

# County Auditor Explains Facts About Duplin Taxes To Taxpayers

Local governmental officials believe that taxpayers should know the facts about the taxes imposed on their property for the purpose of raising county and city revenue. Since North Carolina law requires property owners to list property for taxation every January, the time is ripe for a simple explanation of the law. People who live within the corporate limits of a city or town pay taxes on their property to both the county and the city or town, but for purposes of clarity this article is written in terms of county taxation.

Ten of the most common questions about the property tax are set out below. The answers are designed to help the average individual understand his responsibility.

1. What is the property tax? The property tax is a tax on property itself. It is not a tax from income on property. Instead, it is based on the value of the property as a marketable item. That is why it is called an ad valorem property tax. This tax must be imposed uniformly on all property according to its market value.

2. What kinds of property are subject to this tax? In general, all property within the county is subject to taxation by the county. It is important, however, to know that there are two main kinds of property. One is called "real property," meaning land, buildings, and items permanently affixed to or connected with land or buildings. The other kind of property is called "personal property," meaning movable property. Personal or movable property is divided into two classes: (a) tangible or touchable property and (b) intangible or non-touchable property. Books, rings, clothing, merchandise, etc., are examples of tangible personal property. Money, bonds, notes, stocks, etc., are examples of intangible personal property. The taxpayer should remember that the county does not tax intangible personal property. The state collects taxes on intangibles. The county taxes real property and tangible personal property. Some kinds of property are exempt from taxation by North Carolina law; they are discussed in questions 8 and 9.

3. Where is personal property taxed? Real property (land, buildings, etc.) is taxed in the county in which it is actually located. Tangible personal property, as a general rule, is taxed in the county in which the owner has his residence. An individual's residence is the place at which he lives, eats and sleeps — his home township. If a property owner is not a resident of North Carolina, the county in which his personal property is located is entitled to consider it as his residence for purposes of taxing the non-touchable property. Books, rings, clothing, merchandise, etc., are examples of tangible personal property. Money, bonds, notes, stocks, etc., are examples of intangible personal property. The taxpayer should remember that the county does not tax intangible personal property. The state collects taxes on intangibles. The county taxes real property and tangible personal property. Some kinds of property are exempt from taxation by North Carolina law; they are discussed in questions 8 and 9.

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## Crowd Of 2,000 Estimated Attended First Annual Christmas Tree Held In Pink Hill

The first annual Pink Hill community Christmas tree party got off to a good start at 5:00 p. m. on Christmas Eve with approximately 2,000 attending. Rev. N. P. Farrier pronounced the invocation and Attorney John Harvey Turner welcomed the guests. The idea of celebrating the event originated with the Business Men's Club and was carried through by some of the business men and citizens of the town, along with the town itself, through the Board of Aldermen. Mrs. Jack Perkins led the crowd in Christmas songs at intervals. Rev. N. P. Farrier told of the significance of Christmas and Rev. D. C. Boone told the Christmas story.

## Warsaw Native Awarded Degree

Rev. James H. Blackmore, pastor of First Baptist church, Spring Hope N. C. received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in absentia, Edinburgh, Scotland, on December 14th, 1951.

Dr. and Mrs. Blackmore returned home in July after two years of study in Scotland and England, doing research in the National Library of Scotland, the Bodleian Library of Oxford, the Lambeth Library and British Museum in London.

Dr. Blackmore is a graduate of Wake Forest College (B.A., Cum Laude 1927) and of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York (B.D., 1940). While in Rochester, New York, he was director of Religious Education in the Pearsalls Avenue Baptist church and summer pastor of the Calvary Baptist church in Syracuse, New York. Upon graduation in 1940, he was awarded a travelling fellowship, but the international situation interrupted his plans and instead he did some graduate work at Duke University.

He served as pastor of the Baptist church in Kings, N. C., for two and a half years before entering the Army as a Chaplain. After serving three and a half years at home and in Europe with the 10th Armored Division and the 27th Ordnance Base Depot, he became pastor of the First Baptist church of Wilmington, N. C., where he served for over two years. Dr. Blackmore is a native of Warsaw, N. C., and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie R. Blackmore of that town. His wife formerly Ruth Lillick of Iowa City, Iowa, accompanied him abroad and attended lectures at the University of Edinburgh.

In October of this year they accepted the pastorate of the Baptist church in Spring Hope, where they are now located.

## Not To Late To Acknowledge Christmas Seal Letters

There is still time for Duplin County residents to acknowledge their Christmas Seal letters, although the campaign officially closed Christmas, according to Lewis W. Outlaw, seal sale chairman of Duplin TB Association, who operated the "Late Christmas Seal Returns" so that the Association might realize its quota of \$3,000.

