

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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IT'S THE TAX LEVY THAT COUNTS

SINCE 1944, the last full year, the cost of local government in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County as reflected in property tax collections has mounted steadily.

Here's the picture for the County Government:

Year	Total	Tax	Levy
1944	\$1,835,850.00	\$ 70	\$1,835,780.00
1945	1,971,731.50	73	1,971,658.50
1946	1,701,610.00	85	1,701,525.00
1947	1,891,171.720	85	1,891,086.72
1948	2,145,985.50	89	2,145,896.50
1949	2,540,305.00	97	2,540,208.00
1950	2,820,650.145	100	2,820,550.145
1951	2,900,052.610	1.02	2,900,050.590

And here's the record of the City Government:

Year	Total	Tax	Levy
1944	\$122,574,180	\$130	\$122,444,150
1945	123,758,900	140	123,618,960
1946	127,100,710	150	126,950,710
1947	142,845,190	170	142,675,190
1948	171,173,280	189	170,984,280
1949	191,876,780	197	191,679,780
1950	212,372,370	197	212,175,370
1951	225,850,500	215	225,635,500

This is not, of course, a complete picture of local government costs. Both the City and County Governments have sources of revenue other than from real and personal property. (Chicago ABC profits) But this is the phase that is of particular interest as the two governments begin preliminary consideration of 1952-53 budgets based on the higher property values resulting from the just-completed reappraisal program.

A STRAW IN THE WIND

THE prognosticator who seeks to find a national trend in a local election always takes a chance. Records and personalities of the candidates, campaign strategy, and other factors may be important but are less important than the national issue.

TAR HEELS OR TARHEELS?

A FORMIDABLE array of experts, with a host of the one-word spelling of Tarheels instead of the long-used Tar Heels.

IN PRAISE OF CHICKADEES

BECAUSE he lives closer to nature than do men whose existence is joined to skyscraper barns and asphalt areas or becomes, perforce, a naturalist of sort.

Once that figure is determined, the next step is to estimate all sources of revenue other than property taxes. The difference between this total and the amount needed to balance the budget must come from the tax levy.

The two factors that fix the tax levy are the total evaluation and the rate. They work like the proposed ends of a seesaw. A valuation of \$200,000,000 and a tax rate of 80 cents will produce exactly the same revenue as a valuation of \$100,000,000 and a tax rate of 1.60.

This year the County budget was based on a total valuation of \$390,052,610, and a tax rate of \$1.02. That produced a tax levy of \$3,160,903.76. Next year, because of the reappraisal project, the County Commissioners can count on a valuation of at least \$412,390,605—a preliminary figure that will go higher when 1952 personal property and utility listings are figured. But on the basis of the preliminary figure, a tax rate of 76.50 cents would produce as much money next year as this year's \$1.02 rate.

The point is this: In the coming days, the taxpayer will get the breakdown or comfort out of the yearly estimate, evaluation and tax rates. The figure that governs his tax bill is the total tax levy. It has grown from \$1,835,780 in 1944 to \$2,900,050.59 for the County Government since 1944, and from \$1,644,728.44 to \$2,256,355.50 for the City Government.

A Police Action

HISTORIES of North Carolina Regiments, Vol. II. It is like the old saying: "The more you know, the more you know."

Favors Niagara Project

LOS ANGELES—The Governor of California was sitting in Sacramento's Sutter Club with Walter Jones of the Sacramento Bee when his longtime opponent on the Democratic ticket, "Governor," said Kenny, "I've been conducting a Democratic underground for you for President."

People's Platform



Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Taft Forces Not To Blame

CHARLOTTE—Editors, THE NEWS: IN HER Feb. 6 letter, "A Ghastly Joke," Mrs. Rita Johnson errs grievously when she blames the Taft forces for her inability to climb over the Eisenhower band wagon in the coming precinct elections.

Favors Niagara Project

HAMLET—Editors, THE NEWS: IT is my understanding that this country is in a state of emergency. Under this emergency, the U. S. Congress gave the President extraordinary powers. Therefore, the President had authority to send U. S. troops and naval forces anywhere in the world if he deemed it necessary.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Ground

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Quote, Unquote



Old Maid said, discussing what it cost to keep her nephew in college: "Language run highest of all his books. This month's check covered \$10 for English, \$15 for Latin and \$10 for Scotch." —Fernandina (Fla.) News-Leader.

Secret Of Warren's Success

IT sounds trite to say this, but the secret of Warren's success is that it is extremely hard to govern. The ingredients of that success can be summarized as follows: 1. A shrewd instinct for avoiding executive mistakes.

Appeals On Merit

FARL WARREN'S failure to appoint deserving Republicans to state jobs has caused anguish and recriminations in GOP ranks. After the years under Democratic Governor Olsen, Warren's Republicanism has gone quietly ahead working on old-age pensions until he has about the best record of any governor in caring for his rights in the first place.

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Backers Agree That General Must Lead Boom In Person

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALCO

General came to Washington to see the General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower for the first time since the fight for his candidacy has been accepted on the highest level by the Eisenhower forces.

It is understood that the General will be urged first to make a quick trip to this country while still in uniform, and second to visit the United States and return as a candidate by May 1 at latest.

Such is the program that will be put up to Gen. Eisenhower. The day he abandons his position and actively enters the lists as a candidate will be made in no uncertain terms.

Closing Of Newark Airport Doesn't Solve Basic Problem

NEW YORK—The closing of Newark Airport, and the curtailment of traffic to and from the city, is a disaster of three recent and terrible crashes at the Newark field, is an excellent example of how to handle a crisis.

Men Ignore The Bible

BLADENBORO—Editors, THE NEWS: RECENTLY Eric Brandeis stated in his column that he was getting old and tired of being told that he was going to hell. Could it be that some of these so-called holy preachers are getting on Mr. Brandeis' toes? Whether Mr. Brandeis accepts it or not, this nation is writing away with sin and corruption.

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