

Town Holds Rate To Old 1948-49 Figure

Budget Calls For Revenues In The Sum Of \$142,985

Propose \$1 Minimum Fee For Connections With Town Sewer System

After struggling with rising costs and falling revenues in several categories, Williamston's town commissioners in a three-hour special session last Tuesday evening managed to hold the 1949-50 general tax rate to the old figure of \$2.00 per \$100 assessed property valuation.

The new budget is based on an assessed property valuation of \$3,590,511. The \$2 tax rate is figured to raise \$71,810.22. The second main source of income is expected to be from water sales which, it is estimated, will add right at \$34,200 to the revenue.

A new source of income is being added, but it was pointed out that every penny raised from sewer rental fees will be put back into the system. In fact, the \$7,200 the board proposes to raise from that source will just about be expended on the project now under construction on North Smithwick and Liberty Streets.

In estimating expenditures, the board listed \$19,235 for general administration, the amount including salaries of the mayor, commissioners, clerks, \$1,500 for rat and mosquito control, janitorial service, and \$5,000 for repairs to the old town hall.

The board is setting aside \$6,606.66 for the cemetery, including \$3,160 for labor, new land payments and interest and supplies.

The swimming pool is getting a \$723.95 appropriation. The fire department will cost right at \$3,000.

The police department is getting \$19,315, including \$16,490 in salaries for the six officers. Street and sanitary departments are to get \$29,185. The figure includes \$3,500 for new equipment.

Approximately \$28,900, it is estimated, will be required by the water and sewer departments. Provision is being made for \$7,500 in additional water mains, and \$4,000 for repairs to the water tank.

Debt service will take \$24,505, including \$14,900 in principal and \$10,005 in interest.

Formal adoption of the budget (Continued on page eight)

BIG RUSH

With time running out on them today, numbers of motor vehicle operators are rushing here for their drivers' license examination.

Examiner Boyce yesterday handled a near record number with the aid of members of the highway patrol who are giving the road tests.

GENERAL HOLIDAY

Next Monday, July 4, will be observed as a general holiday in this section. All shops, banks, offices, the post office will close for the day, and heavy industry will observe the day as a holiday in some instances, according to unofficial reports.

There'll be no mail deliveries. The county commissioners, observing the day as a holiday, will hold their meeting Tuesday.

The Enterprise, following an old and cherished custom, will not be printed next Tuesday, and the office will be closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Limit On Defense Spending Sought By Committee

Requests Add Three Billion On Top of \$15 Billion Military Budget

As it has often been pointed out congressional conservatives who talk about "economy" have practically never proposed to cut the military and "war" appropriations which take 75 cents of each tax dollar.

The military and war costs are going so high, however, that last week even some conservatives on the Senate Armed Services Committee joined in asking Defense Secretary Louis A. Johnson to stop adding, do some subtracting, and set a "ceiling."

On top of the \$16 billion "budget" for the armed forces, Johnson has asked Congress to pass five bills which would add over \$3 billion more. The bills are: A measure to provide \$623 million for housing and other "public works" at military posts.

Also, the money for arming Europe, put at \$1.4 billion, although the real cost will be far more. That is because Uncle Sam will take most of the planes, ships, tanks and other weapons from the present "stocks" of his army, navy and air force, give them to European countries, and count their "value" at as little as 10 cents on each dollar of their original cost.

Then our army, navy and air force will buy new weapons to replace their stocks, at a cost of 100 cents on the dollar.

The fifth bill requested by Johnson is the measure boosting the military budget. It was recently declined to pass this bill, on the ground that it would give officers too much and enlisted men too little.

In its original form, this bill would have added \$406 million to the military budget. As passed, the added cost is estimated at \$302 million.

Rail Traffic On Branch Blocked

Rail traffic on the Plymouth Branch of the A. C. L. between Jamesville and Dardens was blocked today where several fills were badly washed. A short distance this side of Dardens, a fill was nearly washed away while in other spots the dirt was washed from under the tracks.

A work train is being dispatched to the area, and traffic is expected to be resumed sometime late today. Damage to the railroad will run into thousands of dollars, according to unofficial estimates.

Take It Easy On The Fourth And Be Alive On Fifth

Accidents a Year Ago Took The Lives Of 8,700 In The Nation

Going somewhere over the Fourth of July?

If you are, then plan your trip safely. But even if you stay home, keep safety in mind for the Fourth of July holiday is one of the most dangerous week-ends of the year.

