An Independent Weekly Newspaper lished in 1888 and published for 45 years by the late Robert C. Rivers, Sr.

R. C. RIVERS, JR. SUBSCRIPTION RATES County One Year Four Months 1.00 Four Months

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"The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first objective should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without hewspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to choose the later. But I should mean that every man should receive these papers and be capable of resding them."—Thomas Jefferson.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1951,

THE TAX QUESTION

The revaluation of real property for taxation has been affected by the Watauga county board of commissioners, and notices of the current assessments have been received by the people of this locality, where the little slips have provided the chief topic of conversation for the past few days. The most of the talk we hear, from both sides of the political fence, is in vigorous protest of the revamped set of tax figures.

General agreement can easily be reached on the point that equalization should prevail in the matter of land taxes, but those who have followed the haphazard, zig-zag course of local taxation are inclined to doubt that such a Utopian situation can exist. So, at best, officials who start a new tax structure from scratch are up against a hard proposition. But we speak principally for the large number of people who are faced with an equally, if not harder task, in trying to meet tax levies out of all proportion to the cost of the property involved or its possible productivity as a business investment, or a farming enterprise.

A great many folks in Boone have labored diligently in an effort to make their lives a bit more abundant by providing living quarters and business property for some of the folks who want to live in Boone, at the same time performing, we think, a public service. Many of these folks, including us, have provided such accommodations at the lowest possible rental, absorbing our share of the inflation without murmur. Higher prices, in many cases, would tend to move some tenants to outside the city, where they would at least be free from municipal levies, but at the same time the landlords are by all the rules of the game, entitled to a fair return on their investments. Likewise farmers who find themselves in the high brackets of the revised tax structure, are suffering. Present taxes, in many cases based on valuations in excess of the cost of the property, are certain to have an ill effect on the future growth of the town and county, and we can see a cessation in building and a rather general feeling that investment construction is unsound here at the moment,

A reasonable tax structure has been one of the principal arguments for investment in Watauga's soil, both urban and rural. We hold to the discarded theory that an investor is not necessarily content with a low tax rate. He appraises the size of the check he must lay on the line for the privilege of owning a given piece of property, and with all our progress and attractions, we have no monopoly on land and houses, and opportunities. We must compete for new business and new home-owners with the whole wide

Residents of Boone, of course, are faced with a State law which requires the use of county valuation figures, and those whose taxes are twice and three times their former amounts in both categories, or at least a great many of them, just can't make the grade, they say.

County budget estimates, published and explained in these columns some time ago, indicate that the total tax take is not supposed to be much larger than heretofore, but you can't argue that successfully to the man whose taxes have hit the ceiling. He points to past surpluses up at the courthouse at the ends of both Democratic and Republican administrations, and vows no more money's needed, particularly since most of the services for which county government was instituted, have been taken over by the State government.

We don't know an awful lot about county governments, and in this latter day age have often wondered whether or not they are even necessary as presently constituted. We know less about budgets and bond issues and sinking funds and the like. Our acquaintance

with the world of high finance has been slight. But we do know a lot about Boone and her business life, and the amount of fiscal burden the folks can carry on their shoulders. We likewise know something of the farming community, and of the uncertainties of our farm income, and the need for lightened loads there. We also know that there are folks who would move in and help us with the tax payments and help us build a bigger and better town and county, but tax structures enter into the reasoning of those who have been cagey enough to as-semble some eash for investment. We don't believe that we can continue our present rate of progress, unless the county and town officials act in favor of a lighter tax burden

than is now prescribed. Our position against the tax assessment which we believe to be fraught with public peril, is taken out of love of our county, town and the people. We would be unfaithful if we failed to speak on a matter of such vital concern to the people who have been so very good to us. And we rather believe that public officials, generally speaking, would like to know how you feel in the matter. Public opinion has lost none of its force. It can yet change the trend of any government, if it is adequately expressed.

DALE CARNEGIE . . .

DISASTER CAN LEAD TO SUCCESS muel Krajci, Chicago, Illinois, believes that

any difficult situation can be conquered if somebody has the will to do it.

It was in 1926, during America's "prosperous" years, previous to the depression that hit us in 1929, and Celotex was the product being manufactured by Mr. Krajci's company.

