

# THE ENTERPRISE

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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, December 18, 1928

ESTABLISHED 1898

## LIGHT SYSTEM OF TOWN IS DEEDED TO V. E. & P. CO.

### Transaction Takes Place at Special Meeting of City Board Yesterday

### GET CHECK FOR \$65,000

#### Commissioners Also Take Up Problems Relative to Operation of Water System

The town's lighting and distribution system was deeded to the Virginia Electric & Power Co. here yesterday by town officials in a call meeting following the ratification of the sale by the people of the town the 20th of last December. A check for \$65,000 was given the town treasurer by J. T. Chase, manager of the Carolina Division of the company, and for 30 years, at least, the Virginia Electric & Power Co. will supply electrical energy to the light and power customers here. Ten thousand dollars had been paid to the town several months ago. All of the town officials, Mayor R. L. Coburn, Geo. H. Harrison, L. P. Lindsay, W. T. Meadows, with the exception of Mr. E. P. Cunningham, commissioner, who was out of town, read the bill of sale and discussed various clauses of the deed before passing a resolution ordering the signatures of the mayor and town clerk put to the deed.

Much time was given the discussion of problems affecting the operation of the town's water system, Mr. Chase assuring the officials that his company would be glad to cooperate with the town in any way that it could be of service. Mr. M. S. Moore, who has faithfully served the town as superintendent of the light and water departments, will continue with the town until February 1, when he will go with the new company. During that time he will lay a water line to the Standard Fertilizer plant on Roanoke River, familiarize a new man with the workings of the water system, and other work subject to come up. Mr. A. P. Preddy, who has been here during the past several months, will have charge of the local unit until other arrangements are made, it was stated. The new company will completely rebuild the distribution system, beginning some time after the first of the year. It was stated that the new system would be completed within 90 days. During that time, the company will have several men here to maintain the present system. In rebuilding, it was stated that the present equipment will all be practically junked, and that new material will be put up in its place. The new system will cost, according to estimates mentioned in the meeting yesterday, approximately \$29,000.

The new distribution system, will be patterned after the present one, that is, open wires will continue to swing on Main Street, and the present type of lights will be used. The number of streets light will remain the same, according to stipulations in the contract. One year ago next Thursday the sale of the local power system was ratified, 238 to 9; and almost at the last hour the new company comes in to supply electrical energy, the terms of the contract calling for the connection any time before December 20, 1928.

Current will be retailed to light customers at 8 1/2 cents per kilowatt hour instead of the present rate of 15 cents. The cost of power users varies as to the amount consumed. For 30 years the company will pump the town's water and furnish and maintain lights on the streets free.

### Junior Club Postpones Meetings to January 3

The local Junior club has postponed all its meetings until January 3rd, on account of other activities during the holiday season. Members of the club hope a large number of the young people will be on hand January 3 for the first meeting in the New Year.

## Peanut Exposition Steering Committee Met Last Night

### TEACHERS HOLD MEETING HERE

### Fourth Meeting of Term Is Held at Local Methodist Church Saturday

Martin County teachers held their fourth meeting of the term here last Saturday afternoon in the Methodist church, a large number attending the session.

During the meeting Miss Ruth Pearson, a pupil in the Oak City schools, was presented a medal for writing a winning essay on "Highway Safety".

Offering a new idea in education, Mr. Cattel, a publisher representative, demonstrated the use of a set of books, "The New Human Interest Library", in interesting the pupil in his work and holding that interest. Superintendent Pope asked that all payrolls be prepared by today, so that checks might be made before the vacation period began.

## 8 TEAMS ENTER TOURNAMENT

### Peanut Show Promises To Provide Some Good Basketball

Eight basketball teams, Robersonville, Greenville, Everetts, Aulander, Jamesville, Plymouth, Whitakers and Williamston, will take part in the basketball tournament at the Eastern Carolina and Tidewater Virginia exposition to be held here Christmas week, according to Mr. N. G. Bartlett, secretary of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

The tournament will be started Thursday, two days after the opening of the exposition on Christmas day, and will be completed Saturday night. Representatives of the teams entered will meet here some time next week to draw for a place in the tournament, it was stated by the secretary yesterday afternoon.

During the past two years, the tournament has attracted large numbers and many basketball fans are expecting to be on hand this year when the tournament gets underway.

