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# THE NEWS-RECORD

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## MORE ABOUT YOUR BIG TAX PAYING

By IRA PLEMMONS

Where is this burden of taxation coming from? Since 1921 according to the Federal Treasury, reports the burden on the wealthier class, for that is the class that pays most of the Federal revenue, has been reduced one billion six hundred millions of dollars.

The National Industrial Board points out that in 1925 there was a reduction in Federal taxes of three hundred and thirty-six millions dollars, and an increase of states taxes of five hundred millions of dollars. In 1921 the cost of the federal government was about nine and a half billion dollars or nearly sixty per cent of all the taxes collected, but in 1925 the cost had risen to the sum of eleven and a half billion dollars and seventy three per cent of that amount was from the taxing agencies of the States. It's also asserted that two millions four hundred thousand dollars of these taxes was raised by unequal taxation. In our own state the ratio runs about eighty per cent as compared with the federal government. This is due to many factors entering into expense accounts, many of which I have pointed out in previous articles.

I note that in Wilkes County the sheriff, Mr. W. D. Woodruff, according to paper reports, seems to be short of his settlement with the county of about twenty thousand dollars, it seems further that he paid lots of poor people's taxes after going to their homes and finding them with perhaps only a cow or a few pigs, maybe, just a little corn for the family, rather than reduce these poor people to starvation he, out of his goodness, assumed the payment of their taxes, he could not swear that they were insolvent and the county is tied up with fool laws that the authorities cannot give him credit. Now this man is to be indicted and will in all likelihood be found guilty and sent to prison. If anyone knows the suffering of the taxpayers, it is tax collectors. But now our tax laws are made and sealed with the King's ring according to the laws of the Medes and Persians, insofar as the common people are concerned. If their assessments are too high, after they run all the red tape to get them reduced it costs them more than they are able to bear, and therefore they go on paying unequal taxes for another four years.

The big land barons can afford to go before the equalization boards and with hired attorneys get reduction on their assessments, on their real and personal property.

In many counties of the state, and our county is no exception, it costs more to list the taxes than it does to collect them. A friend of mine has gone to the trouble to find out what it's costing our county to list the taxes for this year, the amount for assessing according to his figures \$1713.65 and \$530.40 more for assessing the real estate or a sum of two thousand two hundred forty-four dollars and five cents, and to this sum must be added the copying and re-copying of the tax books for the tax collectors and register's office, duplication again. One of the very big men of our State wrote me the other day that it saddened him to note the many farms and lots that were sold for taxes in our County this year. He is not the only one who is saddened—five hundred and six taxpayers are more than saddened—their homes are gone. Of course some of them will redeem them but to do so they must pay twenty per cent extra and the cost of the sale, and this penalty is all because they could not pay their taxes on time.

Many of the wealthier people are putting their money in non-taxable securities, refusing to invest it and escaping taxation on it. Just this morning a very wealthy man from the eastern part of our State told me that he was putting all his money in non-taxable securities, and made the remark that he would be better off if he did not have any property at all. But the small taxpayer has no money to buy non-taxable bonds with, not even enough to pay the amount demanded of him by the taxing agencies, but he must pay or his home goes on the block.

It is one of the injunctions of God's Word to love one another and it is right, but is there such a thing as overdoing that loving. That all depends on how it is applied. Our State, County, and other taxing authorities are loving us just a bit too strong. They are offering services of every kind and description from needle pusher to the office of Governor, some necessary, other offices not necessary, but being paid by the taxpayers.

Insofar as I am concerned, I would just as soon be shot and killed as to be serviced to death or loved by the State and other taxing agencies to death. It all means that I am dead. If these services are making poorer people, then it's time to let us do without the services of at least the unnecessary officers and all unnecessary expenses.

But the love that seems now to be uppermost in many minds is to get in to office and have as many of their families get appointed to some office

as they can. Down at Raleigh just now that family business seems to be overworked. Why, even I have heard of a case where a man was indicted for unlawful use of school money and the legislature passed a bill for the relief of a certain board to keep that man out of the courts. At least he was never tried, and still he is holding down a puny corner of an office by appointment. The office is not necessary but the taxpayers are paying for a very questionable service.

To get this bill through the legislature it perhaps cost the State nearly a thousand dollars to get that wonderful bill passed and that excellent gentleman appointed to an office that is wholly unnecessary. But the taxpayers pay it all. Is it right?

These conditions do not seem to be confined to any one state or community. Just over at Chattanooga they are having some difficulty to find out what went with many thousands of good school money, but the taxpayers must pay whether they can or not. Is it right?

