

## County Authorities To Fix Tax Rate Monday

### Reduction In Rate Fairly Certain For 1941-1942 Tax Year

#### Pulp Company Listings Account For Gain of Nearly Third of a Million

With a gain of nearly one million dollars in property values for the 1941-42 fiscal year, Martin County tax authorities are now fairly certain that a reduction in the rate for the current tax year will be possible, provided the new budget figures remain fairly constant. And it is not expected that any of the departments will reflect any sizable increases in their budgets for the new tax year. All of the departmental budgets are not yet complete, and definite figures will hardly be made available before next Monday when the county commissioners meet in regular session and discuss the figures preparatory to the adoption of a tentative rate. The authorities have already expressed themselves, directly or indirectly, as being against any appreciable increase in budget figures for the several departments; in fact, a small increase asked by one of the departments was rejected by the board at a previous meeting. It is quite likely, however, that the welfare budget will call for a slight gain of about \$200 to care for the ever growing demand for old age assistance.

A two-cent reduction in the school levy has been promised already by the board of education which is asking for 55.5 cents as compared with 55.5 cents a year ago. The decrease is made possible mainly by an increase in property values and by a decrease in debt service requirements which drop from 36.5 cents in 1940 to 34 cents this year. Current expenses are jumping one cent from nine to ten cents, and capital outlay requirements call for a rate of 9.5 cents compared with 10 cents a year ago.

The health department with a requested appropriation of \$7,530, requires a 6-cent rate compared with a 7-cent rate last year. The new budget is unchanged from the one in effect last year.

The 22-cent rate for the welfare department is likely to remain unchanged since a slight increase in the appropriation figures is being considered on account of the increasing demand for old age assistance.

The county's debt service requirements are virtually the same as they were a year ago, and no sizable reduction in the rate is hardly to be expected in that quarter.

Figures for the general county fund are just now in the making, but with the costs of a primary election to be considered along with rising costs for materials and other items, it is hardly likely that the 9.5 cent

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## Damage Suit Filed In County Against Soft Drink Bottler

### Willie Bullock, Alleging a Mouse Was in Bottle, Asking \$5,000 Damages

A suit for \$5,000 has been filed in the Martin County Superior Court by Willie Bullock against M. O. Minges and others, trading as Orange Crush Bottling Company, Greenville. The complaint as filed by Bullock's attorneys, Peel and Manning, reads, as follows, in part:

"That on or about the 21st day of April, 1941, at about ten o'clock a. m., the plaintiff purchased a bottle of Pepsi-Cola from Asa Harris' store at Bear Grass, Martin County, North Carolina, which said bottle of Pepsi-Cola had been bottled and distributed by the defendant.

"That said bottle of Pepsi-Cola was frozen. That he drank part of said bottle of Pepsi-Cola, and as the frozen contents of said bottle began to thaw he detected a bad odor. Making an inspection of said bottle of Pepsi-Cola, same being made in the presence of Asa Harris, the owner of the store, and others standing around, he found in said bottle of Pepsi-Cola a dead mouse, its body in an advanced stage of decomposition. Its teeth were about to fall from its mouth, and its hair was floating around in said contents of said bottle free of the skin. That plaintiff drank some of the contents of said bottle before he detected anything wrong with said bottle of Pepsi-Cola.

"That the aforesaid bottle of Pepsi-Cola was opened by the owner of said Asa Harris store in the presence of plaintiff and others and was by said owner of said store handed to plaintiff.

"That by reason of the presence of foreign substance, said decomposed mouse and hair in said beverage,

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## River Fill Work Is About Completed

Ignoring the rights of a general holiday today, workers are now pushing to completion the work on repairing and rebuilding the dirt fill across the Roanoke low grounds at this point. Completion of the project is fairly certain during next week.

The paving contractor, according to unofficial reports, is expected to start moving in his equipment the early part of next week, preparatory to starting the paving work on or about the middle of this month. It is now believed that the project will be completed in its entirety by early September. However, traffic is expected to move over the fill with less difficulty while the paving work is in progress than when the contractors were building the dirt dam.

Traffic is moving over all of the four new bridges, and work on the riffs or concrete slabs to keep the dirt from washing from around the ends will be completed the latter part of next week.

