

Surry County Has No Increase In Tax Rate of \$1.15 Among Lowest in State

Surplus of \$30,000 For County Fund Enables Increases For Schools and Roads Without Higher Tax Rate.

The County Commissioners of this county in their regular session at Dobson last Monday set the tax rate for the county at \$1.15 on the \$100 property valuation, thus maintaining the same rate as last year. At the same time the board adopted the budget of the board of education after deducting items totaling about \$40,000. These items included mostly building operations that the school board wanted to undertake, one of the buildings being at Westfield, an addition to the Rock school and to the Franklin school, both near this city. As approved the school budget carries with it an increased appropriation of \$20,000 in advance of last year, and enables the board to operate the six months term of school all over the county. The County Commissioners, in not allowing all the increases asked for, took the stand that it was a large task to complete the consolidation system of the county schools and to do too much of the work in one or two years would be too great a tax burden. They reason that it would be better to gradually work up to that point and not burden the people with a heavy tax at once in order to reach a quick end of the job.

The road fund of the county is increased \$6,000 over last year. All this increased funds for the roads and schools has been accomplished without an increase in the tax rate of the county.

This has been made possible by cutting the rate of the general county fund. Also the county fund was able to close the fiscal year with a surplus of \$30,000 and it is proposed to convert the larger part of this to the use of the school and bridge fund. This is the first time in the history of the present generation that the county has been able to finish the year's work with a surplus, and with the cry all over the state against increasing the taxes and at the same time demanding public improvements in all directions, the present officials of Surry County feel that they are fortunate in maintaining the same tax rate and at the same time increasing the school and road budgets a considerable amount.

The itemized statement of the budget for the coming year is now being prepared for publication which is expected to be furnished the press next week, showing the many departmental expenses of the county.

The county tax rate for the ensuing year is itemized as follows:

For Schools,	57c
For Interest,	25c
For Roads,	30c
For County Fund,	11c
For Bridges,	2c
Total,	\$1.15

School Board Member Resigns

Dr. Ira S. Gambill Succeeds J. F. Carter on Board

The board of education at Dobson last Monday accepted the resignation of J. F. Carter, of Elkin, who the month before handed in a written resignation, giving no reason for wishing to be relieved, although it is said that business reasons prompted him to resign.

In his letter of resignation Mr. Carter recommended the appointment of M. B. Bailey as his successor but the board elected Dr. Ira S. Gambill. Mr. Carter has made the county a faithful and valuable member of the board and his co-workers regret to lose him. Dr. Gambill is a Republican but is highly recommended by men of both parties.

BASE BALL SCHEDULE

The following teams have been booked to play the local team on the grounds here:
Friday, Aug. 10—Galax.
Saturday, Aug. 11—Walnut Cove.
Wednesday, Aug. 15—Kernersville.

No 20 Per Cent Tax Penalty

State Official Rules Against High Tax Penalty

For years it has been the custom for purchasers of land at tax sales to collect a 20 per cent penalty from the owner where the land was redeemed within the time allowed by law, which is one year. A letter has been sent out from the state department at Raleigh advising the various county officials and the public that the law does not permit a 20 per cent penalty but means to allow the purchaser interest on his money at the rate of 20 per cent per annum. Thus it is that the tax payer can redeem his land and pay, not the full 20 per cent, but at the rate of 20 per cent a year.

There are always people who attend the Sheriff tax sales and buy the lands advertised with the idea of speculating on the penalty that they are allowed to collect, but with the new ruling of the state it will not be so profitable for people to speculate on the tax sales since the profit has been materially reduced.

Big Time For Fire Fighters

Fifteen hundred firemen are this week meeting in New Bern for their annual convention. Among the number are a dozen or more of the voluntary firemen of Mount Airy, the whole-time crew and the fire chief, M. F. Patterson. The local boys left here early Sunday morning and expect to make a week of their trip. Those who are attending included: M. F. Patterson, D. G. Witt, Ora Roberts, W. H. Brannock, Ed Brannock, S. H. Warren, O. T. Massey, J. E. Monday, W. J. Jones, Benton Moody, M. W. Belton, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jarrell, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Jessup.

