

JONES LOSES 1,226 POPULATION IN DECADE; LOSS OF 450 WHITES AND 776 NEGROES

Jones County's official population in the 1970 census was 9,779, down 11.1 percent from the 1960 figure of 11,005.

The official population of the state was 5,082,059, up 11.5 percent from the 1960 population count, which was 4,556,155.

The 1970 census counted 5,383 white persons in Jones County, 55.0 percent of the total; 4,392 Negroes, and 4 persons of other races. In 1960, 53.0 percent of the population was white.

This reflects a drop of 1,226 in the county's total population in the 10-year period; 450 of that loss was in white population and 776 of the loss was in colored population.

The census showed 849 children under 5 years; 3,014 in ages 5 through 17; 5,105 people 18 through 64; and 811 who were 65 and older. The population 14 years and over included 4,321 married people, 578 who were widowed, 111 divorced, and 1,942 never married.

Jones County's 1970 population was classified as 100 percent rural.

There were 2,691 households, with 9,754 persons, including 312 one-person households. In addition 25 persons were living in group quarters.

The 1970 census counted 3,034 housing units in Jones County, 1,851 of them occupied by owners, 840 occupied by tenants, and 343 vacant. These included vacant units for seasonal use. The proportion occupied by

owners in 1970 was 61.0 percent, compared with 49.3 percent in 1960.

Among year-round dwelling units there were 2,750 single family houses, 73 housing units in multi-unit buildings, and 193 mobile homes or trailers. The percentage of occupied units with more than one person per room was 16.0, compared with 27.0 in 1-1960. Of all the occupied housing units, 1,771 had piped water, toilet, and bath, while 920 lacked some or all plumbing.

The median value of owner-occupied houses in Jones County was \$8,100, compared with less than \$5,000 in 1960. The median rent paid by tenants in 1970 was less than \$30 per month, compared with \$35 in 1960. Half were over and half

below the median figures.

These results are from two 1970 census advance reports for the state: PC (V2), General Population Characteristics, and HC(V1), General Housing Characteristics. The reports, which contain additional 1970 census data for the state and various areas within it, may be purchased at nominal prices from the superintendent of documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from offices of the Department of Commerce in major cities.

Further reports giving more extensive statistics on the characteristics of the population and housing will be published in future months as the 1970 census results are tabulated.

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Ten Criminal Cases, Five Civil Suits Set for Trial in Next Week Court Term

Judge Marvin K. Blount is scheduled to preside over a one-week mixed term of Jones County Superior Court beginning next Monday and Solicitor Walter Britt and court officials have prepared a trial calendar that includes just 10 criminal cases and only five civil actions.

The criminal side of the calendar includes auto theft against Jerome C. McClesse, drunk driving against Jesse Earl May, Public Drunkenness against Claude Kinsey, cruelty to animals against Lendell W. Walton, aiding and abetting in the killing of a dog against Tommy Meadows, assault with a deadly weapon and disorderly conduct against Jake Dawson, assault with a deadly weapon against Charlie A. Hill and Bessie Adams and the term's only felony charge of murder against Cleveland Roberts.

On the civil side of the calendar a motion is to be heard in the suit brought by Tom Linwood Bryant against Norman Elwood Robinson, and trial is scheduled in the actions brought by Wilbur A. Metts against Dallas Merriel Foster, by William F. Banks against George Parham, by Dinah Norman against Phoebe J. Hatchell and by Estelle E. Adams against Herman Leslie Adams.

Four Jones Arrests

Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports four arrests in the county in the past week, including Sgt. Albert Edward of Jacksonville route four and Marvin Wells Heath of Dover route 2 on drunken driving charges and Danny S. Nobles of Kinston and William Banks of Comfort on public drunkenness charges.

LAND TRANSFERS

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker reports recording the following land transfers in his office during the past week:

From Vernon and Gladys William to Julius and Lodecia Fordham 157.42 acres in Beaver Creek Township.

From The First Citizens Bank to Delphia and Allen Bender Jr. land in Pollockville Township and from them land to Clarence and Helen Franks.

From Mary and A. J. Banks to Brenda and Odus Ray Smith Jr. a lot in Cypress Creek Township, and

From Odell Murphy to Hattie Belle and Raleigh Bryant .59 acres in Pollockville Township.

Two Accident Suits, One Debt Action in New Civil Filings

Jones County Court Clerk Rogers Pollock reports receiving three new civil actions in his office during the past week.

In the largest suit, \$50,000 damages are asked from Rellie Preston Whaley and Billy Landis Clemmons for the June 18, 1959 death of 17 year-old Alphonso Canady Jr., who was hit on US 17 as he rode a bicycle by a car owned by Whaley and driven by Clemmons.

Edmund Bundy Jr. is asking \$1700 damages from Judge N. Kornegay Jr. for injuries he suffered July 25, 1970 in a wreck on NC 58 near Trenton.

In a small claims action L. Harvey & Son Company of Kinston is trying to collect \$21.15 it allegedly is owed by Lawrence Small of Pollockville route 1.

Eleven Cases Off Docket from Last Week Court Session

In last week's session of Jones County District Court 11 cases were cleared from the docket.

Randall Dawson was given a 99-day jail term, suspended on condition he make good a check, pay the court costs and remain on probation three years.

