 1969.

The break-down by counties for Jones and Lenoir follows the same pattern with 100 per cent of the little venereal disease in Jones County suffered by colored persons and 92 per cent of the venereal disease in Lenoir County suffered by the counties colored citizenry.

This public health problem is accentuated by the spread of venereal disease in age groups which reach into the public

school system.

In 1969 there were 5,194 cases of gonorrhea among children between the ages of 15 and 19. Of these 701 cases were suffered by white children and the other 4,493 cases were suffered by colored children in this age grouping.

Also in 1969 syphilis was reported in 217 instances among those in the 15-19 age bracket and of this total 16 were white children and the other 201 cases were suffered by colored children. And of the 11 cases of syphilis reported in the age group 10-14 all cases were suffered by colored children.

Gonorrhoea cases in the 10-14 age grouping totalled 180 in '69 and of these 26 cases were suffered by white children and the other 154 cases were suffered by colored children.

Monday Murder

At about 3:45 Monday afternoon Mrs. Alice Holmes, 27, wife of William Henry Holmes of Kinston route 7, suffered a .12 gauge shotgun wound in the lower stomach which killed her almost instantly. The shooting took place at Mrs. Holmes' mother Mattie Coward's home on the Cunningham Farm just north of Kinston and the sheriff's department indicted William Ellis Brown of 517 Lincoln Street on an open charge of murder, pending a hearing in district court set for Thursday.

Eight from Lenoir County Attending Realtor Institute

Eight Lenoir County real estate brokers and sales representatives are presently enrolled in the 23rd Annual Realtor's Institute at the University of North Carolina's School of Business in Chapel Hill.

Kinston area participants are: James S. Hartis, John B. Jordan, Elsie Raye Scott, Margaret P. Whitehead, Jerry Rice, Grace S. Kleinmaier and Kit Wagenseller.

The Realtor's Institute, which continues through June 19, is a joint venture of the North Carolina Real Estate Educational Foundation and the University

DISTRIBUTION IS MAJOR PROBLEM INVOLVED IN NATION'S OVERALL RACIAL DILEMMA

by Jack Rider

Georgia Senator Richard Russell a good many years ago, when the heat was beginning to really be applied to the racial integration issue, rose on the Senate floor to suggest that the problem was simply one of distribution and he offered, certainly with tongue in cheek, legislation that would have set up machinery to distribute the nation's Negroes on the basis of about 11 per cent to each school district of the nation.

Naturally, Senator Russell's sensible suggesting got no where, and it is not likely to

ever be implemented, and this is not to suggest that the idea has merit because the Negro has just as much right to live in the area of his choice as anyone else.

But a glance at recent figures of the North Carolina Board of Health on the estimated state population for 1969 surely support the senator's premise.

The Negro population of North Carolina is estimated at 1,229,076 for last year, which is 24.5 per cent of the state's total population which was guessed to be 5,013,318.

Nationally the estimated percentage of Negroes is about 12 per cent, which gives North Car-

olina roughly twice its pro rata share.

But even in North Carolina the distribution of the Negro population is unbelievably far apart, ranging from the high of 63 per cent Negro in Northampton County to the low of .26 per cent Negro population in Mitchell County. In Northampton 16,035 of the county's total population of 25,312 is Negro. In Mitchell County there are only 34 Negroes out of a total population of 12,759.

There are three other North Carolina counties with less than 100 Negroes: Clay 32, Madison 58 and Yancey 90.

There are 14 North Carolina

counties with less than 1,000 Negroes: The four already mentioned plus Allegheny 196, Ashe 125, Avery 108, Dare 434, Cherokee 449, Graham 302, Haywood 949, Macon 243, Transylvania 978 and Watauga 242.

At the other end of this spectrum there are 10 counties in which non-white population is larger than the white. These are Bertie, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hoke, Northampton, Robeson and Warren.

Nationally the inequitable spread is in about the same proportions. There are two of the 50 states that have less than 1000 Negroes: Vermont with 519

and North Dakota with 777.

There are 11 states that have less than 10,000 Negroes each, including the two already listed there are Alaska 6771, Hawaii 4943, Idaho 1502, Maine 3318, Montana 1467, New Hampshire 1903, South Dakota 1114, Utah 4148 and Wyoming 2183.

This leads to the rather startling contrast which gives Lenoir County with 23,768 Negroes more Negroes than the 9 states of the nation with the least Negroes; since the total number of Negroes in Vermont, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, Utah, Wyoming and Maine is only 21,857.