

## Downward Trend In County Tax Values

### Seven Townships Show Little Gain Over 1953 Listing

### Marked Variations Are Found In Listings In Several Townships

Only preliminary figures are available in seven of the ten county townships, but enough information has been gained to reflect a marked decline in the 1954 tax listings for 1954. The seven townships list a gain of approximately \$66,000 as compared with million-dollar gains annually for the past several years. Complete listings are expected to boost the total to some extent, but the day of million dollar gains in assessed property valuations is about spent, according to a study of the incomplete listings now on file in the tax supervisor's office in this county.

Supervisor M. Luther Peel would offer no guess on the final figures, but he is not at all optimistic; in fact, the figures now available are not encouraging.

Only an isolated report has been received from Jamesville Township, and one of the largest property owners there reported a decrease in taxable holdings. The supervisor had expected a fairly sizable gain there. No reports are yet available from Williamston and Hamilton Townships. A fairly sizable gain is expected in Williamston and possibly Hamilton will boost the gain a bit. It was explained that the listings had not been completed in Williamston a few days ago, creating the possibility that a penalty will be invoked on the procrastinators.

Little Williams Township struggled to give the tax picture a favorable look when it boosted its listings by approximately \$14,500. The listings there, however, took an irregular or shaky trend. Real estate listed by white owners fell in value by \$1,435 while real property listed by colored owners gained \$1,225. White owners

gained \$1,225; white owners \$17,333 more in personal property than they did a year ago, while the listings submitted by colored owners dropped by \$2,642, leaving an over-all gain for the district of approximately \$14,500.

Griffins came through with a consistent gain in both real and personal values, the white owners boosting their listings by \$24,270, and the colored adding \$10,035 to their combined totals for an over-all increase of \$34,305.

Bear Grass white property owners added \$38,345 to their real values, but lost \$37,429 in their personal property listings, coming through with an over-all gain of \$10,916. The colored owners reported a loss of \$1,723 in real listings and a decrease of \$2,060 in personal property values, leaving the township with a \$7,133 over-all gain.

The report for Cross Roads is incomplete, but there was a loss of \$6,218 in real property listings and a drop of \$29,763 in the personal property values, making a total decrease of \$35,981 there. It was explained that some listings were credited to Cross Roads in 1953 when they should have been listed in Bear Grass, that the correction accounts for part of the drop in values there.

While late listings are expected to alter the figures, Robersonville white owners reported an increase in real property holdings of \$49,517, but personal property listings by white owners fell \$39,917, leaving a net gain of only \$9,600. Colored property owners reported a gain of \$11,770 in their real property holdings and went on to show a gain of \$24,563 in their personal property listings, making an increase of \$36,333, or a combined increase of \$45,933 in the township.

Poplar Point white owners had a gain of \$6,048 in their real properties, but lost \$36,450 in their personal property values. The real property listing for the colored remained unchanged, but there was a reduction of \$2,792 in their personal property values; leaving the township with a \$33,194 in the 1954 assessed valuation.

In Goose Nest the white owners reported an increase of \$10,527 in their real and \$22,902 in their personal property listings.

### WINNER



Wilbur Stewart, senior in the local school, is a winner of the Angier B. Duke scholarship. The scholarship is valued at \$1,000 annually. The young man is a son of principal and Mrs. B. G. Stewart.

## Calling Sixteen Men For Physical Exams This Week

### Next Call For Final Induction To Be Answered Middle Of Month

Sixteen Martin County young men, including a few married ones and a father or two, are being called to answer a pre-induction call on Thursday of this week. They will leave Williamston that morning on a charter bus and return that evening.

The next call, one for final induction, is to be answered by five men on Wednesday, April 14, according to unofficial information gained here. No other calls are pending.

Five of those who were called to answer the pre-induction call Thursday have asked for transfers. It was learned.

Eleven of the sixteen men being called for pre-induction are white. The names of those include in the current call are:

### White

William Thomas Johnson, RFD 1, Williamston  
Robert Edward Bland, Williamston  
Walter Louis Leggett, Jr., Hassell

James Louis Leggett, RFD Williamston  
Marvin Holliday, RFD 3, Williamston

Coy Lee Bryant, RFD 1, Bethel  
Henry Frederick Bullock, RFD 1, Oak City, who transfers to Boone.

