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# THE ENTERPRISE

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VOLUME XXXII—NUMBER 59

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, September 20, 1929

ESTABLISHED 1898

## ALTERATIONS TO UNDERPASS HERE ARE CONSIDERED

### Railroad Is Making Investigation Now That May Lead to Changes

### MANY WRECKS THERE

Is Only Underpass in This Part of State Which Has Center Support; Scene of One Fatal Accident

An investigation started here a few weeks ago in an effort to alter the bridge over the highway at the west end of Main Street here is progressing rapidly. Mayor R. L. Coburn stated yesterday afternoon. It is understood that the State highway system has nothing to do with the bridge, and whether or not the Coast Line will alter the bridge depends upon an inspection that will be made within the next few days, it was stated.

According to information gained relative to the matter, the railroad company constructed the bridge by specifications prepared by the highway people, but in spite of that fact, the Coast Line officials have stated that they will have the district superintendent inspect the underpass. Just when the representative will come here to investigate the construction of the present support was not stated.

During the past several months, several automobiles have been wrecked at the underpass, one wreck taking the life of a preacher only a few weeks ago. As far as it is known, the underpass here is the only one in this part of the State having a center support to the bridge. While the roadway permits traffic, it is a menace to the safety of every automobile driver, even the most careful one.

## BROTHERS PUT IN JAIL HERE

### John and Simon Shepard Arrested for Different Offenses Same Day

Jailed here for violating the liquor laws, John Shepard, colored, pleaded with officers to call his brother, Simon, down from Hamilton last Wednesday that they might talk over some business matters. Sheriff Roebuck, accommodating all prisoners held in the jail here as far as it is possible to do so, assured John that Simon would be notified.

Just about the time the sheriff started to call for Simon at Hamilton, a message came from the town, requesting the officer to watch out for Simon as he had entered a home on the Jule Bunting farm and stole clothes and other articles. It was about ten o'clock Wednesday evening that Sheriff Roebuck and Policeman Allabrooks found Simon perched on a suitcase along the highway near the river.

John was very much pleased when his brother walked into the jail but was greatly surprised to learn that he did not enter upon his own free.

## Robersonville Football Team Prospects Fine

Twenty-five young boys in the Robersonville school reported for football practice there at the call of the coach, all of them showing a marked interest in the sport and making a strong bid for a berth on the first squad. Coach Ira Ainsley is carrying the boys through a hard practice schedule, preparatory to the first game of the season to be played with Washington at Washington next Friday afternoon.

At a meeting of the team's members this week, Jesse Bunting was elected captain, John Warren and Herbert Pope acting as field generals.

According to a report the members of the team are in good physical condition and are rapidly preparing themselves for the first battle of the season next Friday.

## WATTS THEATRE

Saturday September 21

### TIM MCCOY

in "The Desert Rider"

Also COMEDY and SERIAL

Monday-Tuesday Sept. 23-24

### ALICE WHITE

in "BROADWAY BABIES"

Also FABLES and NEWS

MUSIC BY PHOTOTONE

## Sawyer Convicted of First Degree Murder

### SENTENCED TO DEATH IN CHAIR ON NOVEMBER 1

### Jury Stays Out Overnight In Deliberating on Evidence

### MRS. SAWYER FREED

Sawyer Is First White Man Ever to be Sentenced to Electric Chair From This County

Twenty-four hours after his case was called, John Sawyer, white, was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced by Judge W. A. Devin in the superior court here yesterday morning to die in the electric chair November 1, Sawyer being the first white man to be sentenced to die in the electric chair from this county.

For two hours Wednesday morning the defense and State attorneys were busy examining the special venire of 75 men, the taking of evidence beginning promptly. Examining eight witnesses, the prosecution rested the case early in the afternoon.

Sawyer went on the stand in his own behalf, giving a varying account of the facts prior to the shooting and denying certain charges. "I remember the shooting," he said, telling how he had thought things over and concluded it was necessary to shoot to protect his life. He told of the trouble originating over the housing of a tobacco crop, how he suffered for something to eat and the disturbances between he and John I. Britton, the victim.

Mrs. Sawyer, charged with abetting in the crime but who was released when the grand jury failed to find a true bill against her, took the stand in behalf of Sawyer. Unable to offer any worthwhile evidence in the behalf of her husband, she merely described the incidents prior to the killing. Benjamin Roberson was the last witness put on by the defense.

