

# Covert County Reporter

"Forty-three Years of Community Service"

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## Large Budget For State Welfare Has Been Approved

Montgomery, Ala. — A budget of \$37,301,322 for Alabama's state welfare program has been approved for the 1954-55 fiscal year by the State Board of Public Welfare.

That's an increase of approximately \$700,000 over the budget for the current year which ends Sept. 30.

Most of the money, as has been the case in past years, will come from the federal government.

The proposed budget includes \$9,732,135 in state funds and \$27,569,386 in federal funds.

State Welfare Commissioner Bill Dorough said the new budget will make it possible to continue paying old age assistance recipients on the basis of 100 per cent of budgeted need up to the federal maximum.

Dorough said that payments to the blind and the permanently and totally disabled will be raised, beginning in October, to 100 per cent of budgeted need.

At the same time the welfare commissioner declared there is an increase in the number of applications to the Welfare Department has received for assistance. He said that if the September rate continues through the month the number received will be up about 18 per cent over last years.

Declaring that it is difficult to predict caseload figures, Dorough pointed out that the drought, unemployment and discontinuance of payments under the miners' welfare fund have caused increased need in many areas of the state, resulting in new applications for assistance from the Welfare Department.

The Welfare Board members were told by Dorough that the department is continuing its efforts to place old children and family groups of children in adoptive homes to gain public understanding of adoption laws. During the current year, he said, the department has received 124 children and has placed 121 with a view of adoption.

Board members are Gov. Gordon Persons, chairman, Oliver Young, Vernon; Mrs. Mildred White Wallace, Columbian; Dr. J. J. Walls, Alexander; Mrs. John S. Tilley, Montgomery; Tom Blake Howie, Anniston; and Bryant A. Whitmore, Birmingham.

## ERRORS AMOUNTING TO \$843,000 FAVORED U. S.

George D. Patterson, District Director of Internal Revenue, Birmingham, Alabama, has issued a statement comparing the results of mathematical verification in 1953 and 1954 of income tax returns filed by Alabama taxpayers for the years 1952 and 1953. Mr. Patterson stated that in the 559,417 returns for the year 1952 which were verified by his office during 1953 there were errors amounting to \$843,718 in favor of the Government and \$245,583 in favor of the taxpayers, or a net increase in tax assessments of \$598,135. In the 537,549 returns for the year 1953 which were verified in 1954 errors were discovered amounting to \$253,107 in favor of the Government and \$128,963 in favor of the taxpayers, or a net increase in tax assessments of \$124,144.

## TUSCUMBIA WINS WOMEN'S DIVISION FOR HOG-CALLING

Mempbis. — An eerie wail that rocked the swine barn almost to its foundations won the Mid-South Fair hog calling championship for Lewis D. Johnson, Memphis.

Johnson, 37-year-old civilian instructor at the Memphis Naval Air Station defeated candidates from five states and earned a storm of applause from some 750 hog calling fans who turned out to witness the contest.

The new champion called his first hog as a boy in Ada, Okla.

He shared honors with Mrs. Ethel Anderson of Tusculumbia, Ala., who won the women's division. Although short on hog calling experience, Mrs. Anderson said that back home on the farm she often climbs a high tree and hallows the cows in from five miles away.

Mounted under a window or on a wall, a window shade serves as an extension table for sewing large pieces of cloth when pulled out and hooked to a sewing machine.

## Many Crimes Committed in United States

J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, pointed out the following trends in releasing the semiannual Uniform Crime Reports for the first six months of 1954.

An estimated 1,136,140 major crimes were committed during the first six months of 1954. This represents an increase of 88,850, or 8.5 per cent, over a similar period last year. If this trend continues, major crimes will reach an all-time high during 1954.

A major crime was committed every 13.8 seconds.

Each day during the first six months of 1954, it is estimated that an average of 35 people were feloniously slain and 252 other felonious assaults were committed; 48 rapes were committed; 608 cars were stolen; 187 robberies and 1,454 burglaries were committed.

It is estimated that during the period from January to June, 1954, a crime of murder, manslaughter, rape or assault to kill was committed every 4.3 minutes.

The timetable for crime during the first half of 1954 is as follows: 1 murder or negligent manslaughter every 40.9 minutes, 1 rape every 29.8 minutes, 1 robbery every 7.3 minutes, 1 burglary every 59 seconds, 1 larceny every 23.5 seconds, 1 auto theft every 2.4 minutes.