### BOND QUIZ

Q. What happens if I suddenly need the money I put into a Defense Savings Bond?

A. You can cash your Bond at any time, after 60 days, for the full amount paid, plus any interest due you.

Q. Do many bond owners cash their bonds?

A. No. People want to help arm America against all attacks. In many cases, people are putting every cent they can spare into Defense Bonds and Stamps. Some are doing this by asking employers or banks to withhold part of their salaries in order to buy these Bonds or Stamps for them.

Note. — To purchase Defense Bonds and Stamps, go to the nearest post office or bank, or write for information to the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, D. C.

## Record Issuance Of Marriage Licenses Reported In County

### Fifteen White Couples Marry In This County During Month of June

June was a month of marriages in Martin County, Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger reporting a record business handled with young white couples in the marriage license bureau during the month. The number of licenses issued to white couples was the largest for any June on record. June is not a marrying month for members of the colored race, the register of deeds reporting only five licenses issued in that quarter.

The issuance last month, fifteen to white, and five to colored couples, compared with one to white and two to colored couples in June, 1931. Licenses last month were issued to the following:

- White**
- Maurice W. Lough, of Elkton, Va., and Alice Josephine Bunting, of Robersonville.
  - Alton F. Whitley, of Bethel, and Magnolia Roebuck, of Robersonville.
  - Basil Edward Harden, of Windsor, and Hazel Marie Perry, of R. F. D. No. 3, Williamston.
  - Carlton Lancer Reason and Cinda Scott, both of Dardens.
  - Joseph Dallas Peaks, of Everetts, and Delcie Godard, of Williamston.
  - Fred Rodgers, of R. F. D. No. 2, Williamston, and Irene Leggett, R. F. D., Robersonville.
  - Ernest Tilghman and Mary Magdalene Moore, both of Williamston.
  - Floyd Dillon Wynne, of Hamilton, and Bessie Gertrude McKeel, of Williamston.
  - A. B. Ayers, Jr., and Theresa Faye Rogers, both of Williamston.
  - Edgar H. House and Virginia Downing, both of Oak City.
  - Linton Otis Pendergrast, of Norfolk, and Ruth Eleanor Spruill, of Norfolk.
  - George Wilford Lee, of Williamston, and Hilda Coburn Leggett, of Robersonville.
  - James Wendell Modlin, of R. F. D. 1, Jamesville, and Ruby Irene Wynn, of R. F. D. 2, Williamston.
  - Archie Morris, of Scotland Neck, and Janie Elizabeth Anderson, of Whitakers.
  - Delmus Whichard Barnhill, of Everetts, and Daisy Lucille Gurganus, of Williamston.
- Colored**
- George W. Richardson, of Scotland Neck, and Minnie Long, of Oak City.
  - Ben F. Fleming and Ida Andrews, both of Robersonville.
  - William Henry Eason and Elsie Daniel, both of Robersonville.
  - Vance Louis Whitley and Verna Mae Stokes, both of Williamston.
  - S. T. Jackson and Estella Cran-del, both of Robersonville.

# Million Dollar Gain In County Valuations

## 1940 and 1941 County Property Listings, by Townships

The following tabulations show, by townships, the 1940 and 1941 valuations of real and personal property values in Martin County, separately and collectively, the increase in total valuations over the 1940 listings, and also the percentage of increase or decrease by townships. The figures are subject to minor change and do not include corporation listings. Asterisk (\*) indicates loss. All others are gains.

TOWNSHIPS:	PERSONAL PROPERTY				REAL ESTATE				REAL AND PERSONAL			
	1940	1941	Gain-Loss	Pct.	1940	1941	Gain-Loss	Pct.	1940	1941	Gain-Loss	Pct.
Jamesville	\$ 548,188	\$ 876,541	\$328,353	59.9	\$ 781,415	\$ 895,439	\$114,024	14.6	\$ 1,329,603	\$ 1,771,980	\$442,377	33.3
Williams	46,613	50,015	3,402	7.3	244,217	266,697	22,480	9.2	290,830	316,712	25,882	8.9
Griffins	155,585	145,174	10,411*	6.7*	393,310	439,255	45,945	11.7	548,895	584,429	35,534	6.5
Bear Grass	133,850	134,207	377	0.0	439,689	458,799	19,110	4.3	573,519	593,006	19,487	3.4
Williamston	621,277	714,891	93,614	15.0	1,782,230	1,999,494	217,264	12.2	2,403,507	2,714,385	310,878	12.9
Cross Roads	103,516	95,448	8,068*	7.8*	465,136	478,738	13,602	2.9	568,652	574,186	5,534	1.0
Robersonville	541,363	553,356	11,993	2.2	1,511,413	1,574,906	63,493	4.2	2,052,776	2,128,262	75,486	3.7
Poplar Point	75,804	76,621	817	1.0	259,949	265,485	5,536	2.1	335,753	342,106	6,353	1.9
Hamilton	191,326	192,186	860	0.4	722,009	762,101	40,092	5.5	913,335	954,296	40,961	4.5
Goose Nest	218,500	243,454	24,954	11.4	1,001,816	996,885	4,931*	0.5*	1,220,316	1,240,339	20,023	1.6
County Totals	\$2,636,002	\$3,081,893	\$445,891	16.9	\$7,601,184	\$8,137,799	\$536,615	7.1	\$10,237,186	\$11,219,701	\$982,515	9.6

