

## Indications Point To Medium Increase In Values Of Property

### Four Reporting Township Show Gains For Both Personal and Real Property

Four Martin County townships, filing their tax books for 1941 with the tax supervisor here just recently, show gains in listings for both real and personal properties, but it is quite apparent that the increase in value will fall far below estimates advanced four months ago when the assessors started their work and the list-takers started filling in the approximately 8,000 individual abstracts.

The four townships, Bear Grass, Poplar Point, Goose Nest and Williamston, filing their tax scrolls just a few days ago, reported a combined gain of \$360,489, most of the gain or \$295,830, being reported in Williamston Township. The four districts reported a gain of \$105,369 in personal property values and \$255,120 in real values.

According to preliminary estimates several of the remaining six townships unreported to date will show comparatively small gains. However, a sizable gain is anticipated in Jamesville Township where the listings of the North Carolina Pulp Company were materially increased this year over those for 1940. Even with the increase now in prospect, it is fairly apparent that no sizable reduction in the county-wide tax rate is in sight as far as shifting the base of taxation from the rate to total valuations.

The following tabulations show the personal and real property listings in four townships for the years 1941 and 1940 and the resulting increases in both types of listings and the combined values and gains:

Year	Bear Grass Township	Personal	Real	Totals
1941	\$134,207	\$458,799	\$593,006	
1940	133,830	440,388	574,218	
	\$ 377	\$ 18,411	\$ 18,788	
Year	Poplar Point Township	Personal	Real	Totals
1941	\$76,621	\$265,485	\$342,106	
1940	75,099	260,299	335,398	
	\$ 1,522	\$ 5,186	\$ 6,708	
Year	Goose Nest Township	Personal	Real	Totals
1941	\$243,454	\$996,885	\$1,240,339	
1940	218,800	982,376	1,201,176	
	\$ 24,654	\$ 14,509	\$ 39,163	
Year	Williamston Township	Personal	Real	Totals
1941	\$698,591	\$1,999,494	\$2,698,085	
1940	619,775	1,782,480	2,402,255	
	\$ 78,816	\$ 217,014	\$ 295,830	

## Local Town Board In Brief Meeting

Holding one of their shortest and one of the most uneventful meetings in recent months, the local town commissioners last evening hardly did enough to write home about, the minutes showing not a single action handled in its entirety.

The stream of water that has been flowing across the sidewalk all these years between the theatre and Wooldard Hardware Company store on Main Street during heavy rains brought interested parties, represented by the hardware company operator, before the meeting. "They are closing the lot and it will turn the water into the stores," the representative explained. The officials instructed the water and street department superintendent to contact the property owners and propose a cooperative project for tiling the water from the several buildings in that area to a storm sewer on Church Street. It is entirely an individual problem, the board spokesman explained.

The NYA recreational center for the colored population, a hang-over from the movement started several seasons ago to provide wholesome recreational centers for youth that must be entertained, was up for discussion at the meeting last night. The unfinished monument just off Broad Street, near the town cemetery, can be completed for approximately \$1,250. With around \$1,200 already invested in the structure, the town agreed to raise an additional \$1,250 provided the sponsors raise the remaining \$500. The town is to place its \$1,250 in the bank for the project and work to complete the building will be started as soon as the \$500 is banked.

## Find Missing Man's Body At Plymouth

The body of Franklin David Simmons, young white man who was drowned in the Roanoke River at the North Carolina Pulp Company plant in the lower part of this county early last Wednesday morning, was recovered from the stream near the Norfolk-Southern freight depot in Plymouth last Sunday afternoon. Identification was made by his clothing and a key in his pocket. Investigating the popular plant employee's death, a coroner's jury returned a verdict stating that the man's death was due to accidental drowning. The body was floating face down near the Plymouth side of the river when found.

