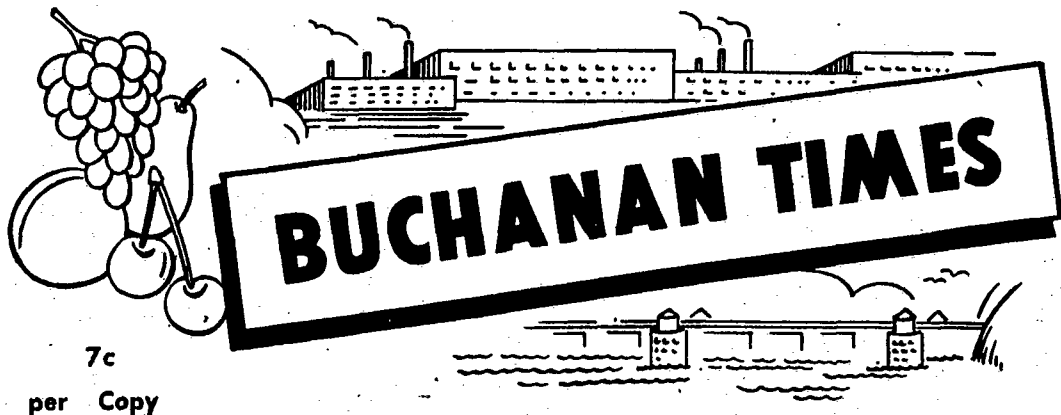




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BUCHANAN TIMES

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Published Weekly to Serve the People of South East Berrien County

TAX FACTS EXPLAINED TO VOTERS

EXTRA

LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE EVE OF ELECTION

(AN EDITORIAL)

Monday, April 5, the people of Buchanan will go to the polls to elect three City Commissioners.

Nine men have placed their names in nomination. Three of these, Anderson, Deming and Smith have teamed up, as shown by advertisement which appeared Thursday in the local advertising periodical.

In a special edition of this periodical circulated Friday morning, the same three men with Best and Money thrown in as alternates, are recommended for election.

As responsible publishers of a newspaper, we feel it is our duty to give the people of Buchanan all the facts as accurately as we know how, **ESPECIALLY IN MATTERS CONCERNING LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

"Lean The Facts" as this special edition is entitled, is apt to be strongly misleading to the people of Buchanan. The information it contains is **LEAN INDEED** with facts. It contains much which could have remained unsaid even in a political campaign in a city the size of Buchanan.

When the fat is skimmed off the surface, "Lean the Facts" boils down to this: elect as commissioners the men we recommend because two of them — — — with a city manager and a tax rate of \$13. per thousand of assessed valuation, have performed municipal wonders. It also implies that those who served Buchanan prior to the manager form of government were Simple Simons and calls them "ward politicians".

NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. The government of the city of Buchanan did not operate with just the money it collects from local taxes. This has been true during the years of city manager and even before.

The official records plainly show that in addition to the local collected taxes which amount to roughly \$120,000 per year, the city spends another \$100,000 per year. About \$80,000 comes from Lansing as sales tax, gas and weight tax, intangible tax and fines collected locally from the parking meters. The other \$20,000 comes from miscellaneous local sources.. Were it not for this extra \$100,000, which "Lean the Facts" conveniently overlooks, the city manager, the present commission and Houdini, if he were still alive, could not have given Buchanan the services it has enjoyed.

Stated in a simpler way, if the city of Buchanan did not receive from sales tax, gas and weight tax, intangible tax and from local parking meters \$80,000 more or less per year, notwithstanding the form of government, one of three things would have happened: (1) yearly deficit of \$80,000 or (2) an additional local tax of \$10.00 per thousand of asessed valuation would have been levied, or (3) the many services "Lean the Facts" is bragging about, could not and would not have been rendered to the people of Buchanan.

We do not propose to tell our readers whom to vote in office. However, we wouldn't be worth a continental as a newspaper if we did not expose inaccuracies wherever found. To keep the record straight, we print below the actual figures prepared by the city manager and submitted to the commission on April 1, 1954.

REVENUE SUMMARY

CODE	Source of Revenue	Actual Rec. 1952-53 (15 mills)	Estimated 1953-54. (17 mills)	Estimated 1954-55
1.	Current Taxes	119,310.01	133,464.00	112,870.00
2	Delinquent Taxes	993.06	50.00	150.00
3	Taxes Collected by State			
	a. Sales Tax	34,112.72	32,000.00	34,000.00
	b. Gas & Weight Tax	26,718.53	25,000.00	28,000.00
	c. Intangible Tax	8,985.28	9,000.00	8,500.00
	d. Liquor Tax	34.85	1,500.00	1,500.00
	e. Drivers' Licenses	390.25	350.00	500.00
4	City Licenses & Permits			
	a. Building	156.00	150.00	150.00
	b. Bicycle	120.00	50.00	50.00
	c. Peddling	69.00	75.00	50.00
	d. Miscellaneous	19.81	50.00	150.00

continued back page

5	Parking Meter Collections	11,313.50	10,600.00	10,950.00
6	Fines			
	a. Court	5,706.45	4,400.00	5,100.00
	b. Parking Meter	94.00	100.00	100.00
7	Tax Fees, Penalty & Interest			
	a. Current Taxes	2,558.36	1,900.00	2,000.00
	b. Delinquent Taxes	144.17	25.00	25.00
	c. Real Estate Rental	755.00	600.00	500.00
	d. Int. on General Fund Inv.	300.00	300.00	900.00
8	Fire Protection Revenues	2,605.50	2,100.00	100.00
9	Cemetery Revenue			
	a. Grave & Tent Service	1,907.50	1,800.00	1,800.00
	b. Sale of Lots	1,474.50	1,000.00	1,000.00
	c. Annual Care	455.75	150.00	250.00
	d. Foundations	325.00	200.00	300.00
	e. Perpetual Care Interest	1,260.23	1,100.00	1,300.00
10	City Services			
	a. Labor & Equipment Rental	1,700.49	100.00	200.00
	b. Merchandise Resold	2,016.06	100.00	500.00
11	Unclassified	1,625.54	1,000.00	1,000.00
		225,480.83	227,464.00	211,945.00

Our Assessed Valuation is \$8,095,850.00

At 99% of Collection 1 mill will raise \$8,014.89
At 98% of Collection 1 mill will raise \$7,933.93

This budget would, as it stands, call for \$112,870.00 to be raised by property taxes.

Assuming 99% of collection -- 14.08 mills will meet the budget.

Assuming 98% of collection -- 14.23 mills will meet the budget

* Current Taxes includes \$2,721.75 from U. S. Government in lieu of taxes on Public Housing.

X Change in State Law provides for increased share of Drivers License fees rebated to Cities.

The following resume gives year, percent of collection of

City taxes and millage levied:

YEAR	PERCENT COLLECTION	MILLAGE
1946	99.6	18
1947	99.2	15
1948	99.5	13
1949	98.9	13
1950	99.4	13
1951	99.6	13
1952	99.4	15
1953	99.1	17

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