## CAR HITS CART; ONE IS KILLED

### Accident Occurred Near Windsor Saturday Night

Mr. W. E. Williford, Bertie County farmer, was killed and a colored man seriously injured last Saturday night when their cart was hit by an automobile driven by J. H. Porter, four miles the other side of Windsor on the Aulander road. Mr. Williford died while he was being carried to a hospital in Suffolk. The extent of the colored man's injuries could not be definitely learned, but according to reports, he was seriously hurt. The driver of the car escaped serious injury, it is understood.

Mr. Williford and the colored man were riding in a cart, going toward their home near Windsor. There was no light on the cart and a heavy fog was over the road, making the accident almost unavoidable.

## Local Tobacco Market Will Close Tomorrow

The local tobacco market will close for the season tomorrow according to an announcement made this morning. Whether or not other smaller markets will reopen after the holidays is not definitely known at this time.

Approximately 40,000 pounds were on the floors here today, and considering the quality, the price was said to be good. A fair sale is expected tomorrow on the local floors.

## Mrs. Wheeler Martin Is Directing Pageant

When told that Mrs. John D. Biggs wrote the pageant "The Peanut in the Making", the reporter was under the impression that Mrs. Biggs would direct it and a statement to that effect was printed in the last issue of this paper. Although Mrs. Biggs did write the pageant and is assisting with its direction, she stated that Mrs. Wheeler Martin is in charge of the work. We regret the error and gladly correct it here.

## Additional Prohibition Agent Stationed Here

Prohibition forces in this section were strengthened this week when M. A. King, federal agent, was transferred from the Norfolk district to the one here. Mr. King will work with Agent C. F. Alexander who has been stationed here during the past several months.

## \$100 IN PRIZES OFFERED FOR BEST FLOATS

### Indications Point To Large Number of Floats and Cars in Parade

### DECORATE BUILDING

### Committee Puts Finishing Touches To Plans for Exposition, Which Begins Here Christmas Day

The Steering committee of the Peanut Exposition met here last night in the mayor's office and put the finishing touches on plans for the opening of Eastern Carolina's biggest mid-winter event, Dec. 25 at 3 p. m. The peanut show will open with a parade at 3 o'clock Christmas afternoon. Indications are that there will be a large number of floats and decorated cars in the line of march. Chief Marshal E. A. Anderson, of Robersonville, and his lieutenants are lining things up in fine shape.

The citizens of the nearby towns, as well as those here are asked to live just as many decorated cars in the parade as possible. The more cars that come from a town in the parade the better the town will be shown to the public, it was stated by Secretary Bartlett this morning. Three prizes, \$50, first prize; \$35 second and \$15, third will be given for the best three floats in the parade, it was stated.

Many reservations for floor space in the building have been made, and the officials are anxious to book all of the remainder before the opening day. This will greatly add to the slow, and exhibitors are urged to make their plans as soon as possible.

Mr. Fred R. Reh, veteran decorator for the Eastern Carolina Exposition, has charge of decorating the house, and that work is now underway. Thousands of yards of festooning will be used by the decorator and everything will have the air of the holiday spirit.

All local talent entertainment will be put on the opening day at night instead of having some of them in the afternoon. However, a full program of professional acts will go on in the afternoon of the opening day, the exposition manager stated.

Congressman John H. Kerr, will make the main address at the semi-annual dinner of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce, Thursday December 27 here. It is expected that 150 or 200 men and women from Eastern Carolina will attend this dinner.

## Local Car Owners Asked To Park on Side Streets

To aid shoppers coming here from out of town, local automobile owners are asked to park their cars on the side streets or walk to their business during the few remaining days before Christmas. Each year the parking situation here becomes more and more congested, and especially is this true during this season of the year. Parking limits have been mentioned, but it is the belief that no such provision will be necessary, provided local car owners walk to their business or park theirs in some-out of the way place.

By providing more available parking space, the visitors here will be greatly aided.

## Blount's Store in Bethel Robbed Saturday Night

Forcing an entrance at a side window, thieves stole a big lot of goods from Blount's store in Bethel late last Saturday night. Bloodhounds were put on the trail the following morning, and three negroes were arrested. They admitted the theft, and almost all of the goods were recovered.

## Population in County Jail Is On Decrease

With the exception of six prisoners, five serving federal sentences and one waiting trial, the county's jail was practically cleared yesterday afternoon when Superintendent Harper, of the Edgecombe road force, carried a carload to Tarboro to work the roads in that county. Roy Lilley was removed to the State's prison last Friday and four colored prisoners were carried away by Superintendent Harper.

Clarence Wynne, young white boy is waiting transfer papers admitting him to a training school for boys at Rocky Mount.