I warn the voters to keep their eyes wide open all the time and look for the purpose that any candidate may have that may offer himself as a sacrifice. Many times, as has been proven, the sacrifice cost the tax payers a very large amount of money. Even now there are many men that are looking forward to the next election and forming public sentiment to carry out the biddings of a ring or boss. Is it right?

## MRS. MCCONNELL IS CLAIMED BY DEATH

MRS. R. G. MCCONNELL DIES WHILE IN ABINGDON HOSPITAL

Mrs. R. G. McConnell of Green Spring, Va., died at the George Ben Johnson Hospital at Abingdon about 1:30 o'clock Monday afternoon, while undergoing an operation there. She had been ill only a few days and was taken to the hospital for an operation in an effort to save her life, however, she died before it was performed. She was the wife of R. G. McConnell, prominent Washington County farmer.

She is survived by her husband, R. G. McConnell of Green Spring and by the following children: Harold, Clarence, Ruth, Marie and Gladys Rose McConnell, all of Green Springs. She is also survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Plemmons and one brother, all of Marshall, and one sister, Mrs. W. G. Goforth of Alexander, N. C.

Funeral services were conducted from the Green Springs Church Wednesday morning. Interment was in cemetery there.

—Bristol (Tenn.) News.

## RICE JAILED HERE

Elihu Rice, middle aged farmer of the Walnut Creek section, was placed in the Madison jail Sunday by officers on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon, a knife, on his son, Walter Rice. The boy, although painfully cut, is not seriously injured and will recover.

The motive for the alleged assault can not be ascertained, the boy and his father evidently having gotten along well together, according to the neighbors of the family. At the time of his arrest, the elder Rice was at liberty under a peace bond of \$200 on a charge of assaulting his wife at their home in June. Rice is alleged to have beaten her face badly with a revolver, inflicting very painful flesh wounds but his victim recovered and they have composed their domestic troubles and have been living together since Rice was released from jail here on the peace bond.

It is probable that Rice will have a trial at the August term of Superior court which convenes August 22nd.

## 2 STILLS CAPTURED

Members of the Sheriff's force are very busy at present and have added two more stills to their rapidly growing collection in the county jail here. The two stills were captured on Saturday and Sunday.

Both stills were captured in the Anderson Branch section near Barnard, one being discovered by the officers on Saturday and the other on Sunday night. No one was present at either still, but they had evidently been in operation shortly before. No whiskey or mash was captured. These two additions make a total of more than fifty stills captured by Sheriff Ramsey and his officers in the past several months, some of them being 60 to 85 gallons capacity.

Passenger: "Do you charge for children?"

Conductor: "Under six, we do not."

Passenger: "Well I have only five."

Conductor: "Are you color blind?"

Student Brakeman: "No."

Conductor: "Well then, take this blue pencil up to that red board and tell that green operator to put his John Henry White on this yellow train order."

## MADISON COUNTY SHORTAGE IN SCHOOL FUNDS NOTHING NEW

Amount Is Accumulation of Years of Overdrawing and Borrowing.

## STATES' NEW BUDGET LAW AND ADVANCE TAX COLLECTIONS MAKES MATTER SEEM SERIOUS

The startling statement in the Asheville Citizen Thursday morning of this week: "DEFICIT \$40,000 FOUND IN MADISON SCHOOL FUND" is not so startling after all, when the matter is understood. In other words a matter that would incriminate an individual, when it is found that the matter cannot be laid on the shoulders of that individual, becomes less exciting. If Mr. Dillard had been guilty of making way with, or misappropriating \$40,000 of the County's money, the people would be indignant and would have a right to be. But according to Dr. Finley and County Auditor, J. N. White, Mr. Dillard is not responsible for the present shortage. While it seems to be true that the county is short about this amount, it is an accumulation of deficits running over a number of years. The school board has been facing a deficit for a number of years and has been drawing on the prospect of the incoming tax uncollected.

The banks have been loaning the money to take care of the deficit until the tax was collected each year. This year, according to the new law, all 1926 taxes had to be in before July 1, and a budget of all expenses made. This brings to a head a condition which has existed for a number of years for which condition neither Mr. Dillard nor any one Board of Education is entirely responsible.

It is the purpose of this paper to publish a complete report in the near future showing the financial condition of the school fund, as found by Dr. W. E. Finley, who is now making an audit of all accounts.

## MARSHALL CHEVROLET COMPANY'S BUILDING IS NEARLY FINISHED

\$16,000 PLANT HAS FLOOR SPACE 55x80 FEET

The Marshall Chevrolet Company's new building on Main Street is nearing completion. In fact, it is expected that the building will be occupied next week. It is quite an improvement to Marshall, being finished in front with tapestry brick and plate glass. The company is composed of Messrs. Tom Frisby, President; W. R. Eller-son, Vice President; Fred Roberts, Secretary and Treasurer and A. B. McDaniel, Manager.