"At this date we fall short of our quota about \$1400," said Mr. Outlaw, "it is understandable that during the holiday rush some Christmas seal letters were forgotten or overlooked. We know that many who meant to send in checks or money orders for Christmas seals have been so busy that it has simply slipped their minds, we are deeply grateful, however, to the many residents who have acknowledged their Christmas seals."

Mr. Outlaw would again like to state that if there are those who did not receive seals and would like to contribute to this very important health program, their contributions would be welcomed and their name added to mailing list for another year.

## Grady Cub Scouts Present Program On Christmas Celebration In Other Lands

troop held their regular meeting at the American Legion hut at Maxwell's Mill, Wednesday night Dec. 19. The Cubs presented a program on how Christmas is celebrated in other lands. Bob Holt, Cub Master, showed some Christmas pictures and Mrs. Hess Davis and Wayland Davis led the group in a preview of recreation. Plans were made for the January meeting which will be a study of stars and planets and on January 20, they expect to visit the planetarium at Chapel Hill. Plans were also made to put on a puppet show at the meeting of the B.F. Grady PTA in January. Parents of the Cubs were present at this meeting and gifts were exchanged.

## Plants Are Still Available For The New Albritton Strawberry, County Agent Says

Applications for the new strawberry plant, the Albritton, are still being accepted, announced county agent Lacy Weeks.

The Albritton, named in honor of the outstanding berry grower of Calypso, Jim Albritton is a cross of Southland selfed and Massey selfed varieties.

Weeks said the new plant has a better ripening season than the Massey, a tough skin, firm to large in size, deep red when ripe with a glossy appearance. Flavor for the berry is good to excellent. Though commercial distribution is limited at present, the agent said every farmer in Duplin strawberry section will be given an opportunity to purchase some of the plants.

Weeks said that plants will be available at farms of the cooperating producers at Teachey. Prices will be \$3.00 if picked up or \$4.00 if mailed. January 10th is the last date applications will be received. After that date all applications will be forwarded to the Experiment station in Raleigh where they will be pro-rated among the applicants.

## Self-Employed May Need Social Security Account Number Filing 1951 Income

If you work for yourself you may need a social security account number when you file your income tax return for 1951, according to N. A. Avera, manager of the Wilmington social security office.

Mr. Avera said that the 1950 amendments extended old-age and survivors insurance coverage to all self-employed persons except farm owners and members of certain professional groups, such as doctors, lawyers, architects, engineers, public accountants, and funeral directors. Even farm operators or people self-employed in the excluded professions are affected if, in addition to their regular work, they engage in a self-employment enterprise covered by the law. For example, a doctor who also operates a drug store, or a lawyer who is also self-employed as an insurance broker. If you are covered by the law, you'll have to pay a social security tax when you file your Federal income tax return for 1951, unless the net earnings derived from your trade or business are less than requirements; however, only the first \$3,600 of your net earnings will be taxed. The tax rate for 1951 is 2 1/4 per cent for self-employed persons and the tax must be paid in full when you file your 1951 tax return.

"Some self-employed persons will be able to retire as early as January 1, 1952, and receive the maximum retirement benefit," Mr. Avera said. "For example, a person who reaches the age of 65 by January 1953 will be eligible for retirement at the maximum of \$80 a month, if his net earnings are at least \$4,800 in each of the years 1951 and 1952. Although an employee working for wages may file a claim as early as July 1, 1952, if he reached 65 and retired at the end of June the self-employed person who reaches 65 at the same time will have to wait until the end of the year to file his return."

## Member Farmers From This Area Become Members \$1,000 Acre Club

Some 120 Eastern Carolina farmers who have received \$1,000 or more for the tobacco grown on their acres were accepted for membership in the "Dixie One Thousand Dollar Per Acre Club" at a membership meeting in Kinston on Saturday.

The meeting was held at the Junior Chamber of Commerce building, a barbequed chicken dinner was served.

Members included Ralph W. Gunn, director of agricultural research, B. Bennett, extension specialist, and Frank H. Scarborough, editor, all of the College. They discussed the economic situation tobacco represents and general farming problems in the area.

Johnston, all of Deep Run; Lonnies Stroud, Ralph Stroud, Clayton Eyrill and Haywood Stroud of Pink Hill; O'Neal Britt, et. 1, Mt. Olive; R. J. Quinn, et. 1 Seven Springs and Peary Davis, Albritton.

Proposed new members from this area include: Albert O. Britt, et. 1, Mt. Olive; R. O. Britt, et. 1, Mt. Olive; Paul A. Grady, John D. Grady, Bland Bussey and Faison Smith of Albritton; Ernest Heath, John S. Howard, Rex Howard, Walter Lee, H. E. Maxwell, Robert Pike, Durwood Foster, Rosa and E. D. Robinson, Rick Smith, Albert Spruce, L. B. Smith and Garland Wiley, all of Pink Hill; Perry Blizard, Ivey Davis, Earl A. Davis, J. G. Hill, Clarence Howard, C. C. Howard, Clarence J. Johnson and Edward Stanley of Deep Run and Mrs. Ann and Mr. O'Neal Britt of Seven Springs.

