

# THE ENTERPRISE

VOLUME XXXI—NUMBER 100

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, February 15, 1929

ESTABLISHED 1898

Watch the Label on Your Paper As It Carries the Date When Your Subscription Expires

Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Latchkey to Over 1,600 Homes of Martin County

## VITAL STATISTICS REPORTS OF TWO TOWNSHIPS MADE

### Robersonville and Goose Nest Are First to File 1928 Reports

### EXPECT OTHERS SOON

Total of 267 Births and 140 Deaths in Townships Last Year; Negroes Have Highest Rate

Vital statistics for Robersonville and Goose Nest townships filed in the office of the register of deeds here this week show that there were 267 births and 140 deaths in the two sections during the year, 1928. While the statistics for the other eight townships have not been filed in the register's office here at this time, there are many unusual features found in the two reports now on file.

In both townships, as will generally be found throughout the county, the Negro birth and death rates exceeded those of the whites by large majorities. In Goose Nest, 83 colored births were recorded as against 24 for the whites. The deaths in the same township were recorded in a like proportion, 53 occurring among coloreds and 12 among the whites. While the death rate of the whites was only 50 per cent, of the births as compared with that of the colored which was about 75 per cent. of their deaths, the actual increase is much greater among the colored people. The Negroes were accredited with nine more births than should have been, probably, for that many illegitimate children were born among that race.

Of the 107 births in Goose Nest, 61 were boys, the males leading the number of female births by a 1 majority. Thirty of the deaths in that township were among the youth 10 in an old-age class. David Close, 96-year old Negro, was oldest person to die there during the year, according to the records. He died the 22nd of last December.

Findings in the statistics in Robersonville township varied very little from those recorded in the book for Goose Nest. The death rate was not quite as great as the one in Goose Nest, and old age was assignable as a cause in a large number of cases, indicating that the people of the Robersonville section live to ripe old age. Annie Barnhill, negro, died at the age of 102 years last October and there were others as old as 90 and 95 years at the time of their deaths. There were 31 deaths among the youths and 10 in the middle group while 34 deaths were attributable to old age.

The statistics record 99 Negro births as against 61 for the whites. Forty-nine of the 75 deaths were found in the Negro column. Eleven illegitimate births boosted the total number for the Negroes. As was the case in Goose Nest township, the number of boys born was greater than the number of girls born. The boys numbered 91, and the girls 69.

## Fertilizer Plant Receives Many Visitors These Days

The standing invitation of the Standard Fertilizer Co. for farmers to visit its plant on Roanoke River here is being accepted by hundreds of farmers from this and far-away sections. Wednesday, nine visitors from as far as Aberdeen, Benson, and Bentonville called here to inspect the plant and see how the "Gro-More" products are made. The visitors, Messrs. W. H. Killebrew, W. H. Hardison, R. T. Gately, E. G. Booth, of Rocky Mount; N. M. McKeithan, of Aberdeen; Glenn Wood, W. H. Turlington, of Benson; G. R. Johnson and W. H. Wood, of Bentonville, were entertained by Plant Manager Crockett.

## Submit Bill to Allow Town To Use \$60,000 for Paving

### INTRODUCED IN STATE SENATE

### Work On Petition Is At A Standstill But Little Difficulty Expected

### HAVE 35 SIGNATURES

Bill Would Make It Legal for Town Board To Use Money Received From Light Plant Sale

A bill allowing the town commissioners here to use the money derived from the sale of the municipal power plant to the Virginia Electric & Power Co. for the construction of sidewalks and streets was introduced for its first reading in the Senate yesterday. This does not mean that the money will be spent for paving upon the favorable passage of the bill; it merely makes possible the use of the money in the event the petitions now being circulated are signed by 51 per cent of the property owners representing 51 per cent of the property.