In 1926 the Louisiana sugar cane crop was most promising. Good news to the Celotex experts who were depending upon this crop to furnish the fiber for the synthetic board. Cane fiber was the life-blood of their manufacturing plant.

Then came bad news! Just before the grinding season started, a Mosaic disease spread like wildfire throughout the fields. There was no crop! And the plant's equipment was suitable for making board only out of su gar cane fiber. It was easy to see what would happen to business.

Quickly they took stock of the situation, found out what they had on hand to work with. Just enough left over from the previous year to carry them for three months.

Then suddenly somebody came forth with the idea that they try to find a substitute for cane fiber. Seemed absurd, particularly as their plant was geared to cane fiber.

Then came good news! Louisiana's second greatest crop-rice-could be utilized since 20 per cent of rice straw could be added without affecting the product. So they hired planes to scout the rice fields and bought from the farmers on the spot. Now they had 18 more days to live!

During this time, they went to Cuba, bought enough sugar cane fiber to tide them over until another Louisiana sugar cane crop could be pro-

But that wasn't all the good wrought by this company. Their difficulty resulted in the development of disease-resistant strains of sugar cane and soon cane fiber in Louisiana was more suitable for their use than the old strains.

And so Samuel Krajci's belief is firm that disaster can be used as a stepping stone to better

THEY SAY . . .

CHARLES F. KETTERING, retired inventor: "The next half century offers opportunities that never existed before."

ROBERT SCHUMAN, French Foreign Minister: "It is extremely difficult to speculate on what the Russian delegates will do."

RALPH B. NESBITT, Presbyterian preacher: There is no doubt that there has been a slackening of the moral fiber of the American people."

NICHOLLAS HOBBS, psychologist: "The scipsychology puts into the hands of psycho logists instruments and techniques of tremendous

RAY D. SPENCER, former head of bombshelter program: "Military experts have estimated that seventy per cent of attacking planes, in largescale raids, will get through our screens."

DANIEL A. REED, Member of Congress from New York: "It is currently estimated that thirty per cent of the taxpayer's dollar is going into Federal, state and local taxes.'

FRANCIS T. MURRAY, director of athletics, University of Pennsylvania: "Sports are a normal, useful and human part of civilization."

EARL JAMES McGRATH, Federal Education commissioner: "You cannot put a generation into education cold storage and then later put them into an educational hot-house!

WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, Justice, U. S. Supreme Court: "Recognition (of Communist China) will require straight-forward and courageous thinking by all Americans, but it is the only log-

REPORT, Senate Crime Investigating Committee: "The public now knows that the tentacles of organized crime reach into virtually every community throughout the country."

ERIC JOHNSTON, head of Economic Stabilization Agency: "I don't have to jump off the Washington Monument in order to tell you that the fall would be fatal."

PICKED UP ...

ONLY TIME

The only time a traffic light shows green in both directions is during the testimony of two drivers who have had a collision.—The Sentry.

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION It took a lot of tail pulling by the Russians for America to work up its strong policy. Even the most akeptical Russian might be surprised at what changes would come in the international scene and in American temper if Russia would cease to be fidgety and would sit still.—Manchester (England) Guardian.

Public Health Nurse Resigns



MRS. MYRA MOTT LENTZ

The Health Department regrets very much the loss of the services of one of their public health urses, Mrs. Myra Mott Lentz, Major Lentz was transferred to Ft. McClellan, Ala., from Ft. Bragg, making it necessary for Mrs. Lentz to sever connections with her work here.

Mrs. Lentz will be replaced by another nurse as soon as possible the department announced.

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

The new tax bill, likelihood of another congressional look at a price control bill, step-up in as result of world out-look, sensations in veterans schooling probe, living cost increases, political bickering and possibility of an October adjournment date were high lights of congress.

