

# No Change Anticipated In Tax Rate For County In New Year

## Officials Studied Budget Until Late Friday Afternoon

### Minor Adjustments Are To Be Made Before Budget Is Formally Adopted

Fully determined to hold the county tax rate to the current figure of \$1.20 per \$100 assessed property valuation, the Martin County Commissioners wrestled with figures in an all-day meeting last Friday, unofficial reports stating that the estimates and requests were whittled down to hold the rate for the fiscal year of 1949-50 in line with the old listing.

It was estimated that \$240,462.61 will be required to finance general county operations, including all departments and bonded debt requirements, that a rate of sixty-five and two-tenths cents would be necessary. The commissioners sliced some of the estimates to bring the rate down to sixty cents. Preliminary estimates offered by the superintendent of public instruction called for a rate of 65 cents to finance the school system. No official figures have been released, but there is a possibility that the school figure will be cut back to sixty cents, giving the county an over-all rate of \$1.20 per \$100 assessed property valuation.

Based on a valuation of \$21,200,000, the preliminary budget calls for the following appropriations, by departments: General Fund, \$121,265; Poor Fund, \$15,700; Health Fund, \$15,390.41; Welfare Fund, \$15,289.20; Old Age Assistance Fund, \$15,300; Aid To Dependent Children Fund, \$8,505; Aid to Blind Fund, \$1,848; Bond Fund, \$47,165.

It is estimated that \$91,650.00 can be raised from sources other than general taxation. Anticipated revenue from the sale of legal alcoholic beverages is figured at \$52,000 as one of the main sources of income other than that from general taxation. Court fees and fines will amount to an estimated \$9,000. Beer taxes will produce another \$9,000, it is estimated. Fees from the register of deeds and other offices and tax collector's fees will add about \$13,500 to the revenue.

While the tax rate is virtually notched at \$1.20, it cannot be formally adopted until final adjustments are made and it is offered in review for public consideration.

Most of the budget figures (Continued on page eight)

## Outdoor Concert By Local Band

The Williamston High School Green Wave Band will present an outdoor concert Wednesday, June 29, 8:30 p. m., in front of the grammar school building.

The band has been working towards the program since the close of school.

This will be the second annual summer concert by the band as a part of its summer work.

The program is made up of numbers to suit all tastes. There will be an overture, waltzes, selections, serenades, novelties and several good rousing marches.

A stage for the band will be made up through the courtesy of the Manning truck line and lighting for the concert will be set up under the direction of Mr. Bill Glover.

Further details of the program will be released the last of this week.

Professor Jack Butler who is taking summer school work at Greenville and some special music work along with members of his band, said yesterday that he was issuing "a cordial invitation to the public to attend this old-fashioned concert in the park."

Rehearsals for the senior and junior bands are being held each week and section rehearsals as often as possible.

## Court Strikes 'Jack Pot' In Perjury Case Here Monday

The Martin County Superior Court hit the "jack pot" in a big way in a perjury case Monday, the pay-off coming either in the form of a \$500 fine for the county school fund or a sentence of not less than eighteen and not more than twenty-four months.

The case had its beginning some weeks ago in the county court when Roy Boston and his wife, Virginia, were fined \$200 each for violating the liquor laws. Boston accepted the judgment but his wife appealed.

In court this week, Boston was testifying for his wife and he made a good witness for her but a poor one for himself. His evidence cleared her, but when Solicitor Geo. Fountain asked Boston

where he got the several gallons of illicit liquor, the witness said he bought it but did not know the seller's name. Defense counsel objected, and Judge Chester Morris, presiding over the term, then questioned the witness. Boston answered that he made it himself.

Judge Morris immediately instructed the solicitor to draw a warrant charging Boston with manufacturing illicit liquor. Boston, making the next move without delay, insisted he bought the liquor from a white man unknown to him.

The court then instructed the solicitor to draw a warrant charging Boston with perjury. Up until this morning Boston had not paid the \$500 fine and costs.