## Truck Load of Tobacco Is Wrecked Near Here

A truck loaded with tobacco and driven by Calvin Pritchard was badly wrecked and a roadster was ditched between here and Windsor last Sunday afternoon when they ran together. No one was painfully hurt. The roadster was driven by Robert Byrd.

## Stores Open Evenings Daily Until Christmas

With only a few days remaining for Christmas shopping, the majority of the local stores are holding their doors open until 9 o'clock in the evenings. The number of holiday shoppers is increasing very rapidly each day here, and the two or three additional hours will aid the shoppers.

## SALE OF TAGS VERY SMALL

### Total Sale Here Less Than 250; Last-Minute Rush Is Expected

The sale of automobile tags at the local bureau is moving along very slowly, according to a statement made by one of the employees yesterday. The total sale is a little over 200, 165 of which were issued in the "E" class. There are approximately 6,000 of the licenses here for sale.

Reports from other bureaus throughout the State show a small sale to date. However, an increase is being noticed in the sale but not one of any note. It is understood that the car owners can place the new tags on at any time.

## DEALERS SEE NEW PONTIAC

### W. L. Stalls and Joe Winslow Attend Meeting in Charlotte

Messrs. W. L. Stalls and Joe Winslow, of the Robersonville Motor Co., who have just returned from the annual Oakland-Pontiac dealer meeting held in Charlotte on December 15th are highly enthused over the New Pontiac Big Six, which was shown at this meeting.

Oakland-Pontiac dealers from North and South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and West Virginia were present. An innovation in the presentation of the new Pontiac car to the dealer organization was provided by the use of the Movietone, the talking film, the first to be used by any automobile manufacturer in America, to bring to the audience the message of A. R. Glancy, president, and W. R. Tracy, vice president in charge of sales, of the Oakland Motor Car Co. Although both executives were many miles from the meeting, the medium of the silver sheet and Movietone enabled the audience both to see and hear the Oakland officials deliver their addresses.

The meeting was a wonderful success and was attended by over 225 Oakland-Pontiac dealers.

## Cantata and Twilight Service for Baptists

Following their custom for some years, the local Baptist church will have as one of their Christmas services, a twilight service in the church at 5 o'clock next Sunday afternoon. The Christmas sermon will be delivered at the Sunday morning hour. Its subject will be, "What Christmas Does To Us".

At the Twilight Service a Christmas Cantata will be rendered by a choir of many voices. There will be carols, solos, duets, quartettes and choruses.

Much preparation is being made for this service. Some of the young women of the church will usher and receive the offering. The church will be beautifully decorated, and the building warm and comfortable.

This is the service being featured at the church this year, and preparation is being made for the handling of a very large crowd of people. The entire public is invited to come. The children will enjoy all of the program. And the hour at which the Cantata will be rendered is such that it will not conflict with any other service in Williamston.

## Martin County Band To Lead Exposition Parade

Irving Smith's Tobacco Breakers, of Robersonville, will furnish the music for the parade at the opening of the Eastern Carolina and Tidewater Virginia exposition here Christmas day at three o'clock. Mr. Smith with Sherwood Roberson expects to have a real Martin county band here for the big parade, it was stated by Secretary N. G. Bartlett yesterday.

## Supply of Holly and Mistletoe Diminishing

The holiday demand for holly and mistletoe is so great that the supply is fast dwindling, and although many people here are decorating for the season's occasion, the amount of holly used here is not near so great now as it was several years ago. The small cedar trees are used to a great extent, and while the loss is considered small to us here, it is said to run into millions over the country.

## URGES MAILING EARLY IN DAY

### Local Post Office Will Remain Open Until Seven O'clock Each Day

To better accommodate the patrons of the local post office, Postmaster J. T. Price announces that the window service will be continued until 7 o'clock each evening beginning today and continuing to Christmas.

Mr. Price stated that the business at the local office is increasing very rapidly now, and indications point to an unusually heavy season this year. The majority of the package business, it was stated, is originating in the community, but the inward flow of presents from friends out of town to friends and relatives here will begin within a day or two. The employees will be very busy then, and in an effort to render the very best service the postmaster is urging the patrons to mail their cards, letters and packages in the mornings when it is convenient to do so. Only one mail is distributed here in the morning while in the afternoon there are several to dispatch and distribute.

Postal officials are urging patrons to mail their packages at once so that delivery can be made certain before Christmas day. Of course the employees will serve the people as efficiently as possible, but when Christmas eve comes, deliveries will be stopped late that day.