Robbery jumped 20.4 percent while burglaries rose 13.2 percent and larceny 9 percent during the first six months of 1954.

Estimated murder figures rose 0.9 percent and aggravated assaults showed no change. Rape offenses declined 1.2 percent and auto thefts and negligent manslaughter were down 2.3 and 3.9 percent, respectively.

Urban crime rose 7.2 percent. Urban robberies increased by 22.6 percent while burglaries and larcenies in urban areas increased by 11.8 and 7.1 percent, respectively. Urban murders decreased 2.1 percent, and negligent manslaughter declined 6.4 percent. Auto thefts in the cities decreased 2.7 percent, while aggravated assaults in urban areas declined by only 0.5 percent. Urban rape increased 0.6 percent.

Rural crime increased 11.9 percent in the period from January to June 1954. Burglaries and larcenies in rural areas increased 16.7 percent and 13.6 percent, respectively. Robberies were up by 10.8 percent in the rural areas, while murders increased 5.8 percent.

## ABERNETHY SCORES FOLSON'S STAND ON SEGREGATION

When James E. Folsom, democratic nominee for governor, referred in a newspaper interview to Negro schools as "outhouses and barns," he failed cruelly to recognize the tremendous efforts people of Alabama have made to better educational facilities for all races, Tom Abernethy republican candidate for governor, said in an address recently at reform. "And he provided ammunition for those trying so desperately to break down our social system and to force complete racial amalgamation," the GOP nominee declared.

"It is quite true that our school facilities could be better," Abernethy said. "It is equally true that our people have made heart-breaking efforts to make them better for children of both races.

"A statement such as made by Mr. Folsom in Jackson, Mississippi, reflects either ignorance of the situation or a willful intent to present the people of Alabama before their foes in a bad light that is wholly undeserved."

Abernethy declared that he favors retention of Alabama's public schools if possible and believes that the legislature should be called into session at once to take the problems presented by the Supreme Court decision against segregation.

## SOIL AND WATER LOANS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Soil and water conservation loans are available to eligible farmers in Colbert county, David C. Gardiner, county Farmers Home Administration supervisor said this week.

The loans may be used to carry out measures for soil conservation, water development, conservation, and use, and drainage. This will include the construction and repair of terraces, dikes, ditches, ponds and tanks, the establishment and improvement of

## EDITORIAL GRIST

### MORE DOCTORS TO SERVE US

The medical profession continues to set new records both in the quantity and quality of service available to the American people. During the last year, for example, the largest class of physicians in history was graduated from the nation's expanding medical schools, and a new high ratio of one doctor for every 730 persons in the United States has been achieved. Our physician population is now approximately 220,100.

Of key importance in implementing this advance is the spirit of unselfish service which is one of the most honored traditions of the medical profession. It took 28,435 faculty members to maintain high levels of instruction in the medical schools, and 21,328 of them volunteered to teach without pay, their duties varying from a few hours annually to large areas of responsibility.

All the facts highlight one point—we can count on constantly improving medical attention for our growing population. Here are a few of those facts: There are 28,227 students in medical schools now—more than ever before. Ten new four-year schools are in the construction or planning stage and will be operating within the next five to six years. Last year more than \$76,000,000 was spent on new facilities, remodeling or completion of buildings for medical instruction, and this year the schools have total budgets in excess of \$143,000,000.

American medicine is meeting its responsibility to produce an ever-increasing supply of well-trained physicians dedicated to the welfare of their patients. The job is being done without government domination or regimentation. Personal pride in achievement and service produce the highest possible medical standards.

### NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The Laymen's National Committee announces that the 14th annual observance of National Bible Week will be held from October 18th through 24th its purpose is to encourage everyone to read the Bible—and thus to help find the spiritual strength and courage which is so necessary to our very survival in today's chaotic world.

Abraham Lincoln once said that the Bible is "the best gift God has given to man." Its precepts are timeless and as enduring as the world itself. Read the Bible during the Week — and every week thereafter.

### CONSUMERS CALL THE TUNE

Writing from Paris, Doris Flecken, the nationally syndicated columnist, said this of the French system of doing business: "Cartels keep prices up and wages down and stifle competition. One good U. S. supermarket, in the opinion of an American businessman here, could bring food prices down 20 per cent."