The bill is to go through the House after two more readings in the Senate. With the paving petition remaining the same as it was last Tuesday, up to which time 35 property owners had signed 2,885 feet of Main Street frontage, the circulator, Chief W. B. Daniel, has neither gained a signor nor a refusal to sign. According to Mr. Daniel, they are telling him, "I'll see you later."

That the petition will fall through is not believed at the present time, for it is understood that more than the amount of property necessary to give the paper a large majority will be signed for as soon as the real owners can be reached. Several owners of local property do not live here, and the matter has to be handled by correspondence in those cases.

The most encouraging case for the tentative paving program arose last Tuesday when a property owner stated he would sign after the petition had the necessary majority to carry it over. He stated he just did not want to sign until then. Chief Daniel withheld the owner's name, and hinted that several who had refused to sign the petition would okeh it after the others passed it.

## MacLean School Bill Would Reduce Martin's Tax Rate

Should the MacLean school bill be passed by the Legislature this term, Martin county would get from the school equalizing fund, \$97,889.27 toward operating its schools. The bill now up for consideration before the law makers, would increase Martin county's share in the equalizing fund more than \$60,000.

Should both the school and road bills pass both houses as they were originally prepared, approximately one-half of the money to be used for road maintenance and schools would come from the State funds. Taxes on farm property would be materially reduced, and the heavy burden of paying the revenue would be lifted from the shoulders of the farmer and other property owners.

The school bill calls for an equalizing fund amounting to \$9,971.18. The bill would reduce the tax for the support of schools in this county from around 83 cents to 45 cents on the \$100 valuation.

## Fewer Laws Passed By Legislature This Year

At the present rate the work is progressing in the General Assembly in Raleigh, it will not take much sheep skin to bind the laws passed this session. With only two more weeks to go, it will not be possible for the Legislature to pass a large number of laws.

The election law has caused more study, worry and unnecessary talk, probably, than all the other measures. The school bill is also attracting much attention. The county road problem is not quite so puzzling. It has been suggested by some legislators that the whipping post should be established for the punishment of drunken drivers, bootleggers and wife beaters. Less has been said about the bird law this session than during any in the past decade.

## Student Preacher at Baptist Church Sunday

Rev. S. G. Walker, Wake Forest student, will preach at the Memorial Baptist Church Sunday at both the morning and evening services. Mr. Walker comes upon the recommendation of Dr. W. R. Cullom, and the people may confidently look forward to these sermons from a young ministerial student from one of the great educational institutions of the entire South.

The pastor states that at Wednesday evening's service the subject will be, "A Home Where Jesus Loved to Go."

## Tuberculosis Clinic To Close Next Tuesday

The tuberculosis tests and examinations sponsored by the local Woman's Club in the Williamston School District will be completed next Tuesday, according to an announcement made this morning. The final examinations will be made in Washington, it was stated.

During the past day or two, the work has undergone a marked improvement, the number of students taking the test having increased from 298 to 448. The last of the skin tests has been made, and second examinations have been given in a number of cases.

## OFFICERS BEGIN NIGHT RAIDING

### Capture Two Brothers, One of Whom Is But 6 Months Older Than Other

The night raiding of liquor stills came in as the latest style in that business last Tuesday night when Federal Agent King and deputies visited the Free Union section. Besides making captures and finding a still and liquor, the officers, to their surprise learned that two brothers were born within six months of each other. Unusual, no doubt, but true according to the ages given by Herman and Leamon James, brothers. Herman claimed that he will be 14 the 31st of March and Leamon says he will be 15 the 30th of next September, making one exactly six months to a day older than the other.

The officers started into a still about midnight, but hardly had they entered the woods before they heard a cart coming. They waited for developments, and when the cart reached them, the three boys, Herman, Leamon and Sylvester James were caught while a man escaped. The mule and cart were also captured along with two kegs of liquor. Sylvester stated he was only 12 years old, and unfortunately he nor either of the other two boys knew the name of the man who escaped.

The youngest boy said he had hauled two bags of sugar in the woods for the man and that the stranger and hired his two brothers to haul the liquor out, \$2.50 being agreed upon as the service price.