## GETS FATHER OUT OF JAIL

### After Being Driven Out of Home Boy Puts Up All He Has for Bond

Family ties are sometimes weak. Lut the one between John Bonds and his son was proved very strong yesterday afternoon when the boy, a stalwart little fellow hardly in his teens, went to Sheriff A. L. Roebuck here with a \$75 cash bond and asked the release of his father after Bonds had driven him with his mother and other children out into the open road last Sunday night. A big portion, \$55, of the bond belonged to the boy who had worked at a peanut picker for weeks to earn it. But where the father was anxious to get his family out of jail, when he furnished the bond, he told the sheriff that he would have his father down this morning for trial before Judge Bailey. The little fellow suffered the impression for a while that his money was not to be returned, and when the sheriff told him he could get it upon the appearance of the father this morning at the courtroom, happiness gripped the boy and he smiled and smiled.

According to the warrant served by Sheriff Roebuck late Sunday night, Bonds is charged with assaulting his wife with a chair.

Bonds, a farmer living near here, is said to be a heavy drinker at times, and the trouble Sunday night was started when he got intoxicated. He has been in the court here several times, charged with drinking and driving an automobile while he was drunk.

## Twenty Pupils on Honor Roll at Hassells School

Twenty pupils met the requirements and made the honor roll in the Hassell school during the month just closed, according to a list given out by the principal.

The list follows: First grade—Susie Mae Savage, Nellie Faye Wynne, Ruby Florence Ayers, P. C. Edmondson, jr., Cameron Savage, Ben Long Weaver.

Second grade—Mildred Cannon and Juanita Haislip.

Third grade—Mavis Purvis, Claude Nelson, jr.

Fourth grade—Lucie Downs, Audrie Purvis, Margaret Cannon, Gladys Purvis, Thelma Coburn.

Fifth grade—Emma Ayers.

Sixth grade—Gertrude Ayers, Henry Haislip.

## Richmond Couple Married at Courthouse Yesterday

Several employees at the courthouse, a reporter and two or three others there at the time were greatly disappointed yesterday afternoon when they failed to witness the marriage of Miss Patsy Elizabeth Lee and Mr. Robert Thompson that took place in the grand jury room here. The would-be attendants thought the ceremony was open to all since it was to be solemnized in a public office, and as they walked in, the contracting parties with their friends evaded the gaze of the curiosity-seekers when they repaired to the grand jury room where the vows were made before Rev. C. H. Dickey and a few close friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are from Richmond. Mrs. Thompson was formerly of this county, it was learned.

## V. E. P. Will Take Charge Tomorrow

### FIRE DESTROYS GARAGE AND CAR

### Short Circuit Believed To Be Cause of Blaze at J. G. Godard's Friday

Fire of an undetermined origin destroyed the garage and Buick sedan of Mrs. J. G. Godard, jr., early last Friday night. The fire had gained much headway before the alarm was turned in, and the building was practically burned, when the fire apparatus was carried to the scene. The company made a quick response, and although the car and garage were destroyed, the firemen held the flames to the one structure, preventing further loss.

Painters had been at work in the garage during the afternoon, but it is thought that the fire started from a cross circuit in the car's wiring. The loss was partly covered by insurance.

## STATE COTTON CROP SMALLER

### Martin County Has 236 More Bales This Year Than Last

A decrease this year of 47,043 bales in the cotton production of this State up to December 1, has been reported by the United States Department of Commerce. In 1927, 787,208 bales were reported while the number for the same period this year was only 740,165 bales. Thirty-four of the counties making returns reported increases in the crop over that of last year, but the increases, as a whole, were very small. The decreases reported were likewise very small and judging from the report, the North Carolina output this year will not vary greatly from that of the past year.

Martin county reported an increase of 236 bales over the production last year up to November 30. Edgecombe, a large producing county, reported a decrease in the crop. Washington county reports an increase, and so does Beaufort. Bertie has 1,008 bales more this year than it did last, for a corresponding period.

The report includes only running bales, and does not include linters.

## COMPLETES HIS PASTORATE HERE

### Rev. J. H. Hale Preaches Farewell Sermon at Local Christian Church

Rev. J. H. Hale completed his year's work as pastor of the local Christian church last Sunday night when he preached his farewell sermon.

He used as his subject, the second coming of Christ, which fact he stated is attested more than one hundred times in the Scriptures. The subject was well developed, the preacher stating that the little things we do day by day in our dealings with men and our giving our best service to Him will be the service that will determine our call.