The State then reopened and called three more witnesses, the attorneys making short speeches the case went to the jury late in the afternoon.

According to unofficial reports, a verdict of guilty would have been returned within a very short time had it not been for one of the jurors who debated fervently in behalf of the accused man. After an argument of several hours and a night's rest, the jury reported its verdict at 9:30 yesterday morning, Judge Devin passing sentence shortly afterwards.

## Announces Services For Three Episcopal Churches

Rev. Arthur H. Marshall, Episcopal minister, announces services for three of his churches Sunday, as follows:

**Church of the Advent—Williamston**  
Sunday school at 9:45.—Mr. Maurice Moore, superintendent.  
Evening Prayer and Sermon at 8:00 o'clock.

You are very cordially invited to these services.

**Holy Trinity Mission—Bear Grass**  
Sunday school at 2:30 p. m. Evening Prayer and Sermon following.  
All seats free. You are welcome.

**St. Martin's Church—Hamilton**  
Sunday school at 10:00 a. m.  
Holy Communion and Sermon at 11 a. m.

You are very welcome to these services.

## Parme Women Meet And Organize Club

The Parme women met Monday at the schoolhouse and organized their club. They will meet the third Monday in each month. This makes 25 clubs in the county, one of which is a boys' club at Everetts with an enrollment of 32. The boys are much interested in club work over the county, but this club is the only one the agent is able to carry owing to lack of time. The boys are enrolled in poultry and plan to do better work this year.

## Supreme Court Orders Retrial of Hassell Case

A new trial was granted last Wednesday by the North Carolina Supreme Court in the suit of C. B. Hassell, local peanut buyer brought against the American Peanut Company in the superior court here last March. The points of law giving the defendant a right to a new trial were not announced.

The plaintiff was given a judgment of \$1,212.08 when the jury decided the case in his favor last March. It is understood that the case will be referred to the civil docket of the superior court here for trial at a future term of the court.

## PROCEEDINGS IN SUPERIOR COURT

### Thirty-Seven Cases Cleared From Docket; Civil Term Next Week

Thirty-seven cases were cleared from the criminal docket by Judge W. A. Devin, of Oxford, in the superior court here this week, the jurist completing the work, recessed court late yesterday until next Monday morning when the trial of civil cases will be started.

The rapid handling of cases marked the session, while there were several cases attracting an unusual interest. Two or three cases were continued and only one case is said to have resulted in an acquittal.

The proceedings beginning last Tuesday:

Sylvester Taylor, young white man was sentenced from two to three years in the State's Prison when his guilt was established in the case charging him with entering a store and the depot at Jamesville.

Luther Clark, pleaded guilty in the same case, and was sentenced from 21 to 30 months in the State's Prison.

Perlie Coltrain and John Henry Biggs were given four months each on the roads, they having pleaded guilty in the same case.

Archie Lee, found guilty of adultery, was given four months on the roads.

Don Purvis, pleading guilty in the case charging him with stealing chickens, was sentenced to six months on the road.

John Sheppard was given a 12-months jail sentence when he pleaded guilty in the case charging him with manufacturing liquor. The last eleven months of the sentence are to be suspended upon the good behavior of the defendant.

Charged with manufacturing liquor Willie Brooks was given eight months on the roads and Robert Whitehurst, brought into court under the same charge, was turned over to the juvenile court as he was under age.

Henry Dave Daniel, pleading guilty to three separate charges of housebreaking and larceny and receiving, was given a 12-months sentence on the roads. The sentences run concurrently.

Thirty days on the roads was the sentence meted out to Penlan Bland when he was found guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon.

Lawrence Lilley was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs in the case charging him with operating an automobile while he was under the influence of liquor. He was released under a suspended sentence.

The case charging Tilghman Carr with attempted rape was not pressed.

Arthur Morgan was given twelve months on the Edgemobe roads in an assault with a deadly weapon case.

Isaac Ample, found guilty on a larceny and receiving charge, was sentenced to the roads for a term of six months.

A suspended sentence resulted in the case charging W. H. Perry with passing a worthless check.

Opheus Price and Garland Rodgers pleaded guilty of assault with a deadly weapon, and prayer for judgment was continued.

John Yarrell and Alonzo Biggs, found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon, were given four months each on the roads.