The three boys were permitted to appear before a commissioner here Wednesday when they were ordered held for the Federal court to be held in Washington, April the first.

Before leaving the woods that night the officers took the mule and cart and with the boys went back to the liquor plant where they destroyed a medium sized copper still and 850 gallons of beer. The liquor captured in the raid was poured out and the mule and cart were confiscated by the government.

## JAMESVILLE TO PLAY AULANDER

### Game Originally Scheduled For Tonight Postponed Until Tomorrow

The Jamesville-Aulander basketball game scheduled to be played here tonight was postponed yesterday until tomorrow night, when it was learned that other teams had planned to use the Brick Warehouse court tonight.

The game here tomorrow night is the first for the two teams in the State championship series, sponsored by the University of North Carolina, and it is expected to attract much attention. Both the Jamesville and Aulander teams have made splendid records in the sport so far this season, and a good game is assured. There are several other teams in the same group with Aulander and Jamesville, and their games will be played tonight. A win over Aulander tomorrow night will provide a second game here, Jamesville playing another winner in the same group here next Tuesday night.

According to an announcement made by Professor A. L. Pollock, of the Jamesville schools, the game tomorrow night will be called at 8:00 o'clock.

## Program for Week at First Methodist Church

Dr. O. P. Fitzgerald, Pastor  
Preaching service 11 a. m.; subject, "Daughter, the Future Home Builder." Evening service, 7:30; subject, "The Unfailing Voice." Sunday school at 9:45. Senior Epworth League Monday evening, 7 o'clock. Hi League Sunday evening 7 o'clock. Junior League Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Prayer service Wednesday evening at 7:30.

Worship with us and enjoy the services.

## MISSING GIRL IS THOUGHT TO BE IN GREENSBORO

### Mary Emily Gardner, 14, of Bear Grass, Believed Kidnapped At First

### WRITES TO MOTHER

County Officer Also Gets Letter Purporting To Have Been Mailed From Greensboro

Mary Emily Gardner, 14-year-old girl of Bear Grass, thought to have been kidnapped by Will Knox, is reported to be in Greensboro, according to letters received by a county officer here and the girl's mother at Bear Grass. The circumstances surrounding the case were not revealed in their entirety, and it believed by many that the real facts are yet to be learned. The case charging Knox with the kidnaping of the girl was dismissed in the recorder's court here last Tuesday afternoon.

While it could not be learned definitely, it is understood that in one of the letters it was stated that the girl left home because her mother had whipped her. It was also pointed out in the letter that she did not intend to return home, and that any attempt to bring her back would prove useless. Her living conditions were mentioned in one of the letters, but no address was given. The Gardner girl stated that she was boarding with an aged couple who wanted her to live with them. It is also understood that she plans to seek employment in a five- and ten-cent store in Greensboro, and if she fails to find employment there, a search for work in other towns will be started.

It is believed that one of the letters was written to be used in the preliminary hearing in establishing Knox's innocence, but the letter was no brought to the attention of the court as no evidence pointing to the man's guilt could be had.

The Gardner girl left her home in Bear Grass Wednesday of last week about dark, and has not been seen in this section since that time. Her people are making efforts to have her brought back home.

## STOLEN CAR IS FOUND IN S. C.

### Charleston Police Recover Chevrolet Stolen Here Wednesday

While Mr. L. T. Fowden, local insurance man, was attending service in the Episcopal church last Wednesday night, some one stole his car, a Chevrolet coupe. No clue whatever could be established as to who the thieves were, and Mr. Fowden was about to accept his loss when this morning Chief of Police Daniel was called over long distance telephone by E. G. Haley, Chief of Detectives in Charleston, S. C. and told that the car had been recovered in that city.

Full particulars were not given in the message, but it was stated that a letter, giving all the details was being forwarded here. However, it was learned in the conversation that the car was driven there by three young men who admitted they had stolen the car. They also stated that they had stolen a license tag from a car in Greenville shortly after leaving here. Only one name, that of John Bright, was given in the message, this morning, and the other two names are not known here at this time.