## Tobacco Transplanting Nears Climax in County This Week

Contrary to early predictions, tobacco transplanting is well ahead of schedule in the county, scattered reports indicating that the work will likely approach a climax before the week is spent. Just a few weeks ago, numbers of Martin farmers predicted an unusually late transplanting season and the facts at that time certainly substantiated the predictions. Cold weather killed many plants and then there was the blue mold to consider. An unusually warm spell about three weeks ago upset the discouraging predictions, and farmers are now proceeding with the work a few days ahead of schedule.

There are a few instances where late transplanting will take place. Blue mold, the strange-acting disease, is attacking the tender plants only in spots, and it is fairly certain now that it will not materially affect the crop in the county this year.

## Thirty-Nine Years Ago As Recorded In The Enterprise

Look out for the big excursion by Hatch Bros. August 28th. Last chance. Don't miss it.

Mr. W. S. Harris, the popular clerk of Eli Gurganus, is now opening new goods in the new store of Mr. Gurganus.

The Carolina Warehouse is coming to the front. Good management will surely tell. The Carolina is all right.

The tobacco sales at Robersonville this week have been very good indeed. The farmers should congratulate themselves on having such a good market right at home.

Graders are at work at Blount's Warehouse on Smithwick Street grading tobacco for Mr. Eli Gurganus. It is understood that there will be a large sale at this place in the near future.

A sleepy looking celestial arrived in town Wednesday evening, and from what can be gathered from him there will be a Chinese laundry in town shortly. This will be a great convenience for our town people.

On account of the accident of one of the employees in our office last Saturday, we have been unable to fill the orders that we have for job work as promptly as we would like.

We hope that those of our patrons having orders with us for job printing will be patient with us for a day or two.

Rev. B. K. Mason will preach in the hall Sunday morning and evening. The morning service at 11 a. m., subject: "Blessings of Sorrow." Night, 8 o'clock, subject: "The Grace of God." Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services.

Misses Lizzie and Mattie Quarterman and brother, Ben, who have been visiting in Greenville, returned on Monday morning. They were accompanied by their sister, Mrs. J. R. Walker.

Prof. C. W. Wilson and family left Tuesday morning for their new home in Rocky Mount. We wish them the success they deserve, and are sure they will deserve all they get.

Messrs. H. W. Stubbs, S. W. Harrell, W. T. Crawford, of this town, and M. M. Critcher, of Jamesville, spent Friday at Everetts, attending a large barbecue.

Mr. J. R. Mobley returned from Tarboro Friday evening. He had spent the day with his daughter, who is under treatment at the hospital in that town.

## Start Remodeling The Old Town Hall

Remodeling work on the lower floor of the "City Hall" was started here yesterday morning, the cost of the work to approximate \$1,250, Treasurer N. C. Green said.

Handled by day labor, the project calls for the complete renovation of the lower floor. The fire department equipment is being shifted from one side to the middle of the building, the treasurer's office to be located where the fire-fighting equipment is now located. The mayor will have an office just back of the police department, and the town library will be located in the back of the building. The stairs to the upper floors will be arranged to turn traffic from the center entrance to that now accommodating the treasurer's office and police department.

### DRAFT CALL

The United States Army this week placed a call with the Martin County Draft Board for ten colored men, but no call for white selectees was received. The ten colored trainees are to leave on May 22 for Fort Bragg. During the meantime, four colored men are to leave on Thursday of this week, and four white trainees, including Tom Crockett, a recent volunteer, are to leave on Friday, May 16th, for Fort Bragg.

The supply of white volunteers is exhausted, and the number of colored volunteers on the waiting list is not sufficient to fill the May 22 quota.