William Bell was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs in a case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon.

## Presbyterians Announce Their Program of Services

Sunday school, 9:45 a. m.  
Worship services, 11 a. m.—"The Law of the Harvests."

So often we hear people complaining about the unfair distribution of goods here on earth. The unprincipled get on in life, the saints are kept back. The riches and rewards of this life fall to the lot of the undeserving. The rich man has the good things and Lazarus the evil. Do you know why this is true? If not, would you like to know? Then come and hear this subject discussed at the Presbyterian church held in the Woman's Club Sunday morning at 11 a. m. A cordial welcome is extended to each individual in Williamston, large or small, saved or unsaved, to meet and worship with us.

**Bear Grass**  
The regular Sunday-night services of the Presbyterian church will be held in the school house auditorium at Bear Grass Sunday, September 22, at 7:30 p. m. A warm welcome awaits all.

## SAYS FARMERS MUST WORK OUT OWN SALVATION

### Federal Farm Board Member Says They Can Not Help Leaf Growers

### MUST BE ORGANIZED

Stone Says Board Is Helpless Because There Is No Farmer Organization Among Tobacco Growers

Only a few hours after Senator Simmons appealed to the President and conferred with J. C. Stone, member of the Federal Farm Board, relative to the present low prices being received for the tobacco crop, comes the statement from Mr. Stone that the farmers must work out their own salvation this year. "Until they organize the Federal Farm Board can do nothing," was the text of Mr. Stone's answer to Senator Overman who took up the tragic plight of the tobacco farmers with the powers of the federal government.

The only remedy suggested by Mr. Stone was the one that he suggested while in Raleigh some time ago. He urged tobacco growers to start now in a systematic, intelligent way to work out and develop a better system for marketing their tobacco than they now have. He thinks that it will be best to have a committee of fifteen for each State.

Farmer-owned and farmer-controlled co-operatives is the slogan upon which President Hoover based chances for relief for many months, and Vice-chairman Stone takes up and refrain again. Farmer-owned and farmer-controlled have become the perfect alibi.

As there are no farmer-owned and farmer-controlled tobacco co-operatives in North Carolina, it is inferred that the federal government is powerless—helpless, hog-tied and hamstrung.

Mr. Stone does not believe that any relief can be given to the present price situation, because the selling season is now in full swing and there is no organization of any kind on the part of the growers.

## TO DISCONTINUE 2 MORE TRAINS

### A. C. L. To Take Off Mid-Day Kinston-Weldon Trains

Claiming they could not compete with the highways, Atlantic Coast Line officials, Wednesday, were given permission to discontinue two trains plying between Kinston and Weldon. The date when the service will be discontinued was not given, but it will be only a matter of a few days before the two trains will be stopped, it is believed.

Hardly more than a year ago, the railroad was given permission to discontinue two of the trains running through here. With the passing of a few more years, a passenger train in this section will be as great a curiosity as an ox cart is today.

While the removal of the trains will affect all the towns along the route, Parmele, at one time the most popular railroad center in this immediate section, will probably miss the trains more than any other town as it has long served the few passengers and trainmen with sandwiches and apple jacks. But months ago, the cafe owner and champion maker of the much-talked-about apple jacks, suspected the change and moved to the highway.

At the hearing last Wednesday, the order was shortly forthcoming when the railroad presented figures showing that during the last fiscal year the trains turned in total revenue of \$23,901.85 and cost of operation was \$71,991.15, showing a net deficit of \$48,089.60, and indications that arrangements could be made by October 20 to provide mail service by star route and express service by local freight trains.

Dr. R. H. Wright Will Preach Here Sunday

Dr. R. H. Wright, president of the East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, will preach in the Methodist church here Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, according to an announcement made here yesterday.

There will be no evening service as Dr. Fitzgerald, the pastor, is engaged in a meeting at LaGrange.

The people of the town and community are cordially invited to hear Dr. Wright at the morning service.

## No Whisky Raid Made in County During This Week

For the first time in several months no whisky raids were made in this county during the past few days, officers being engaged in court. County officers have been busy with the court here, while the federal agents have been in Fayetteville during the past few days attending court there as witnesses in several cases.