## Increase In Values To Support Lower Tax Rate This Year

### County Commissioners Will Study Departmental Budgets at Meeting Monday

The handiwork of thirty special tax appraisers has just been tabulated by Martin County's Tax Supervisor, S. H. Grimes, for the current tax year, the figures reflecting a gain in personal and real property listings of nearly one million dollars over the listings a year ago. A comparison of the values appears in the four-column tabulation on this page, showing gains or losses in personal and real properties and all properties combined and the percentage gains or losses, the figures not including listings for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, the Carolina Telephone Company and one or two other corporations.

On the basis of the new valuation gains, a reduction in the new tax rate is seen as a possibility, but the decrease, if any, depends upon the new budget figures. An increase in appropriations will very easily offset the gain in property valuations.

With one or two negligible exceptions the trend in property values was decidedly upward, the tax supervisor explaining that while there were assessment increases effected for old properties, much of the gain was traceable to new or improved properties. The gain, standing right at a million dollars, would have been considerably larger, but the appraisers did much adjusting where listings were considered too high and those losses had to be offset before the net increase could be recognized.

The largest single gain is traceable to the North Carolina Pulp Company in Jamesville Township, the company boosting its values by nearly one-third of a million dollars. Jamesville Township, itself, made a big showing with a gain of \$111,647. Williamston Township reported a gain of \$310,878 to boost its total listings to \$2,714,385. Robersonville Township was next with a gain of \$75,486, its current listings standing at \$2,128,262.

While all townships reported from small to fairly large gains in combined property listings, two, Griffins and Cross Roads, reported slight decreases in their personal property values. Griffins losing \$10,411, and Cross Roads losing \$8,068. Goose Nest, reporting a fair sized gain in its personal listings, lost a few thousand in its real values.

Total values of properties listed by the county list-takers and appraisers now stand at \$11,219,701, compared with \$10,237,186, an actual gain of \$982,515. These figures do not include corporation listings which, when certified to the county by the Utilities Commission, will likely boost the total property valuation to about \$13,183,554.

The 1940 listings were slightly

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## Joe Stalin Admits Situation Serious In Talk To Nation

### Germany Paying Great Price In Advancing Merciless Drive into Russia

Bearing the full force of a merciless German drive, Russia was described yesterday as being in a serious situation by Premier Stalin in an address to the Russian people.

While he declared that Russia was facing a serious menace, the premier did not suggest that Russia was beaten or that she was about to be beaten, he told the story and appealed to his people to bend every human effort to the task of stopping the mighty German machine, and saving their country.

Russia has admitted losses in certain sections along the 2,000-mile battle front, and it would seem next to impossible for even millions of men to maintain a battle line over such a stretch of territory. Russia has lost heavily in men and equipment, but the advance has been costly to Hitler, far more costly than his relentless and ruthless drive through Belgium, Holland, France and later Greece.

Berlin continues its boastful claims many of which are duplicates of those heard several days ago. The German reports indicate that Russia is already defeated, that hundreds of thousands of troops have been trapped, that many thousands have been captured or killed.

While Germany was claiming extensive territorial gains, Russia reported that fierce fighting was in progress all the way along the approximately 2,000-mile battle line from Murmansk in the Arctic to southeastern Poland. Hundreds of German tanks have been stopped by artillery fire, hand grenades and gasoline hurled in bottles against the mobile forts.

Said to have already taken Murmansk, the Germans late yesterday, according to a report from Helsinki were just nearing the place. The Germans, claiming to have smashed almost to Moscow, were reported by neutral sources to be dropping parachute troops behind the Russian lines in Poland, the report stating that 80 of them were killed in the attempt. Apparently Russia is still offering a strong fight in the air, a German report claiming that 80 Soviet planes were shot down over Poland yesterday.