It is undoubtedly true that typical American stores, could slash the price of other goods by heavy margins.

We take for granted the best, most efficient and most economical service on earth. There aren't any cartels here. No one has a monopoly on anything. Competition is keen in every line of endeavor.

Sometimes, of course, there are complaints. Lately it has been argued that the spread between what many articles sell for at wholesale and what they cost at retail is too great. We forget that, in large measure, we consumers create that spread, by demanding complex and costly services.

The proof that businessmen aren't unduly profiting from us is the response in the figures. Food, for instance, often earns as profit as little as one cent out of each dollar's worth of goods sold. Department and variety stores usually earn only three cents or so. All the rest goes to buy the goods, to pay wages and taxes, and other overhead, and to provide the services the consuming public demands.

### THE REAL CASE AGAINST SOCIALISM

At the end of an editorial opposing socialism of the TVA variety, the Fayetteville, North Carolina, Observer said: "If the government can compete with private power companies it can compete with private steel companies, private shoe companies, private grocery stores and private newspapers."

The production and sale of electric power is a commercial business, pure and simple. It is a business which our great publicly regulated and heavily taxed utility industry can handle with maximum efficiency and at the lowest honest cost to all consumers. If it is proper for government to enter this business, it is proper for government to enter any other business under the sun—government in business is socialism.

The argument is made that government sells power cheaper. When government does that, it is because socialized power is tax-subsidized, is either wholly or practically tax-free, and returns no interest on the taxpayers' investment. On that basis of operation, government could slash the price of anything—food, housing, automobiles, clothes, or what-have-you. Private enterprise could not exist.

However, the strongest case against government in business is not a dollars-and-cents case. It was well summed up by President Eisenhower when he said: "Let's not make Washington the master of any free American, either through unnecessary direct intervention in his business, or through the indirect method of getting control of all the power and the resources that he needs in order to make a living."

permanent pastures, basic application possible by legislation recently of time and fertilizer, tree planting, the 82nd Congress.

Applications for all loans, insured well drilling, and the purchase of pumps and other irrigation equipment, or direct, will be made at the office of the Farmers Home Administration located at Tusculumbia.

The new loan program was made

## CRUISE SHIP FROM FLORIDA TO BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE

If you are one of those Baptists who have longed to attend the sessions of the Baptist World Alliance this is the time to start planning for just that on the special cruise-tour that has been arranged leaving Jacksonville on July 2, 1955.

The entire accommodations on the S. Silverstar, luxury cruise ship, are being made available to Baptists throughout the Southeast for those wishing to visit London during the Golden Jubilee Congress of the Baptist World Alliance. The steamer will sail direct from Jacksonville, Florida, with a full-day stop-over in Bermuda where an enjoyable sight-seeing tour is included.

Seven days are allowed in London during the meetings, with attractive program of sightseeing included seeing the most interesting points of interest in and around the British capital. From London optional tours are offered with a choice of remaining aboard the cruise-ship for visits to the Holy Land, returning via Rome, Nice and Paris, before reboarding the steamer in LaHavre for the return voyage to Jacksonville.

Complete details of the trip may be secured from your local pastor or from Rev. Vaughn M. Johnson, Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, Florida. Chairman of the transportation committee in charge of this cruise.

## TAXES ARE DUE NOW DELINQUENT JAN. 1

Tax collector Joe Foster reminds the tax payers that another year has rolled around and become 1 all ad valorem taxes are due and become delinquent January 1, 1955; so the addresses you to pay up before the lateness and save extra costs the law puts on after January. Also it might save your property from being advertised for sale.

## COTTON CROP HARVEST EARLIER THAN '53

Auburn, Ala. — Three significant facts about the harvesting, ginning, and quality of Alabama's current cotton crop were listed this week by the API Extension Service.

Picking and ginning are much further advanced than normal for this time of the year. Ginning totaled 148,270 bales as of Sept. 1, compared to 85,549 bales on the same date in 1953.

Staple length of this year's crop is shorter due to the drought. Only half the cotton ginned through Sept. 1 ran over one inch in staple. Last year 80 percent of the crop was longer than one inch.

On the brighter side cotton grades are better than a year ago with 67.4 percent running middling or better compared to 62.5 percent last year.

"The important thing right now is for growers to pick the fast-opening crop before it is damaged in the field," advised the service. "Protect this high quality for greatest dollar returns when you sell."

