EDITORIALS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1956

Pig in a Poke

Letters on the new tax valuations have gone out and as expected, many questions have been raised. While we' there is one matter which should be settled before the situation proceeds any farther.

County commissioners who set the tax rate should set now a TENTATIVE taxe rate figure. How can anyone decide whether his new valuation will either hurt or help if he doesn't know how to figure his tax rate?

The commissioners are right when they say they can't set a definite rate until they know what the final total valuation will be. But they must have some idea. That idea may not be the official, final rate to be adopted but people familiar with tax matters, as certainly our county tax officials must be, should be able to give taxpayers an approximation of the rate.

They could, for example, say "it will be no less than \$1.35 and no more than \$1.50."

From tomorrow through Feb. 29 taxpayers may go to the courthouse and check their valuation figures, compare them with neighboring properties or with businesses similar to theirs. That's all right as far as it goes. But doing this without knowing the tax rate is like sword-play in the dark. Nobody knows for sure what he's doing.

A person unhappy about his valuation complains on the basis that it's higher than it was before, which he debelieve revaluation is a good thing, clares is "too high." Nobody can say whether his taxes will be "too high" because nobody, at this point, knows what the tax rate might be!

It's like buying a pig in a poke. You get the poke home, open it up, and find that instead of a pig you have a turnip.

Unless we miss our guess, there is going to be lots of needless fury over these new valuations, needless because there is nothing concrete on which to base a discussion of the situation.

In the minds of tax experts, an "objective appraisal" is sufficient basis. But that is not enough for the taxpayer. Most taxpayers will grumble but are willing to pay a few dollars more in taxes. What bothers them is "HOW MUCH MORE?"

And how can they be answered unless a tentative tax rate figure is set? This figure ought to be announced prior to the meeting of the Board of Equalization March 19.

As we stated before, revaluation is necessary for the economic well-being of the county. But we do think too much is being expected of the taxpayer when he is asked to accept a shrug of the shoulders in reply to his query, "Can't you give me SOME idea of what the new tax rate will be?"

Something New . . .

Something new has been added on written-and filled with ads says to the In the upper left hand corner are the words, "Prize-Winning Newspaper of the Tar Heel Coast."

As we have said before, our primary purpose is to publish a good newspaper for the people of Carteret County and the surrounding area. If, incidentally, in that process newspaper experts think the paper is good and worthy of recognition, that is pleasing to us and helps to sell Carteret County to the world.

A newspaper is an ambassador. Its policy and the events it reflects in the area in which it is published reveal more than anything else the real personality of its locale.

In all respect to Chambers of Commerce, who do well in selling their localities, we say that nothing can tell as much - and tell it as objectively as ean your newspaper.

In a newspaper the discerning reader, who may never have seen the paper's place of publication, can tell what kind of an area the newspaper represents. A hard-to-read newspaper with a thrown-together look does not encourage a businessman or tourist to go take a closer look at the paper's "birth-

A well-printed newspaper, pleasing typographically, carrying news well- the Tar Heel coast.

the front page of THE NEWS-TIMES. reader, "This newspaper is probably published in an up-and-coming prosperous area. I should visit there. It might just be the place for setting up our branch business."

Of course, a good newspaper can't be produced without support of the people in its area. THE NEWS-TIMES is fortunate. People like to read it, they are the ones who make news and they help to keep us informed. And the advertiser knows he gets full value for his advertising dollar. His interest in doing more business, by advertising, makes it possible to expand the news-

When there are more ads, we can print more news and thereby interest more people. When we interest more people, we sell more papers and the advertiser gets his message to more readers.

It's fun to play on a team like this. THE NEWS-TIMES may do a bit of quarterbacking, but the readers, the news-makers, the advertisers are our linemen.

There's another thing, too. We may not, in the future, win prizes EVERY year, but we are always going to try to produce a good newspaper, one that will be a credit to Carteret County and

Hollering at a Possum

(Sanford Herald)

a possum hunter's hollering upset a resident (probably a commuter to a job in the city). He thought someone was ness. ss and called the Mecklenburg hollering. County Police.

"What," asks The Charlotte News in expressing keen interest in this occurrence, "was the hollering all about?"

Why, the hollering was about possum hunting. What do you hunt possums for except to holler?

If your dogs aren't trailing, you holler to encourage them. If they strike a scent, you holler your approval. If they tree, you holler to the folks with you to

Off Starita Road, beyond Charlotte, sum's up a limb or down a hole. Also, you holler at the dogs to impress them with the necessity of tending to busi-

In between real hollers, you practice

The News doesn't think a man would spend the night tramping around in the woods and swamps just to catch a possum, does it? Man, the hollering afforded by one good run is worth more than the fattest, hissingest, ugliest possum ever dumped into a croaker sack.

