

## Proposed Law For City-Town Streets Meets Opposition

### Towns In This County Would Get \$27,336 From The Five Million Fund

Raleigh—The bill calling for a \$5,000,000 appropriation for the use of municipalities in street building continues in the spotlight, stirring up more controversy as it passed the Senate Roads Committee test with flying colors. Opposition seemed to be growing, as the measure jumped its first hurdle.

Originally, it allocated the \$5,000,000—which would be taken from current highway funds—on a combined basis of need, population, and present street mileage. It was amended today to be awarded on a strictly population basis.

The figurers got busy, and reckoned it would give the cities and towns roughly \$3.50 per citizen to spend on municipal street building and upkeep. The State Highway Department statisticians broke the division down on the basis of 1940 population (actually, 1950 census figures would be used but they are not available for all cities and towns as yet) and it showed that Charlotte would get the largest amount, \$410,646, while Delview would be given \$33.

The list contained some 381 incorporated cities and towns, leaving out 106 towns believed to be "inactive." The statisticians noted that the figures were only approximate and, of course, would be changed considerably in some instances by the 1950 census. However, they give an approximate picture.

The interesting thing about the figures is that the vast majority of towns listed will get \$5.00 or less. This amount would, at the most, pave one city block, if that much.

So this new method of division likely will draw considerable opposition from the small cities and towns, with the argument that the big cities are more able to pay for street upkeep and paving.

The League of Municipalities staged an about face by tacitly okaying the bill, which was signed by Senator Junius Powell of Columbus and 38 other senators. The Highway Commission opposed the bill because it would take money from primary highways. The commission favors more aid for municipalities, but follows Governor Scott's view that the money should be backed with new revenue.

The way in which the bill was (Continued on page eight)

## Seven Enter Army From This County

Corporal Clyde L. Quinn, U. S. Army and U. S. Air Force recruiting service, stated today that the following named men from Williamston have been enlisted in the U. S. Army or U. S. Air Force so far this month:

Bobby J. Liley, Charles B. Siedloff, Monsieur Perkins, James H. Keel, Marshall J. Davis, Francis S. Harrington, Amos L. Strickland.

Corporal Quinn further stated anyone wishing to volunteer for the U. S. Air Force should contact him as soon as possible and get their name on the Air Force waiting list. Corporal Quinn is in Williamston from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Mondays and Fridays each week. He will be located in the Post Office Building on these days.

## FINAL REPORT

Filing a final report this week, Mrs. Eva Grimes, secretary for the county organization, stated that a total of \$2,630.28 was raised in the 1950 TB Seal Sale drive.

Nearly one-half the total or \$1,208.23, was raised by direct mail appeals. The sale of TB bonds amounted to \$975.00, including \$120 sold in Robersonville. The colored schools reported \$381.51 from the sale of bangles.

## Gradual Decline In Annual Rainfall Reported In Area

It has not reached serious proportions, but for four years there has been an unbroken decline in the amount of rain falling in this area. At the same time, the rainfall for 1950 was about one-and-one-half inches above the average for the past twenty years.

Last year, 48.73 inches of rain fell at this point, according to records faithfully kept by Bridgekeeper Hugh Spruill on Roanoke River. The amount compares with a 47.24-inch average for the past twenty years.

Rainfall reached an all-time record high in 1947 when 57.12 inches of rain fell here. The 1948 total dropped to 54.86 inches. In 1949, the total was 53.69 inches, followed by the 48.73 inches last year.

Almost half of the total fall last year was packed in two months, in July when 11.90 inches of rain fell and in September when 8.01 inches fell. Last April was almost without its showers, Mr. Spruill stating that less than one inch of rain fell in that month.

The total precipitation—2.59 inches—in December last year was almost double the amount recorded in December, 1949, but it was below the average for the month over a 20-year period. Last December there were three traces of snow. There was also a trace of snow in January of this month when the rainfall—1.18 inches—dropped to the lowest point for any January since 1942.

## EXPECTED SOON

### Chairman David Davis of the School Activities Bus Fund reported today that the bus chassis was delivered last week to the body manufacturer in High Point and the completed vehicle is expected to be ready for delivery on or about March 1.