That is the advice of the National Safety Council, which is coordinating a nationwide campaign to hold down the usual upsurge in accidental deaths during the Independence Day celebration. One hundred and thirty national organizations, as well as state and city public officials, are cooperating in the effort.

Motor vehicle accidents lead the list of holiday hazards, the Council said. Drowning from swimming and fishing accidents is the second biggest risk. Other deaths are due to fireworks and firearms, sunstroke and heat exhaustion, food poisoning, falls and miscellaneous accidents.

The death toll for the month of July last year was 8,700, the Council said. While it is impossible to determine the exact number of deaths from all causes occurring during the Fourth of July holiday, the Council said the total was well above the average for other days of the month.

The Council expects more pleasure-seeking holiday motorists to pile into more cars and roll up more miles during this one week celebration than ever before in the nation's history. More than 33 million motor vehicles will be on the move during the holiday.

The increasing number of new cars on the road and the substantial rise in gasoline consumption this year indicate a heavy death toll—unless everyone is fully aware of the holiday hazards and makes a real effort to avoid them.

"There are two ways to hold down deaths during a holiday period such as the Fourth," said Ned H. Dearborn, president of the Council.

"One is for police, beach guards and others who have some authoritative control over public safety to be especially alert. The other is for all of us to recognize that holidays are danger days, and to drive a car, walk across the street, swim, fish or otherwise conduct ourselves in a safe and prudent manner."

Many Brave Rain For Band Concert

A fairly large audience braved the rain last night to hear the Williamston High School Green Wave Band in concert at the high school auditorium after rain had forced the scheduled outdoor musical program indoors.

While attendance was not up to what it had been for other concerts here Professor Jack Butler, director of the band, said he and the youngsters were deeply appreciative of the large turnout under such circumstances.

A varied program was presented and well executed. Although some of the numbers were arranged for outdoor play especially, the audience was pleased with the program and called for an encore. Explaining that no such contingency had been anticipated, the director offered to replay any one of the program numbers and the youngsters in the audience demanded, with the backing of some of their elders, that the "pop tune," "Are You From Dixie," be played again.

No Issue Of Enterprise Scheduled For July 5th

In keeping with custom and to give the force a breathing spell, there'll be no issue of the Enterprise next Tuesday, July 5. The office will be closed today until next Tuesday morning.

Several Highways Blocked By Heavy Rains Yesterday

Heavy rains falling southeast of here yesterday afternoon blocked highways for a few hours and caused undetermined damage to crops. No estimate on the crop loss could be had immediately, but entire fields were inundated, and one report said that some crops literally had been washed away by the roots. It is quite possible that the crop damage in this county will run well into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Preliminary reports reaching here stated that highway 64 between Jamesville and Dardens was covered by more than two feet of water a short distance out of Jamesville, that many cars drowned out and traffic was delayed there for some time. The Jamesville-Washington Highway was also blocked, and in the heart of Jamesville water was eight or ten inches deep on the main highway, overflowing into stores and homes. One family was forced to vacate a home when water flowed into it.

FIXING DATES

The Board of Governors of the Bright Belt Tobacco Warehouse Association, meeting in Raleigh today, will fix the dates for opening the bright leaf tobacco auction markets, and discuss selling regulations.

Heretofore the Tobacco Association of the United States has been determining the opening date, but the company organization, fearful of anti-trust laws, surrendered the task this year.

Reject Bids For Sewer Line Here

Bids for laying approximately 1,700 feet of sewer pipe on North Smithwick and Liberty Streets here were rejected by the town board of commissioners in special session last Tuesday evening. The lowest bid was \$1.95 a foot, the town to furnish the pipe and build the manholes.

The water-sewer departments were instructed to handle the project.

It was explained at the meeting that bids are being asked for the construction of curbing and guttering on the two streets, the officials expressing the hope that the sewer lines and curb can be installed before the highway department is ready to surface the streets.

Effect Change In Train Schedules

Instead of running two freight trains from Rocky Mount as far as Williamston each day, the Coast Line is shifting the schedule to have one train out of Rocky Mount every day and one out of Weldon as far as this point every other week-day.

The train out of Rocky Mount will serve as an express in that it will pull in and out loaded cars, leaving the train from Weldon to do the shifting.