### FIRST BARN

The first of the current tobacco crop in this county is being harvested this week. Farmer Sidney Beacham, picking a real weather scorcher, harvested the first barn on his farm in Bear Grass Monday, and is harvesting either one or two more barns today.

Paul Barber and George Martin are pulling the lugs from three and one-half acres on their farms near Jamesville today, and Farmer Dock Hardison is harvesting a barn in Griffins.

Except on the Hardison farm where the tobacco buttoned low, the first harvests were reported to be of very good quality.

## County Native Dies In Kenly

Mrs. A. H. Hardison, a native of this county, died at her home in Kenly early last Thursday morning after a long illness. Funeral services were held at the home Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. G. B. Starling and interment was in the Kenly cemetery.

The daughter of the late Henry and Victoria Peel, she was born in Griffins Township, near the Beaufort County line, 74 years ago. The former Miss Addie Peel, she was married in early life to Mr. Hardison and located in Jamesville where he was employed by the Dennis Simmons Lumber Company and where she affiliated with the Christian Church. About 45 years ago the family moved to Kenly where she had since made her home. She is well remembered in her adopted communities.

Mrs. Hardison was a niece of the late R. J. Peel of Williamston. Surviving are Mr. Hardison; two daughters, Mrs. Frazier McDevitt of Washington, N. C., and Mrs. Jack Parkerson of Richmond; four sons, DeWitt and Justice Hardison both of Kenly, Ulysses N. Hardison of Enfield, and Harry Blake Hardison of Rocky Mount; two brothers, John G. and Vance Peel, both of this county; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

## Bible School In Colored Churches

Sponsored by the several colored churches, a union daily vacation Bible school was opened in the Williams Chapel, A. M. E. Zion Church on Rhodes Street here yesterday morning with 135 children enrolled. The churches were represented, as follows: Cornerstone, 45; Williams Chapel, 43; Shiloh, 42; and Riverhill, 5.

Geo. T. Hyman is serving as principal, and Rev. Franklin Gregory with the assistance of Rev. W. V. Ormond and Mrs. Mary S. Gray, is directing the school. There is a teaching staff of twelve. The school will run for two weeks.

## Native Of County Died at Plymouth Thursday Night

### Funeral Is Conducted in the Biggs Funeral Home Here Sunday Afternoon

Funeral services were conducted in the Biggs Funeral Home here on West Main Street Sunday afternoon for Mrs. Z. N. Roberson, who died at the home of a stepson, Walter Roberson, in Washington County near Plymouth last Thursday night at 11:30 o'clock. Her pastor, Elder P. E. Getsinger, conducted the last-rites and burial was in the family cemetery in Williams Township.

A native of this county, Mrs. Roberson had been in declining health for almost three years, and her condition had been serious for more than two months, she having spent that time in bed.

She was a daughter of the late John Dempsey Williams and Polly Williams, and was born in Williams Township 68 years ago on March 26, 1881. Following the death of her husband last November she had made her home with the step-children in this county, going to Washington County only last April.

The former Miss Florence Jane Williams, she was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church at Smithwicks Creek for many years, and was faithful in attendance upon its services as long as her health permitted.

She was the last member of her immediate family, and no children were born to the union. Surviving are four step-sons, Will Roberson of near Hamilton, Leland Ro-

## Name Principal For Jamesville

Professor G. H. Baker, Jr., has accepted the principal's position in the Jamesville High School, it was learned here last Friday. He succeeds Professor Woodrow Suggs who is leaving for Gastonia.

Professor Baker is coming to this county from Pantego High School. A graduate of Wake Forest College, he has had seventeen years in the profession. The new school man, his wife and two children, plan to locate in Jamesville later in the summer.

### GOOD READING

There's more good reading in the advertisements in this issue of The Enterprise than in any other one in years and years.

Stocks are plentiful in just about every line, and the prices are strictly on the low side. The attention of every reader is directed to the advertisements with the knowledge that a cordial welcome awaits everyone in any and all business houses.

