

THE ENTERPRISE

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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, June 17, 1930.

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COMMISSIONERS RESIGN POSTS IN BERTIE COUNTY

Refuse To Continue When Voters Nominate Four New Members

EFFECTIVE JULY 7TH

Running on a Tax Reduction Platform New Commissioners Will Discuss Budgets On July 7th

After reviewing tax valuations at a special meeting held in Windsor yesterday, four of the five members of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners tendered their resignations, to become effective the first Monday in July. The action was taken because of the fact that practically a new board was nominated in the primary recently, in which the members of the present board were candidates on a platform of the past performance in office.

Members of the board in discussing the action taken, explained that they felt that their official actions had been disapproved by the vote of the people in the primary, and as the new board is more or less pledged to reduce county expenditures, the old board wished to give them an opportunity to begin with the next year's budgets which will be presented at the July meeting of the commissioners. The clerk of the superior court is empowered by law to appoint members to the board to fill unexpired terms, and it is presumed that he will name the men nominated in the recent primary to serve until December when their regular terms begin.

With the county valuation in Bertie showing a decrease of around \$700,000, the old board members did not see how they could get by without increasing the present tax rate, and feeling that there would be criticism if they went ahead and raised the rate in the face of the primary returns they decided to give the new board the opportunity of fixing the rate for the coming year. It is not yet known definitely whether the men nominated in the primary will accept appointments to fill the unexpired terms or not, and pressure is being brought to bear to have the old members of the board retain their positions until their terms expire in December.

While the commissioners are resigning in Bertie, a second primary is underway in this county to determine the nominees for commissioners. The conditions confronting the two counties are practically the same, but the desire for office in Bertie apparently is not near so great as it is over here.

JAMESVILLE MAN FULFILLS BET

Chas. Davenport Pushes W. W. Robertson 2 1-2 Miles In Wheelbarrow

"I never dreamed that Bailey would register such a defeat over Simmons, and if I had even thought he would win I would never have agreed, as loser, to roll Mr. W. W. Robertson from his filling station, two and one-half miles away, to our station in Jamesville," Mr. Charles Davenport stated yesterday. The bet was lifted early Sunday morning, when Mr. Davenport pushed the builder's wheelbarrow the two and one-half miles in one hour and 17 minutes, actual rolling time.

When the Bailey victory was announced, Mr. Davenport stated that he attempted to influence Mr. Robertson to look upon the wager as a mere joke. "He just would not listen to reason, so we agreed upon the time," the Jamesville man stated. With a pillow and an ordinary rug, Mr. Robertson fired a cigar and took a seat in the barrow. The rolling was off to a good start, Mr. Davenport accepting his lot without complaint. Slow progress was made in rounding up the upgrade curve just the other side of Gardner's Creek, but in spite of the oversized drops of perspiration flowing from his face, Mr. Davenport continued the task.

Visitors from all parts of the county went down to witness the fulfillment of the bet. Percell Mobley apparently laughing the most at Mr. Davenport's expense. Several walked the entire distance to see that no cheating resulted, and it was agreed that the obligation, however foolish its origin, was fully met. But, it is certain that Mr. Davenport regretted the outcome of the primary.

Resume Mid-Week Service At Local Baptist Church

At the church Sunday the pastor announced that he is now able to resume the church's full schedule of services. Accordingly, the midweek service will be held at the church Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Since the Christian Church is now celebrating the nineteenth hundredth anniversary of the birth of the church, a series of studies will be grouped about this idea.

An attempt will be made to make these services of such nature as to justify attendance upon them.

Property Valuation in County Reaches the \$12,760,969 Mark

CORPORATION LISTINGS WILL INCREASE SUM

Decrease Equals a Two and One-half Cent Increase In the Tax Rate

REPORT \$398,198 LOSS

Williams Township Reported Greatest Percentage Loss; Cross Roads Is Second in Percent Column

Real estate valuations in the county reached the \$12,760,969 mark yesterday when Bear Grass, the last township to report, handed in its listings. The amount, \$398,198 less than the listings for the previous year, does not include the corporation taxes, which are handled through the corporation commission at Raleigh. The corporation taxes will bring the valuations up to a total of approximately \$16,000,000, or probably more, as there have been additions made in telephone and electric lines since the listings were entered a year ago.

At the present, however, the \$398,198 loss in the county is to be considered. With no change in the budget, or in other words, if the budget for all county operations remains the same as it was last year there will necessarily result an increase in the tax rate of two and one-half cents on the \$100 property valuations. Figuring on the basis of the approximately \$400,000 valuation decrease in real estate and personal property values, there will be deducted from the general levy a sum of \$5,500, that amount representing a tax of 2 and 1-2 cents.