This new structure occupies the Swann lot lying between Mr. Ward's store and the grocery store of Mr. A. L. Plemmons, the floor space being 55x80 feet, concrete floor and brick walls. The company expects to conduct both a sales department for the Chevrolet cars and accessories and a general repair department.

## GIRLS ENDING NORMAL COURSES

A large number of Madison County girls are returning to their homes after having taken the summer school course at Cullowhee State Normal School, the Asheville normal, and various other schools offering summer courses in teaching.

Among the arrivals from Cullowhee this week were the following Misses Eva Rice, Sallie Fisher, and Gladys Tweed, of Marshall; Miss Jennie Lee Chandler, of Walnut; Misses Ibbie Ball, Gertie Brown, and Zura Payne, of Little Pine; and Jessie Franklin, of Big Laurel, N. C. and Miss Ruby Payne of Marshall and Miss Ruby Wilson are among the Madison county girls who have returned from the Asheville Normal, after having finishing the summer course there.

## POPULAR EXCURSION TO WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Southern Railway will make very attractive round trip rates to Washington and return.

Special Sleeping Cars and Day Coaches from Asheville August 10th, 1927.

Lv. Asheville 2:20 P. M. Ar. Washington 8:30 A. M.

Four full days in Washington if desired and tickets good re turning on all regular trains daily (except No. 37—The Crescent Limited) until Sunday night, August 14th.

Following rates will apply from stations quoted below and equally low fares from all stations.

Alexander	\$13.50
Barnard	14.50
Marshall	14.00
Hot Springs	14.50

Passengers on Knoxville Division should arrive Asheville Train No. 12, 2:00 P. M. and leave Asheville on Train No. 12, 2:20 P. M. Call on your local Agent for tickets and Pullman reservations.

J. H. WOOD, Div. Pass. Agt., Asheville, N. C.

## Two Madison Boys In Canal Zone

New York, Aug. 3.—Chester O. Jarrett, son of Mr. John Jarrett, of Route 1, Marshall, and Paul J. Bright, son of Mrs. Sarah Bright, of Hot Springs, N. C., who recently enlisted in the Regular Army, sailed today from the Brooklyn army base with 308 soldiers on the U. S. Army Transport St. Mihiel for the Panama Canal Zone. Jarrett and Bright who volunteered for duty in Panama and who selected the Engineering branch of the army service will be assigned by Major General William Lassiter, commander of the Panama Canal Department, to one of the units that guard the canal. They will have unusual opportunity of seeing the greatest engineering feat in history, without cost to themselves.

Before sailing today they were members of the garrison of Fort Slocum, N. Y., an army post on the Long Island Sound, where they received their military training under the supervision of Colonel J. J. Bradley, commander of the post.

The War Department has arranged special tours for soldiers from army transports at San Juan, when the ship docks at that port. Natives operating "guaguas," which is Porto Rican for motor buses, takesoldiers in sight-seeing trips over the crooked mountain roads that were built three hundred years ago by Spanish slaves.

## EXPLAINS \$100,000 ROAD NOTE

The road note which is advertised to be sold the 17th, is to take up a note of like amount which was borrowed by the County and loaned to the State Highway Commission for the construction of highways in Madison County.

The note for \$100,000 which was sold July 12, was for the same purpose. These notes will be paid in the end by the State. This does not increase the debt of Madison County except that the County has part of the interest to pay until the notes are paid off by the State. This information is given us by Mr. John A. Hendricks, County Attorney.

## YOUTH HURT

Jobie Davis, a young man of near this town, while on his way to Marshall and while turning a sharp curve a short distance west of the home of Mr. W. V. Farmer, ran his car off the road, turning over several times and rolled into the branch about fifty feet below, late Sunday afternoon. He was badly bruised and had several ribs broken in the accident. The touring car was the property of Jonah Henderson of Walnut and it was almost completely demolished.

## STATE SANATORIUM TO HAVE NEW BUILDING

The Board of Directors of The North Carolina Sanatorium at their last quarterly meeting passed on the permanent improvement program for the institution during the coming two years. A building to be erected on the opposite side from the present main building, of the dining room, kitchen and auditorium already on the grounds, to accommodate one of the outstanding permanent improvements.

The fitting at an early date of steel casement windows in the two wards already erected, which at the time of building were only screened in, will make the institution a thoroughly modern building in accord with the best sanatorium building practice of today.

The old building now used for women, will probably be used for ambulatory men patients when the new women's buildings are completed.