And it is sad news indeed that urbanism has crowded out one more little area where a possum hunter used to be able to go about his sport as loudly as tell them whether it sounds like the pos- he ought to.

Carteret County News-Times

WINNER OF NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AND NORTH CAROLINA

A Merger of The Beaufort News (Est. 1912) and The Twin City Times (Est. 1936) Published Tuesdays and Fridays by the Carteret Publishing Company, Inc.

504 Arendell St., Morehead City, N. C. LOCKWOOD PHILLIPS - PUBLISHER ELEANORE DEAR PHILLIPS — ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER RUTH L. PEELING — EDITOR

Mail Rates: In Carteret County and adjoining counties, \$6.00 one year, \$3.50 six months, \$1.25 one month; elsewhere \$7.00 one year, \$4.00 six months, \$1.50 one month.

> Member of Associated Press - N. C. Press Association National Editorial Association - Audit Bureau of Circulations

National Advertising Representative Moran & Fischer, Inc. 299 Madison Ave., New York 17, N. Y. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use for republication of local news printed in this newspaper, as well as all AP news dispatches. tered as Second Class Matter at Morehead City, N. C., Under Act of March 3, 1879.

sheet, showing your calculations, to your Return. In the case of the other three yes of business-connected ex-enses—out-of-town travel costs,



THEIR STAR RECRUIT

Complications a Zero Can Cause!

There are 7.001 members in the Carteret Burial Association, Inc. But it seems as though that number never comes out that way in the paper. This item appeared in Friday's paper:

"Figure in Error

"Membership in the Carteret Burial Association, Inc., Newport, is 7,0001 and not 701 as stated in the financial statement of the association in Tuesday's paper."

These paragraphs constitute, absolutely, the last attempt we're going to make at getting the thing to read 7,001. If it comes out any different, the burial association, with headquarters at Newport, will just have to increase its membership to seventy thousand and one reduce it to 701! We regret

This is one for the "How's that that we seem plagued with excess

Our vivacious home agent, Floy Garner, said that before she was married she had four pet theories for solving problems with children. Now that she's married, she has four children, she says, and no

Quite an honor has come to our "country architect," Burett H. Stephens, Beaufort, Mr. Stephens was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the North Carolina State Architectural Founda-

Purpose of the board, which is affiliated with the American Institute of Architects, is to see that excellent men are obtained to teach architecture at State Colsees that the money is raised to pay the kind of salary which will attract top-flight professors. If you ever have occasion to visit

Mr. H. L. Joslyn's office, beware. Or else be sure you have your own pencil. Not only can you pick up a fine looking pencil from his desk which will merely bend under pressure because it's made of rubber, but he has one of those automatic pens.

You push on the point (which looks retractable); and the top of the pencil flies 3 feet up in the air. It produces the same affect as having a fire cracker go off under your chair.

Mr. Joslyn chuckles and says, "At last I've solved the problem of how to keep pencils on my desk."

With This Article, Taxpayer Gets Information on Completing Short Form

(Third of a Series)

By FRANK O'BRIEN Associated Press

After you have claimed your exemptions, the next work in filing your income tax return is the business of putting down your total income and determining how much you can deduct from it, for iness-connected and personal expenses. After that, you may be able to reduce your income subject to tax further by exclusion of pay re-ceived while you were ill, or injured.

At line 5, on page 1 of Form 1040, you put down your income in 1955. Notice that you are directed to put down all income.

That means, put down your total income as though no deductions had been made by your employer for federal income tax, social security, union dues, charity contributions, etc.

But in using Form 1040 you may have to go behind the scenes and do a little figuring before you put down your 1955 income. because business - connected ex-

There are four types of business connected expenses deductible at this point. Just what is included under each heading is set forth in detail on pages 5 and 6 of the instructions pages 5 and 6 of the in-structions pamphlet under the ti-tle "trade and business deductions of employees." (Francisco) of employees." (Expenses of busnen are not the subject here just business expenses of em-

The point needing explanation is how these deductions are handled. In the case of business-connected expenses for which your employer partly or entirely reimburses you, (except expenses of travel and transportation) you add the amount of expense money he paid you to your wages. Then you subtract all the law

allows you to deduct, up to the amount of expense money you received. This may be less than the expense money you got, and that would mean entering at Line 5 the total of your wages plus ex-pense money you cannot deduct. But if your allowable business-

connected deductions are more than the expense money you re-ceived, you can deduct the remainder among your personal expenses, on page 2 of the form, under misellaneous expenses. In either case, attach a work-

other transportation, and expenses of outside salesmen—you add to your wages the amount of expense money you received, then subtract the total of your allowable expenses (whether less or more than the expense money you got). Enter the result as your total wages for

This sounds complex, but it is worthwhile, because proper han-dling of your business-connected expenses influences your adjusted gross income (total income less business-connected expenses). And the adjusted gross income figure basic figure from which your tax is computed.

