

Two Million Dollar Gain In Values Seen

Property Listings Gain \$150,000.00 In Two Townships

Griffins Has \$86,043 Gain And Bear Grass Reports \$66,717 Increase

Basing his estimates on completed reports received from two townships, County Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel today predicted that assessed property values would gain between one and one-half to two million dollars in the county this year. It is fairly certain that all the townships will come up with a gain, based mainly on the 10 percent horizontal increase in real property listings.

Bear Grass and Griffins, the first two townships to report their listings complete, reported a combined increase of \$152,760. The listings in Bear Grass jumped from \$888,520 in 1948 to \$955,237 this year, a gain of \$66,717. Personal property listings there jumped from \$362,469 to \$371,130, a gain of \$9,079. In addition to the 10 percent horizontal increase, real listings reflect an increase of \$5,451.

In Griffins, the listings jumped from \$903,459 in 1948 to \$989,502 this year, an overall gain of \$86,043. Real values increased from \$506,180 last year to \$566,123 in 1949, a gain of \$59,943 in real listings alone. In addition to the ten percent horizontal gain, new real estate listings amounted to \$9,325 in the township. While Bear Grass came through with a gain of \$9,079 in its personal property listings, Griffins forged ahead with a gain of \$26,100 in its personal property values which jumped from \$423,379 last year to \$397,279 this year.

Aside from the amount gained as a result of the horizontal increase on real estate listings, most of the gain in real property values is traceable to new homes and repairs to farm buildings.

The personal property gain is based mainly on the presence of more farm machinery and new automobiles, the tax supervisor pointed out.

Bear Grass Plans Red Cross Drive

Meeting in the Bear Grass school last evening, the chairmen and canvassers made plans to launch the annual Red Cross fund drive in that township next Tuesday. Miss Janet Cox, area supervisor, briefly addressed the group, and Mrs. Pete Mendenhall and Mrs. LeRoy Harrison, heading the drive, stated they hoped to reach the \$225 goal within a few days.

The drive will be handled by the chairmen and the following canvassers, many of whom attended the meeting last evening: Mesdames Ella Wynne, Hessie Rogers, Archie Hodge, Dewey Leggett, Luther Britton, Kneazer Harrison, Bill Harrison, Ralph Mobley, Henry White, Jr., and J. D. Wynne, and Messrs. A. B. Ayers, Jr., and E. C. Harrison.

Laundry Under New Management

The local laundry this week was purchased from Newton-Johnson and is now being operated by H. C. Miller and J. Eason Lilley, proprietors.

Mr. Miller, an experienced laundry operator, will be in active charge of the plant and he will be assisted by his brother, J. C. Miller.

Mr. Forrest L. Newton, who operated the business during the hectic postwar period, is planning to locate either in Raleigh or Washington, D. C., it was reported.

Twelve Cases In Recorder's Court Monday Morning

Springtime Slump Stalks Finances As Amount of Fines Declines

For the first time in a long time, fines in the Martin County Recorder's Court fell considerably below \$500, the limited activities at the regular session last Monday reflecting a medium springtime slump in finances and curtailed action on the crime front in general.

Judge Chas. H. Manning called an even dozen cases with Solicitor Paul D. Roberson prosecuting the docket. The court was in session hardly two hours and a comparatively small number of spectators heard the proceedings.

Pleading not guilty, William Jasper Paige was adjudged guilty of non-support and he was sentenced to the roads for six months. The sentence was suspended for one year upon the payment of the court costs and on the condition that \$7.50 is paid by the defendant each week for the support of his two children.

Eli Carr, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Pleading guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, Stewart Everett was fined \$35 plus costs.

Facing an assault-with-a-deadly-weapon charge, Theodric Clark pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 plus costs.

Milton Anthony pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Pleading guilty of speeding, Otman Ives Miller of route 1, Windsor, was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs.

Pleading guilty of issuing a worthless check, J. T. and Jesse Mobley were taxed with the costs, the court suspending judgment upon the payment of the check.

Irvin Blam, Lawrence, New York, man, was fined \$15 and taxed with the cost for speeding. He pleaded guilty to the charge.

Pleading guilty of violating the speed law, Larry Alor, son Jones, RFD 1, Jamesville, was fined \$15 and required to pay the court costs.

Charged with drunken driving and disorderly conduct, Grady Thomas pleaded not guilty. Adjudged guilty, he was fined \$100, taxed with the cost and had his operator's license revoked for one year. He gave notice of appeal and bond was required in the sum of \$100.