## Finish Trial Of Criminal Cases In Court Today

### One-Week Term Opened on Monday, Attracts Few Spectators

Convened promptly at 10:00 o'clock yesterday morning with Judge Chester Morris of Currituck on the bench, the Martin County Superior Court this morning was rapidly nearing the end of its criminal docket. Divorces are on the schedule for this afternoon and the remainder of the week will be given over to the trial of civil actions.

The session is attracting very little attention and when the court recessed at 4:30 yesterday afternoon there were hardly a dozen spectators in the courtroom.

Proceedings: Virginia Boston, charged with violating the liquor laws, was found not guilty.

Charged with assaulting and robbing Henry Harris, aged filling station operator near Williamston several weeks ago, William (Bill) Williams pleaded guilty and Slade Henry Butler pleaded not guilty. During the course of the trial Butler pleaded guilty and each of the defendants was sentenced to State's Prison for not less than three and not more than five years.

Willie Moore, charged with stabbing Alex Bunch, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for not less than twelve and not more than fifteen months.

Lollie Williams, charged with drunken driving, failed to appear in court and Judge Morris ordered his \$20 bond forfeited.

The case charging James Wesley Ormond with carnal knowledge of a girl of 16 years of age, was continued until the September term. It was pointed out that the defendant was in Germany, that he had made provisions for the prosecuting witness.

In the case in which Charlie Bell stands charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Kader Brown, Jr., and Ida Brown, prosecuting witnesses failed to appear and Judge Morris ordered papers issued for their arrests and announced fines in the sum of \$10 each.

The case charging Raymond L. Phelps with drunken driving was continued until the September term.

In the case in which Cloven James was charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, the court, at the conclusion of the state's evidence, directed a verdict

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### ROUND-UP

Officers, rounding up and detaining seven alleged law violators, reported a fairly busy week-end on the crime front in this county.

Two were booked for public drunkenness, and one each for violating the liquor law, assault, drunken driving, issuing a bad check and being drunk and disorderly. One in the group was white, and the ages of the seven ranged from 28 to 51.

## Predicting Radical Change In 'Phone Communications

In a demonstrative lecture, Mr. Russell, engineer with the Southern Bell Telephone laboratories of Atlanta, made it clear to the local Kiwanis club in its regular meeting last Thursday night, that telephonic communications within the near future may present as radical a departure from the present day system, as the layman knows it, as was true when the dial phone made its appearance. Mr. Russell stated that these changes, which are proposed to improve the nation's telephone service, involve the interconnecting of vital points by coaxial cable, and the utilization of the micro-wave system which, in effect, is directional radio waves beamed from, and to, towers spaced at intervals of up to fifty miles.

## Local Man Badly Hurt In Highway Accident Monday

### Only One Highway Accident Reported in County Last Week-end

Dick Miller, local man associated in the operation of the Home Laundry here, was badly hurt and Woodrow Beaird, also of Williamston, was cut and bruised in an automobile accident a short distance east of Tarboro at 2:00 o'clock yesterday morning. Removed to a Rocky Mount hospital, Miller was said to have had his left arm mangled, reports reaching here that there was a possibility that he would lose the limb. The report added that if the arm is saved, there is a possibility that it will be stiff. He also suffered severe shock, bruises and cuts on other parts of the body. It was said that the victim was detained several hours in the hospital operating room, and that his transfer to a Durham hospital was being considered.

Suffering cuts and bruises, Mr. Beaird was treated in the hospital, but was discharged a short time later.

Dr. J. A. Edens, local optometrist and driver of the second car figuring in the accident, suffered only minor shock and bruises and was able to return home later in the morning.

Few details of the accident could be learned here immediately. One report stated that Mr. Miller, driving his Jeep station wagon, was taking Mr. Beaird to Rocky Mount to catch a train for Washington, D. C., and that Dr. Edens was driving his new Plymouth toward Williamston when the vehicles crashed. The Jeep was demolished.

While local people figured in the serious accident, only one highway wreck was reported on the highways in this county over the week-end, according to a report coming from the highway patrol office.