The thieves will be prosecuted in the Federal court in the South Carolina district under the National Motor Vehicle Theft law which handles cases having to do with the interstate traffic of stolen automobiles.

## R. C. Davis Leases Harrison Bros. Stables

Mr. R. C. Davis, of Watertown, Tenn., has leased the stables of Harrison Bros. & Co. and plans to operate a horse and mule exchange here during the next several years. While this is Mr. Davis' first year here, he has operated exchanges in this section for several years. At the present time, he is connected in the business at Bethel and Whitakers.

Mr. Davis makes his own purchases direct from stock farms in Tennessee, and he carries exceptionally good stock.

## Services at Jamesville Baptist Church Sunday

Rev. W. B. Harrington, pastor of the Jamesville Baptist Church, will conduct the regular services there Sunday at both the 11 o'clock hour and at 7:30 in the evening. The Sunday school will meet at 9:45, it was announced this morning.

The public is invited to attend each of the services.

### Add Equipment

S. R. Biggs Drug Company, local undertakers, have added a new funeral car to their equipment. The new hearse was unladen here this week.

## MORE OR LESS SECRET BALLOT BILL IS PASSED

### Much Amended Measure Finally Gets Through State Senate

### DEBATED AT LENGTH

Bill Now Faces Prospect of Having More Changes Tacked On By Lower House

Reltigh, Feb. 16.—The Senate at last has passed an Australian ballot bill. It took the final action yesterday but not until two more amendments had been tacked on the already much amended measure. Thus ended three weeks of wrangle; three days of debate on the floor.

A visitor to the Senate yesterday would not have realized that the bill had been debated already for two days and had passed second reading by a roll call vote of 41 to 9. There were more speeches, more bitterness, an sarcasm, and further efforts to forestall the final passage by untimely motions to adjourn. But finally it passed and proponents and opponents alike breathed a sincere sigh of relief.

The two amendments passed yesterday increased the total number of tickets from five to seven and provided that in primary elections the names of candidates be not arranged in alphabetical order but that the arrangement differ in different ballots so each candidate will occupy the first and subsequent positions on an equal number of ballots.

The first of the two amendments was introduced by Senator Wheelbee, of Perquimans. As it passed, the bill now provides for the following tickets: Presidential electors, United States Senate, United States House of Representatives, State, county townships and special propositions such as constitutional amendments. Before amended the Senate, Congressional and State tickets were one. The Wheelbee amendment further provided that in the discretion of the State Board of Elections there could be a consolidation of the State Senatorial and Congressional tickets.

As was intimated by Senator Lawrence who asked the Senators to "read between the lines," one purpose of the Wheelbee amendment was to put Senator Simmons on a ticket by himself if he is re-elected in 1930. Fearful of the outcome of the election, there are those who do not want to endanger Democratic candidates by having them on the same ballot with the Senator who last fall fought the Democratic nominee for President. Other members do not want the rest of the ticket to help Senator Simmons.

The other amendment which passed was introduced by Senator Womb. By allowing each candidate to have his or her name appear at the top of a proportionate number of ballots it conforms with the present primary law.

## Many Tenants Having to Move Twice This Year

Meeting with difficulty in financing their operations and unable to secure backing from the landlords, many tenant farmers in this county have moved twice since January 1 in an effort to establish themselves for another year, according to individual cases reported here. Several have not settled at this time, and they are finding it unusually hard to make farming arrangements for the current year.

Many tenant farmers as well as numbers of farm owners have worn out their cars and are trying it out this year without a car of any kind. This is unusual as it has been very few families in the past few years having no car.

## Former County Residents Celebrate Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. H. Henry H. Fisher, of Norfolk, celebrated their golden wedding at their home on Willoughby avenue last Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher lived for a number of years after their marriage at Dymond City in this county and are well known to many of the older people of that section.