Blue Manning is helping Chairman Davis with detailed work on the project and said the body maker expected to complete the job in three weeks from last Thursday.

Arriving too late for the basketball season, the bus will be available for the basketball season's traveling.

## Farm Borrowers To Meet Friday

The Farm Ownership borrowers of the Farmers Home Administration will hold their 11th annual business meeting Friday. This is an educational meeting at which time the old year's work is analyzed and studied and plans for the new year are set up. Many new farming methods will be studied and a motion picture will be shown on "more improved pastures for North Carolina." This picture will be shown by the Extension Department.

Mr. James C. Eubanks, County Supervisor, stated that as a whole the families kept the best set of farm records for 1950 he has yet seen. The records were summarized during December and early January, and by this analysis can be determined the strong points, as well as the weak ones, on each farm. They reveal not only the sources of farm income, but also shows how, and for what, the money was spent. It shows the crop and livestock enterprises making the most profit, as well as the ones that are not so profitable to the producer. By looking at what we have actually done in the past we can normally steer our course for a much brighter and more prosperous future.

At this meeting will be farmers and their wives who have received assistance as Tenant Purchase or the purchase of a farm and home outright; farm development or an owner who needed development work done such as ditching, tile drainage, clearing lands, building improvement, etc.; and farm enlargement or an owner of an under size farm to round out a good family type farm unit and who can buy additional land that will supply the needed land for a well balanced unit. In the latter case farm development can also be added.

## County Boy Assigned To Center In Texas

Private James D. Modlin, son of Clyde Modlin, Jamesville, N. C., was recently assigned to the Medical Replacement Training Center, a unit of Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. At Medical Replacement Training Center, commanded by Colonel Howard S. McConkie, the Army's basic training school for medical service enlisted men, the soldier learns the fundamentals of medical support of patients in hospitals and troops in the field.

## PRAYER

Special services, marking World Day of Prayer last Friday were well attended despite falling snow and inclement weather.

A union prayer service was held in the Pentecost. I. Holiness Church that afternoon, and the colored citizens held a service earlier that day.

## Escape Injury In Car Accident Near Windsor

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Selby received minor bruises when their car, a 1950 Plymouth, turned over near Windsor on Highway 17 late Sunday night. Mrs. Selby, driving the car, was blinded by the lights of an approaching vehicle and ran off the road, the car turning over and coming to a stop with its wheels in the air.

Damage to the car was estimated at \$900.

## Fifteen To Leave This Week For The Army

Fifteen Martin County boys are leaving on Thursday of this week for final induction into the army. They are to report to Fort Bragg.

Approximately seventy-five boys are to leave for pre-induction examinations on Friday of next week.

## County Citizens To Own Station

The new radio broadcasting station WIAM will be owned and operated by local Martin County citizens, according to plans now being completed here.

On behalf of local ownership of the radio station and its broadcasting franchise, a group of local people have obtained an option and now are working out final arrangements for a transfer of ownership.

The entire property, including the exclusive broadcasting franchise to use 1000 watts power on a frequency of 900 kilocycles, will be transferred by the present owners to the Martin County Broadcasting Corporation, which is to be 100 percent owned by residents of Martin County.

The transfer arrangements are being made by Henry A. Johnson, local real estate man, who has been active for several days in securing the options and making arrangements in Washington, D. C., for transfer of the franchise.

## Farm Specialists Review Problems In Recent School

### Various Crop Experiments Discussed At Two-Day School

S. A. Tuten, Jr., Assistant County Agent

Dr. E. R. Collins, in charge, Agronomy Extension, opened Tuesday's classes in the annual Martin County farmer's school with a review of experimental results in the production of peanuts. He said that improvement through breeding was progressing slowly, mainly because cross breeding to develop desirable varieties was more difficult than with other crops. Fertilization experiments indicate that potash is needed for high production. He had observed that soil samples of Martin County show that most soils are low in potash. Soils should also be tested and kept within correct acidity range. He said that calcium should be applied when the peanuts are beginning to form and for best results be careful to apply the calcium evenly and on both sides of the row. Experiments have shown that calcium applied on one side of a peanut plant will not help in the formation of peanuts on the other side. The specialist further stated that soil samples from this area show that most soils are low in organic matter. Organic matter could be built up by turning in corn and cotton stalks also by seeding crutalaria in corn preceding a crop of peanuts. Austrian Winter Peas, Vetch and Crimson Clover will add nitrogen but are too soft to leave much organic matter in the soil.

