

# Education Takes Biggest Bite of State, County Taxes

"Where does all this tax money go?"

This is not an infrequent question of the average taxpayer, and insofar as the collection of county and state taxes are concerned the answer has to be: Schools.

Consider some current figures: In the most recent year for which

complete reports are available the operation of public schools in North Carolina — not including colleges and universities — cost \$293,767,127.44. This was the 1962-63 school year. This includes no funds for capital outlay — only the daily operating costs.

Adding the costs of colleges, un-

iversities, student loan funds, specialized schools for the handicapped and the administration of all these runs the figure even higher by something like \$70.2 million dollars for the same fiscal period.

The biggest slice of this huge expenditure comes from the state taxes, the next biggest slice from

county taxes and finally a very thin slice from federal taxes.

In this period the two school system in Lenoir County spent \$4,008,992.51 on public school education. The county system with an average daily attendance of 8,026 pupils spent \$2,437,188.62 and the Kinston Graded School District

with an average daily attendance of 5,976 pupils spent \$1,571,803.89. Repeating, this includes no funds spent for new buildings or for major repairs and renovations to existing buildings.

Jones County in this same fiscal period spent for its schools operations \$789,102.61 on an average daily attendance of 2,958 pupils.

Each pupil in the Lenoir County system cost the taxpayers in '62-'63 \$303.66 for his tuition, transportation, heating, feeding, athletics and teaching supplies. The cost per student in the Kinston system was \$263.02.

The cost per pupil in the Jones County system was \$266.77.

In the Lenoir County system this money came as follows, per pupil: From the state \$241.86, from county \$47.84 and from the federal tax dollar \$13.96.

In the Kinston system the breakdown per pupil was \$198.23 from state taxes, \$60.77 from local taxes and \$4.02 from federal taxes. In the Kinston school district a special tax levy of 21 cents on the \$100 valuation boosts the amount of local spending per pupil.

In Jones County the breakdown per pupil was: from state taxes \$225.30, from county taxes \$22.04 and from federal taxes \$19.43.

Percentage-wise this reflects that in the Lenoir County system 79.6 percent of funds come from state taxes, 15.8 per cent from local taxes and 4.6 per cent from federal taxes.

In the Kinston district the division is 75.4 per cent from state taxes, 23.1 per cent from local taxation and 1.5 per cent from federal taxes.

In Jones County the percentages are 84.5 from state taxes, 8.2 per cent from county taxes and 7.3 per cent from federal taxes.

For the state as a whole the state tax collector provided 78.4 per cent of the total operating funds for public schools, local tax sources provided 17.4 per cent and federal taxes provided the other 4.2 per cent.

The average cost per pupil in the entire state was \$277.62.

In Kinston perhaps the most common point of ignorance on the part of the taxpayer is on this particular point of education.

Many Kinston taxpayers have been heard to ask: What do we get from our county taxes? They point out quickly that from their city tax dollar they get fire, police, garbage and other city services.

But it is surprising how many Kinston taxpayers really believe that they get nothing of major consequence from their contributions to the county tax collector. Few know that the city does not participate in any way in the operating costs of the schools and welfare department, which together in the current county budget account for \$1,512,739.37 of the total county budget of \$2,266,327.07.

Additionally the county tax dollar supports the deficit and capital outlay program of the county hospital in the current budget in the amount of \$140,000.

And the Lenoir County Technical Institute gets another \$32,400 from the county tax department while getting none from the city.

Looking at state, county and city budgets one can only conclude that the public demands a great many services from these governmental units and in turn the public has to pay a great deal of taxes in order to get the things it demands.

And a further conclusion: That the taxpayer gets far more from his county, city and state tax dollar than from the much larger amount of money he sends to the federal tax collector, and what is more important he has a great deal more control over the use, or abuse of that local tax dollar than over that one taken to Washington.

## THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 10 TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1964 VOLUME XVI

### Disabled Urged to Check on Possible Social Security Aid

Disabled workers should act now to protect their rights under the Social Security Administration in Social Security Law, Adrian Hatfield, district manager of the New Bern, said today. Over 100 workers in Jones County are receiving disability benefits now, according to Hatfield, but studies show that many disabled workers who could file claims have not done so.

"We find that many people fail to act because of a mistaken belief that the law is so strict that they could not qualify," Hatfield said. "To be disabled under the Social Security Law means that a person cannot be expected to do any substantial amount of work. And his condition must be expected to continue indefinitely," he added.

Hatfield pointed out that the decision as to whether or not a worker is disabled depends on all the facts of each particular case. Such factors as the effect of the disability on the individual, his education, work skills, and other abilities are all taken into account. Because each individual case is decided on its own merits, the only way a worker can be sure about qualifying or not qualifying is to file a claim so that a formal decision based on all the facts can be made.

Another reason a disabled worker should get in touch with his social security office as soon as possible is that the work requirements are somewhat different for disability payments. A person who waits longer than 18 months to file an application may lose his rights to disability payments for himself and his family, Hatfield emphasized.

"The people in the New Bern District Office, at 308 New Street, are trained to help a disabled worker with all the forms and evidence necessary to prepare a disability claim," Hatfield said. "If you can't come into our office, write us, or telephone Melrose 7-5108, and we will take whatever action is necessary."

### Monday Tragedy

Monday afternoon Johnnie, 11, and Gene Jones, 6, sons of former Kinstonians Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jones, were drowned in a farm irrigation pond near Wilson. The brothers were buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Kinston Wednesday afternoon.