Martin Reunion at Gladesboro

A reunion of the Martins and relative is scheduled to be held at Gladesboro Church in Carroll County, Sunday Aug. 19th, beginning at 10 o'clock. A preaching service will be a part of the morning program, followed by a picnic dinner at noon. In the afternoon the gathering will be addressed by various speakers already engaged to be present. All neighbors and friends are also invited to attend and bring baskets for the picnic.

Salvation Army Work Growing

Large crowds attended the open air Salvation Army services last week end and those in charge of the work here feel very much encouraged. Ensign and Mrs. Stanley and Capt. and Mrs. Shaw were present. Capt. Shaw conducted a great open air meeting Friday night and Ensign Stanley consecrated two children in the Sunday evening service.

Rain Brings Damaging Hail

A severe storm and hail did considerable damage to the crops of farmers in the section around the White Sulphur Springs last Sunday afternoon. One farmer, Geo. M. Sparger, had a field of 25 acres of fine growing tobacco practically destroyed with no hail insurance to protect him. Other farmers suffered loss from the hail. Reports from people who were out traveling indicated that the storm traveled in a path from Hillsville, across the Wards Gap, down through the Springs section and to the eastern part of the county.

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Wolts are visiting relatives at Catawba this week.

Men Who Will Play Important Part In Selecting Moose Home Site



LAYS CORNERSTONE

ALBERT CASSEIDY, chairman of Mooseheart Regents, on June 4, at Mooseheart, laid the cornerstone for the new \$35,000 building, gift of Baltimore Lodge, No. 70, Loyal Order of Moose.

A. L. Bunker Recovering From Operation

Friends of Albert L. Bunker will be glad to learn that he is recovering from an operation for appendicitis at Martin Memorial hospital in this city and is now receiving company at his room at the hospital. Mr. Bunker was taken suddenly nearly three weeks ago making an operation necessary.

S. C. Ross of Winston-Salem, has accepted a place in the Mount Airy Drug store as supply during the vacation of the proprietor, C. P. Clark and Mrs. Clark who go north Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Ross and baby are stopping at the Ellis house.

MOOSEHEART'S FOUNDER
SNAPSHOT of the Honorable James J. Davis, U.S. Secretary of Labor, and Director General of the Loyal Order of Moose, taken during the commencement exercises of the "School That Trains for Life"—Mooseheart.

Campaign Started to Provide Schools for Adult Population

A movement which promises to mean much for Stokes and Surry county crystallized this week when two trained workers came into this section to put in progress plans for teaching adults who have had little or no chance to learn to read and write. Last year a number of young women in the teacher training class at Dobson pledged themselves to do all they could and for the past year many who favored the movement have been looking forward to the time when the work would actually be under way in Surry, and already more than 600 names of those who cannot read and write or those who have had less than three years in the public schools in the county have been recorded and these and all others who wish to do so will be given their chance in the near future. Just as rapidly as possible classes will be organized and it is our understanding that classes will be conducted at such times and places as small groups can be gathered together.

The adult mind grasps things so much quicker than the child mind that the progress made by those who enter the classes for adult illiterates is simply marvelous. For a number of years work has been conducted in Buncombe county starting with the moonlight schools which were carried on under a commission or bureau appointed by Governor Bickett in 1917. Later the work was put under and financed by the educational boards of the county and the city of Asheville and the work has grown to such proportions that 5,000 illiterates have been taught to read and write and they hope to wipe out adult illiteracy in that county by 1930. At present they have an enrollment of 400 and they graduate their classes and make merry when their pupils complete the work and are given certificates. Last year the State Federation of Women's Clubs, foreseeing the expansion of the work from a one-county to a state-wide movement, planned a project for the sixth district which includes the counties of Davis, Rowan, Forsyth, Yadkin, Stokes and Surry counties and under the direction of Miss Lorene Leonard