Commenting briefly on corn production he said that 500 pounds of 16 percent nitrogen, or that equivalent in other forms of nitrogen, was about the maximum which could be profitably applied as a corn side dresser; also that a part of the potash fertilizer used in corn production should be applied as a side-dresser. S. H. Dobson, Pasture Specialist, concluded the morning session with a film on permanent pasture establishment and maintenance. A fertilizer mixture 0-9-27 comes nearest to putting back into the soil the elements which are removed by a Ladino-Fescue pasture. Mr. Dobson said that some pastures seeded last fall may need an additional application of clover inoculation mixed with sand and broadcast over the pasture at this time.

S. N. Hawks, Extension Tobacco Specialist, reviewed briefly Extension recommendations concerning the production of tobacco. Where soil potash is low, as shown by soil test, he suggested that it be added by applications of 5-5-20 as a side dresser. He had observed that 1000 to 1400 lbs. of 3-9-6 was sufficient if 5-5-20 was applied later. He recommended that fertilizer be applied in bands since that method leaves very little chance for fertilizer injury to newly set plants. Two important plant bed practices were emphasized. If chemicals are applied in the fall to control weeds, only one pound of fertilizer is needed at time of seeding. With blue mold control an established practice, plant beds can now be moved

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## Number of Auto Licenses Gains In Current Year

### Sale Of 1951 Tags In This County 612 Greater Than Number For 1950

The sale of motor vehicle licenses tags by the Carolina Motor Club bureau in the offices of Harrison and Carstarphen, here continues to hold a substantial lead over the sale for 1950, according to Manager W. H. Carstarphen. Up until this week, the bureau here had sold 6,431 sets of tags as compared with 5,819 for the corresponding period last year.

The 1951 sale was listed through last week: 4,540 cars, 1,142 private trucks, 106 farm trucks, 544 car trailers and 99 commercial trailers, a total of 6,431.

The 1950 sale: 4,138 cars, 858 private trucks, 87 farm trucks, 522 car trailers and 94 commercial trailers, a total of 5,619.

The total sale of 1950 tags totaled 7,275—3,510 cars, 1,311 private trucks, 105 farm trailers, 727 car trailers and 122 commercial trailers.

There's a fairly wide discrepancy in the sale of automobile tags for the two years, and with the uncertainty in the manufacturing field there is some doubt if the total sale for 1951 will exceed the 1950 total.

Total registrations of motor vehicles in North Carolina mounted to 1,171,228 during 1950, an all-time high, the Department of Motor Vehicles reported.

The figure was an increase of 149,909 over the 1,030,319 vehicles registered in 1949.

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## Thief Breaks Into Hamilton School

Searching for anything but learning, a thief entered the Hamilton school building last Wednesday night, an went away possibly wiser and without material gain. Entering a window, the thief, believed to have been a youngster, forced open a cabinet and tried to tear into a small cash box. He found nothing, officers said following an investigation.

## DOUBLE CALL

Norman and Frank Everett, sons of Mr. L. R. Everett of Hamilton, have received orders to report for duty in the armed services.

Norman, popular employee of the Branch Bank here, is to report between March 1 and 15 to Norfolk for a naval assignment. His brother, a lieutenant in the reserve, is to report to Camp Lejeune March 1 for more duty in the Marine corps.

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## House Committee Approves Peanut Acreage Increase

### Proposed Measure Expected to Eliminate Sixteen Percent Cut

The House Agriculture Committee approved last week a bill to boost acreage allotments for types of peanuts in short supply.

The bill would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to increase acreage allotments sufficiently to get production in line with market demands.