Wiley Woolard, Jr., RFD 2, Williamston  
Gullford Herman Hollis, Oak City

Larry James Bullock, Williamston  
John C. Kirkman, Jr., Jamesville, who transfers to Raleigh.

Colored

James Henry James, RFD 1, Hobgood, who transfers to Philadelphia  
Harry Woolard, Williamston, who transfers to Bel Air, Maryland.

James Norman Davis, RFD 1, Oak City

Sylvester Brown, Jr., Williamston

James Oliver Rodgers, RFD 2, Williamston, who is transferring to Brooklyn.

## Badly Hurt In Plant Accident

John Gentry, 42-year-old local colored man, was badly but believed not seriously injured in an accident at the Standard Fertilizer plant last Saturday morning about 10:30 o'clock.

Gentry, operating a powered "digger", lost control of the machine and it ran off the platform.

The heavy machine pinned him underneath it on the ground. The man, removed to a local hospital by ambulance, suffered a broken left leg, a bruised hip and possibly internal injuries.

## William H. Adkins Died Early Today At Robersonville

### Funeral Arrangements For Prominent Tobaccoist Incomplete

William H. Adkins, prominent tobaccoist and a leading citizen in this county for many years, died suddenly at his home in Robersonville early this morning. He had been in declining health for several years, retiring from active business some time ago.

Mr. Adkins was born in Iredell County 85 years ago on March 5, 1869, a son of the late Thomas and Sarah Elizabeth Adkins, and was the last of a family of six children. When a mere lad he located in Winston-Salem. While there he became interested in the tobacco business and located in Robersonville in 1901, forming a partnership with the late Robt. A. Bailey and opening the first warehouse in this county for the auction of leaf tobacco in Robersonville. During almost half a century, he built an enviable reputation as a tobaccoist, citizen and religious leader. His reputation as a warehouseman and tobaccoist was recognized throughout this entire belt, and he figured prominently in other lines of endeavor, all designed for the promotion of his community and county and for the welfare of his fellowman. Possessed of a quiet character, he never sought the spotlight, but his work was founded on basic ideals and a tender compassion for others.

He was one of the oldest members of the Robersonville Methodist Church, contributing liberally to its support and remaining faithful to its teachings down through the years. He served as superintendent of the Sunday School for a long period, and was on the official board for about fifty years. In early manhood he was married to Miss Lina Knight of Columbia. Mrs. Adkins died in 1940. Since that time he had made extended visits in the home of his daughter in Williamston.

Surviving are a son, Mr. Robert K. Adkins of Robersonville; and two daughters, Mrs. John Henry Edwards of Williamston, and Mrs. Murphy Smith of Red Springs.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed shortly before noon today.

## Man Drowns In Roanoke River

Buck Darden, 56-year-old farm supervisor of Northampton County was drowned in the Roanoke river near Scotland Neck while fishing late last Sunday. Parties are searching for the body as far down the river as Williamston.

It was the second drowning reported in the Roanoke or its tributaries during the current fishing season. No trace has been found of Johnnie Hall, Whitakers farmer who was drowned in Gardner's Creek on March 20. An amateur diver searched the creek last week-end, making four or five dives without success. On the last trip down the diver was almost swept under a log and he abandoned the search. A watch is still being maintained along the stream.

## False Fire Alarm Here Last Saturday

Volunteer firemen went chasing a false fire alarm in raw weather last Saturday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. After a hurried search, the firemen returned to the equipment to the station.

The call directed the firemen to 407 West Main Street, the informer explaining that it was near the underpass. Firemen, realizing the 400 block was some distance this side of the underpass, decided to make the run anyway, thinking the call was possibly confused.

## ROUND-UP

Six persons were rounded up and detained in the county jail over the past week-end, Sheriff M. W. Holloman said. Two were booked for issuing worthless checks, and one each for assault, drunkenness, drunken driving and still another on an old charge.

Four of the six were white, the ages ranging from 16 to 35 years.