## CELEBRATE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

ALL NINE CHILDREN PRESENT

Last Sunday, July 31, 1927, the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Deaver on Walnut Creek was the scene of a celebration which came as quite a surprise to Mr. Deaver. While he was gone to church, his son, Mr. O. W. Deaver, assisted by others, went to the home and built a table in the back yard. One by one, the children and grandchildren and "in-laws" and other relatives gathered until 64 were present. They had met to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Deaver's wedding. A sumptuous dinner was spread, and Mr. and Mrs. Deaver and all present had quite a delightful occasion. Mr. J. Will Roberts of Marshall was present and made the speech of the occasion. All nine children were present as follows: Mrs. C. M. Davis, Asheville, H. B. Deaver, Knoxville, Mrs. Buren Price, Marshall, R. S. Mrs. Polk Bryan Marshall, E. A. Mrs. Marvin Silver, Marshall, Mrs. John Blazer, Marshall, R. F. D. 4, Mrs. C. G. Henderson, Marshall, R. F. D. 4, Mr. O. W. Deaver, Marshall, and Mr. Jim Deaver of Marshall, R. F. D. 4.

## S. S. CONVENTION AT CHAPEL HILL GREAT SUCCESS

The annual session of the Sunday School Convention of the French Broad Association met with the Chapel Hill Baptist Church at White Rock, N. C., Saturday, July 30 and continued through Sunday.

In the absence of the president of last session, the body was called together by Rev. L. C. Roberts, Moderator of the Association.

On motion the rules were suspended and E. S. Morgan of the Grape Vine church, was elected president, and Fred Jervis of Mars Hill was re-elected Secretary.

25 Sunday Schools reported with or without delegates.

The delegates were royally entertained by the people of Chapel Hill.

FRED JERVIS, Secretary.

## MADISON VETERAN WRITES

A. J. GAHAGAN, NOW OF TENNESSEE, GIVES WAR EXPERIENCE

The News-Record, Marshall, N. C.

For a few months I have been receiving the News-Record that I am quite sure has been sent me by some friend. I have read each copy with real interest. It has brought back to me memories of my boyhood days until I was seventeen years of age, when under the training of my father, George W. Gahagan, left the old home in company with my brother, N. B. Gahagan, Elisha Tweed, Amos Hensley, Noah, and John Shelton to find a place in the rank of the Union Army in southeastern Kentucky (the first group of boys to leave the county for that purpose) all of whom got through the Confederate lines with the exception of my brother who was captured, and died in Confederate prison at Richmond, Virginia. Noah Shelton died in the service. Tweed, John Shelton, Hensley and I lived through the war, and returned when mustered out to the old homeland. We were all members of the First Tennessee Cavalry, all in Company D. Tweed and I were promoted from the ranks to lieutenants, and I am prepared to say that the other three made good soldiers, and in my heart I treasure happy memories of the eventful years we served together during the terrible period of war. All the others have passed over. I am the only survivor of that first bunch that left Madison County to follow the flag of our country.

On our return home I remained a month or so with my parents at the old home over on Laurel. I helped put in a little spring crop on the farm. I had been away from home in the army over three years, and during that time I had been in six of the states, and some of them seemed to offer me better opportunities for a real place in life than my home land. One day I said to my parents that I could see nothing there better than work on the farm, and that I could go back to Nashville where I could get a place in the service of the government that would pay me a salary that would hire ten men on the farm, and with their consent I would go (I was then just twenty-one years of age). I think they doubted my optimistic statement, but readily gave their consent. I made good my promise. In less than a week I was on a job at \$125.00 per month, winding up a year later in Chattanooga. Gave up my position in the government service to enter business, where I have given sixty years of active life in trying my best to make a place on the map for the city of my adoption. I have not reached the vision I had in mind but I have done my best.

I take pride in my native state, North Carolina. What she has accomplished since the close of the Civil War covers a part in the history of development surpassed by no other state in the Union. To my mind there is just one dark spot, and that is the insatiable demand of the tax gatherer. You have a problem there that requires statesmen to solve.

Very truly,  
A. J. GAHAGAN.

## N. C. BOOZE FINES \$83,84.00

Washington, July 20.—Some interesting prohibition figures have been compiled here. They show that North Carolina collected as a result of fines, costs, forfeitures, sale, seized property, etc. under the Volstead act in 1926, eastern district, \$20,588 and western, \$63.47.

The number of persons paying fines and the average paid were: eastern district, 149 persons and \$134 per person; western, 453, and \$181.

The number of cases pending were: eastern 131, and western 985.

Detentions seized: entire state 1,865; stills seized, 446; still worms 467 and fermenters 13,846.

Spirits seized, 15,124 gallons; malt liquor 1,441,312 gallons and 157 automobiles.