### FRIDAY ACCIDENTS

Gordon Hill of 1145 Reed Street said his accelerator stuck Friday morning when his car rammed the stern of that of Wade Casper of Kinston route 3 and Friday afternoon Mrs. Elizabeth Paderick of Dover route 1 was charged with failing to yield the right of way when her car hit that of James McBynum of 523-G Richard Green Homes at the corner of East Street and Holly Lane.

### Five Drunk Charges

During the past week Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports the arrest of five men, each of whom has been accused of being publicly drunk. The quintet includes Arlander Barfield of Trenton route 1, James Garfield Grady of Trenton route 1, Joe Bender of Pollockville route 1, Harold Hooker and Hezekiah Dunn, both of Kinston.

### DuPont Owned By 239,129 Stockholders

E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company, Inc., was owned by 239,129 stockholders as of June 30, 1964, an increase of 1,970 over the first quarter of 1964, and an increase of 7,681 over the number as of June 30, 1963.

There were 223,540 holders of common stock and 20,510 holders of preferred stock as the first half of 1964 ended. These figures include 4,921 holders of more than one kind of stock.

The company has approximately 100,000 employees, of whom about 50,000 were stockholders at the end of the first half of 1964.

### Hard Head, Soft Bullet

Local authorities were unable to determine if Betty Lou Jones of the Pink Hill section has an uncommonly hard head or if her husband shot her with an unusually soft bullet. Last Wednesday night she was shot between the eyes by her husband, Otis, a tenant on the Tapp farm near Pink Hill. The .22 caliber bullet splintered and spread over the front of her forehead. She was taken to Chapel Hill for specialized treatment of the unusual wound. Her husband was indicted for assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and public drunkenness.

### Capt. Nye Decorated In Vietnam War

Capt. Elbert C. Nye, 35, whose mother, Mrs. Emma M. Ambrose, and wife, Lois, live in Pollockville, received the Air Medal and the first and second Oak Leaf Clusters to the medal during ceremonies in Vietnam, June 2.

An Oak Leaf Cluster is given for each additional award of the medal after the initial presentation.

Captain Nye received the awards for meritorious achievement while engaged in aerial combat support of ground forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

The captain entered the Army in May 1951 and arrived overseas on this tour of duty in November 1963.

### THURSDAY ACCIDENT

Thursday morning Hubert Price of Rose Hill was charged with failure to yield right of way after his car hit that of Clayton Dawson of Kinston route 1, in Kinston.

### Climatic Week in Raleigh For N. C. 4-H Club Boys and Girls

State 4-H Club Week, which climaxes each year of work for thousands of Tar Heel youngsters, opened in Raleigh Monday.

Dr. T. C. Blalock, state 4-H Club leader, says at least 1,200 4-Hers representing clubs in the 100 counties are expected to attend.

Headquarters for the four days of classes, contests, recreation, fellowship and politicking is North Carolina State.

Dr. Blalock said Club Week "is an excellent example of democracy in action."

Getting more specific, Blalock says Club Week serves as the organization's annual meeting, it offers participants the opportunity for personal growth and development, and "it serves to motivate club members to strive even harder to live up to their motto 'To Make the Best Better.'"

Another purpose of Club Week is to determine state winners in the demonstration programs and various judging activities.

Two key speakers for the week

### Urban Renewal Project For Kinston Cancelled

Monday night without a single cheer or round of applause the Kinston City Council quietly put to rest the proposed King Street urban renewal project which had been under study for nearly two years.

City Councilman Carl Wooten read a resolution which was unanimously adopted in which it was pointed out that the 64-acre project had an estimated gross cost of \$3,437,053, an estimated total net cost after re-sale of the property of \$2,347,243, of which the estimated cost to the city would be \$757,677.

The resolution taking note of the many large financial commitments of the city at present in the spheres

of sewage disposal, storm drainage and sanitary sewer extensions pointed out that it would be difficult if not impossible for the city's financial structure to stand this additional estimated expenditure.

The city council had been under a constant stream of vitriolic criticism from archly conservative Kinston circles, who had stirred up fears in the minds of many small property owners living in the proposed project area.

The decision of the council to abandon the project at this juncture was based on the city's inability to afford its share of the cost and not on the recognized need for slum clearance and blight prevention in the general project area.

### Demonstrations

Jones County Agent Jimmy Franck is urging as many farmers as possible to spend 45 minutes Friday afternoon seeing two tobacco demonstrations in the western part of the county. At 6:30 a Deep Plowing demonstration on the Edmund Huffman farm near Comfort will be visited and at 7 a Fertilizer Rate demonstration will be visited on the Ben Killingsworth farm near Jarman's Store between Trenton and Comfort.

### Land Transfers

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker reports recording the following land transfer in his office during the past week:

From Kenneth R. and Edna Earl King to Elwood F. and Christine Harris Ball a tract on Highway 70 in Beaver Creek Township.

### Friday Tragedies

Last Friday afternoon 18 year-old Johnny Humphrey of Richlands route 2 drowned in New River near his home while bathing with friends, who said he apparently was victim of stomach cramps. Also last Friday 52 year-old Andy Ferens of New Bern was electrocuted while working under his own home with an electric drill. New Bern authorities said he got in a wet spot and got a positive ground which caused his instant death.