## Man Is Badly Hurt In Auto Accident Late Sunday Night

Three Cars Wrecked in the County Not Far From Gardner's Creek

One person was badly if not seriously hurt and several others were cut and bruised in a double automobile crash near Gardner's Creek in Williams Township late last Sunday night. Patrolman Whit Saunders describing the accident as one of the worst on the highways in this county in recent months. O. A. Spivey, of Roseboro, was removed to a Greenville hospital, where he is being treated for a severe head and face injury and a broken collarbone. Mrs. Spivey, suffering considerably from shock and bruises, and Thomas Sutton, of Goldsboro, bruised and slightly cut, were released from the Brown Community Hospital after receiving treatment. Two colored men whose names could not be learned, fled from the scene of the accident and it could not be learned whether they were hurt. Ernie Modlin, driving a third car figuring in the wreck and his companions, Charles Modlin, John Henry Cooper, Edward Mizelle and Tilghman Coltrane were not hurt.

The Ford, driven by Mr. Spivey, and a 1938 Chevrolet driven by a colored man whose identity could not be established immediately, crashed on the Richlieu Filling Station curve a short distance this side of Gardner's Creek shortly before midnight. The Spivey car, traveling toward Williamston, turned over and came to a stop on its side and facing toward Jamesville. The Chevrolet, registered in the name of Isaiah Bell, R.F.D., Plymouth, and traveling toward Jamesville, was left standing in the highway but facing toward Williamston. The driver and a companion were said to have helped the occupants of the other wrecked car out and then fled.

Before the wreckage could be cleared, Modlin, rounding the sharp curve, plowed into the stalled Chevrolet and knocked it from the highway and into a ditch. The Modlin machine took its place on the highway and was later pushed away by Patrolman Saunders.

No accurate property damage estimate could be had immediately, but it will run close to \$500, about \$250 to the Spivey car, \$150 to the Chevrolet and about \$75 to Modlin's car.

## Little Boy's Life Is Snuffed Out By Car In County Saturday

Funeral Services Held Sunday Afternoon for Seven-Year Old Jasper Roebuck

Fatally hurt when his father backed a car over him at his home in Poplar Point last Saturday afternoon, Jasper Roebuck, about seven years old, died on the way to a Tarboro hospital a short time later. It was the third motor vehicle death reported in the county this far this year, but it is not recognized as a highway fatality. Investigating the lad's death, Coroner S. R. Biggs found it was accidental and considered an inquest unnecessary.

The son of Jasper and Alice Johnson Roebuck, the little fellow with a brother and sister asked the father permission to accompany him to Hamilton. Told they could not go, the children withdrew to one side, Jasper darting behind the car just as his father started to back it around to go out of the yard. The boy was knocked down, the father stating that he felt the car hit a bump, but it could not be definitely determined if a wheel of the car ran over the lad. When the children screamed, Roebuck stopped the car and the little fellow, the side of his head scratched, bruised and bleeding crawled from under the machine. Picked up by his father, the child said that he was not hurt much. He was carried to a doctor's office in Hamilton where an examination revealed that he had also been bruised on the arm near the shoulder. His removal to a hospital was advised and the father was speeding toward Tarboro when the little fellow died. He was pronounced dead by doctors at the hospital.

The child, survived by his parents and a brother and sister had just completed his first year in school at Hamilton, and was a bright and likeable little chap.

Funeral services were conducted at the graveside in the Hamilton Cemetery Sunday afternoon at four o'clock by Elder William E. Grimes.

## Stolen Car Recovered Near Here Last Sunday

The Chevrolet sedan stolen from Dr. J. S. Rhodes at his office last Saturday night was recovered on the McCaskey Road the following afternoon. The car had been in rough hands, the owner stating that an axle was broken and that other parts on the car were damaged.

Expensive medical instruments were found intact.

## Hitler's Next Move Awaited By Britain On Several Fronts

Important Developments Are Now Predicted Within Next Two Weeks

Feverishly trying to settle internal disturbances in Iraq and bolster its defenses in Africa and at Gibraltar as well as on the seas, Britain is now waiting for Hitler to make his next gigantic move. Important developments are due possibly within the next ten days or two weeks, military observers declaring that German successes in Iraq and Africa will seriously aggravate the situation for England.