Late reports state that every man woman and child is rallying to the support of the war effort, and hundreds of thousands of children are being moved out of danger zones in cities.

Over in Syria, the British yesterday captured the important city of

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## Ousted by Nazis



Among the American consuls ordered by the Nazis to close their offices is Sydney B. Redecker, consul at Frankfurt. He is charged with having "delivered addresses in support of propaganda unfriendly to Germany." All consulates in Germany and in most occupied territory were ordered closed.

## 135 Men Register In The County Tuesday

### Registration Total Is Slightly Higher Than Was Expected

#### Dr. Ward, Draft Board Member, Bring Last Registrant Tuesday

Martin County registered 135 young men Tuesday in the second draft registration held under the Selective Service Act, the registration total slightly exceeding preliminary estimates. Unofficial reports indicate that a few "forgot" to register, but draft board authorities are of the opinion that the registration was made fairly complete when young men, white and colored, reported to the county draft board office in Williamston and "signed up" for possible service in Uncle Sam's armed forces.

Registrations were recorded by addresses, as follows:

Address	White	Col.
Dardens	3	0
Jamesville	2	0
Williamston Route 1	5	4
Williamston	13	6
Williamston Route 1	9	7
Williamston Route 2	7	5
Williamston Route 3	4	6
Everetts	4	6
Robersonville	1	3
Robersonville Route 1	7	8
Robersonville Route 2	2	2
Parmele	1	1
Hassel	0	3
Hamilton	0	2
Oak City	1	0
Oak City Route 1	5	6
Palmira Route 1	2	0
Bethel Route 1	0	1
Hobgood Route 1	0	1

In addition to the 121 giving their permanent addresses in Martin County there were thirteen giving "outside addresses and one who was supposed to have registered in the first registration. Outside addresses of young men having permanent residence in other counties or states were reported by the Martin draft board as follows:

Baltimore, one white; Blounts Creek, one colored; Burgaw, one white; Windsor, one colored; Norfolk, one white; Myers Mills, S. C., two colored; Henderson, one white and one colored; Faison, one white; Martinsburg, W. Va., one white; Ayden, one white, and Mt. Olive, one colored. It is expected that a few Martin County young men, journeying in other sections, registered outside the county.

Howard Edwin Whitehurst, of Parmele, opened the second draft registration that morning, and James Spruill, colored, of Robersonville, accompanying Dr. Jesse Ward, draft board member to the office, was the last man to register.

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### FEW ELIGIBLE

An unofficial review of the second draft registration list shows that few of the 135 registering in this county are eligible under the rules and regulations for service in the Army. It is quite likely that one-third of the colored registrants will be weeded out by illiteracy, an unofficial report stating that 18 of the 54 colored registrants could not write their names. Three of the 67 white registrants could not write their names. By the time the married youths are eliminated along with the illiterate and physically unfit, Uncle Sam will not find many of the group eligible for service in his Army.

## Judge W.H. Coburn Calls Ten Cases In The County Court

### Four Drunken Driving Cases On Docket For Trial in The Court Monday

Calling ten cases for trial, Judge W. H. Coburn held the county recorder's court in session for more than two hours last Monday, and even though the tribunal worked longer than usual several of the cases were continued for trial at later dates. Four cases charging drunken driving were on the docket, but the trial of an assault case took up much of the court's time.

Lester Jordan Whitehurst, pleaded not guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving. Adjudged guilty, the defendant was fined \$50, taxed with the court costs and had his license to operate a motor vehicle revoked for a year. He appealed his case and bond in the sum of \$100 was required by Judge Coburn.

Combining the two cases charging Z. T. Sawyer and O. R. Boyd with an assault with a deadly weapon, the court found Sawyer, a special deputy at the North Carolina Pulp Company in the lower part of this county, not guilty. Adjudged guilty, Boyd was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs. He appealed to the higher courts and bond was fixed in the sum of \$100.

The case charging Jesse Warren with an assault with a deadly weapon and with disorderly conduct, was continued until the first Monday in October.

A continuance was also granted until July 7 in the case charging Robert Edmondson with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving, John Earl Black was fined \$50, had his license to operate a motor vehicle revoked for one year and was directed to pay the costs.

