

Oldest All-Negro Town Facing Brighter Future

By J. W. DAVIS
PRINCEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—The future is looking brighter for Princeville, now rounding out 80 years as one of the oldest all-Negro towns in the United States.

Strictly speaking, Princeville is not all-Negro, just about 98 per cent. But it was incorporated as a Negro town in 1885, and its mayor, councilmen and police officers in 1965 are all Negroes.

There is "not too much" prosperity in Princeville now, Mayor Ray Matthewson con-

cedes, yet he looks for the town to blossom like a rose. He and all of Princeville's 900 citizens are planning great hopes on an Army Engineers' project to stop the Tar River from flooding the town. Authorized to begin any time now, the plan is to build a 2½-mile dike along the river's south bank.

The project is to be completed next summer and Matthewson expects that from then on this eastern North Carolina community will be able to show the world what an all-Negro town can do.

"Everything should fall into place then," he says. "It's fear of the river that has held us back."

"We have high water practically every year, and every five or six years things get so bad that some families have to leave."

"With the river taken care of, there'll be building and remodeling, and people coming back instead of leaving. We'll have running water in the houses, too, and maybe the government will give us a grant of some type for sewage disposal."

Princeville in the daytime consists mostly of children and old people. Most adults are at work on farms or in the city of Tarboro (population about 8,500) across the river.

Three years ago, Matthewson, who then had been mayor for seven years, went on a hunt for industry.

"We haven't had success about industries yet," he said. Publicity given to the hunt did bring job offers from as far away as Ohio, but no plants came to Princeville.

But Princeville has accomplished much, as the state legislature has formally recognized. The legislature in 1963 passed a resolution declaring:

"Whereas much has been accomplished by virtue of the civic pride and the ambition of the citizens and municipal officials, now, therefore be it resolved that the General Assem-

ble congratulate the town of Princeville. All the streets in Princeville are paved, and the town renovated an old school building into a combination town hall-recreation centre. Three acres around the hall were cleared for picnics and recreation.

There is no fire department—Tarboro supplies trucks when needed—but there is a bucket brigade which uses pumps and wells and helps to keep fire losses low.


The two-man police force has earned a reputation for courtesy and helpfulness. There is little crime to contend with.

ECONOMY TOURIST-BASED
Two main highways intersect at Princeville and tourist trade helps the economy.

The mayor, a tall man of 50 with an easy way of talking, runs a general store near the intersection.

INTERRUPTION NOTICE

There will be a series of short interruptions of electric power beginning Wednesday September 1, 1965, to permit our crews to string conductor on the new high voltage transmission line. These interruptions will affect Peakes Station, St. Teresa and Vicinity.



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NAVY TO RESCUE
A navy frogman jumps from the door of a helicopter to assist in the rescue of the Gemini Five spacemen Sunday. The spacecraft has been secured with a flotation collar. In background is destroyer Dupont.

West Coast Fisheries Face Worst Season

VANCOUVER (CP)—Union and fisheries officials say the West Coast faces its second worst season on record. This is going to be a disastrous season—a lot of our boys are going to lose their shirts," an official of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union (Ufawu) says.

Blake Campbell, chief of the federal fisheries department economics branch says the poor catch is general from southeast Alaska to Oregon.

"We have no explanation for it," he said in an interview. Department figures show the value of salmon taken up to the end of July is down almost \$3,000,000 from last year. Preliminary estimates for August indicate this month will be worse.

The number of pink salmon landed up to the end of July was down 75 per cent from last year. Sockeye landings were down 50 per cent. The two species are the most important in the industry.

KEY AREAS CLOSED
The department says big runs expected this year did not materialize. At the same time, the International Salmon Commission was forced to close key fishing areas to permit pinks to spawn and thus preserve the 1967 run.

Jack Nichols, business agent for the union, called the situation disastrous. He said the worst year on record was 1960 when the pink catch totalled 630,000 cases. In last year the catch was low but still amounted to 1,250,000 cases. It would be doubtful whether this year's would reach 750,000 cases.

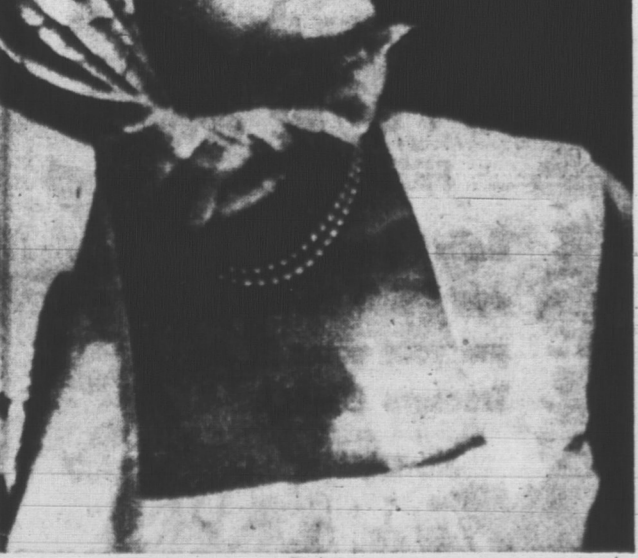
There were only two bright spots in the industry this year, officials say. A tremendous run of 11,000,000 salmon at Bristol Bay, Alaska and another big run on the Fraser River near here.

But in each instance only a comparatively few commercial fishermen benefited, Mr. Nichols said.

PROFESSOR PROTESTS
MADRID (Reuters)—Professor Jose Valverde Pacheco, a well-known Spanish poet and professor of esthetic history at Barcelona University, has resigned in protest against a government crackdown on five other professors, one of the five said here Monday. They were all accused of provoking public disorder.

CLAIM CASTRO ATTACKED
MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—More than 10,000 Cubans have been arrested following an attempt to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro, the exile Students Revolutionary Directorate says. The group said Castro narrowly escaped death while returning to Havana from a rally in Santa Clara July 27, and claimed Emilio Arzozes, head of the militia—was fatally wounded in the frustrated assault.

STRIKES COME COSTLY
The United States lost 10,900,000 man-days because of industrial disputes during the first half of 1965.



MEG VIEWS ARCHITECTURE
Princess Margaret of England inspects the architecture of the baptistry at the famed Florence, Italy, Cathedral Sunday as she and her husband, Lord Snowdon, stopped off en route to Venice (AP Wirephoto by cable from Rome)

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