Mr. Hale leaves the work here carrying the universal respect of all for his spirit of humility, kindness, and the many acts of service. He was faithful in his duties and goes from the church here to Wilmington where he will spend several weeks visiting friends and relatives.

## Christmas Party for Methodist Ladies

On Thursday evening, December 20, at 7:30 o'clock there will be a Christmas party in the home of Mrs. O. P. Fitzgerald, in which all the ladies of the local department of the Missionary Society will participate. A very elaborate program is being planned. There are expected some fifty guests or more.

All guests of the Christmas party are urged to send their presents to the parsonage during Wednesday, December 19th, otherwise, they will be called for early Thursday morning.

## Petition Would Bar Use of Steel Traps

Hunters in this section are preparing a petition to submit to the lawmakers in an effort to make it illegal to set steel traps or use unfair methods in hunting. The petition is meeting with general favor, many having signed it in a very short time.

In this petition it is stated that the trap has practically caused the passing of the coon and opossum in this section, and unless something is done to do away with the traps, the two animals will soon become extinct in this section.

## BUILDERS PLAN TO FINISH WORK ON LINE TODAY

### Had Been Held Up for 30 Days By Property Owner Near Robersonville

### HEARING YESTERDAY

### Board of Appraisers Is Appointed at Hearing Before Clerk of Court and Company Proceeds With Work

Williamston's light and power plant, costing approximately \$100,000, will be closed down for 30 years and probably for all time, tomorrow morning when the Virginia Electric and Power Company connects its transmission lines to the town's power and light system. The exact time the company will make the connection is not known, but according to present plans, energy will be on the transmission lines from Tarboro here today ready for the connection in the morning.

The change is being made after a delay of thirty days caused by J. P. Dicus, property owner near Robersonville, when he refused a right-of-way to the company over his land. Contamination proceedings were started some time ago and at a hearing before Judge R. J. Peel here yesterday morning it was stated that the plaintiff company was entitled to a right-of-way under the law upon proper condemnation proceedings and the payment of a jury's award. The hearing was called for 10 o'clock, and after the court had waited some time for the defense and his attorney, testimony was heard showing that the company had made an attempt to buy the right-of-way. It was also pointed out that Dicus had been asked to state a price he would take, but he refused an answer, stating to an agent of the company, however, that he was going to give them all the trouble he possibly could before the property was crossed.

Messrs. Frank S. Spruill, jr., of Rocky Mount, and E. S. Peel, of this place, represented the power company while neither Dicus nor his attorney attended the hearing. Several officials and employees, C. W. Devreux and F. C. Dane, of the Stone and Webster organization, and R. J. Thavekmorton, general manager, Richmond, E. B. Curdts, superintendent of the Carolina Division and J. T. Chase, manager of the Carolina Division, were here for the hearing.

Following the yesterday hearing, a jury, L. B. Harrison, W. H. Carstarphen and W. C. Manning, appointed by the court, went to the Dicus property and assessed the damage that would be done and awarded the owner \$85, an amount that is less than that once offered Dicus, according to an official statement. The property owner was awarded \$5 each for seven poles and \$50 for an eighth pole where anchors were to be buried.

Within a very few minutes after the award had been made by the jury, the power company had a crew of forty men working on the line across the property, and one of the officials stated that 100 more were being held in reserve pending the outcome of the work yesterday. The line is completed today, and tonight the wires are being tested with 33,000 volts on them.

It was understood that had the defendant's attorney waited the full time allowed in filing an answer, probably other arrangements would have been made to complete the line. It was also understood that the company would run around the Dicus property, but when it was learned that the answer had been filed five days ahead of the time allowed, it was decided to hold up operations and come directly as they had started. By waiting the company is within one day of the time limit allowed for the taking over the system here.

For sometime, power and light customers here have been getting poor service, and although the employees have done their best to render efficient service, the plant was just too small, and many motors have been ordered turned off during certain periods of the day.

## Sheriff's Office Gets Thousands in Taxes

"Tax payments have been unusually good during the past few days," Sheriff Roebuck stated yesterday when asked how the work was progressing. During the latter part of last week and yesterday, the sheriff's office received thousands of dollars in taxes. The tax collector, however, stated that there were many thousands left to collect yet awhile.

It was pointed out that the payments were made mainly by small property and real estate owners in all parts of the county.

**STRAND THEATRE**

**WEDNESDAY BUZZ BARTON**

in  
**"THE BANTAM COWBOY"**

Also  
**2-REEL COMEDY**  
and  
**FREE TICKET FOR SHOW FRIDAY**