## MOVIE PROGRAM

TUSCUMBIA—Tusculumbia Fri-Sat., Oct. 1-2 ACT OF LOVE — starring Kirk Douglas, Dana Roberts

Sun., October 3 Double Feature UNTAMED FRONTIER — Technicolor with Joanne Whalley, Shelley Winters. Also BAIT — with Cleo Moore, Hugo Haas, John Agar.

Mon.-Tues., Oct. 4-5 APACHE — Technicolor, starring Burt Lancaster with Jean Peters. Wed.-Thurs., Oct. 6-7 RETURN TO PLEASURE ISLAND — Technicolor, with Tab Hunter, Dawn Addams.

COLBERT — Sheffield Saturday, Oct. 2 Double Feature TEXAS MASQUERADE with Hopalong Cassidy. Also KILLER APE with Johnny Weissmuller.

Sun.-Mon., Oct. 3-4 RETURN TO PLEASURE ISLAND — Technicolor, with Tab Hunter, Dawn Addams.

Tues.-Wed., Oct. 3-4 BEAT THE DEVIL starring Humphrey Bogart, Jennifer Jones, Gina Lollobrigida.

Thurs.-Fri., Oct. 7-8 APACHE — Technicolor, starring Burt Lancaster with Jean Peters.

## INSURED STATUS UNDER THE NEW SOCIAL SEC. ACT.

The 1954 Amendments to the Social Security Act have not changed the definition of fully insured. But there is a special provision for the families of workers who died before September 1, 1950. In many cases the survivors of these deceased breadwinners could not get social security benefits because the worker had not been under social security long enough to be considered fully insured under the old law. With the new law, the worker who died after 1939 but before September 1, 1950, is considered fully insured if he had at least six quarters of work under social security. His survivors, widow who is now 65 years of age or older, widow with children still under 18 years of age, and, in some cases, a dependent parent, 65 years of age or over, may collect benefits beginning September 1, 1950. No benefits may be collected for months before September 1954. The survivor must apply for the benefit and file proof of support. If it is requested, by September 1956.

There is another modification of the requirements for attaining insured status under the 1954 amendments. This provision was designed primarily for the benefit of people whose jobs will be covered by social security for the first time beginning January 1, 1955. This special provision has been made for those who die or retire in the period between January 1, 1955, and October 1958. This alternative is that when the worker dies or becomes 65 during this time, he will be considered insured if he has all quarters of work under social security after 1954 even though he does not otherwise meet the requirements of insured status based on the present requirements. After October 1958, this provision will no longer be effective. By that time, he will be able to meet the same insured requirements as all formerly covered workers.

## DENTAL ASSOCIATION TO GIVE FREE X-RAYS

The Alabama Dental Association will feature free mouth X-Rays to everyone attending the Alabama State Fair again this year.

Dr. George Matthews, this year's association president, made this announcement.

During the 1953 State Fair a total of 2,058 oral X-Rays were made. The Alabama Dental Association feels confident that they will exceed that number this year.

There will be two X-Ray machines in Booth 15 of the Commercial Building and dentists will be on duty from 12 noon to eight every day that the Fair is in progress.

## TB LEADERS TO TACKLE THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM

Alabama's Number One health problem—tuberculosis—will be attacked with fresh vigor when TB leaders from throughout the state meet in Birmingham, October 5, for the Annual Meeting of the Alabama Tuberculosis Association.

The association is celebrating its 40th birthday and several features of the meeting will be devoted to commemorating this important anniversary.

Miss Hope White of Uniontown, Alabama's Maid of Cotton and National alternate Maid, will pay tribute to 31 Alabama counties for exceptional records in the last Christmas Seal Sale. Several out of state tuberculosis authorities will speak during the day, among them Judge Ernest Mason, president of the Florida State Association; Mrs. Emilia Sauer, president of the Georgia TB Association; and Judson M. Alired, executive secretary of the Mississippi Association.

To be held at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel, the general luncheon meeting will be conducted by Dr. Robert C. Oliver, Montgomery, as association president. A meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for the preceding night, October 4, when election of officers and new board members will take place.

About 500 volunteer and professional TB workers are expected to be present. Registration will begin at 9 a.m.

Silence squeaking shoes by piercing the sole with three or four little holes right back of the ball of the foot.



"Now, now — COURSE you don't look like that. Of COURSE I still love you!"