Mr. Fisher was chief accountant for the Jamesville and Washington railroad at the time of his residence at Dymond City.

He is now past eighty years of age, but he holds the responsible position of general ticket agent for the Norfolk Southern railroad.

## Program of Services At Church of Advent

The Rev. Arthur H. Marshall, rector of the Church of the Advent and several others in this and Washington County, will preach here Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Sunday school will be held at 9:45, it was stated in the minister's announcements. The public is invited to worship at the services.

## Slayer of Windsor Man Still at Large

### RECORDER HAD THIRTEEN CASES

### Few Fines Imposed; Three Are Sentenced to Roads

The case charging Will Knox with kidnaping young Mary Emily Gardner was not prosed in the recorder's court here last Tuesday afternoon. Knox denied any knowledge of the girl's disappearance, and offered evidence pointing to his innocence.

There were 13 cases called in the session last Tuesday by Judge Bailey, but few fines were imposed. Three road sentences were meted out.

J. H. James, charged with rape, plead not guilty and waived examination. His case was sent to the March term of superior court here, bond in the sum of \$5,000 being required.

Roy Roberson plead not guilty when he was charged with driving an automobile while he was intoxicated. He was found guilty by the court and when Judge Bailey meted out a three-months suspended road sentence and revoked the man driving license for a period of six months, Roberson appealed to the superior court. Bond in the sum of \$150 was required.

The case charging William Higgs with bastardy was referred to the civil docket of the superior court.

In hearing the evidence the court established guilt in the case against Henry Daniel for an assault with a deadly weapon and carrying a concealed weapon. In the assault charge, Daniel was sentenced to the Edgecombe County roads for six months, the sentence to begin next November. A \$400 bond was required. In the second charge a 12 months road sentence was meted out, but the judge suspended it for two years upon the good behavior of the defendant.

Probable cause appearing in the assault with a deadly weapon case against Tom Simmons, the defendant was bound over to the next term of superior court under a \$1,500 bond.

A nol pros resulted in the case in which David Bryant was charged with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Will Hollis plead guilty to assaulting a female and was sentenced to the roads for 12 months, the last 9 months of the sentence are to be suspended upon the good behavior of the prisoner. Charged with an assault on a female, Bill Ellison plead guilty and was sentenced to the roads for 18 months, the last 9 months to be suspended upon the good behavior of the defendant. On a second similar charge, Ellison was found not guilty.

A nol pros was returned in the case charging Raymond Hyman with house breaking and larceny and receiving. Roosevelt Butler waived examination in the case in which he was charged with seduction.

## LOCALS WIN TWO AT VANCEBORO

### Boys Win, 44 to 9; Girls, 31 To 13; Double Header Here Tonight

Winning 44 to 9 over the Vanceboro Farm Life boys at Vanceboro last Tuesday night, the local high school boys' basketball squad brought their number of victories to 13 with one lone defeat, and that by 1 point, to counterbalance. The local boys forged ahead in the early part of the game and outplayed their opponents in every feature. The only defeat suffered by the local boys was at the hands of Middleburg's five last Friday night, that team winning by a 1-point margin, the score being 27 to 26.

Williamston's girls are also establishing a record in the sport, for they have nine victories to their credit, with only three defeats marked against them. The same night that the local boys swamped Vanceboro's boys, the girls defeated those of Vanceboro, 31 to 13. It was declared to be their best game of the season, every member on the squad doing exceptional work at the assigned post.

Tonight in the Brick Warehouse here, Beaufort's boys will play Coach Hood's five. Everetts' girls are also scheduled to play those of the local school in the Brick Warehouse here tonight.

## Presbyterian Program Of Services Announced

The Rev. John L. Yandell will conduct the Presbyterian services at the Woman's Club Room here Sunday morning at 11 o'clock hour. Sunday school will convene at 9:45 o'clock. Mr. Yandell will also preach at Bear Grass in the school auditorium at 7:30 p. m.