The law allows you a minimum of 10 per cent of your adjusted gross income, within certain dolgross income, within certain dol-lar limits, as tax-free, personal ex-



penses. You can claim 10 per cent, or the dollar maximum, in the tax computation table at the bottom of page 2 Form 1040. The dollar limits are \$1,000 on

a joint return, \$500 for a ma person filing separately, or \$1,000 for all others. If you think your deductible ex-

penses may come to more than that (this includes deductions of both husband and wife on a joint return) you can claim the total by itemizing. You list your itemized

expenses in the special box for them on page 2 Form 1040. Deductible items are listed, and their handling explained, in the instructions pamphlet, beginning on page 11.

There has been no change in de-

There has been no change in deductions from last year. The change this year is that you can now itemize your personal expenses while using the short form.

In a nutshell, deductible expenses include contributions to churches, charities and many non-

churches, charities and many non-profit organizations; interest paid by you including interest often dis-guised as "handling charges" in installment psyment contracts, within certain limits; most non-federal tax payments; your not

loss resulting from fire, storm, auto accident, shipwreck or thefts; medical and dental costs over and above 3 per cent of your adjusted gross income, within dollar limits listed in the instructions (the dollar limits, but not the 3 per cent rule, apply to persons 65 or over); expenses of child care under spe cific limits; allowable business connected expenses not deducted

Expenses reimbursed by insur-ance benefits are not deductible, but the cost (to you) of accident as a medical cost.

Next comes another item that may be of considerable benefit to you. Like your business-connected expenses, it can reduce your ad justed gross income. This is the sick pay exclusion. This provision of the 1954 tax code lets you exclude (within limits) from your income amounts you received from your employer while you were away from work due to illness or

Here are the sick pay rules (more clearly and fully than set forth in the instructions):

In the case of absence from work due to injury, your sick pay exclusion begins with the first dollar paid while you were away. In the case of sickness, it begins only with your second week's sich pay, unless you were hospitalized at least one day the first week. In that case, the exclusion begins with your pay for the first day

It is easy to figure out the amount of your income you can set aside, tax free (exclude) as sick pay.

The top amount you can claim is \$100 a week. Therefore, if you make anything

up to and including \$100 a week, you can exclude all the sick pay you receive (except that the first

you receive (except that the first week's pay in the case of illness— not injury—may not count). Just determine your daily rate of pay (your weekly pay divided by the number of days in your normal work week), and multiply that by the number of work days when you were absent and paid. That is your total exclusion.

That is your total exclusion.

Since the top rate is \$100 a week, persons who earn more than \$100 a week get their exclusions like this: Divide \$100 by the number of days in your normal work. ber of days in your normal work week. That gives you your daily

Then multiply by the number of work days you were absent. That gives you your total exclu-sion. But remember that in the

Captain Henry

on Broad Street.

Sou'easter

Gerald Hill straggled into the town board meeting Monday night. They said he looked as though he was battling wildcats. Know what he said he was battling? Broad Street. If anybody wants a liver shaken loose or a mud bath (the non-deluxe type), it's all available

Bob Slater is one versatile fellow. Besides being a genius at boats, electronics, and a master at quite a few other occupations, he likes to play the organ. Delivered to the Slater house recently was one of these new home-model organs. I've seen pictures of them One thing about them, you don't have to worry about an aerial.

paper in this neck of the woods We were talking about it the other day. Folks seem a bit disappointed, though, that the paper, which is supposed to be published for the benefit of Beaufort, is printed at

It's interesting to see that there's

It doesn't seem quite right that

good Carteret dollars should be drained off to help support a print

shop upstate. I always thought the point was to get dollars to come in here, not

send them out.

Maybe some day the paper might be printed here, but between now and then a lot of Carteret cash could be siphoned off to the

This is one of Cap'n Dave Beveridge's favorite stories. A preacher was holding a revival and his listeners were enthusiastically receiving the message.

At one point the minister cried. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away!'

Upon hearing that, one fellow among the happy converts shouted, "Now that's a square deal!"

I'm going out to the school house Friday night. I haven't seen a good home-blown talent show for years. Folks from all over the county are show will be used by the Lions to

called the Scout Building) would be let next week. Thus far, \$5,682

had been raised for the building

Beaufort Jaycees pledged \$500

Beaufort town commissioners

to the memorial civic building fund.