Casper Joseph Rizzo, Brooklyn man, pleaded guilty and was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs for speeding.

Pleading guilty in the case in which he was charged with speeding, Francis John Pavlik was fined \$15 and required to pay the court costs.

State Raises Its Infantile Paralysis Quota for 1949

While a few counties, including Martin, failed to measure up, a majority of the state's political subdivisions rallied to carry the 1949 infantile paralysis fund drive over the one million dollar quota for 1949, according to a preliminary announcement made by Chairman Ralph McDonald this week. It is estimated that \$1,075,000 had been raised.

The success of the drive, Dr. McDonald said, "Has given us renewed faith in human nature to be a part of this campaign."

Bear Grass Ruritans Working On Minstrel

Bear Grass Ruritans, supported by friends outside the club, are practicing long hours preparatory to staging the Black Diamond minstrels there Friday night of this week.

Much time and energy have been given the entertainment event, and a large crowd is expected.

SMALL FIRE TODAY

Local firemen were called out shortly before noon today when J. C. White's tar burner caught fire. The machine was parked next to the Marco theater.

County Has Strong Backlog Against Depression Threat

There may be minor maladjustments on the economic front, but Martin County people with nearly four million dollars in E. F. and G. government bonds in their possession are ready to tackle any serious depression threat. In addition to the bond holdings, there are other forms of savings which with price supports for farm commodities offer this section security. There'll be fluctuations for some groups, especially laborers, and the economic trend may not point upward all the time, but the general outlook is encouraging, according to basic facts.

Martin County people during the period of May, 1941, through December 31, 1948, purchased E. F. and G. bonds in the sum of \$5,657,933.25. About one-third of that total, or \$1,697,379.00, has been redeemed or cashed, leaving \$3,960,554.25 in hand as of last December 31.

Back yonder when Bankers D. V. Clayton, H. A. Bowen, D. R. Everett and others were pleading with the people to invest in bonds to help finance the war, it was evident that they had in eye on the future economic welfare of the county and its people. The bonds can now mean the difference between economic want and economic security.

Martin County bought more bonds than most of the surrounding counties, and the backlog today is greater than that held by its neighbors.

Last year the people in this county invested about one-third of a million additional dollars in E. F. and G. bonds, the report shows.

Investigate Rape Charge in County

Up until noon today officers admitted they had been unable to establish a lead in the case in which Lizzie Mae Yarell, young colored woman, reports she was raped by a young white man on a dirt road near Nurney's store in Williams Township about 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning. The sheriff's office, aided by members of the highway patrol and using bloodhounds from the highway patrol camp, stated that signs of a scuffle had been found near the scene of the alleged attack, but from the point no evidence had been gained.

The victim, living on the Jones Road, went to the store yesterday morning for snuff and vaseline. Riding a bicycle, she was returning home when a stranger stepped into the road and stopped her. After asking the direction of Williamston, the man told the woman to accompany him. They scuffled for quite a distance before he forced her into the woods and assaulted her.

According to the woman, the attacker was a white man of about twenty years of age. She says he was dressed in overalls and that he had been drinking. She did not know him, and officers have been unable to apply the description offered by the woman to anyone in that section.

Offer Relief To Cities And Towns

Struggling along with the income traceable mainly to ad valorem taxes, towns and cities are being promised some relief in building and maintaining their streets.

The State House of Representatives Road Committee yesterday acted favorably on a proposal to return one cent of the gas tax to the cities and towns for street construction and maintenance. It will provide about six million dollars against the approximately one million now received from the state by the municipalities.

Accompanying the proposal was a favorable report on a bill to increase the gasoline tax from six to seven cents a gallon.

The "kick-back" bill was sent to the finance committee and is yet a long way from passage.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

During the seventh week of last year a human being paid with her life for reckless driving on the highways of this county. So far this year, no killings have been reported on the highways in this county, and the accident count is down.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

7th Week				
Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge				
1949	3	2	0	\$ 500
1948	6	6	1	1,650
Comparisons To Date				
1949	18	7	0	\$ 2,440
1948	21	8	1	4,025

Juveniles On Big Rampage In This Section Recently

Two Robberies Reported While Little Truants Raid Peanut Storage

While not considered unduly alarming, juvenile delinquency is fairly definitely on an upward trend in this section, and officers and other authorities are appealing to parents to nip the most recent flare-up in the bud.

Two of the recent escapades by tender-age lads involved the larceny of more than \$300 from a Gold Point filling station, and the other was reported about the same time when a 12-year-old boy secreted himself in a local grocery and carried away a pistol and a small amount of money.