Threatening to destroy the Iraq government buildings at Baghdad, Britain is making every effort to quell an attack by pro-German forces there. If success is not possible on that front, Britain is making plans to render the rich Iraq oil fields worthless.

A British threat to blast ancient Baghdad from the air unless Iraqi forces cease fighting was contained in 24,000 Arabic pamphlets dropped on the city Sunday, but the Iraqi radio, spurning the warning, promised reprisal air attacks.

Informed quarters in Cairo told of reinforcements of the Habbaniya base—disputing Axis radio claims that Habbaniya had fallen to the Iraqi forces.

The German radio said Habbaniya had been occupied and that other Iraqi troops had "completely encircled" the important oil shipping center and British base of Basra.

General Sir Archibald Wavell's Middle East command in Cairo asserted in an official communique, however, that "the garrison at Habbaniya is intact," although it was admitted that the situation there was somewhat delicate.

In an earlier communique, the R.A.F. had announced that the bulk of Iraq's tiny air force of perhaps 70 planes—mostly Italian, British and American—had been "destroyed" by the British air force in air battles and bombings of airdromes.

Late reports from Iraq state that the Iraqi claim the control of the important oil pipe line to Haifa. In Africa, the transfer of virtually all of the British expeditionary forces serving in the Balkans had been safely transferred to Egypt, relieving the situation there and improving British positions.

The commissioners ordered \$25 paid to the Town of Robersonville for dogs used in apprehending a criminal there recently.

J. Sam Getsinger was appointed county accountant for a two year term, effective as of April 1, this year.

The sale of the old Mizelle and Stalls home on West Main Street was considered, but action is to await financing agreements.

Mrs. I. P. Hodges, representing the Works Progress Administration, appeared before the meeting and asked the commissioners to consider the following items when preparing the new county budget for 1941-42: \$440 for matron service in the schools, \$200 for school lunches, garden and canning projects; \$300 for a weaving project, and \$300 for recreational equipment.

Submitting the first report to the board since last October or along about that time, Dr. John W. Williams, health department head, reviewed the activities of the organization and offered a tentative program for the future.

Miss Mary W. Taylor, superintendent of public welfare, submitted a tentative budget for the financing of the department during the next fiscal year. The budget for the current year and the proposed budget with explanatory notes are as follows:

Budget Request 1940-41 1941-42

Salary of supt. \$1800 \$1800

Salary of case worker 1200 1200

Salary of case aide 1020 1020

Salary of case worker 960 960

2 clerical workers 1560 1560

Office sup. & equip. 380 350

Telephone 75 75

Travel 900 1200

County home & farm 4500 4750

Indigent pupils 75 75

Child home soc. 25 25

Hospitalization 3500 3500

Miscellaneous 100 200

Old age assistance 5967 6480

## County Board in Long Session Here Monday

Revaluation Work Is Completed For Current Tax Year

Small Increase Asked By Welfare Board; Health Officer Files Lengthy Report

Little business was scheduled for consideration by the county commissioners at their regular meeting here yesterday, but they were in session all day handling that business and handling other matters submitted by various ones as the clock ticked away the hours.

The quadrennial task of revaluing all real property in the county was announced complete at the meeting when the commissioners decreased the value of 15 acres belonging to R. H. Staton in Robersonville Township from \$35 to \$10 "due to the process of being cleared." A few other tax items were handled but they dealt with personal property listings. The inventory values listed by the Williamston Peanut Company were jumped from \$9,000 to \$20,000, the change being made subject to a hearing possibly at the next meeting. John A. Manning Peanut Company inventories as of last January 1 were listed at \$3,600 at the direction of the commissioners. Action was taken in the absence of the owners, and they will be given an opportunity to be heard, if they so desire, according to a report heard at the meeting.