The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

## SEVERAL FALSE TIPS RUN DOWN BY OFFICERS

### Killer of Police Chief Was Reported To Have Been Seen in This County

### RUMOR PROVES FALSE

Posse Surrounds Home of Negro Near Jamesville, But Man Is Not One Wanted

The latest reports from the Sheriff's office in Windsor in connection with the whereabouts of Percy Miller, alleged murderer of Policeman White, have been proven false. These rumors have come from a wide range of territory extending from South Carolina to Virginia.

Bertie County is offering a reward of \$200, the town a \$100 reward and the State the amount to \$200, a total of \$500 for information leading to Miller's arrest.

Many people believe that the fugitive is still in the swamps of Bertie county.

The search for Percy Miller, alleged murderer of Pat White, Windsor policeman, met with failure in this county early last Wednesday morning when a large number of officers and men found that Henry Blount resembled Miller but not to the extent to cause an error in "Who's Who." Working on what was believed to be a good clue, the officers went to Blount's home on the old Jamesville road, near Smithwick's Schoolhouse last Wednesday morning shortly after midnight. No attempt was made to enter the house by the officers as long as darkness hovered over their heads, and while the men waited outside for the break of day, Henry, afraid to go out, to see what was wrong, waited up in the small house. Just about light, Deputy Sheriff Grimes, of this county, entered the home and found that a mistake in identifying Blount had been made.

Henry was paraded before the men on guard, and the clue was immediately thrown aside.

About 5:30 Tuesday evening, Charlie Bullock saw Henry Blount come out of a woods near Smithwick's Schoolhouse. Bullock noticed that the colored man's hand was bandaged and apparently covered with blood. Blount's appearance was sufficient to cause Bullock to report the case to Robersonville's chief of police, Mr. William Gray, who passed the report on to Sheriff Roebuck. Bertie officers were notified, the description of the man being well accepted. Sheriff Cooper, of Bertie, called for bloodhounds, and a posse left here about 1 o'clock for the scene. When the dogs were placed on the trail they led the hunters to Gardner's Creek and stopped. A search was started by other members of the party, some going to the home of Blount. As they were carrying on their search in and around the barn, Blount heard them and got up, but as the people outside had made no move to come in Henry made no move to go out. Until morning the posse waited outside while Blount held his own.

Henry declared yesterday afternoon that he was not at all frightened during all the excitement, that he had done nothing wrong and therefore he was not in any danger. He described every move during the night, stating that he was slightly frightened when one man peeked in at his window and dropped his head within the blink of an eye.

The chase after Blount was started on account of a bandaged hand, it being thought that Miller was wounded in the hand and that he had crossed Roanoke River during Monday. Henry had hurt his hand, and with other features declared to resemble those of the alleged killer, the clue was given much weight at first.

Since that time information has been received indicating that Miller is in hiding in either Portsmouth or Norfolk.

The chief of police of Suffolk called

(Continued from front page)

## Presbyterian Preacher Is Well Received

Although no official call has been tendered Rev. Z. T. Piepaff, Presbyterian minister of Richmond, by the local Presbyterian church at this time, it is understood that such an action is being favorably considered by members of the church. Rev. Mr. Piepaff preached in the Woman's Club Hall here last Sunday morning and that evening in the Bear Grass school auditorium. His sermons were well received by the two congregations, and it is hoped that he will take up the work of the pastorate here.

# WATTS THEATRE

Saturday February 16  
"COMING AND GOING" with BUFFALO BILL, Jr.  
Comedy — "She's a Boy" and the Best Serial Yet "VANISHING WEST"  
Special Matinee at 3:00 P. M.

Monday-Tuesday Feb. 18-19  
COLLEEN MOORE in "SYNTHETIC SIN"  
M. G. NEWS REEL  
AESOP'S FABLES  
Shows at 7:15 and 9 P. M. Daily  
MUSIC BY PHOTOTONE