



THE ENTERPRISE



VOLUME XXXVII—NUMBER 18

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, May 1, 1934

ESTABLISHED 1898

W. Jesse Griffin, Prominent Farmer of County, Commits Suicide at Home Near Here

REGARDED ONE OF COUNTY'S LEADING MEN

Hundreds Attend Funeral Yesterday Afternoon In Griffins' Township

William Jesse Griffin, prominent county citizen and a leading farmer in Griffins Township, ended his life on the back porch of his home there shortly after 8 o'clock last Sunday evening, the tragic act coming as a decided shock to members of the family and other relatives and friends throughout the county. He fired a load of shot into his breast and heart, death resulting instantly.

Leaving no note or offering no explanation beforehand that he planned to end his life, the exact cause for the act remains unknown. Mr. Griffin, however, had some weighty matters on his mind, judging from remarks recalled by neighbors and other friends, but his statements were not such to even give suspicion or cause any alarm whatever. It is believed Mr. Griffin became worried because he was late in getting his crops started, that he was short of help and had worked very hard during the past few weeks. He had also suffered with toothache, and just before he killed himself he told the family he was going out to doctor that tooth again, the family thinking he was going to the kitchen for medicine.

Several days ago he told a neighbor he had gone all to pieces lately, but even then Mr. Griffin appeared to be getting along very well. Sunday afternoon, only a few hours before the suicide, he talked at length with a neighbor about Scriptural subjects, and although the conversation indicated there were weighty matters on his mind, there was nothing said or advanced that would reveal any plan whereby he would end his life.

Mr. Griffin was not a wealthy man, but he was very well fixed financially, and his home was one of the most peaceful to be found, one where brotherly love was always present and the joys and sorrows of one were the joys and sorrows of all.

A few minutes before the killing, Mr. Griffin was in the pantry, apparently there tying a string around the trigger of his gun and making arrangements to kill himself in there. Two of the children went into the kitchen for something, and heard their father, but they thought nothing of his presence in the pantry. Their unexpected visit to the kitchen, it is believed, upset his plans for the moment, and he followed them back into the living room. After a short stay there he explained to the family that he had the toothache and he was going out to doctor that tooth again. He went to the back porch and within a few seconds, the family heard the report of the gun. When members of the family reached him he was dead.

Mr. Griffin, 53 years old, was the son of Mr. Simon D. Griffin and wife, Martha Stallings Griffin, two of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of this section. He was born and reared in Griffins Township, and was recognized as a good farmer, intelligent in all his acts, and a very steady, reliable and quiet man. He met his obligations promptly, and possessed a good farm and an ideal home. The friendship of his fellowman was always valued by him, and he found happiness in doing for others and his family.

Besides his parents, he leaves his wife, the former Miss Mary Eliza Roberson, and four children, Lester J. Griffin, of R. F. D. 1, Jamesville; Clarence Griffin, a promising young student in the University of North Carolina; Leona and Elvin Griffin. He also leaves six brothers, Messrs. Joseph S., John H., S. Claude, David T., Ira F., and George C. Griffin, and one sister, Mrs. Lydia Roberson, all of this county.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. W. B. Harrington and Ephraim Peel, with a large number of relatives and friends present. Interment was in the Tice Cemetery in Griffins Township.

Cars Damaged In Wreck Here Last Saturday Night

The running gear on Mr. Bill Bland's Ford sedan and that on a Ford roadster belonging to a colored man named Price was wrecked last Saturday night, when the two machines crashed on Houghton Street just this side of the Holiness church. No one was hurt.

COUNTY QUOTAS

Believing, and probably correctly so, that the poundage allotment made this county by the government is too low, many farmers are of the opinion that other counties are commanding a more advantageous position in the tobacco reduction program. Below are offered comparisons of poundage allotments in several counties in this section:

	1931	1932	1933
Martin	735	641	827
Bertie	733	660	820
Pitt	736	645	828
Washington	637	601	690
Halifax	698	638	820
Edgecombe	745	668	842

These figures prove allotments are in line as far as this county is concerned, and it is upon them that the reduction program is being handled.

EXTEND TIME IN MAKING LOANS

Applications for Emergency Loans Will Not Be Received After May 15

According to information received here this week from Homer Peele, regional manager of the Emergency Loan Office in Washington, D. C., the period during which applications for loans may be accepted has been officially extended from April 30 to May 15.

Under this extension of the closing date, the lending office will honor all applications that bear a postmark prior to midnight of May 15, 1934, it was explained.

If the office finds it necessary to return an application for correction or for additional information, and such application was originally received prior to midnight, May 15, it will be given due consideration when sent back to Washington, it was stated by Mr. Peele, a former Martin County man.

According to reports coming from the Martin office of the emergency lending agency, there are a few farmers scattered here and there who plan to apply for loans but are just waiting, apparently for no good reason at all. As a general rule, virtually the lending business of the emergency group is just about completed in this county, it is believed.

Nearly all the applications have been approved, and a large majority of the checks have already reached the hands of the borrowers.

CAR FIRED ON FROM AMBUSH

Young White Boy Barely Misses Troy Jenkins In Surprise Attack

Shooting from ambush, Arthur Nicholson, young white man living on the McGaskie road, near here, struck the car of Troy Jenkins there last Saturday night. One load of the gun-shot struck the left side of the hood, and a second discharge struck the body of the car, a few inches from the driver's seat, barely missing young Jenkins. No warrant had been issued in the case yesterday afternoon, it was learned.