Not all of the tax books are in at the present time, but a hurried review of several of the books shows substantial gains were made in some districts. Those list-takers turning in their books were paid as follows: George C. Griffin, \$115; A. B. Ayers, Bear Grass, \$115; H. M. Buras, Williamston, \$325; Gordon Bailey, Cross Roads, \$130; H. S. Everett, Robersonville, \$250; L. H. Taylor, Poplar Point, \$90; L. R. Everett, Hamilton, \$140, and J. A. Rawls, Goose Nest, \$100. It was pointed out that the list-taker had more work to do in handling the revaluation than they did last year when no effort was made to revalue the real listings.

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Indigent pupils 75 75

Child home soc. 25 25

Hospitalization 3500 3500

Miscellaneous 100 200

Old age assistance 5967 6480

Aid to depend. children 3450 3600

Aid to the blind 528 561

Burial expenses 100 100

General relief 2000 1500

Medicine 500 350

\$28,516 29,281

"We are asking for a \$513 increase from county funds for O.A.A. This will mean \$1539 from State and Federal funds for distribution to our needy aged. There are 48 applications pending as of today.

"We are also asking a \$150 raise for Aid to Dependent Children. This will mean \$450 from State and Federal funds.

(Continued on page six)

## Local Industry Is Reporting Step-up In Its Activities

Big Lumber Mill Is Making Ready To Go On Two-Shift Schedule Soon

Maintaining a close step in the march of progress reported on the defense front throughout the Nation, local industry is already speeding up its schedule of activities and making ready to materially increase production of material vitally necessary in advancing national defense.

In the several-acre plot of land in the fork of the Jamesville and Washington Road, the din of speeding machinery is so great one can hardly hear the human voice. Materials, including food but principally manufactured lumber are being loaded at several points for shipment to strategic centers. Several hundred persons in the small area are turning and waiting, handling those tasks far removed from the actual line of battle but tasks that are mighty important to defense.

The Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company is enlarging its already large plant, and making plans to add another shift of workmen. Additional side tracks are being laid in the plant yard to speed up shipments, and plans are being made to receive logs by train as well as by a fleet of trucks. A new lumber shed, measuring 53 by 100 feet, is being constructed and the output of the plant will be materially increased within the next few days.

The H. B. Thompson Lumber Company just across the tracks from the Farmville-Woodward plant, is pouring a steady stream of dressed lumber into waiting freight cars.

The mill of the G. and H. Builders Supply Company, just a few yards away, is operating when it can get lumber.

The Williamston Peanut Company, handling an entirely different product but one that holds a high rank in any program be it during war or peace-time, is running night and day filling orders.

Jumping from the road forks to the river front, the plant of Saunders and Cox continues an effective operating schedule for the manufacture of lumber; its employment lists having been materially increased during recent months.

Making a favorable but fairly slow start just a short time ago, the Williamston Package Manufacturing Company is stepping up production rapidly and is now turning out between 8,000 and 12,000 baskets for packing fruits and vegetables and Irish and sweet potatoes.

The Standard Fertilizer Company while facing a seasonal decline, is still operating on a fairly extensive schedule.

Other industrial activities, while operating on a smaller scale are also speeding up production as a basic part of the general business program here and in cooperation with the national defense activities.

The stoppage of traffic over the Roanoke River—fall here for a short period or during a few hours for the next two or three days was considered a possibility by Superintendent Rice today. Definite announcement is being delayed pending the arrival of a powder expert, Rice said.

About 650 feet of the fill near the Bertie high land is settling so rapidly that engineers have ordered the road dynamited in an effort to settle the dirt at that point. Five tons of dynamite are to be used, the superintendent representing the dirt contracting firm stating that the charges will settle the foundation and cause the dirt to settle at least two feet in a very few minutes. Numbers of holes will be bored in the road for planting the dynamite. It is possible that the work can be handled in a very short time, or it may be that the road will be closed to traffic for a day or more. The powder expert is expected here today or tomorrow, and work will be started soon after his arrival.

Work on the fill was delayed yesterday and today when a machine, said to be too light for the work, broke down. Repairs from Greensboro had just about completed repairs to the machine at noon today and the trucks were to start running immediately.

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