In the Good Old Days War Memorial Civic building (now

THIRTY YEARS AGO

The Seashore Transportation Co. had started a bus line from Beaufort to New Bern and another bus line, operated by Mr. B. Gunder son, ran from Beaufort to Atlantic

The annual county schools commencement would be held in Beaufort on April 9.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO The C. G. Gaskill Brokerage Co. was erecting a large building on Lennoxville Road near Live Oak

Several small businesses were wiped out when a \$25,000 fire ept the north side of Arendell Street, Morehead City.

M. S. Snowden of Beaufort would represent the Corbitt Package Co. of Wilmington.

TEN YEARS AGO

The contract for the Beaufort

E. Laurence Palmer

Wild Coatis Amuse, As Well as Bother Campers

Whether we read the accounts of early explorer naturalists or those of current tourists in Mexico and Central America we are likely to hear of the antics of coatis They may be seen in zoos but they apparently are at their best in a semi-wild condition where they are frequent visitors to camps. A mail coati may measure over

feet with half this length being a highly eloquent tail. The animals may stand a foot high at the shoulder and weigh nearly 30 pounds Usually they are smaller, how-ever, with the males being larger than females.

Coatis walk flat-footed and each



Coati

nail marks may or may not show. The track looks something like that of a cat only it is half again elongated and are usually closer

together.
It is reasonable that these animals should remind one of a rac coon because the two animals are closely related. Coatis like raccoons can swim, climb and are good travelers on the ground and they are more likely to be active in the day time than are the raccoon, and are apparently least ac-

case-of illness, the first week's pay

The Revenue Service has ruled that pregnancy itself is not an ill-ness. So if you were on paid absence due to pregnancy, that alone does not make your leave pay ex-

But if you were actually ill dur-ing any of that time, your pay for the work days you were ill is de-ductible. You may have changed jobs dur-

ing the year. If so, your employers may have collected more than the \$84.00 maximum of Social Security (F.I.C.A.) tax.

If this happened, you can claim credit for the surplus you paid at Line 5 Form 1040, page 1. Write "F.I.C.A. tax" in the "where employed" column. If you are filing a joint return and both have this type of credit, compute and claim m separately.

Also, you may have made esti-mated tax payments in 1955 in ad-dition to withholdings from your

dition to withholdings from your salary. You get credit for this on line 17b of Form 1040, page 1. Persons with wage and salary income only, now have the infor-mation they need to complete the new "wage earner's short form."

were considering paving the un-paved portion of Live Oak Street. FIVE YEARS AGO Three Carteret County Marines were killed in an airplane crash

at Eastville, Va.

Beaufort Jaycees would raise \$1,000 to supplement salaries of a public school music teacher and band director and a football coach at Beaufort school.

Fire destroyed part of the former Navy building at Ocracok

tive around midnight or noon. Like raccoons coatis feed upon a variety of things. They may eat birds and their eggs, insects in birds and their eggs, insects in various stages of development,

like fruits such as apples, peaches The young are born in spring or early summer about 11 weeks af-ter mating. There are usually from

crawfish, mussels, squirrels, mice and other small animals. They also

4 to 6 young in a litter. Coatis are found within the United States—in Texas, Arizona and New Mexico—but always rather close to the Mexican border. Ap-parently they are pushing their range farther to the north as seems to be the case with so many other

Coatis are clowns when they want to be. They have a varied group of sounds which they pro-duce — grunts, screams, snorts, whistles and hisses—with each probably signifying a different re-action of the animal to the situa-

tion in which it finds itself. This unique mammal is of in-terest to the student of nature who visits its range in the Southwest-ern United States. And despite its occasional troublesome habits
where it lives near man, it has a
definite place in those animal
communities of which it is a part.

The Readers Write

North Carolina State Board of Health

Raleigh February 8, 1956

To the Editor: Your editorial entitled "Sh-h-h-h!" appearing in the Feb. 3, 1956 iss of your paper has come to my attention, and I wish to commend you on that editorial both from the standpoint of the manner of your presentation of the problem as well as your public-spirited interest in support of our activities in cooperation with your local health department to combat the venereal disease problem in Car-

teret County.
Your interest is particularly appreciated at the present time in view of the rise during calendar year 1955 of reported syphilis in the State of North Carolina. Of course, the bulk of the problem is in eastern North Carolina.

It is obvious that you appreciate that without the support of the press as well as community leaders any program attempting to benefit the health or welfare of the community is in jeopardy and destined to frustrating failure.

Again let me thank you and express our appreciation for your interest in better venereal disease control activities in your area. It is obvious that you appre

Sincerely yours, Warfield Garson, M.D., Chief Venergal Disease Control Section Division of Epidemiology