Named Chaplain Wake Forest Literary Group

Miss Iris Stokes was elected chaplain of the Philomathean Literary Society for the summer session of Wake Forest College to replace Dan Britt. Miss Stokes is from Hamilton, North Carolina, and has shown leadership in the religious field on the college campus. Accepted by acclamation, Miss Stokes will assume her position on June 27. Filling an office rarely held by a co-ed Miss Stokes' leadership is again confirmed.

Twenty-Two Cases Handled By Judge Chas. H. Manning

One of Few Times, If Not First Time, Court Held Second-Day Session

Slowed down to a snail's pace by jury trials, proceedings in the Martin County Recorder's Court were carried over into a second-day session this week. It was one of the few times, if not the first time that the court had resumed activities on the second day in the same week.

Judge Chas. H. Manning and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson worked until 6:00 o'clock Monday afternoon when an over-night recess was called in the middle of a jury trial. Considerable time was required the following morning to clear the case, the court adjourning early in the afternoon or in time for the funeral of Mr. Sylvester Peel.

No session of the court will be held next week since Monday falls on the fourth. The next meeting is scheduled for July 11. The sessions this week were the first held by the court since June 13, the superior tribunal having sway last week.

Corey Will Filed In Superior Court Monday Afternoon

No Value Fixed On Property Left Relatives By Mrs. Mamie Corey

The last will and testament of Mrs. Mamie Corey who died at her home in Bear Grass Township last week, was filed in the Martin County Superior Court last Monday, but no value of the estate was mentioned.

Apparently realizing her condition last March while a patient in Duke Hospital, Durham, Mrs. Corey wrote her own will, Drs. Gus Casten and John DeWitt King of Durham witnessing the instrument.

Appreciative of the help accorded her, Mrs. Corey said, "The reason I give all this to my three brothers and nephew is because they are looking after me and doing for me what I can't do for myself." And, expressing motherly guidance, she directed two of her brothers, Oliver and Heber, to see that Danie is comfortably taken care of on the farm. The will was written in her own hand and covered the greater part of two sheets of medium-sized writing paper.

The will provides that Danie Coltrain be given her house as long as he wants to live there, that if he leaves he is not to return and the house is to go to her brother, Heber Coltrain.

She bequeathed to her brothers, Oliver and Heber Coltrain, the farm she lived on, Serial No. 31, two mules and all farming implements. A third brother, Charles Coltrain, is to receive one thousand dollars.

Finally, the will reads, "All the rest I have in my possession goes to my son, Perley." The amount of the residue was not disclosed, but a preliminary inventory was said to have included approximately \$5,000 in government bonds and several thousand dollars in savings accounts.

Justice Johnson Hears Six Cases

Aside from the triangle assault case, Justice R. T. Johnson handled several cases in his court during the past few days.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Oscar Walker was bound over to the county court. Bond was required in the sum of \$100.

Tank Bennett was fined \$5 and taxed with \$6.85 costs for being drunk and disorderly. Robert H. Beacham, operating a motor vehicle with improper lights, was fined \$5, plus \$6.85 costs.

William Hoggard and Johnnie Hoggard, drunk and disorderly, were each fined \$5 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with operating a vehicle without registration plates, J. M. Mitchell was fined \$10 and required to pay \$5.85 costs.

Bonds Required In Three Assault Cases

COMMISSIONERS

Postponing their meeting from Monday to Tuesday to clear the way for the July 4 holiday, the county commissioners are not expected to have much business on their calendar for consideration. The budget figures have been studied and are being offered subject to public approval, leaving the officials with little business other than that of a routine nature to handle.

Williamston's town commissioners will hold their July meeting on the second Monday night, it was announced.

Public Assistance Hit Record High During Past Year

More Than Three Million Got Public Aid In This Nation Last Year

Public assistance hit a record high during the fiscal year of 1948, in spite of a mounting national income and full employment, according to the annual report of the Federal Security Agency. Three million, five hundred thousand people received public assistance during the year which is an all-time record. While the national income had grown to \$212,000,000,000 over \$193,000,000,000 for the preceding year, cost of living had risen to 72 percent above the base of 1935-1939. The single most important item on the budget for families, food, had risen to 114 percent above the 1935-1939 base.

It was this rise in the price levels of commodities, the agency said, that accounts for the increased number of families who have asked for public assistance.

The Federal Security Agency presented the following figures: There are about 11,000,000 men and women in America over 65 and about one-third of these are receiving more from the government. About 1,500,000 received benefits under old-age and survivors-insurance; about 2,400,000 received aid-age assistance. In some cases they overlapped.