## Over 500,000 Pounds Tobacco On Local Market This Week

### HIGGINS' CONCERT BAND



One of the free attractions booked for the Roanoke Fair here November 4 to 9. The band includes sixteen musicians and an accompanist and renders a full program of classical and popular selections.

## 16 PRISONERS BEGIN TERMS

### 13 Go To Road Camps and Other 3 to Raleigh; One Sentenced to Die

Sixteen prisoners were removed from the local jail this morning, thirteen going to the Edgemobe road camp, near Tarboro, and three going to the State's Prison, Raleigh. The majority is off to serve short sentences, two are to be held for around two years, while one will pay the supreme penalty.

The thirteen going to the roads in Edgemobe accepted their fate as a matter of course. The trio, leaving for the State's Prison were more serious, and apparently accepted their fate with regret. Sheriff Roebuck, Deputy Grimes and Mr. Rouse left this morning for Raleigh with John Sawyer, sentenced to die November 1, Sylvester Taylor and Luther Clark. The Edgemobe authorities called for the other prisoners given sentences on the roads.

The prisoners and their sentences: John Sawyer, electric chair, November 1; Luther Clark, 21 to 30 months in the penitentiary; Sylvester Taylor, two to three years in the penitentiary; John Yarrell, four months on the roads; Alonzo Biggs, six months on the roads; Elijah Grice, twelve months on the roads; Arthur Morgan, twelve months on the roads; Henry Dave Daniel, twelve months on the roads; Willie Brooks, six months on the roads; Don Purvis, the noted chicken thief, six months on the roads; Isaac Ample, four months on the roads and nine additional months of an uncompleted twelve months term; Robert Edmonds, (white), 12 months on the roads; Penel Bland, (white) thirty days on the roads; Archie Lee, (white) four months on the roads and John H. Biggs, (white) four months on the roads.

## Boy Given 12 Months on Roads for Attack on Girl

Charged with rape on a 4-year-old white girl, Elijah Grice, 17-year-old colored boy, of near Oak City, was sentenced to twelve months on the Edgemobe County roads by Judge W. A. Devin in the superior court here yesterday when the jury returned a verdict of guilty of an assault on a female.

While it is said the evidence in the case tended to substantiate the charge preferred in the case, it was pointed out to be too indefinite for conviction, resulting in the introduction of the assault charge.

## Christian Churches to Meet in Robersonville

The Roanoke District convention of the Christian Church will be held with the Robersonville church, there beginning Saturday of next week, according to a program recently prepared for the meeting. The first session will be held at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, followed by meetings in the afternoon and evening. The convention will close Sunday noon following a sermon by Rev. Richard Bagby, pastor of the First Christian Church, Washington.

There is a goodly number of churches in the district and many representatives are planning to attend, it is understood.

## State Fair Boosters to Pass Through Here Next Week

Approximately 100 Raleigh citizens, looting the State Fair, will pass through here next Thursday morning, according to a schedule announced recently. No stop has been announced for Williamston.

The boosters will travel in busses and cars, it is understood. A tour of practically all of Eastern Carolina is being made by the boosters in an effort to interest the people of the section in the State Fair.

## BIG DECREASE IN AUTO SALES

### Repair Work at Garages on Increase While New Car Sales Fall Off

According to reports coming from automobile dealers in this section, there have been fewer cars sold in the past few weeks in certain parts of Eastern Carolina than has been the case for a corresponding period in a number of years. One dealer reported three sales made during the past twelve days, as compared with around twenty-five for a corresponding period last year. While automobile plants are running full time and showing an increase in production, the cars are not being sold in the sections where tobacco is selling below the cost of production. With the exception of a few immediate sections in this part of the State, the sales are reported to be increasing elsewhere.

As a general rule, business is reported to be much quieter than it usually is prior to the opening of the tobacco markets. While many obligations entered into earlier in the year are being settled rapidly, new purchases are progressing slowly, merchants reporting good business, considering the outrageously low prices being received for the tobacco crop.

Owners of old cars are repairing their machines, limiting the sale of the new cars and increasing the repair business, it was stated.

## GRID SEASON TO BEGIN TUESDAY

### Local High School to Go to Windsor; Play Farmville Here Next Friday

With two games scheduled for next week, the local high school football team is going through a heavy practice day at this time. The eleven meets the Windsor squad there Tuesday afternoon, Farmville coming here next Friday.