## Farming Operations Move Into High Gear In County

Hampered by cool weather for a short time, farming operations are rapidly moving into high gear in the county this week. A large portion of the land has been broken and made ready for planting, late reports stating that considerable acreage is being planted to corn this week. A few daring farmers planted some corn as long ago as two weeks, betting against the frost.

Fertilizer shipments, after getting off to a slow start are now approaching a pre-season peak, and seed dealers are busy loading out their products.

A limited acreage was planted to Irish potatoes this year, most of the farmers choosing to stay clear of the commercial markets. Farmers are encountering their first pests in tobacco plant beds, and the DDT is being spread rapidly. No blue mold has been reported in the county so far, farmers explaining that the plants, for the most part, are too small for the mold to attack them. The cold spring has held back the growth of the plants as a rule, but a few farmers say theirs will be large enough for transplanting about the middle of April, the work depending on weather conditions during the next two weeks. Present indications point to a peak transplanting between May 1 and 10. With few exceptions, farmers in this county are reporting an ample supply of plants.

No great delay in spring planting is expected to follow the 1.29 inches of rain that fell during last night.

## WITHDRAWS

County politics went into reverse last week-end when Willie L. Ausbon, prominent Cross Roads Township farmer, withdrew from the race for county commissioner from the Robersonville - Cross Roads District. His action leaves the field open to the incumbent, Commissioner Herbert L. Roebuck.

Announcing his withdrawal from the race, Mr. Ausbon stated that his health would hardly permit a campaign just now, adding that possibly he would consider making a bid for a seat on the board two years from now.

## Young Man Jailed For Mean Assault

In a state of frenzy, Arthur Nicholson assaulted his aged mother and inflicted serious bodily injuries at their humble home just across Sweet Water Creek in Williams Township last Saturday afternoon. The victim was removed to Brown's Hospital for treatment of a fractured left arm and multiple bruises about the face and head.

Mrs. Nicholson was able to make her way to a neighbor's home for help. Sheriff M. W. Holloman, answering the call, ordered an ambulance to remove her to the hospital where she is responding to treatment.

Nicholson, said to have been drinking and who is well-mannered and behaved when sober, aggravated the case by assaulting Sheriff Holloman when he went to investigate the assault. Jumping into the officer's face, he was out to scratch his eyes out. Ugly and deep scratches were left all over the sheriff's face. Using no arms or blackjacks, the officer subdued the young man and placed him in jail where he is being held pending the outcome of his mother's condition.

## Man Badly Cut Sunday Night

Nathaniel Pitt, 27-year-old colored man, was dangerously cut about the head in a lightning fight at Oak City last Sunday evening. Reports from a local hospital where the victim was treated, stated that he almost lost his left ear, that he was cut on the head and neck. Eighteen stitches were needed to "tack" the ear back in place and close the other wounds.

Apparently in a drunken stupor or dazed condition, Pitt placed his head on the table and slept while he was being repaired.

Asked how it happened, Pitt said he was drinking a bottle of beer, and that the next thing he knew some one attacked him. Pitt, his face hid behind a coating of blood, said that Edward Lee Coffield agreed to pay the repair bill.

## One Accident Last Week-End

With one minor exception the highways and streets in this county were without accident during the past few days, according to reports coming from police and highway patrolmen. It was the safest week reported on the highways in this county so far this year.

No one was injured and property damage was limited to about \$100, or about \$50 on each of two vehicles involved in the accident.

Driving toward Williamston on Highway 64, Nathan Mizelle started to make a left turn into Fairview Avenue in West End just as Herbert Everett started to pass in his 1953 Ford. The Everett car struck a rear fender of Mizelle's 1941 Dodge, the investigating patrolman reported.

## Suffers Broken Arm In Fall Saturday Evening

Mrs. Dolores L. Beard suffered a bad fracture of the left arm near the wrist in a fall at the home of her sister, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Holliday, in Jamesville about 6:30 o'clock last Saturday evening. She was also said to have been bruised and possibly suffered some internal injury. She was reported today to be responding to treatment in Brown's Community Hospital here.

## Make Appeal For Support Of Stock Show April 8 & 9

It is pointed out that buyers will gain by their purchases.

