

Appropriations For Schools Continue To Increase Taxes

Increased county appropriations for public schools have once again pushed county property tax rates to new highs. This is apparent from a study of 1961 county tax rates recently completed by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Fifty counties found it necessary to increase their property tax rate for the current year, and two additional counties had a horizontal increase in property valuations to obtain additional tax revenue from the same rate. This is substantially above the usual situation. In the eight years between 1952 and 1960, our average of only 34 counties experienced an increase.

County property taxes are of current interest because this is the time of year that taxpayers receive their tax bills from the county courthouse. Many will receive higher tax bills, and once again support for the public schools is the major reason.

Six counties had an increase of from 30 to 35 cents, and 9 counties had an increase of from 20 to 29 cents. In every case, appropriations for schools was the sole or major cause. Another 14 counties had an increase of from 10 to 19 cents, and 23 counties had an increase of less than 10 cents.

In the 52 counties with an increase, appropriations for schools was the sole cause in 12 counties, and a major contributing cause in another 30 counties. No other activity approached schools as a factor in increasing taxes. Seven counties, in describing the reasons for the increase, mentioned revaluation, 4 mentioned industrial development programs, 4 mentioned construction or improvement of county buildings and jails, 2 mentioned food surplus distribution and another 3 general welfare increases, 2 mentioned hospital construction, and one mentioned the library. A hint of the future may be seen in the 3 counties with an increase to meet the cost of community college operation.

One thing is clear. The additional state school appropriations provided by the 1961 General Assembly did not relieve the pressure on counties for additional county school appropriations. Counties will raise far more money for schools this year than they did last year. Counties must still supplement state funds to meet the cost of instructional programs, and counties are responsible for building schools in cities and towns as well as in rural areas.

This Is The Law



By ROBERT E. LEE
(For the N. C. Bar Association)

LIBEL AND SLANDER

Is it a crime to publish malicious matters which tend to blacken the memory of a dead person?

Yes. It is a crime to write and publish defamatory matter of one deceased person if it is done with the evil purpose of injuring his family and posterity, and to expose them to contempt and disgrace.

The chief reason for punishing offenses of this nature is their tendency to a breach of the peace. Although the person may be dead at the time of the publishing of the libel, yet it stirs up others of the same family, blood or society to revenge and to break the peace.

May there be a recovery of damages in a civil action for the defamation of a dead person?

No. The law has not seen fit to give a legal cause of action for the defamation of a dead person.

There are many criminal actions, which do not rise to a recovery of damages in a civil suit.

May there be a recovery of damages in a civil action for the slander or libel of a living person?

Yes.

May there be a recovery of damages in a civil action for the slander or libel of a living person if this person dies before the civil action is brought?

No. This is one of the few actions which does not survive the death of the party involved.

Is it a crime to slander or libel a living person?

Yes. There is a complete defense, however, if the defendant satisfies the jury that the facts are true.

A North Carolina statute stipulates that before any action, either criminal or civil, is brought for slander or libel against a newspaper, periodical, radio or television station, the plaintiff or prosecutor must give

a written notice of at least five days specifying in detail the alleged false and defamatory statements.

Also by statutes in North Carolina a newspaper, periodical, radio or television station may, under certain conditions, lessen its criminal or civil liability by an appropriate retraction.

TWENTY CASES HEARD BY RECORDER TUESDAY

(Continued From Page One)

fining \$5.25 and taxed with cost for speeding 65 in a 55 mile zone.

William Henry Riddick paid court costs for exceeding the height limit.

Dudley Ray Weeks paid the costs of court for driving left of center line.

Felton Randolph White, charged with failure to observe a stop sign, paid the costs.

Sylvester Welch, charged with driving on left side and failure to report an accident; prayer for judgment continued.

James Edward Lewis, charged with using wrong traffic paid the costs.

Clinton Woodrow Slades, Jr., paid the costs on an improper muffler charge.