excellent work was done last year in several of these counties. This year they plan to concentrate on Surry and Stokes and make them demonstration counties to show to the state and the world what can be done. If you have not kept up with this work you are wondering how the project is to be financed and that is a very important part. The Colonial Dames and D. A. R. have each appropriated the sum of \$500, the club districts have given \$237.33 the Stokes County Board of Education has contributed \$250 and Tuesday the Surry County Board of Commissioners made an appropriation of \$250. These contributions justify beginning the work and carrying it on for several months and it is expected that individuals, corporations and civic betterment organizations will appropriate enough to carry on the work for the entire year and employ additional teachers. Extra teachers will be paid on the basis of their certificates and a night school session counts as half a day. Many will no doubt be glad to give of their time and volunteer workers will also have their place. It is thought that the work will be able to so definitely establish its value by the time the money is used up which has already been appropriated that there will be no trouble about securing additional funds.

Supt. A. W. Rymer, county superintendent of Public Welfare in Buncombe county says he finds that "A parent taught means a child in school." The county superintendent of the same county says that the night schools help the day schools and have helped in getting consolidated schools, and in cooperation between parents and schools. It is the hope of those who head the movement to eventually make it a part of the state educational program as is already being done in Oklahoma, South Carolina and Georgia. These states will soon be joined by North Carolina, it is believed, in their efforts to abolish illiteracy in the south. A commission has been appointed by Gov. McLean to study the situation in the state, to determine the

(Continued to last page.)

Traffic Figures on Fancy Gap Highway Amazing to Taker

Twenty Years Ago 65 Wagons Passed Up This Road in One Day While on Last Sunday Only One Buggy Was Seen—1041 Cars Counted Last Sunday.

CITY TAX RATE INCREASED 14 CENTS

New Rates Makes Total of \$1.60—Increase in Schools Cause of It.

This city faces an increase of four-tenths cents in its tax rate for this year, following the adoption of the city budget by the board Tuesday night. This will give Mount Airy a tax rate of \$1.60. Of this amount the schools get 40 cents for operation and five cents for the retirement of its deficit.

The itemized budget of the city giving the total amount allowed the various departments as follows:

The following budget for financing the Town of Mount Airy, N. C., for the fiscal year June 1, 1928 to June 1, 1929, is now on file in the office of the clerk of the Board of Commissioners, and is open to public inspection, and notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be had on the matter of the adoption of said budget at the Town Hall, Mount Airy, N. C., on Monday, August 20th, 1928 at 7:30 o'clock P. M.

Street maintenance,	\$10,000.00
Police Dept.	10,000.00
Fire Dept.	6,000.00
Officials' salaries	4,500.00
Sanitary work	500.00
Interest on borrowed money	5,000.00
Stationery and printing	600.00
Cost Recorder's Court	850.00
Listing & making tax books	750.00
Recording births and deaths	177.00
Collector and treas. bonds	125.00
Lighting streets	4,500.00
Lighting Town Hall	150.00
Fire engine note	2,240.00
Street sweeper note	1,722.50
Contingent fund,	1,300.00
Pay interest and principal on improvement bonds	37,885.00
Pay principal and interest on school bonds	13,547.50
Sinking fund,	791.00
School maintenance	31,760.00
School deficit,	3,650.00
Total,	\$136,548.00

Property valuation estimated to yield revenue as follows:	
Property tax	123,200.00
Tax on polls	3,848.00
Special taxes	5,000.00
Clerk and police fees and court room	2,500.00
Miscellaneous receipts,	1,000.00
Total,	\$135,548.00

Taxes levied for 1928-1929:

For general purposes 49 cts. on the \$100.00 valuation of property and \$1.47 on each poll.
For school maintenance, 40 cts. on the \$100.00 valuation of property and \$1.20 on each poll.
Pay principal and interest on improvement bonds, 48 cts. on the \$100 valuation of property and \$1.44 on each poll.
Pay principal and interest on school bonds 17 cts. on the \$100 valuation of property and 51 cts. on each poll.
Pay school deficit 5 cts. on the \$100.00 valuation of property and 15 cts. on each poll.
For sinking fund 1 ct. on the \$100 valuation of property and 3 cts. on each poll.