With thirty-five pretty beef calves on their hands, 4-H and FFA club members in this county, through representatives of the county agent's office and others, are appealing to the general public to support the Martin County fat stock show in the Carolina warehouse at Williamston on Thursday and Friday of next week, April 8 and 9. The youths are asking a lot, but they have worked diligently and their efforts, it has been pointed out, should be rewarded to the greatest extent possible.

A similar show and sale were held in Wilson last week and the champion steer brought 50 cents a pound, the average of the show holding to about 38 cents. It is true that only 15 calves were offered for sale there, but the people of Wilson got behind the event and made it a successful one.

It has been pointed out that buyers can participate in the fat stock sales without losing a great amount. In fact, they can pay considerable in excess of the market and make money, and, at the same time, get some top grade meat, to say nothing of the help extended the youngsters who are selling the steers.

Martin County is not in the cattle business in a big way, but the club members are laying the foundation for a greater industry right here at home. The quality of the cattle now being raised on many farms is far superior than it was just a short time ago.

There is much to be paid in gaining experience and eliminating costly practices. Some of the youngsters have been misled, it is understood, by conflicting recommendations in feeding practices. While the recommendations may have been offered in good faith, they have proved costly in some instances. It is a period any new industry has to experience, and it is said that this county is making progress in developing accepted methods in raising meat.

There were many units in the convoy, including ten ultra modern freighters and a dozen or more large trucks and tractor-trailers. The modern freighters, the driver perched in a streamlined cab about ten feet from the ground, have dual front wheels and are constructed after a strictly modern fashion.

The convoy is handled by about fifty men, and included all makes of G-M types, all attired in red dress except the Corvet.

Following a week's showing in Norfolk, the parade will move into Richmond in its itinerary across the country.

## Progress Parade Stops Overnight

General Motors' "Parade of Progress", traveling from Wilmington to Norfolk, moved on through here early today after pausing overnight at tourists camps near the town.

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## Smaller Sweet Potato Acreage

North Carolina farmers report their intentions, as of March 1, to decrease their sweet potato acreage 11 percent this year. If these intentions are carried out, approximately 40,000 acres will be planted compared with 45,000 last year and the 1943-52 average of 56,000 acres.

## Political Front Is Fairly Quiet

The political front is fairly quiet in the county these days, but it is expected to warm up a bit before the May 29 primary.

The latest development was reported during the week-end when Harry C. Jones filed to succeed himself as constable for Jamesville Township.

There's little talk on the political front these days, representatives explaining that they seldom hear politics mentioned.

## CLUB PROJECT

Members of the Williamston Garden Club will meet at Skewarkey Church, near Williamston, tomorrow, Wednesday, March 31, for the purpose of planting 175 dog wood trees on the church ground.

All members are urged to be at the church at 1 o'clock and other interested citizens are also invited to assist in the planting program.

## Democrats Plan County Meetings

Complete arrangements have not been announced by Jas. H. Gray, chairman of the Martin County Democratic Executive Committee, but it is understood that plans will be made for holding party meetings in the county during May.

The meetings at the precinct level are scheduled for May 8, followed by the county convention on Saturday, May 15. The State convention is to be held on May 20.

It has been customary for most of the thirteen precincts in this county to forego their meetings, and handle their organizational work just before or during the county convention. A few, however, meet, handle their business and name delegates to the county pow-wow.

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## Skewarkey Lodge Masons Guests Of Orphans Sunday

Thirty Masons Impressed By What They Saw At The Institution

Thirty Skewarkey Lodge Masons got a pretty good idea of what their contributions are accomplishing when they visited and inspected the Masonic Orphanage in Oxford last Sunday. The Masons were definitely and favorably impressed by what they saw and heard. Some of the group were even thrilled by the trip, and talked about it after the fashion of excited children. It was a real eye-opener for all, one member of the group declared.

To see a little fellow accept a piece of chewing gum and then divide it with his nearest companion, impressed Henry Handy, Table manners made some think it was another generation.

The visitors were pleased with everything they saw, the children, the plant, the training program.

Traveling by charter bus, the group left Williamston at 8:00 o'clock Sunday morning and reached the orphanage at 11:00 a. m. Dinner was enjoyed, the visitors occupying end seats at the tables with the children.