Before delving into the prospective tax rate, the budgets of the county educational board and the county auditor will have to be filed. These budgets will be ready within the next few weeks, it is understood. And then the rate will be determined. According to reports, strict economy is being followed in every instance possible to check the apparently inevitable increase in the tax rate.

Receiving the Bear Grass list yesterday, Tax Supervisor John D. Lilley expressed himself as being much pleased with the outcome of the county valuations. "The loss is not half as much as first reports indicated it would be," Mr. Lilley stated. Bear Grass reported listings in the sum of \$801,699, or a decrease of \$41,751, as compared with the listings the year before. Property of white owners equals a five per cent decrease, and that of colored owners equals a 14 per cent decrease.

The greatest percentage loss was reported in Williams Township, the decrease in that district being 15 per cent. Cross Roads was second in the percentage decrease with a 6 per cent drop. Bear Grass takes third place. Jamesville reported a loss of about 1 and 1-2 per cent. Poplar Point was lowest with a 1 per cent decrease.

Robersonville reported the largest decrease, \$114,794, but its ratio of loss is only 4 per cent, as the valuation in that district is the largest in the county.

Williamston gained about 1-2 of 1 per cent, and was the only township to report a gain.

The real estate and personal property listings for the individual townships, complete with the exception of corporation property values, follow, with the reported losses and one gain:

Township	Listing	Loss
Jamesville	\$1,253,176	\$17,572
Williams	417,746	62,576
Griffins	798,047	31,159
Cross Roads	796,477	49,394
Robersonville	2,773,900	114,794
Poplar Point	439,016	4,025
Hamilton	1,311,424	45,137
Williamston	2,501,061	*14,414
Goose Nest	1,668,423	51,490
Bear Grass	901,699	41,751
Total	\$12,760,969	\$398,198

*Gain.

Community Builders To Hold Meeting Tonight

A special meeting of the Community Builders' League will be held tonight at 8:00 o'clock in the offices of Mr. Leslie Fowden, president of the organization. All business and professional men of the town are urged to attend, and any others that are interested in the growth of Williamston.

The tobacco market and other matters of vital importance to the growth of the town and county will be discussed, and a large attendance is wished for, both young and old.

Jamesville Woodmen Win Game from Everetts Camp

In their first game of the season, the Everetts Modern Woodmen baseball team lost to that of the Jamesville camp last Thursday afternoon by a 4 to 0 score.

During the next few weeks the Woodmen of both camps are planning to play several games.

WEEK TERM OF COURT STARTED HERE MONDAY

Judge Points Out The Importance of A Grand Jurymans Oath

MOORE IS PRESIDING

Busy Farming Season and Minor Importance of the Docket Limit Attendance Upon Court

The regular one-week term of Martin County Superior court convened here yesterday, Judge Clayton Moore, of this place, occupying the bench in the place of Judge N. A. Sinclair. It was first announced that Judge Garland Midyette, of Jackson, would preside in the absence of Judge Sinclair, but other arrangements were made at the last minute.

While the court is being attended by fair-sized crowds, the attendance is greatly limited by the busy season for the farmers and the minor importance of the docket. There are very few cases carrying more than a passing interest.

Judge Moore, in his charge to the jury yesterday morning, outlined in a brief way, the methods of procedure to be followed by a grand jury, and pointed out the importance of the oath of the grand jurymen which binds him to secrecy, not only for the current term of court but for all time.

"The very fact that a grand jurymen will not keep his oath naturally makes men entertain fear in stating facts or in performing their duty, because they know the danger that anyone subjects himself to when he goes to the despatch to the court," Judge Moore declared. He also attacked the apparent indifference of some people to keep their word even when they are sworn to do so.

The grand jury, drawn from the regular panel includes, T. W. Davenport, foreman; W. J. Johnson, Jr., Z. T. Cox, Z. H. Rose, C. G. Gurkin, J. W. Ward, Gaston James, Ira Rogerson, J. W. Harris, John E. Griffin, Henry Corey, J. J. Roberson, N. L. Cherry, L. K. Brown, Harry Waldo, Buck Roberson, W. S. Bailey, W. J. Beach.

FARMERS SHIP CUCUMBERS

Around 75 Farmers Shipped 175 Crates To New Bern Yesterday

Martin County farmers this year, for the first time, are planting cucumbers on a commercial basis, daily shipments being made from warehouses in Everetts to pickle factories in New Bern.

Approximately 75 farmers in the Everetts section made initial deliveries last week, and while their offerings were limited during the first day or two to twenty-five crates, the shipments have mounted daily until as high as 175 crates are being moved daily from the Taylor warehouses in Everetts.