## REV. JAMES H. BLACKMORE

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# Beulaville Negro Mother Killed Husband Held Without Bond White Man Named In The Case

## L. Y. Ballentine Named Man Of The Year In Agriculture In N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 3. — "Stag" Ballentine, North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture, has been named 1951 Man of the Year in service to North Carolina agriculture by The Progressive Farmer magazine.

The award is announced in the January issue of The Progressive Farmer magazine by Clarence Poe president and editor.

"In North Carolina, a state with the largest rural population in the nation," said Dr. Poe, "Mr. Ballentine is one of the few state officials who actively operates a farm—and can still do a first-class job of milking cows."

As commissioner of agriculture in addition to directing vital regulatory work of the department, said Progressive Farmer he's stressing three things: 1) cooperation between all agricultural agencies to speed up farm progress, 2) development of better and more extensive agricultural research, and 3) streamlining and strengthening marketing and processing of farm products.

A self-made down-to-earth sort of man, Ballentine packs a lot of work into a day. He keeps an "open door" to all visitors, travels widely over the state, and stays close to the soil by overseeing his 225-cow dairy near Raleigh.

Other North Carolinians named Man of the Year in previous years by The Progressive Farmer are:

1949 — W. Kerr Scott, L. O. Schaub, Harry B. Caldwell, Frank P. Graham, B. W. Kilgore, T. E. Browne, T. J. W. Broom, E. G. Moss, Frank W. Hancock, L. D. Bever, R. Flame Shaw, James H. Hilton, Dumont Clarke, and David S. Weaver.

The Rev. Dumont Clarke was recently named 1951 Man of the Year in service to Southern agriculture.

## Automobiles To Soon Surpass War As Mass Killer Of Americans Since 1775

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. — The automobile will outpace war as a mass killer of Americans sometime in February, when its fatality toll will exceed for the first time in history the total of the nation's military dead since 1775, unless the new year starts with a marked decline in traffic deaths.

The Association of Casualty and Surety Companies said today.

At the end of the first year and a half of the Korean conflict on December 25, military deaths in U. S. Wars since the Revolution started had reached approximately 1,004,000, according to the Association's comparative study of war and traffic fatalities. The automobile killed its millionth victim on December 22, its two millionth Christmas Day when the Korean war was 18 months old, was approximately 500 over that historic mark, 3,500 below the all-time total of war deaths but 56,500 higher than the tally of 944,000 motor vehicle fatalities at the start of the Korean war on June 25, 1950. In the same 18 months the Department of Defense has reported about 17,800 U. S. Military deaths in Korea.

Barring resumption of full-scale war, the greater American casualties in Korea or a huge reduction in the motor vehicle toll during the next few weeks the automobile will soon overcome the wars head start of 125 years in which 330,000 military deaths had occurred before the motor age claimed its first victim just before the 20th century began, the Association declared. At the 18-month mark of Korean hostilities, traffic fatalities were occurring seven times faster than those of war, claiming in one day as many Americans as the total lost in one week's fighting in Korea.

The historic death race between these two mass killers toward their respective million marks ended with war claiming the life of a new unknown soldier, "GI-X" in Korea last September 3 or 4, according to the Association's study. His civilian counterpart in traffic accidents, "Victim X" died about 110 days later. Both "GI-X" and "Victim X" will remain unknown, it added, although some attempts have been made to establish the identity of the millionth traffic victim, of which no one can be certain because of incomplete early statistics. However, the deaths of these historic victims of war and the automobile a little more than three and a half months apart have centered attention on the relative deadliness of occasional American wars and daily traffic accidents, the Association said in pointing out that within two months the automobile will take a commanding lead as the dealer of the two wholesale destroyers of American lives.

"Americans must face the fact that the automobile is a bigger killer of their sons and daughters than our wars," said Thomas N. Boate, public safety director of the Association and acting manager of its accident prevention department in commenting on the study. "The new year should witness the most determined effort ever made by the nation to reduce the tremendous loss of life in highway accidents."

## Six Wives Are Held Minus One Husband Looking For Another

MESA, Ariz. — Six women who said they were the wives of an excommunicated Mormon were held here today on a charge of "open and notorious cohabitation."

The women were arrested on complaints signed by Bishop Wendell A. Davis of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Davis also signed a complaint against George Meril Dutton, identified by the women as their husband. Dutton's whereabouts are not known.