Elmer Hall had a noll prosee with leave entered in a disorderly conduct case and a similar judgment was entered in a speeding charge against William Robinson.

Michael Meadows was found not guilty of speeding too fast for existing roadway conditions. Fred Love and David White paid costs for fishing without a license.

James Grady has a choice of 20 days in jail or payment of costs for public drunkenness.

Leonard Jones was fined \$25 and costs for reckless driving and public drunkenness.

Linda F. Bryant and Danny Williams each paid court costs for traffic violations.

Jones County Records Drop in Those Getting Free Food Over Last December

There were 2,287 low-income people in Jones County on the Department of Agriculture Surplus commodity distribution program in December as compared to 2,335 during the same period a year ago, it has been reported by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

The decrease in Jones County ran counter to a considerable overall increase.

The statewide increase, according to Russell H. James, Southeast regional director of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, is attributed to the efforts of concerned community leaders to see that all eligible needy people were provided assistance.

At the same time, James revealed that there was a statewide increase of 32 per cent in participation in the USDA food programs. A total of 300,965 persons were given aid in December — an increase of 73,994 over the 226,971 on the programs a year ago.

The increase, he noted, occurred in the food stamp program now in operation in 50 North Carolina counties. Here 174,668 low-income people were issued \$4.2 million in coupons.

Of this amount, \$2.9 million was in the form of free bonus stamps. This was up 94,394 from the 80,394 on the food stamp program in December 1969.

Due to the fact that a number of counties during the year changed from commodity distribution to food stamps to provide additional food for those in need, there was a decline in the number of the family food distribution program. On this program there were 126,379 people — down 20,198 from the 146,577 on the program in December 1969.

In North Carolina the food distribution program is handled by the Department of Agriculture, while the food stamp program is administered by the Board of Public Welfare, both in cooperation with the Food and Nutrition Service.

Three Resignations Accepted Monday; Board Asks New Hunting Restriction

Jones County and Towns Shares Listed From One-Cent Tax

Last week, acting under legislation quickly pushed through the general assembly, the state revenue commissioner distributed funds to those 25 counties and their corporate communities from the one-cent sales tax.

The County of Jones got \$17,907.49 as its slice of this distribution, Maysville's slice was \$1,395.14, Pollockville's was \$687.83 and Trenton's slice was \$815.97.

This represents a total allocation to Jones County of \$20,806.43.

The total collection of this one-cent tax in Jones County was \$10,162.43. This distribution represented collections for the months of September, October and November. The state is still holding the collections from December and up until January 20th when the law was declared unconstitutional for settlement of claims that may be placed against the tax by individuals.

After a specified date, and if no claims are filed the final allocations will be made from this fund.

Monday was a day of parting, officially for three employees of Jones County as the board of commissioners accepted the resignations of J. M. Foscue Jr. from the Jones County Watershed Commission, of Myrtle Franks as assistant home agent and George Parham Jr. as assistant farm agent.

The board also adopted a resolution asking its delegation in the general assembly to pass a local law forbidding hunting along highway right of ways in Jones County.

The board voted to pay W. E. Bailey Company of Kinston \$51.51 for three new radiators.

The board also voted to sit as a board of equalization and review beginning on April 5 and ending on May 3rd, at which time they will hear property owners who object to the tax listed valuation of their property in the county.

IMMEDIATE RATE HIKE

Monday night the Kinston City Council voted to immediately install the new electrical rate structure approved for Carolina Power and Light Company last week by the utilities commission, which is slightly more than an 11 per cent increase over present rates. Kinston buys all its electricity from CP&L.

Failure Apparent in Effort to Keep Parrott Memorial Hospital Open Until New Hospital Ready for Occupancy

Letters from Dr. Dexter Witherington to the trustee of Parrott Memorial Hospital and from the trustees to County Commission Chairman Dick Whaley and Lenoir Memorial Hospital Trustees President Ed Langrall this week apparently indicate that efforts to keep Parrott hospital open for about another 18 months have failed.

Dr. Witherington's letter is one of resignation, effective April 15th, as administrator of Parrott Hospital, and the letter from the trustees confirms an earlier letter of January 15th, which gave a 90-day notice of closing the county's oldest hospital facility.

In 1967 the owners of the hospital had agreed to sell the facility to the county for \$300,000 and to keep it open if possible without financial loss until the county's new hospital was completed.

But recently the staff of the hospital has shrunk to just Dr. Witherington and Dr. Clifton West, and under this

circumstance Witherington reluctantly reached the conclusion that he could not carry on in the many capacities he was being forced to at present.

Repeated efforts to persuade members of the staff of Lenoir Memorial Hospital to help Witherington failed. The doctors for an assortment of reasons reached the conclusion that they had rather lose the use of 55 hospital beds for 18 months, continue to put patients in the hallways of Lenoir Memorial or simply delay hospitalization of less than acutely sick people.

Numerous excuses have been tendered for this refusal to cooperate on an interim basis to keep these 55 hospital beds available. They include possible refusal of state officials to accredit the hospital for medicare patients, lack of staff, lack of clinical and X-ray equipment, condition of building and the possibility that federal officials might also frown on accreditation of the hospital.

BE SURE TO READ
OPEN LETTER TO
JONES COUNTIANS
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