The Johnson Earl Myers Co., of New Bern, is taking the entire output, paying prices that are said to conform with general market conditions. The cucumbers are loaded on the company's trucks at Everetts and delivered to the factory at New Bern.

The price runs by grades, the number one group bringing two and one-half cents per pound. Prices for the poorer grades run as low as one-half cent per pound.

Growers throughout the county, it is understood, may sell their surplus to the company at Everetts, deliveries being accepted until three o'clock each afternoon.

Woman's Auxiliary Holds Last Meet of Current Year

The last meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Church of the Advent, for the current year was held at the home of the president, Mrs. Maurice Moore, yesterday morning at 10:30. During July and August no meetings will be held unless a special call is made. Rev. A. H. Marshall led the devotional services, Mrs. W. B. Watts reading minutes and Mrs. F. U. Barnes reporting as treasurer.

Mrs. J. G. Stator, who is United Offering treasurer of the auxiliary, gave her report, stating that the books will close on June 30th, as instructed by Mrs. C. J. Sawyer, Diocesan Treasurer.

There was a discussion as to the sending of a member of the Sunday school to the training school to be held at Camp Leach, which has been recently acquired by the Diocese. Upon motion it was decided to name one person of the required age to attend the school. The camp will open June 30th, under the leadership of Rev. Frank Dean, of Wilmington, and last two weeks.

The rector expressed his pleasure at the business accomplished at the meeting and spoke freely of his desire to be asked to aid wherever he was needed. Mrs. Collin Barnes, of Murfreesboro, who was a former member of the parish, was present and was greeted with pleasure.

June Primary Costs Martin County Approximately \$664

Board of Equalization And Review Hear Tax Complaints

EIGHT ASK FOR A DECREASE IN VALUATIONS

Board Likely To Hold Another Meeting Within A Short Time

ASKS INVESTIGATION

Limited Power of Board To Make Changes in Valuations Makes Complaints Almost Useless

Comparatively few complaints were entered by property owners relative to their property listings here yesterday before the county commissioners sitting as the board of equalization and review. The limited power of the board to make changes in real estate values is believed to have resulted in the small number asking for valuation changes. Heretofore, adjustments were made on the second Monday in July, and the new date might have had something to do with the small number of complaints. Only eight cases were entered, but the board discussed and ordered an investigation in several others.

The Virginia Electric and Power Co. was ordered to appear before the board and show cause why the value of its properties in the county should not be increased.

Major Loomis Company, big lumber dealers, were notified to appear before the board that the request for a reduction in that concern's taxes might be further investigated.

The following reductions were made: Flemming and Roberson, of Jamesville, land value reduced \$2,000 on account of timber removed.

Ella E. Powell, of Parmele, assessment reduced \$680 for two years, same amount charged to E. R. Edmondson.

Mrs. J. W. Mayo, land value reduced \$950 in Williams Township on account of timber sold.

Mrs. Nona Holliday, land value reduced \$750 in Jamesville, on account of house burned.

Asker and Hamilton, assessment in Jamesville reduced \$350 on account of loss of 35 acres by survey.

J. S. Griffin, in Bear Grass, error of \$800 corrected on account of solvent credits.

The board recessed, probably to meet again within the next week or two.

THIRD ROBBERY AT JAMESVILLE

W. J. Holliday Store Entered Second Time Last Sunday Night

Store owners in Jamesville are being preyed upon unmercifully by robbers during the past few days, a third robbery being reported there last night. The loot has been limited in all three of the cases, but property damage has been large in one or two of them.

For the second time within a week, robbers forced an entrance last night into the store of Mr. W. J. Holliday and stole a quantity of light articles. An attempt was made to break open the store safe, but the parties to the robbery abandoned that hope after they had torn the combination and hinges from the door of the safe and accomplished nothing. According to current beliefs, the intruders planned to roll the safe down the river hill to a boat and haul it away. They either found the weight too much for convenient handling or they were frightened away before they could execute the apparent plans. In making preparations for hauling the safe, the robbers entered the boat house of Mr. Charles Griffin and secured a launch, which they tied securely at the foot of the river hill just to the rear of the Holliday store.

Investigations are being made into the robbery, but no developments had been reported late yesterday.

The store was first entered Monday night of last week, when several pairs of shoes and several other articles were stolen.

Many Deaths Reported in State Over Week End

A series of automobile wrecks, resulting in many deaths, was reported in North Carolina over the week end. Six were injured, two seriously in a auto-truck collision in Greensboro. Two people were killed near Smithfield in an auto wreck. Two more were killed near Pine Level, in the Goldsboro section. Two highway employees were instantly killed near Davidson when a fast train struck their truck. Many minor accidents were also reported.

As far as it could be learned, there were very few wrecks or accidents reported in this particular section.

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