The only types said to be in short supply are the Virginia and valencia types—the big ones you buy to eat. These are grown principally in Virginia, the Carolinas and Tennessee. Other types are made into peanut butter and oils.

Rep. Abbott (D-Va.), a committee member, said the committee removed a provision that any acreage allotment could not go higher than the 1947 allotments.

Another amendment, he said, provides the allotments for 1951 through 1954 shall be based on the average acreage harvested for nuts during the five year period 1945-49, or a state's share in the national allotment in 1950, whichever is the higher.

The American Farm Bureau Federation supported the bill offered by Rep. Cooley (D-NC).

John C. Lynn, Washington, associate director of the federation, told the committee congressional action prior to this year's planting season is imperative.

Speedy action was urged also by other witnesses, including Rep. Bonner (D-NC), Thomas D. Odum, Suffolk, Va., representing the Virginia-Carolina Peanut Association; Flake Shaw, Greensboro, N. C., president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau; and Carl Elmer Johnson, Chicago, representing the National Peanut and Salters Association.

The federation estimated that under the Cooley bill the acreage allotments by states, on the basis of an overall national cut of about 16 per cent from the 1950 plantings, would compare with 1950 allotments, in brackets as follows:

Virginia 141,106 (141,108), with an estimated adjustment of 23,293; North Carolina, 225,702 (225,702), with estimated adjustment of 37,251; Tennessee, 4,766 (4,766), with estimated adjustment of 787; South Carolina, 4,766 (4,766), estimated adjustment, 2,071; Georgia, 545,638 (701,400).

A federation official explained after the hearing that the relatively large cut for Georgia, which produces such types as Spanish and runner peanuts, reflects the large acreage in peanuts in that state. The percentage cut, however, is in line with other states, he said.

## Booked For Oak City Store Theft

Walking into Barrett's Drug Store in Oak City last Thursday evening while the proprietor had stepped out a minute, Robert Savage, colored man, allegedly removed \$7 in bills from the cash register. Savage was trailed to the liquor store where he displayed the money. The owner saw Savage in his store when he returned but did not suspicion the theft immediately.

At a preliminary hearing held by Justice J. B. Whitfield in Oak City Friday evening, probable cause of guilt was found and Savage was booked for trial in the county court. Unable to raise the \$250 bond, he was returned to the county jail.

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## Assistant Agent Discusses Varieties Of Sweet Potatoes

J. W. Sumner, Assistant County Agent

The use of the word "Yam" for sweet potatoes has been with us about 40 years. It is unfortunate that this term has been used for sweet potatoes since the name belongs to another plant which is not closely related to the sweet potato. The true yam belongs to the YAM family while the sweet potato belongs to the morning glory family.

In common place the term Yam is used to designate any moist-fleshed variety of sweet potatoes although southern growers use the term for certain types grown in the south, chiefly the Porto Rico.

It is not known exactly when this term started, but between 1900 and 1910 the U. S. Department of Agriculture carried on an extensive campaign in Peninsula, Florida to have the true yams grown commercially for shipment to New York City and other large eastern terminals. The consumer for this production was the Latin American population of these ci-

ties. Following on the heels of this promotion, the Porto Rico sweet potato was imported to Georgia and Florida from Porto Rico. This took place about 1910. It seems no one knows the exact date. Since they were already shipping true yams when the Porto Rico was brought in, it seemed logical that shippers capitalized on the original promotion to sell this new sweet potato and thus the continued use of the word "Yam" for the Porto Rico variety.

There are probably more names given to varieties of sweet potatoes than any other crop. At least 200 names are given to the varieties of sweet potatoes grown in the United States, but it is safe to say that not over 40 true varieties are to be found in this country. Only 10 of these varieties are of any commercial importance and four of them constitute about 90 percent of the commercial crop. It would be to the advantage of growers, dealers, and consumers if three-fourths of these varieties were eliminated and only those kept that have distinct merit.

## Several Vehicle Wrecks Reported During Week-end

### Four-Car Wreck On Local Street Early Sunday Evening

Several motor vehicle accidents, most of them traceable to ice-covered roads, were reported in this county during the week-end. No one was hurt and property damage was limited. In addition to the accidents in this county at the Roanoke River hill in Bertie last Friday and Saturday.