The house passed the largest votes, carrying authorizations totaling \$5, 766,720,928, which was ers. \$729,541,000 below the budget request. In the meantime the house had passed the foreign military aid bill with less of a cut than anticipated and the senate foreign relations committee made a further slash and divided authority over the fund between the department of defense, for military, the ECA for economic aid, and the state department for Point Four and other foreign as-

The House also passed a measare authorizing \$1,635,000,000 for housing construction in defense areas over determined opposition led by Rep. Jesse P. Wolcott of Michigan who said there "is no need for it" and that the measure was a step in the direction of socialism. Passage came on the heels of an investigation which showed that even members of the armed services were being charged unconscionable rentals for mere shacks unfit for human habitation in these defense areas and near government

TROUBLES

million for government-con-structed housing; \$60 million for community facilities and services; \$f5 million for loans to prefabricated housing builders; \$10 mil-lion for land condempation in isolated areas and \$11/2 billion for FHA mortgage insurance of privately constructed housing. Observers saw in the opposi-

The appropriation authoriza-

tion the usual charges from men like Representatives Wolcott and Howard Buffet of Nebraska, than any governmental hely is social-

Congressman Thomas B. Curtis (R-Mo.) pleaded with newspap ers or any body for recognition of a slash of \$15 million which he said he got through in the defense department appropriation bill. What the Curtis amendmen did was not to cut appropriations and funds appropriated from the treasury by the defense appropriation bill, but reduced the amount that could be spent from proceeds of a salvage program on salvage work.

The Senate by a vote of 59 to 10 passed an army civil functions bill allowing \$638,578,213 for civil functions of the army engineers, cemeterial expense for quartermaster and expense of the Panama Canal Zone govthree times in moves to reduce Senator Homer Ferguson of needs. Michigan.

Sentiment in favor of the army civil functions bill was strengthened, of course, by the Kansas Missouri floods, but there was military spending and production every indication that the congress would refuse to stand the cost of losses in that catastrophe It would mark a precedent, and it was pointed out in some sec tors that neither the Kansas nor Missouri state legislatures had made a single move to help their own people who stood the losses military construction program in The congress already had aphistory with only five dissenting propriated \$25,000,000 for emergency relief of the flood suffer

> Observers here point out that in the Pick-Sloan plan for relief of floods in the Missouri river valley there is nothing but a patchwork development because there is no over-all guiding plan These same observers declare that the great demand for com pletion of dams and reservoirs, some of which are included in the civil functions bill, in Kansas, will be built at the expense of flooding great areas of farm land which under a more com prehensive plan would be per fectly usable. Some suggestion has been made that, if the pro posal of a Missouri Valley Auth ority is too all-inclusive, that a national committee be named with no axe to grind, to make recommendations, possibly for breaking down the authorities into smaller valleys such as the individual watersheds of the Kaw, the Platte, the Big Blue and other rivers.

It is possible to go wrong in many ways, but right in only one.-Aristotle.

GOOD, YEAR

BRIEF NEWS

Jess Larson to serve as chief U. S. buyer of defense materials. Pentagon in ferment over tac-

New cooling device increase mer's output by 350 per

lifts country's known teserves. General George C. Kenney ends long air career.

U. S. group in Spain ready to begin detailed military survey. F. H. A. orders nation-wide cuts in field staffs. Coal exports expected to se

post-war record this year. Federal spending on education in 1950 set at \$3,000,000,000. Childless husbands to lose de

ferment under draft rules. Kettering, at 75, optimistic on prospects of peace and plenty. C. C. C. lost \$345,599,000 carrying out price-support programs.

More Blood

Washington. - Defense Secretary George C. Marshall and top military leaders opened a nationwide drive this week for 2,800,000 pints of whole blood.

Military authorities repeatedly have said there has been an adequate supply of whole blood and blood plasms for wounded men in Korea, but Maj. Gen. George ernment in fiscal 1952. Senator E. Armstrong, surgeon general, Paul Douglas was beaten back said the reserve supply of plasma in this country has been seriously rivers and harbors funds as was deflated to meet Korean war

SCHOOL BURNS

Gallatin, Tenn-Set off by water. lighthing during a brief storm, a 00,000 fire swept through the main section of the Gallatin High School-just a few days before the school was scheduled to open. costing \$137,000, was not destroy-

ed but was badly damaged by

FILM DEVELOPED Overnight Service RETEROOK PHOTO TODD, N. C.