They were greeted by Assistant Superintendent E. T. Ragan, and were guided over the property by Misses Sheila Simpson, Jean Robinson, Clara Lamb, Ruby McCreuch, Helen Alford, Betty Melendon and Rosa Lee Ates.

Those representing the Skewarkey Lodge were, Paul Bailey, Marvin Britton, A. E. Browder, Ernest Capps, Hilton Forbes, W. B. Gaylord, Jr., V. D. Godwin, Sr., George H. Gurganus, M. K. Herrington, Mack D. Leggett, Mack H. Leggett, Cecil Lilley, J. E. Manning, Arthur Perry, D. L. Roberson, W. M. Tetterton, R. L. Ward, P. C. Blount, R. E. Brown, Jim B. Holliday, W. O. Hamilton, Paul Hyman, Eli Bowen, C. W. Coltrain, John Roberson, M. A. Price, Ira Roberson, H. O. Handy, Luther Peel and K. D. Elliott.

Representatives of the group said that the several children who are there from this county were

(Continued on Page Eight)

## Dr. James S. Rhodes Died Last Thursday

Prominent Local Physician Had Been In Declining Health For Months

Dr. James Slade Rhodes, Sr., prominent Williamston physician and a leading citizen in this section of the State, died in a Richmond hospital last Thursday afternoon at 4:50 o'clock. He had been in declining health since last June but continued active until the fall. Since last October he had spent much of his time in various hospitals, going to the Medical College of Virginia Hospital in Richmond more than two months ago. His condition had been serious for several weeks and became grave last Wednesday night when members of the family were called to his bedside.

The son of the late Frank A. and Helen Slade Rhodes he was born in Williamston 72 years ago on June 30, 1881. After completing the courses offered in the local schools, he was employed about two years by his uncle, the late William Slade, in the mercantile business. In 1902 he entered the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond and was graduated there in 1906. Returning home that year he formed a partnership with the late Mr. William E. Warren, the even marking the beginning of a long and successful practice. In 1913 he did post-graduate work at Johns-Hopkins University, Baltimore, and Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Although he had planned to go into semi-retirement, he was pressed into full-time duty during World War II, possibly working harder in that period than at any other time in his life. In recent years, after turning his offices over to his son, he devoted his interest and much of his time to farming and advanced one of the town's largest single real estate developments. Last summer when the position of a county health officer was made vacant by the death of Dr. John W. Williams, again Dr. Rhodes was pressed into the service of his fellowman. He altered his plans and devoted considerable time advancing the health and welfare of the general public. It was during that period that his own health began to fail him, but he carried on just as long as he was physically able to do so, and on occasions directed the affairs of the department from his own bed.

While he never held a political office, he was vitally interested in all phases of politics, and was active in promoting the welfare of his native town and its people. He launched progressive movements in various fields, including his own profession, civic betterment and agriculture. He was a member of the Church of the Advent for years, serving it in various capacities, and exemplifying its teachings in his daily walk through life. He was a Skewarkey Lodge Mason, having served as Master, and priest of Conoho Chapter No. 12, R. A. F., and a member of St. John's Commandery No. 10, K. T., and Sudan Temple, New Bern. He also held membership and active in the Martin County Medical Society, the North Carolina Medical Society, the Seaboard Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

He was married January 8, 1914, at Atlanta, to Miss Carrie Alexander. Surviving besides his wife are a son, James S. Rhodes, Jr., three grandsons, all of Williamston, and a brother, Frank A. Rhodes, of North Hollywood, California.

The funeral service was conducted at the home of the family. (Continued on Page Eight)

## No Program For Youths At Club Next Saturday

Due to a conflict, there will be no recreation program for teenagers in the Woman's Club here Saturday evening of this week, it was announced today.

Plans are being made to have the club hall open to the youth the following Saturday, April 10.

## Funeral Held In Church Of Advent Here On Saturday

### DIES IN HOSPITAL



Dr. James S. Rhodes, greatly beloved local physician and a prominent citizen, died in a Richmond hospital last Thursday afternoon following a long illness. The funeral service was held in the Church of the Advent Saturday afternoon.

## Skewarkey Lodge Masons Guests Of Orphans Sunday

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