One of the teen-agers, Walter Lee Purvis, in the Gold Point case was released from the county jail Tuesday when bond was furnished in the sum of \$400. Given a hearing before Justice R. T. Johnson, the boy was booked for trial in the superior court during the term convening the 21st of next month. Purvis and the other lad involved directly in the case helped the owner of the station recover \$189 in cash and several checks, but they are not talking about the remainder. The lads under sixteen years of age have been carried into the juvenile court as a routine action. They are to reappear shortly, one report stating that it is not yet certain whether one of them will be sent to a reformatory school.

Bordering on the mischievous rather than the criminal were recent raids made on a peanut storage in the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse here. Eight or ten white youngsters, their ages ranging from around seven to about ten years, made a playground in the house. The owners chased the kids out several times and thought little or nothing about their presence. Tuesday of this week, several of the kids, including a small girl, remained out of school and established headquarters in the warehouse. During the day it was discovered that about fifty bags of peanuts had been ripped open and that peanuts were scattered all around. The peanuts belong to the federal government.

School authorities and parents were called to meet with the children at police headquarters Tuesday afternoon and it is believed the play schedule is ended. The parents, police said, were very cooperative and seemed anxious to correct the condition.

A climax in the juvenile wayward trend came Tuesday night when a dozen teen-age colored boys were carried before Justice R. T. Johnson and charged with molesting children and damaging property at the colored school. It was a pathetic story told by Professor E. J. Hayes, aged principal who has worked diligently and untiringly to help the youth of the community. "But conditions are now almost unbearable," the principal said. "The boys would not attend school, but they insisted on coming on the grounds during recess, fighting the children and damaging property. We had pleaded with them, urging them to stay away. They defied pleas and reason, and we had to call the law," the principal said. The boys were placed under suspended sentences.

One of the juvenile defendants who quit school and did little or no work recently brought an action in the courts, charging his father with non-support. It was declared that the son was more able to work than his father, that since the boy would not attend school he could work.

Justice Of Peace Handle Few Cases

Local justices of the peace have handled very few cases in their courts during the past few days, other than a fairly large number of worthless check charges.

A family affair was heard by Justice Johnson this week. Charged with assaulting Lee Davenport, Robert Hollis was found not guilty. Charged with being drunk and disorderly, Lee Davenport was fined \$10 and taxed with \$7.95 costs.

Cow Killed In Road Accident

A cow, owned by Bill Cratt, was killed and a 1936 Ford coupe owned and operated by Mack Cratt, was damaged about \$150 at 8:15 Tuesday evening when the animal and car crashed on the Sweet Home Church Road.

Cratt was driving his coupe over the road and several cows started across the road. He swerved the machine to miss one, and another ran into the side of the car, causing him to lose control and crash the machine into the ditch and a small wooden bridge.

No one was hurt, Patrolman M. F. Powers said following the investigation.

Slightly Hurt In Fall From Moving Automobile

Little Miss Becky Sue Thomas was painfully but not seriously hurt when she fell out of a moving car to the pavement while returning home with her parents near Robersonville last Friday evening.

The girl, thinking she was lowering the back door glass, twisted the wrong handle, causing the door to fly open. She tenaciously held to the door handle for a few seconds while her father, George Thomas, slowed the car. She received minor abrasions and bruises as she finally lost her hold and fell to the pavement.

Plans Going Forward For Red Cross Drive

POTATO SEED

Recognizing the apparent shortage, several Martin County farmers today are searching other sections of eastern North Carolina for sweet potato seed. During the meantime most of the supply of seed known to be available has been almost exhausted, according to a report coming from the office of the farm agent this morning.

Farmers, interested in planting some sweet potatoes in the place of peanuts, are meeting in the courthouse Friday evening of this week at 7:30 o'clock to discuss the program.

Defeat Seen For Present Vehicle Inspection Lane

Its Anatomy Cut Half In Two, Road Bond Issue Passes Committee

Defeat for the automobile inspection law in its present form was almost certain today as the North Carolina State Senate moved to vote on the measure already passed by the House and blessed by a Senate committee yesterday fifteen to eight. While the senators apparently are anxious to drive a dagger into the heart of the present inspection law, the law's murderers are talking about the possibility of retaining the inspection system with the enactment of a new bill.

The wave of opposition to the present law has about subsided among the people, some of whom are resenting the accusation made by certain representatives and senators that the garage people had made it into a racket, that the people are overwhelmingly against the law.