Two cars, a 1935 Ford driven by Harry Roberson of Everetts and the other, a 1936 Ford driven by Julius James Shepard, sideswiped each other a short distance out of Bear Grass toward Highway 17 about 8:00 o'clock last Saturday evening. Sheppard's wife, suffering minor cuts and bruises, was treated in the hospital and discharged a short time later. No one else was hurt. Investigating the accident, Patrolman J. T. Rowe estimated the damage at \$75 to each vehicle.

The only other incident on the highways in this county during the week-end was reported by Patrolman B. W. Parker last Saturday evening. A young colored man, riding an almost new girl's bicycle, was pedaling his way into Robersonville when the officer, accompanied by Patrolman R. P. Narron, met him. The officers stopped to question the man about riding a bike on the highway without a light. The rider broke his gallon jug of liquor on the handle bars, deserted the wheel and fled into a tobacco field. "I fired into the air two or three times with a pistol, and each time the fellow would jump an extra

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## Expansion Program Proposed For Schools In Martin County

### Booster Days Offer Special Shopping Advantage Here

The doors of Williamston's stores will open Thursday morning on one of the greatest trade events ever to be held in the city's history, Williamston Booster Days. The merchants have been planning this promotion for some time and the tremendous bargains to be offered by many of the participating firms will be something to take advantage of while they last. Some of the bargains to be featured are listed in the advertisements that appear on the pages of this edition; but because of space

limitations, all of them cannot be carried. Therefore, every person within traveling distance of Williamston is urged to come into town on one of the three Booster Days, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, June 23, 24 or 25 and boost their dollar-values with the many items and services being offered at specially reduced prices.

Free parking on the streets for all shoppers during the three days is being offered and the personnel of the stores have been instructed to extend their best services and every courtesy to everyone.

## No Cost Figures Yet Available On Proposed Projects

### Plan To Expand Facilities In Williamston, Oak City And Robersonville

An expansion program for the schools in this county and to be financed mainly from State funds, was tentatively advanced by the Martin County Board of Education in a meeting held last Thursday. In addition to a small home for the principal at Oak City, the board proposes expanded facilities for the white and Negro schools in Williamston, and the Robersonville white school. No cost figures on any of the projects are available at this time, the superintendent explaining that rough drafts and estimates would have to be studied and prepared by the architects.

The program, tentatively approved by the board at its recent meeting, calls for:

A Negro elementary school in Williamston to relieve what have been described as the most crowded conditions in the county. While no site has been selected, it is possible that the structure will be located near Woodland Cemetery.

The next project calls for a second story on the new one story building at the Williamston high school, and the construction of an addition to house a cafeteria, music and vocational departments.

At Robersonville the construction of a brick physical education building is proposed to house a gymnasium cafeteria and music department. Stressing the need for such a project, a delegation headed by Messrs. H. C. Norman, N. C. Everett, Vance Roberson, J. M. Dixon, Herbert Roebuck and Messames M. M. Everett and Herbert Highsmith, appeared before the meeting.

Explaining that two school men had refused the principal's position at the Oak City High School because of inadequate living quarters, a delegation composed of LeRoy Everett, Grover Worsley, J. A. Everett, E. R. Edmondson, Jr., and Henry Early, asked that a six-room home be built. The request was approved and a site is available. Bids for the construction work are to be called for as soon as possible.

A sizable delegation, numbering possibly 25 colored citizens and headed by Rev. S. G. Burnett, renewed their request for a Negro high school in Oak City. Such a project had been tentatively approved about four years ago, and the county board advised the delegation that it would recommend it, but that final approval was subject to action by the State Board. At the present time the Oak City

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## To Offer Life Saving Course

Commencing next Tuesday a Red Cross junior and senior life saving and water safety course will be started at the local pool under the instruction of John Watts, local young man who has just returned from successfully qualifying as a water safety instructor at Brevard Red Cross Aquatic School. The courses will be offered three days a week, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday between the hours of 10:00 a. m. and 12:00 noon, and will take approximately three weeks for completion. Successful candidates will be awarded Red Cross certificates at the completion of the courses.

