

# Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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## Revaluation Completed; Many Inequities Ended By 1st Change in 20 Years

After 20 years Lenoir County has had a revaluation of its real and personal properties for tax purposes and as pointed out again and again the revaluation was aimed more at equalizing than at increasing the overall taxable figure. The result of this first scientific revaluation is now public property and it shows an increase of some 48 per cent over the previous year's listings.

The 1953 taxable valuation for the county was \$44,229,897 and the 1952 figure handed to the commissioners Monday by Tax Supervisor Milton Williams was \$29,899,700. But, as Williams stressed in handing up this report, all of this more than 20 million dollars boost is not from increased valuations but a good big slice comes from NEW properties added to the list in the past year. Biggest single new slice of tax pie added to the county financial table was the interim five and a half million dollar valuation placed on the Du Pont plant in Contentnea Neck Township. An addition that moved Contentnea Neck into the Number 2 spot for the county, thereby replacing Moseley Hall which has in the past ranked just behind Kinston Township as the second largest

taxpaying township in the county.

The 1953 figure as shown in the table included here indicates that Kinston Township will still be paying some 54 per cent of the county's tax bill. An indication that inequities have existed in that township's listings as well as between that township and others in the past.

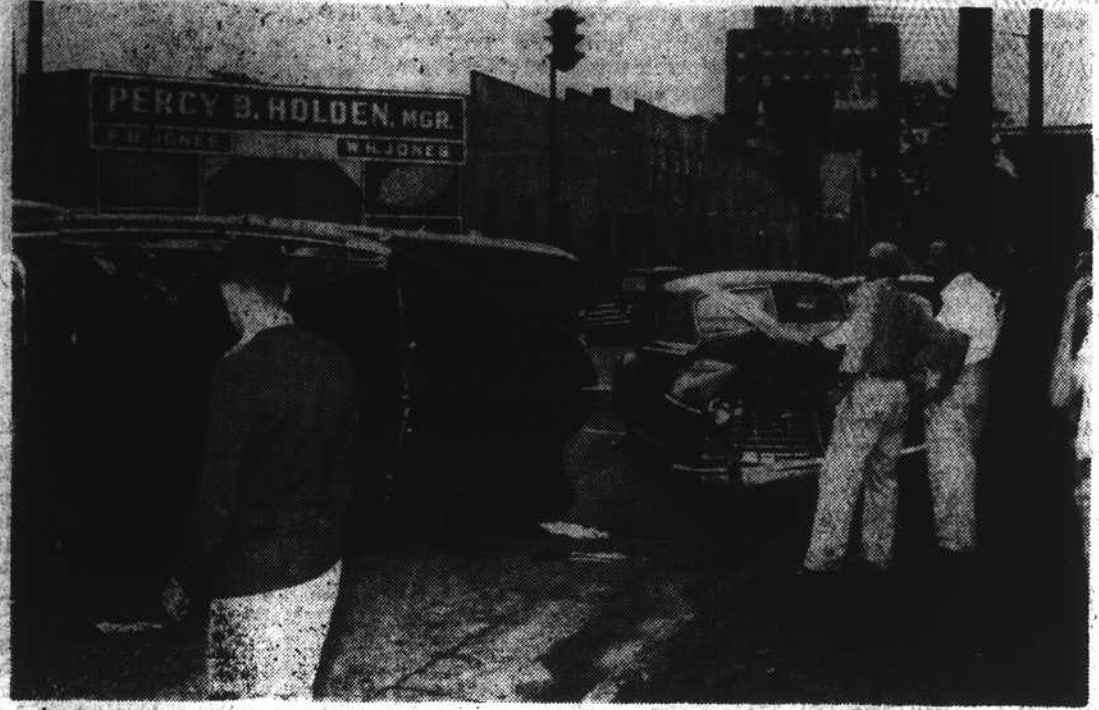
The biggest increase in tax listings, percentagewise came from Woodington Township, as shown in the table, where an increase of 72 per cent was made.

The increase in Contentnea Neck Township totalled a huge 174 per cent but if the 1952 listing by Du Pont of 1.1 million and the 1953 Du Pont listing of 5.5 million are eliminated that township winds up with the lowest percentage of the increase under the revaluation program, a fact that bears out the fact that Contentnea Neck Tax List-er Joe Gilbert has always done a top notch job of getting the property of his folks on the books at very near the right figure. Without the Du Pont figure Contentnea Neck's increase was 22 per cent.