While the lawmakers burn themselves up with inspection and other measures of more or less little importance, it is beginning to appear that somebody is making off with the cake, leaving a few sweetening crumbs for the people. The people want to know what has been done in the name of the mentally ill. What about living wages for school teachers and other State employees? The people also want to know if the liquor interests and the big landowners are going to usurp the right of the ballot.

Governor Scott's 200 million dollar road program, cut half in two and battered and disfigured, has come from the Senate Roads Committee and is now cornered in the Finance Committee. The substitute for the governor's program calls for the submission of a \$100,000,000 road bond issue to the people on June 28 along with the proposal to increase the gasoline tax from six to seven cents a gallon. Under the one-half program Martin County would get \$753,445 for its rural roads.

The legislature is expected to take action shortly on the proposal to submit the liquor question to a vote of the people. Pressure is being felt from both sides, but it is still doubtful if the issue will reach the people at the direction of the present legislature. Governor Scott, appearing before the General Assembly yesterday, declared, "Regardless of the issue, the people must be given their rightful sovereignty."

"The single point of my appeal to you," he emphasized, "is the people's right to be the jury. Our governors for three administrations have promised to do all they could to assure an election. The people are resentful of the delay. I most respectfully call upon you not to withhold the right of election any longer."

The plan for submitting a fifty million dollar school issue to the people is still hanging fire, but some action is promised next Tuesday, the day after the legislature meets.

Chairman Woolard said that the following had been contacted and agreed to handle the canvass locally:

Mesdames Jessie Mae Riley, John H. Edwards, C. B. Clark, Jr., Neil Ripley, Herbert Whitley, Kelly Davenport, David Keel, Marvin Baker, Hildreth Mobley, Tom Barnhill, Leman Barnhill, Evelyn Howell, Effie Sparrow, Edith Davison, John Goff, H. D. Harrison, C. D. Cavenaugh, Vernon Bunting, Titus Critcher, J. E. King, J. L. Harris, Wheeler Martin, Jr., J. W. Watts, Clarence Britton, Joel Muse, W. C. Manning, D. L. Reynolds, Ben D. Courtney, Jos. Griffin, Jessup Harrison, Jack Hardison, and John Roebuck; Messrs. Mary Taylor, Elizabeth Manning, Mary Carstarphen and Bernice Ward; and Messrs. Reg Simpson, John H. Gurganus, Gene Kimball, C. B. Roebuck and Exum Ward, Jr.

Chairman Woolard is hopeful the drive can be completed within a few days after the drives get under way.

Plans were announced virtually complete this morning for launching the annual Red Cross Fund Drive in the Martin County Chapter next Tuesday morning, the fund chairman, Garland G. Woolard, explaining that all township chairmen had been named and that volunteers had pledged their efforts to carry the drive to every home and business in the five townships comprising the Martin County Chapter.

The chapter is being asked to raise \$2,700, or about one-third of the peak amount asked and raised during the war years. Mr. Woolard again pointed out that the demand for Red Cross services was still great for disaster relief. During the year ending last June 30, the Red Cross spent over twelve million dollars in relieving the plight of disaster victims. Since that time more millions have been spent, including large sums expended for the relief of storms in the mid-west in recent weeks. Other than the funds raised during the war years, the amount of money contributed in Martin County in past campaigns would not be sufficient to pay back a little more than half the money spent right here in the county for disaster relief, Mr. Woolard pointed out.

Sunday has been designated as Red Cross Sunday, and ministers and others are being asked to appeal to their people, urging them to support the drive opening next Tuesday.

Discussing the organization for handling the fund drive, Chairman Woolard said that the following had accepted to lead the canvass in the chapter's townships: Jamesville: Mrs. Camille F. Rawls and Mrs. Gaines; Williams, Mrs. Joe Lawrence Coltrain; Griffins, Mrs. J. Eason Lilley; Bear Grass, Mrs. LeRoy Harrison and Mrs. Pete Mendenhall. Mr. Woolard and V. J. Spivey are to handle the canvass in Williamston, and the teachers in the colored schools are being depended upon to carry the appeal to their people. Most of the chairmen have served time and again, and it should be remembered that it is in a spirit of helpfulness and in the name of a worthy cause that they give of their time and means to help carry the chapter over its quota.

Taken sick last week, Mr. Spivey had not announced his organization for advancing the drive in this township, but he is expected back from the hospital shortly and to catch up without delay. The organization among the colored citizenry is to be completed tomorrow.

The special gifts committee, chaired by N. C. Green, has pledged to complete its work early Tuesday.

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