There are about 3,500,000 widows under the age of 65. About 400,000 received payments under the veterans' program; about 140,000 under the old-age and survivors-insurance program; and about 100,000 under the aid-to-dependent-child program.

There are about 2,600,000 fatherless children in the United States and almost half of them were receiving benefits under a government program of insurance or direct help from the government. Over 500,000 were receiving old-age and survivors-insurance benefits; 300,000 were receiving payments under the veterans' program; 32,000 under the new survivor program of the railroad retirement system; 260,000 under the program for aid to dependent children.

Under the aid to the dependent children program there were about 1,150,000 children in 450,000 families receiving payments. About 800,000 of these were without support because of the absence of a parent or incapacity on the parent's part.

"Nowhere, however, did the problem of rising costs strike harder than in the field of education," F. S. A. said. "With a steadily rising school population, there was a pressing need for more schoolhouses and more equipment for a thorough rehabilitation of the existing school plant which had deteriorated badly during the war."

ADULT NIGHT AT POOL FRIDAY NIGHT, 8 TO 10

Director John L. Goff, Jr., of the local recreation program, announced today that the hours for the adult night at the local swimming pool Friday night will be from 8 to 10 instead of 7:30 to 9:00 as was the case last week.

Richard Gilbert Dunlop of Durham was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs in the case charging him with speeding.

Ruby Lee Melton was sentenced to woman's prison for six months for assaulting Virginia Lloyd with a deadly weapon. The prison term was suspended upon the payment of a \$50 fine and the court costs. The prosecuting witness maintained that the defendant shot at her with a pistol and missed but struck a cat in the paw, the cat jumping over a wood pile. The defendant maintained she had no pistol but was using an air rifle.

Joe Taper, charged with public drunkenness and violating the liquor laws and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was fined \$75 and taxed with the costs.

Pleading guilty of speeding, Thelma Spellman Morris of Durham was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs. Richard Gilbert Dunlop of Durham was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs in the case charging him with speeding.

Triangle Tangle To Go To County Court July 25th

No Formal Pleas Entered At Preliminary Hearing Tuesday Evening

Charged with assaults with deadly weapons with intent to kill, H. J. Lupton, former Windsor police chief, Lee Overton and his estranged wife, Lena S. Overton, were bound over to the Martin County Recorder's Court for trial on July 25 by Justice R. T. Johnson at a hearing held in the courthouse here Tuesday evening. Bond was required in the sum of \$100 for each defendant when Justice Johnson found no probable cause of guilt as to their feature of the warrants charging intent to kill, the finding automatically scheduling the assault with deadly weapons charges for airing in the county court.

The case, originating here on June 18, has attracted State-wide attention, and a battery of attorneys—Jones and Jones of Ahoskie for Overton, and Pritchett and Peel for Lupton and Mrs. Overton—aired the issues at the Tuesday evening hearing. While Overton pleaded not guilty, no formal plea was entered by the others, but the charges were denied in evidence by Lupton, counsel withholding Mrs. Overton from the stand.

Overton counsel asked to be allowed to amend the warrant against Lupton, allowing the charge to read, "assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious bodily injuries but not resulting in death." The plea was allowed. The only other issues advanced concerned the testimony of the husband against his wife. Objections were noted, but it was agreed to hear the evidence and the lid was off with no holds barred.

Milton Raynor, local man and the first witness called, said he was driving off Main into Haughton, that a taxi was parked against the curb and a red truck double parked beside the taxi, that a car was approaching and he had to wait. During that time he heard some one "holler" and he explained he thought he heard his name called. Raynor said he backed his car and put the lights on Lupton and Overton, that the two men were tied up and that Overton was pushing Lupton toward him. Raynor said Overton asked him to go for the police, Overton explaining that Lupton has his (Overton's) wife. The witness quoted Mrs. Overton as saying that she was not saw Lupton strike at Overton, that Overton went headlong into a hedge near the sidewalk. The estranged wife had a gun which Raynor said he could not describe, and heard her say to Overton, "If you don't shut up I'll kill you."

The witness said he saw Lupton's gun in a holster, but did not see him with a gun. Lupton explained that he did not tarry there over two minutes before he called the police.

(Continued on page three)

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

For the fifth time this year, motorists traveled the highways of this county without a reportable accident, according to information coming from the highway patrol office. Extra care is urged over the holiday week-end.

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.

Table with columns: Year, Week, Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge, Comparisons To Date. Rows for 1949, 1948, 1949, 1948.

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