The above budget is based on estimate of \$7,700,000.00 valuation. Comparative statements for the fiscal years 1926-1927 and 1927-1928 are on file in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners and open to public inspection.

By order of the Board of Commissioners in session held this 7th day of August, 1928.
W. G. Sydnor, Mayor.
F. M. Poore, Sec. and Treas.

Traffic on the highway between this city and Hillsville leading up the Fancy Gap and across the Blue Ridge increases every week as the traveling public becomes acquainted with this fine highway and the scenic beauty that unfolds as the traveler winds his way through the hills and up the passes of the mountains. All along this road has sprung up new service stations and grocery stores. Down in the mountain, a mile from the top, an enterprising merchant, J. B. Jackson has built a store and filling station and provided free water for the public, flowing from a cool spring a hundred feet in the cliffs above. One of the interesting features to Mr. Jackson about the travel up the mountain is the surprising number of cars that stop at his station just burning up, they are so hot. The motorist is at a loss to understand why his engine has heated up so and begins to wonder what has gone wrong. Mr. Jackson says the driver forgets that he has been speeding up a gradual incline for five miles, feeding the car all the gas it will take, with the result that the engine is bound to get hot. So smooth and easy is the going that the motorist fails to realize this until he stops at Mr. Jackson's and finds the water boiling out the radiator. And Mr. Jackson says many drivers burn up their brakes the first trip down. They glide off down the mountain at Mitchell's hotel, and for a mile the road is almost straight, with a five per cent grade. Before the driver recovers from the exhilarating effect of the breeze and enjoyment of the coasting sensation he is burning up a good set of brakes and is found dashing water on them at Mr. Jackson's service station.

Last Sunday J. Fulton Towe, a progressive farmer living near the foot of the mountain, interested himself in counting the number of cars that traveled the Fancy Gap road that day, and from 7 A. M. to 6 P. M. he counted 1,041 cars and one buggy, one wagon and a man on horse-back, according to the News of the scene he made Mr. Towe said.

"That state of Virginia has recently put the fine coat of rock on the new road, completing this stretch of the Lakes-to-Florida Highway. This is now completed except the oil which is expected to be applied in a few days. On Sunday, Aug. 5th, I located myself at the store and filling station of W. C. Hill & Co., about three miles from the state line, and counted the cars and trucks that passed on this road. I got 1,041. They bore the following license tags: North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, California, West Virginia, Maine, Ohio, District of Columbia, South Carolina, Colorado, Tennessee, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, Oklahoma and Ontario, Canada. 92 of this number stopped at Hill's filling station for gas, oil, etc. At times during the day 75 passed in one hour. There also passed one man on horse-back, one wagon and one buggy. Twenty years ago counted the wagons on this road near the same place the busiest time of the year and 65 passed in one day."

Elkin Republicans Meet, Endorse and Resolute

The Republicans of Elkin township had a gathering in Elkin Monday night and passed resolutions condemning practically everything that has been done by the administration that is now in office in the county. They don't like the way the auditor's office is run, notwithstanding it shows a surplus of \$30,000 for the general county fund. They don't like the Democrats taking on U. G. Belton and giving their fence political boss one of the best offices in the county. They don't like Gen. Jackson's Australian ballot law and the "Bible bungalow" that shows such voting precinct. They don't like the inactivity of the road officials of the county

in not pressing their claim for a proper distribution of state funds in the county. In general they wrote a vigorous platform for their party in advance of the county convention. Besides the resolutions the meeting endorsed C. B. Franklin of Elkin as the party's candidate for Sheriff and brought forth J. A. Somers as County Commissioner. The meeting did not make known how it stood on the race for Register of Deeds, but over in this part of the county the Republicans have two most active aspirants for the office—O. B. Webb and T. M. Marsh. Both men are making a canvass of the county and are in earnest in their effort to be the nominees of the Republican convention.