The second highest increase to the 72 per cent logged in Woodington Township was the 66 per

Township	1952 Total	1953 Total
Kinston	\$29,899,700	\$44,229,897
Moseley Hall	2,800,000	4,250,115
Woodington	3,500,000	5,912,500
Vance	1,334,305	2,082,100
Contentnea Neck	2,774,705	7,547,410
Sand Hill	559,970	941,195
South West	800,730	1,342,110
Woodington	893,985	1,550,040
Neuse	1,004,305	2,795,595
Trent	1,733,930	2,865,190
Pink Hill	1,480,475	2,252,375
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$42,747,675</b>	<b>\$63,449,700</b>
Corporate Excess	1,482,222	Estimated 1,250,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$44,229,897</b>	<b>\$64,699,700</b>
Kinston School District Value	\$36,724,945	\$35,521,115

## This Resulted From Running Thru A Red Light



Above is seen one more result of the failure of a person to stop for a red light. This accident which happened last week in Kinston at the corner of Peyton Avenue and Heritage Street resulted when John R. Willis ran

through a red light and struck the car of Joe Yadaous. Willis was headed south on Heritage and Yadaous was going west on Peyton at the time of the accident. Willis was indicted

by Officer Lynn McCormick. Fortunately no one was seriously hurt in the accident, except in the vicinity of the pocketbook since damage to the two cars ran into several hundred dollars.

cent hike that hit Sandhill Township valuations. Close behind this was the 66 per cent jump for Neuse Township, a large part of which came from new commercial and industrial construction.

Falling Creek Township was 4th in line when the increases were passed out with a 54 per cent jump. Southwest Township was 5th in line with a 50 per cent boost and then Trent Township fell into the 6th place with a 54 per cent jump over the '53 valuations there. Three townships, Pink Hill Institute and Vance, wound up with 50 per cent increases.

Aside from the 22 per cent figure one gets in Contentnea Neck without the Du Pont additions, the lowest percentages of increase went to the townships, Kinston and Moseley Hall. A fact that bears out earlier pre-

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## Week In Review

An election-eve meeting of the Kinston city council was short and sweet Monday night and only three matters were acted upon as incumbents seeking re-election rushed off for a little late night beer drinking. The stadium seats was reimbursed some \$1,432.88 for water main it ran to its building before it was "moved to town." The National Guard asked and received a \$350 appropriation for renovation of its present "armory" to be matched with a similar sum from the county treasury and another \$600 for rent which was also to be matched by the county.

The Lenoir County School Board came up Monday with a \$462,862 budgetary request for the 1953-54 period. Some \$249,000 of this total was for additions to Southwood and Frink Schools which are both now hard pressed for space to suitably house the students they have enrolled. It is likely that only part of this capital outlay item in the school budget will be included in the '53-54 budget since the work could not be completed in that fiscal period and would more likely run into the '54-55 budget period.

The Board of Trustees of the Kinston Graded School District dumped a huge \$790,652.51 problem into the laps of the county commissioners Monday as the minimum requirements for the Kinston School System for 1953-54. Of this total \$516,807 is asked for a new elementary school Northeast of Kinston and about one mile outside the present city limits. As with the capital outlay item in the county budget it is likely that their major part of the city school budget will also riod.

Tyson Creech, who accidentally had his name left out of the list of LaGrange candidates that appeared in this paper last week, was not deterred by such an omission since he ran at the head of the slate of 11 which sought the six seats on the LaGrange Town Council in the

Tuesday election with 224 votes out of the 280 cast. The five elected to serve along with Creech were Roy Rouse, 221, George Mewborn, 214, L. C. Moore, 185, J. T. Sutton, 160 and Clifton Spence, 148. In the also run category were Talmadge House with 121, Cecil Burke with 91, Jack Crews with 81, Tom Chase with 22 and Marvin Radford with seven votes. The 280 votes cast was the largest turnout in recent years by LaGrange voters. Former Alderman Kermit Thompson was unopposed for the job of mayor in LaGrange for the next two years.

Sam Nelson edged out Incumbent Grifton Mayor Dr. W. E. Rasberry by a tight 95-98 count in the Monday voting for town officials in that Pitt-Lenoir County town. Also passed by a huge majority in the voting were bond issues of \$50,000 and \$55,000 for water and sewer line expansions in this fast growing community. Elected to serve on the town council were R. E. Johnson, 125, W. E. Hart, 113, B. G. Tucker, 110, W. C. Chauncey, 106, George G. Suggs, 99. The also-rans and their votes were J. A. Rogers, 96, W. H. Gower, 79, and A. D. Wall, 74.

In a Town Meeting held in the court house in Trenton Tuesday night Alderman William Henry Hammond was promoted to the post of mayor and Incumbent Mayor Clifton Jones was added to the town council. Other aldermen named were Fred Roger Pollock, an incumbent, and one newcomer to the board, Fred W. Foscoe. Myrtle Brock was renamed town clerk and John Larkins was retained as counsel for the town board.

## Jake West Issues Price Cut Notice On All IH Truck

Jake West, Jr., of the local International motor truck dealer, has just returned from a meeting at the International Harvester Company's Charlotte district offices at which the company announced a substantial reduction in the retail prices of its new truck models.

The price reductions, accord-

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Above roaring flames are seen at work last Friday morning on the home of the John Starkey family on the Burrell Holland farm north of Kinston. Fanned by high west winds the blaze which started in the kitchen of the tenant home soon consumed the house and all of its con-

tents but one bed and a handful of clothing. Kinston firemen are seen at work above in an effort to protect other out-buildings from also being lost in the blaze. Only \$200 insurance was carried on the house and its contents. Persons who might have clothing or used

furniture that they would care to give the family are urged to contact the Red Cross or the Salvation Army. Starkey, his wife, two daughters, one son and his mother were living in the house and lost all of their "worldly goods."