Michele Chinsolo, charged with public drunkenness, was fined \$2.00 and taxed with the costs.

Bond was ordered forfeited in the case of Norman Chapman Vail, charged with speeding 65 in a 55 mile zone.

opportunity to renew his paper and help the PTA at the same time.

All subscriptions sold through this drive will be started at the expiration of present subscriptions. That is, if you are now a subscriber and your subscription is paid through December, or any month in 1962, the renewal you give to the PTA will be carried forward at the expiration of the present date.

This plan will enable the PTA of the two schools to raise extra funds for activities at the two schools, and has been conducted in cooperation with the PTA for the past seven years. Subscribers are urged to support the PTA in this drive and renew subscriptions through the PTA members or school children.

JAYCEES ENTERTAINED

Members of the Hertford Junior Chamber of Commerce and their wives were entertained by M. Elwood Copeland at his beach cottage at Kill Devil Hills Saturday evening, October 7, between the hours of 6 and 8 o'clock. Hor d'oeuvres and coffee was served.

Members and their wives attending included Mr. and Mrs. John Beers, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Humphlett, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Archie T. Lane, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Hillary Scaff, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Skinner, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Joe Towe, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Charles White and Robert Taylor.

SENIORS ELECT MASCOTS

The senior class of Perquimans High School has chosen Peggy Simpson and Eugene Landing, Jr., as their mascots for the coming year.

Peggy Simpson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Simpson of Hertford, highly impressed the class with her recital of the "Blessing" and "Ring Around the Roses" and her eagerness to express herself.

Eugene Landing, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Landing of Hertford, fascinated the class with an Indian song and a dog joke. He seemed to enjoy expressing himself, also.

Good Picker

"Is young Mrs. Whoofleby a good mother?"

"Good? Why, she's marvelous! I have seldom seen anyone more careful when hiring a nurse for her children."

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EAGER BEAVERS MEET

Eager Beavers Scout Patrol No. 2 met Tuesday for their try-out for first class rank, according to Mrs. Joseph Perry, Patrol Leader.

Members of Scout Patrol No. 2 are Pam Perry, Jo Frances Perry, Becky Lou Owens, Pat Long, Beth Harris, Nancy Chory and Nita Nixon.

MEMORIAN

In memory of Wallace Floyd Long who passed away on October 14, 1961.

Loving memories never die. As years roll on and days pass by, in our hearts a memory is kept. Of one we love and will never forget.

—THE FAMILY.

Long county property taxes this year will exceed \$100 million for the state as a whole. This compares with \$50 million or less, just 10 years ago. More than half of the total goes to the construction of public schools and to supplement state appropriations for schools. This is the reason many county officials are convinced that some state or federal aid is necessary for school construction, to relieve the pressure on property taxes.

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STATEMENT

PEOPLES BANK & TRUST COMPANY

HOME OFFICE... ROCKY MOUNT

Branches

- Nashville
- Battleboro
- Whitakers
- Pinetops
- Zebulon
- Enfield
- Middlesex
- Sharpsburg
- Edenton
- Henderson

HERTFORD North Carolina

September 27, 1961

ASSETS

Cash and Due from Banks	\$11,521,711.48
United States Government Securities	11,325,581.16
State, County and Municipal Bonds	3,659,750.60
Corporate Stocks	12,500.00
Loans and Discounts	20,308,785.59
Banking Houses, Furniture and Fixtures	959,366.85
Other Assets	431,776.36
Total	\$48,219,472.04

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 1,000,000.00
Surplus	2,000,000.00
Undivided Profits and Capital Reserves	1,051,986.33
Total Capital Accounts	4,051,986.33
Reserve for Taxes, Unearned Interest, Depreciation, etc.	1,058,026.39
DEPOSITS	43,109,459.32
Total	\$48,219,472.04

The Above Does Not Include Trust Assets of 16,358,246.46

Commercial — Savings — Trust — Installment Loans

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*Optional at extra cost

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