The six women were held in the Phoenix city jail. Two of them, Laura Dutton, 44, and Hilda Dutton, 46, have 19 children, who Davis said all called Dutton their father. The other women were Ann Dutton, 43, and Hazel Dutton, 55.

Davis said he felt it was necessary to take action against Dutton now because he was believed planning to marry another woman.

The bishop said that he acted as a private citizen in signing the complaints "to see that justice is done" because plural marriages are unlawful under federal law.

Davis explained he was anxious that the public know his church does not sanction such unions. He said he had been investigating the case since 1948 when Dutton and three of the women moved here.

Dutton, also wanted on a bigamy charge, was sought by Sheriff's deputies.

## Tele. Company Asks For Rate Hike

RALEIGH — The Carolina Telephone Company asked the State Utilities Commission last Thursday for authority to boost its rates.

It told the commission it needs an additional \$800,000 a year to make adequate return on its investment. To raise this much money after taxes and expenses, annual bills of its 98,000 customers would have to be raised by approximately \$1 1/2 million a year.

## Senior Play To Be Given Again

By popular demand the Senior class of Kenansville will present "Little Women" again on January 11, 1952 at 7:30.

Admission: 50c and 50c.

# Famed Grass Roots Opera Company To Present Mozart's "School For Lovers" Kenan Auditorium

The County Board of Education announced today its plans to bring the Grass Roots Opera Company of the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs to the county on January 31st, for a performance of Mozart's comic opera "School For Lovers" in English. The performance will take place in the Kenan Memorial Auditorium in Kenansville. Tickets will go on sale January 21st at all Duplin County schools and at other designated places to be announced later.

The company was organized about a year ago by A. J. Fletcher who saw the great need for opportunities for talented North Carolina singers to gain experience in public performance. A singer himself, Mr. Fletcher realized that opera in English can be an excellent entertainment, but had never been accepted as such by the American public as a whole. The average American shudders slightly at the thought of going to an opera. He associates the word "opera" with very staid entertainments in a language he does not understand.

Mr. Fletcher and his Grass Roots Opera Company set out to prove that the public generally can be brought to enjoy and attend operatic productions if skillfully produced in English. He says that this has been proved in cities and towns in which they have appeared so far.

The Grass Roots Company is made up not only of career singers but also of vocational singers, such as doctors, accountants, stenographers, clerks, sales teachers, plumbers, lawyers and cosmetologists.

The first fourteen performers of this opera were in various North Carolina cities and towns. The fifteen performance is one which the performers will never forget. They took place on September 2, 1950 at the Western Amphitheater in Washington, D. C. as a feature of the National Capital Sesquicentennial Celebration. In excess of 8000 people witnessed this performance and were as entertained as the other audiences who have seen this production. Invitations from other states have been received to come and give an opera to their communities. There will be between 50 and 75 performances by this company in North Carolina in the 1951-52 season.

This effort by a few North Carolina music lovers is intended to signal a simpler approach to the opera problem in America to acquaint our people with the beautiful music in opera, and thus create a demand for this type of production which will ensure pleasant and durable experience for the listeners, profit for performers and no loss to sponsors.

On January 31st, the Duplin county schools will present the Grass Roots Opera Company at the Kenan Memorial Auditorium in Kenansville in a performance of Mozart's delightful comic opera "School For Lovers" in English.

"School for Lovers" tells the story of Don Alfonso, an elderly bachelor, who tries to convince two young soldiers, Fernando and Grazia, that their sweethearts Leonora and Dorabella if given a fair chance, will prove disloyal to them. The young lovers deny this and a wager of \$100 is laid that, if the men will follow Don Alfonso in military duty, the girls are broken-hearted and the boys come in and a sad and loving farewell and ostensibly leave for camp. The next day Don Alfonso brings the young lovers, now disguised, to visit the garden again, where they are introduced to their unsuspecting sweethearts as Albanian noblemen. Under their agreement with Don Alfonso, each is required to make love to the other's sweetheart.

Despina, the maid, who is not averse to promoting or engaging in affairs of the heart is, for a consideration paid by Don Alfonso, an enthusiastic participant in the plot to have the two girls fall in love with the new lovers, but smart as she is, she does not recognize the Albanian noblemen as Fernando and Grazia — that is, not until the very last minutes of the opera.

How this plot develops and the outcome is best left for the audience to discover for itself. Suffice it to say that all learn a lesson in the "School for Lovers."

The cast is an experienced one, having given performances of this opera during the past year. Alec Dantz plays Don Alfonso, William Allen is Fernando Robert Bird is Graziano, Nora Sands plays Leonora, Anna Applewhite is Despina, and Deborah Allen is Dorabella. The performance is under the direction of Robert C. Bird, National Opera Director for the Federation, and Allen Lynn is the accompanist.

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