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## Peel To Head Drive For War Ambulance

### Elbert S. Peel, Local Attorney, Was Named This Week by Governor Ross

Elbert S. Peel, local attorney, was named this week by Governor Ross Pou at the suggestion of Governor J. M. Broughton to head the drive for the British-American Ambulance Corps in Martin County.

A bit reluctant to call upon Martin citizens for funds, Mr. Peel explained that he accepted the chairmanship of the drive when the urgent need for action was pointed out in a letter received this week from the promoters of the non-profit organization. "Please understand that the urgent need of England prompts this request, and we are depending upon you to render all possible assistance to this cause," Mr. Pou said in his letter to Mr. Peel.

Martin County has been assigned a quota of \$200 as its part of the \$75,000 fund necessary for the purchase of an airplane ambulance by the citizens of North Carolina to the people of England.

Members of the advisory committee in this county are, Dr. John D. Biggs and W. C. Manning, Williamston; Mrs. Charles Davenport, Jamesville, and Joe R. Winslow, of Robersonville.

No large contributions are asked from anyone, but everyone is earnestly urged to have a part in raising the comparatively small quota assigned this county.

## Plan Flood Control Survey Of Roanoke

According to unofficial reports reaching here, a survey of the Roanoke River for flood and erosion control has been tentatively approved in Washington by the United States Department of Agriculture. Congressman Herbert Bonner stated this week that the proposed survey only needs Secretary Wickard's approval before actual work can be started. The survey is to be conducted by the Soil Conservation Service, assisted by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

War Department engineers have been working on a survey of the river for some months following the disastrous flood of last August, but their work is confined to the river itself. The flood control survey now pending will deal with the entire river watershed.

## Draft Board Defers "Aged" Registrants

Uncle Sammy may take the older men later on, but as a result of orders from the National Draft Board, the youth of the land can well expect calls for service ere long. Receiving orders this week to defer all men 28 years of age or older on July 1, the Martin County Draft Board has already eliminated fifteen men who were in line to enter the service this week, meaning that many young men and possibly a few more between the ages of 21 and 28 will get their calls just that much earlier in this county. Just how many men will be deferred in this county as a result of the ruling has not yet been determined.

Deferments are for only 30 days, draft officials pointing out that Congress has not yet passed the law allowing deferment of men 28 years or more of age.

There are quite a few young men in the county who are missing deferment by only a few days. Solicitor Don E. Johnson is included in the list of Army prospects by a margin of only 17 days, it was learned.

## Non-Listers Settle Their Tax Accounts

Acting to forestall prosecution in the courts, nearly 200 persons in this county have listed their properties and polls and have either paid or made arrangements to settle their tax accounts, it was learned today from the county tax office. Several hundred dollars have been collected already, the collections ranging in amounts from a few cents to almost \$40.

Every effort is being made to advise those persons who, for one reason or another, have failed to list their properties to do so before July 23rd when action in the courts will be definitely started.

Williamston's town commissioners are expected to formulate plans for rounding up non-listers within the town limits at the regular meeting of the board next Monday night.

## Marshall C. Cherry Passes At His Home Near Here Tuesday

### Funeral Services Are Held For Retired Farmer Yesterday Afternoon

Marshall Cecil Cherry, respected citizen and retired farmer, died at his home on the old Everetts Road, near here, last Tuesday night at 11:30 o'clock following an illness of more than two years' duration. Suffering a stroke in the early part of 1939 he had been an invalid since, spending most of the past two years in bed. His condition became serious following an heart attack last week-end and no hope was held for his recovery.

The son of the late Rufus Cherry and wife, Martha Wilson-Cherry, he was born 73 years ago last January in this township and near the place where he lived most of his life. In early manhood he was married to Miss Cornelia Askew who died a long number of years ago. Two children, Mrs. Elmer Chesson and Raymond Cherry, survive that union. About 1914 he married Miss Carrie Glenn who survives. Four children were born to this union. Their names are Marshall C. Cherry, Jr., Rufus Cherry, Roland Cherry, and Miss Mary Alice Cherry, all of the home.

Mr. Cherry was a member of the Methodist Church, holding membership at Vernon in his home community. He was a hard-working farmer and was held in high regard by those who knew him. His friendliness and politeness were genuine, and when conditions seemed dark and disheartening he always carried a smile on his face and an inward hope that encouraged others to carry on.

Funeral services were conducted from the home yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. B. T. Hurley, Methodist minister, assisted by Rev. Tom Harris, of the Holiness Church. Burial was in the family cemetery, near the home.