Returning from a trip shortly before midnight last Friday, C. H. Harrell, operating one of the large Texas Company's oil transports, lightly applied the brakes on the vehicle to avoid crashing into a minor accident just outside of Williamston's west end limits on Highway 64. The big tractor-trailer vehicle, running empty, skidded and came to stop with the outfit facing in the opposite direction. One side of the cab was smashed. Patrolman John T. Rowe, making the investigation, estimating the damage at about \$300. The driver was not hurt. A wrecker was pulling a car out of a ditch at the bottom of the hill.

Andrew Andrews ditched his 1941 Pontiac about one mile west of Everetts on Highway 64 shortly after 1:00 o'clock Saturday morning. Making an investigation, Patrolman B. W. Parker reported no damage or personal injuries.

A four car wreck was reported on Williamston's Washington Street near the Carver Theatre early Sunday evening. No one was hurt but property damage approximated \$600, according to preliminary reports.

Sol Cherry parked his 1948 Oldsmobile properly and was attending the Carver showing. Joe Johnson, of Robersonville driving a 1949 Dodge was driving out of town, holding to his side of the street and obeying the law in every particular. Walter Corey, driving a 1936 Ford, started to pass Johnson just about the time Raleigh Albert Jones drove his 1941 Dodge into the street from a Green Oil filling station. The Corey and Jones car knocked Johnson's car into Cherry's parked car. Damage to each of the principal

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## Many Attended Special Dinner

More than 425 Cub Scouts, their parents and Scout leaders attended the Parent-Scout banquet in the Legion Hut last night. The event marked the end of a round of scout activities in the county during Boy Scout Week.

K. P. Lindsley, Chairman of the Martin County District, presided as master of ceremonies.

After Mr. Lindsley had recognized each troop present, he called on Tim Malone, District Commissioner, who was in charge of the entertainment for the dinner. Under his direction each troop presented a skit or stunt. He then presented Hugh Lindsley, who made an interesting talk on his experiences at the National Jamboree held at Valley Forge last summer.

Mr. Malone introduced Scout Executive Ralph Mozo of Wilson, who, with the help of the Bear Grass Troop, conducted a candle-light ceremony.

A delicious barbecue dinner was served those attending.

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## Assembly Lookin' Around For More Revenue Sources

### Seek Vote To Determine If Commission Should Take Over City Streets

Raleigh—The first effort to breach the "no new tax" wall was launched last Thursday when Rep. John Umstead of Orange sponsored a revenue bill amendment that would put theaters back under the three percent sales tax.

Umstead offered the amendment at a Joint Finance committee session. If passed, this amendment would add some \$537,000 per year to the General Fund.

Theaters were under the sales tax until 1943, when they pleaded hardships because of the war and got put under a special franchise tax based on population of the town and seating capacity of the theater.

In introducing the amendment, Umstead told Finance Committee members that North Carolinians are willing to pay for needed services.

"If you ask them if they want new taxes they'll tell you no," he said.

"But if you tell them what new taxes are needed for they'll go along with you."

Umstead noted that the recommended budget has cut out promised aid to medical students, cut down on drugs and services for mental institutions, for example.

"We promised those medical students—some in their second and third years—that we'd help them get through school," Umstead said.

"In my opinion, we're wretching on them."

"I believe the people will stand for increases to take care of these things."

Umstead said that legislators should try to get money from taxes that would not work a hardship on the people. He also said that when his amendment comes up for public hearing, that he wanted it held before the whole committee and open to the public.

"I don't want it heard before some sub-committee," he said.

Umstead hinted that more "new tax" amendments are to come.

"I'll be back Tuesday with another little amendment," he said.

City Streets  
The fight over the aid-to-city streets bill, sponsored by Sen. Junius Powell of Columbus and signed by 38 other senators, was reroadrolled through the Senate Appropriations committee Thursday, but it began to show signs of losing steam.

The bill—which appropriates a flat \$5,000,000 to be apportioned on the basis