NOTICE

It will be necessary for the electric power to be off in Watauga County on Sunday, September 16, from 1:30 p. m. to 5 p. m., in order to relocate some transmission poles for Highway Department on the Lenoir-Blowing Rock highway. The outage will effect all members in Watauga County and Blowing Rock as well as Caldwell, Wilkes, Ashe and Alleghany counties. Should there be rain the work will be postponed until the following Sunday. A similar outage will be necessary Sunday, September 30, in order to complete the work for the Highway Department.

BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION



It's a power-packed thrill on any hill!

New Studebaker Commander V8

Most advanced V-8 of popular price in America!

Puts new punch into every drop of gas!

Needs no premium fuel!

A lot of car for a little money...18 months to pay! Saves gas amazingly Bost 8 in Mobilgas Run in mileage per gallon

In the 1951 Mobilgas Economy Run, a Studebaker Commander V-8 led all other competing eights in actual miles per gallon! Studebaker grendrive, optional at extre test, was acce

Extra marvelous! Studebaher Automatic Drive! Shifts for itself-no clutch pedal! Extra cost-and worth it!

BUCK MADDUX MOTOR COMPANY 533-5 WEST MAIN STREET

H. GRADY FARTHING, President STANLEY A. HABRIS, Sec. Treas. WATT H. GRAGG

Home Realty

Main Floor Rear Watauga Building & Loan Building TELEPHONE 200 BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

1-\$2,000-4-room cabin. Nice lot, fronting highway. Close in 2-\$4750-Ten acres river bottom meadow land on 421 near city limits.

3-\$4500-Good five room dwelling. Water in house, 4 acres level land, close in.

-Make us an offer-90 acre farm, 75 acres in grass and crops. All tools. Five-room dwelling, 13 acres land, trout stream, 2 miles from Boone. Cheap.

6-Would trade a good going restaurant in Boone for small farm. 7-\$4750 for a good house, 3 acres land, apple orchard, on highway, close in.

8-\$6000-Modern 5-room house, 4 acres bottom land in sight of college.

9-\$2000-A home and farm on hard surfaced road near city limits. Come in

10-Vacant lots on Grand Boulevard, 75 feet frontage, nice view. Very Cheap.

11-\$3500-6 room house, 13 acres land, 2 milk cows, 7-10 tobacco, tools.

12—New 6 room dwelling near college. Very nice. The price is right. 13—3-room dwelling, all out-buildings. Large lot—\$8,500.

14-Two of the best building lots in town-\$3,000.

15_\$900_Eight beautiful lots well located on paved road. 16-\$6000-New 5 room dwelling on Queen Street, Heat, lights, bath. A bargain.

17-Brick dwelling, 7 rooms, close in. 4 acres in residential section.

18—\$1200—Near Blowing Rock. 4 room cabin, large lot, on paved road.

19—\$4750—5 rooms, bath, basement, Ritchenette, large lot located close in.

20—\$3900—4 rooms, 2 large bed rooms, toilet, city water, lights, good lot.

21—11 rooms made into 3 complete apartments. Valuable lot, near college. 22—\$800—6 good vacant lots near college. Located on paved street.

23-Three-room rustic cottage, well located, good lot-\$4,000,

24—8-room dwelling, rock front, good lot on paved road—\$9,500. 25—7-Room dwelling on Queen street. Conveniently located—\$7,000.

27-New 7 room brick dwelling, basement, lights, water, heat, bath, 100 ares.

28—60-acre grass farm. Good trout stream—\$3,500.
29—\$86.2—New framed dwelling, 6 rooms, bath, 3 bedrooms, large lot, nice.

31-Pineola-2 story, 8-room dwelling. Close in-\$6,000. Blowing Rock-151/2 acres grass land, frontage-\$1,500

37-Minneapolis-7-room dwelling. 25 acres, close in-\$5,500. 38—5 three-room apartments near college, all completely furnished. These apartments being located near the college, are easily rented any season of the year. Modern and comfortable. A good place to live. For further particulars see us at

41-Grand Boulevard-Brick dwelling. Modern in every respect WE CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE YOU—IF YOU WISH TO SELL OR BUY REAL ESTATE



HEADQUARTERS

ERVICE

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