While the regular line-up has not been selected at this time, Coach B. E. Hood has about effected his organization, withholding any comment as to what may be expected from the team this season. Several boys, regulars in the squad last year, are not in the game this season, forcing Coach Hood to make a few changes in the line and backfield. Manning, last-year quarterback, is in bed at the present time, running temperature, and it is not likely that he will be in the game next Tuesday.

## 34 In County Jail Here At One Time This Week

Another jail record was established here this week when Sheriff Roebuck and his jailer cared for thirty-four prisoners confined in the jail at one time. Many of them, out on bond, were called in, increasing the number of boarders to the unusually large number.

Judge W. A. Devin came to the rescue of the jailer, and this morning there were only eleven in the cooler, two federal prisoners, two serving regular sentences, and seven awaiting the next term of recorder's court.

During the month, forty-six prisoners have been held in the jail here, the number at the present time being the smallest held in several months.

## Program of Services At Christian Church

William Weigman, Pastor  
Sunday school, 9:45 a. m.  
Morning service, 11 a. m.  
Evening service, 7:30 p. m.

Every one cordially invited to attend all these services. All Sunday school members are urged to be present as Sunday will be observed as promotion day and a full membership is greatly needed to make it a success.

## PRICES LITTLE STRONGER ON SOME GRADES

### Are Approximately 125,000 On Warehouse Floors Here Today

### PRICE ABOUT 13 CENTS

Sale of Tips Has Been Very Large Throughout Week; Low Prices General Throughout Belt

The local tobacco market, showing more strength, this week is witnessing increased sales, the offerings going beyond the 500,000 mark for the period, according to estimates furnished by the tobacco board of trade today. In spite of the dull day Wednesday, the day of the rain, the sales have increased steadily, the farmers marketing almost as much tobacco this week as they did during the first two weeks the markets were open.

The sale of tips has been marked on the market here practically every day this week, the best break of the season coming yesterday when around 125,000 pounds were sold. Although the large offerings of tips is holding down the general market average, all the warehouses reported good sales yesterday, pointing out that the better types of tobacco were from three to six cents higher in price.

That the prices are continuing low throughout the entire belt is seen from the various reports, several markets claiming fourteen-cent averages, others giving theirs as a little below. In many sections the quality of the weed is exceptionally poor, and the poundage is said to be far less than that of the last season.

Sales on the local market have been carried on with much vigor, and the warehousemen and buyers are going their limit to push the price as high as it is possible to do so.

## OFF ROADS, BACK IN JAIL SAME DAY

### Comes Home in Morning, Beats Wife, Headed Back To Roads That Night

Heber Roberson, colored of Hassell, completing a six months sentence on the Edgemobe roads yesterday morning, was back in the jail here last night, charged with beating his wife. Coming from the roads yesterday, Roberson was the source of information for the thirteen prisoners sentenced this week. For more than an hour Roberson answered questions and described the life followed in the Edgemobe County road camp. "It is a safe bet," Sheriff Roebuck stated, this morning, "that those boys will know the ropes when they get there, they asked so many questions of Roberson."

Captain Harper, calling for the prisoners this morning was much surprised to see Roberson in the jail. "Never mind, Mr. Harper," the 21-year-old negro stated, "just tell the boss to reserve my old bunk, for I'll be back just as soon as they hold recorder's court again."

Roberson is said to have attempted to hit his wife with an axe soon after his return from the camp yesterday.

## Baptists to Have But One Preaching Service Sunday

There will be but one preaching service at the Baptist church Sunday, and that will be at the morning hour. Sunday school and B. Y. P. U. will meet as usual. The pastor will conduct the mid-week service next Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

The general public is welcomed.

## Fertilizer Plant Unit Is Nearing Completion

Completing the erection of the heavy timbers this week, workmen are progressing rapidly on the new unit to the plant of the Standard Fertilizer Company's plant on the Roanoke river here. With favorable weather the contractors are planning to complete the third unit by the middle or latter part of next month, it is understood.

## W. H. Coburn Sworn in Before Judge Devin

William Hubert Coburn, brother to Mayor Robert L. Coburn, of this place, was admitted to the bar this week, taking the oath before Judge W. A. Devin in the superior court.

Mr. Coburn studied at the University of North Carolina and Wake Forest College, passing the bar examination last August. He is associated with the law firm of Coburn and Coburn.