The junior course is open to anyone, boy or girl, at least twelve years of age and the senior course to anyone at least sixteen years old. The only costs entailed will be the regular pool admission price plus sixty cents for a life saving manual. All interested in taking the course contact the instructor or Dr. J. A. Edens, or report at the pool on opening day.

## Hearing In Assault Case Next Tuesday

### SECOND MISS

A patient in a Washington hospital since May 26, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck this week missed his second term of superior court in the county since he entered office about twenty years ago.

While it was evident that someone was missing, deputies ably carried on the work with reports coming from Washington describing the sheriff's condition as being much improved. He is able to sit up some now, but visitations are limited.

## Officers Baffled By Wild Report

Deputy Buck Holloman and members of the highway patrol, including Cpl. Fearing and Patrolman John Rowe and Ed Simmons, are baffled by a fantastic report coming from near Everetts Sunday afternoon. After investigating the report from every angle, the officers withdrew from the case, thinking but not officially branding the report as a hoax.

Junior Whitfield, 15-year-old colored boy, declared he had been attacked by two masked colored men, and offered an old hat with numerous gun shot holes in it to substantiate his claim. It was first rumored that possibly Outlaw Diggs, the colored man who killed members of his family in Norfolk and later critically shot a police officer at Hamlet, was in the section.

Officers answered the call about 3:00 o'clock. The attack allegedly took place in a field near a tobacco barn and while some of the crops there had been trampled there was no sign of tracks except the youngster's. It was also reasoned that the boy had placed his hat on a tobacco stick and peppered it with shot himself.

## Enters Local Hospital Monday for Treatment

Mr. Sylvester Peel, Martin County's grand old man and chairman of the board of election for nearly a quarter of a century, entered the hospital here yesterday for treatment. He was reported to be resting well this morning.

He made the trip to the hospital in a Biggs ambulance.

### FREE PARKING

To accommodate visitors and other friends on "Booster Days" on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week, the parking meters will be covered and local people are being asked to reserve the spaces for out-of-town guests.

The action, covering the meters during the three-day special event, was taken officially at a recent meeting of the town officials.

## Bertie Policeman Resigns Following Altercation Here

### Lover of Estranged Wife And Husband Stand Charged with Assaults

H. J. Lupton, former Windsor police chief, and Lee Overton, former Windsor merchant, will be given a preliminary hearing before Justice R. T. Johnson in the courthouse here next Tuesday evening at 8:00 o'clock for allegedly assaulting each other with deadly weapons with intent to kill on the main street here last Saturday night shortly after 10:00 o'clock.

Three warrants have been drawn in the case which allegedly climaxes a love triangle. Lupton is at liberty under a \$1,000 bond for allegedly assaulting Overton with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. The warrant was signed by Overton. A warrant, signed by Lupton, charges Overton with assaulting Lupton with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. He is at liberty under bond in the sum of \$200. The two men also stand charged with disorderly conduct and an affray in a warrant signed by Officer Chas. R. Moore of the local police force. It was rumored that other warrants would be issued in the case, but the reports could not be confirmed immediately.

Carter Overton of Ahoskie has been employed to defend Overton, and Lupton has employed Attorney J. A. Critchett of Windsor as his counsel.

Details leading up to the assaults have not been disclosed officially, but according to reports, Overton and his wife separated a short time ago, allegedly because of Lupton's attentiveness to Mrs. Overton. The wife came here to work in a cafe about ten days ago, and the husband reportedly found her and Lupton in a taxi on the main street, about half a block from the local main business district. A fight followed, one report stating that Overton's head was washed by the officer's blackjack. Lupton returned to Windsor and tendered his resignation that night, and the wife quit her job the following day.

It was reported that one of the Overton's is suing for divorce. It was also reported that the mechanisms of the pistols were in firing position when the fight was interrupted.

## Six Million In P-T Associations

Parent Teacher Associations now have a total membership of 5,774,358, according to figures made public a few days ago. The figure represents a gain of 646,462 over membership of the year before. In the past three years the organization has added 1,864,252 members.