Nicholson and Jenkins attended the show together here that night, and they rode around for a while before going to the home of Nicholson. Jenkins, a resident of Rocky Mount visiting in the Nicholson neighborhood, refused to make a trip to Tarboro at the suggestion of Nicholson, it was said. Angered by the refusal of Jenkins, the boy ran into the house and got a gun, firing two loads of shot into the car as Jenkins drove away, according to reports heard here yesterday. Nicholson is 21 years of age.

Announce Cotton Quotas In the County This Week

Cotton quotas have been assigned this county and will be announced following the return of Agent T. B. Brandon from Raleigh today, it is understood. The growers will be asked to call at the office of the agent within the next day or two to complete the reduction program, it was announced. There are about 620 farmers signing contracts and about 500 others who have less than five acres, but who plan to cooperate in the movement, it is understood.

MANY DISSATISFIED WITH TOBACCO ALLOTMENTS

ALL TEACHERS AT JAMESVILLE ARE REELECTED

School There Completing One of Most Successful Terms in Its History

Recognizing the current term as one of the most successful in the history of the school, the Jamesville committee recently re-elected everyone of its teachers for the 1934-35 term, it was unofficially announced yesterday. The re-elections were made by unanimous decisions, it is understood. The faculty appointments were made at a called meeting of the school committee.

The names of the teachers and their assigned grades:

- Grade 1-A—Miss Opal Brown, of Jamesville.
- Grade 1-B—Miss Emily Smithwick, of Windsor.
- Grade 2—Miss Fannie Latham Martin, of Jamesville.
- Grade 3—Mrs. Varo H. Davenport, of Jamesville.
- Grade 4—Miss Margaret Everett, of Robersonville.
- Grade 5—Miss Louise Roebuck, of Robersonville.
- Grade 6—Miss Rachel Godwin, of Conetoe.
- Grade 7—C. B. Martin, of Jamesville.

High School

Math and French—Miss Roslyn Satterwhite, of Henderson.

English—Miss Annie V. Horner, of Hope Mills.

Science and coach of athletics—J. T. Uzzle, of Wilson Mills.

History and principalship—A. L. Pollock, of Jamesville.

Other committees in the county are holding meetings this week when the selection of faculties will be considered, it is understood.

PASTOR TELLS OF OLD TIMES

J. R. Potts Recalls Local Happenings of Fifty Years Ago

Rev. J. R. Potts, telegraph operator here for two years more than 50 years ago, recalled a few interesting happenings while on a visit here from Ahoskie last week.

Coming here from Washington, N. C., in 1882, Mr. Potts found his duties in the telegraph office very light, and in his spare time he organized the first real baseball team in the town. Asa T. Crawford, W. Henry Crawford, J. R. Roberson, L. Thrower, Frank Martin, Dennis Biggs and Harry Stubbs were members of the team, he said.

The minister recalled teaching Mr. W. A. Ellison, now of Belhaven telegraph. Mr. Ellison later trained a half score operators. After leaving here Mr. Potts located in Tarboro, where he handled the Associated Press news, marrying there in 1889. He later went to Richmond as manager of the Associated Press. From there he went to Knoxville, Augusta, Athens and Columbus, Ga. At the age of 55 he began preaching. During the past 11 years he has been doing evangelistic work for the Presbyterian church. He has been preaching in the recently constructed Presbyterian chapel in Poplar Point Township.

Start Transplanting Crop In the County This Week

While many farmers are ready to start transplanting their tobacco crop, the work has not actually been started in this immediate section, as far as it could be learned today. Most of the farmers were busy discussing the tobacco contracts, having little or no time to transplant their crops.

Reports from the Wilson section yesterday stated the transplanting work was started there that morning.

The weather has been unusually cool for transplanting, and the plants have not developed very rapidly during the past few days, it was said. However, transplanting will have been started on many farms before the week is spent.

Season for Inland Fishing Is Closed Until June 10th

The season for inland fishing closed today until June 10. While the law makes fishing illegal, there are exceptions in most of the counties in this section of the State, where fish may be taken on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays of each week during the "closed" period.

Some Facts and Figures

When the tobacco reduction program was inaugurated several months ago, the government went to several sources to establish a base for handling the movement. It is the opinion that the base or allotted poundage is too low, but the base applies throughout the State, and if there had been no discrepancy growing out of false statements advanced by some of the growers themselves, the facts established by the government would have worked a hardship on no one, it is believed.

The allotments by the government and the claims by farmers are as follows:

	Acres	Pounds
Claimed by Farmers in 1931	15,291	14,353,333
Allotted by Government in 1931	12,840	9,437,400
Difference in Claims and Allotments	2,451	4,915,933
Claimed by Farmers in 1932	10,880	9,545,857
Allotted by Government in 1932	9,700	6,217,700
Difference in Claims and Allotments	1,180	3,328,157
Claimed by Farmers in 1933	15,288	14,083,204
Allotted by Government in 1933	14,700	12,156,900
Difference in Claims and Allotments	588	1,926,304

When the figures met, the farmers were claiming 37,982,347 pounds against the government allotment for the three years of 27,812,000 pounds. There was a difference in acreage of 4,219 units. Based on the three-year contract option, Martin farmers are entitled to plant 8,923 acres of tobacco this year, and will be allowed to sell without penalty 6,489,477 pounds, it is understood.

SEVERAL MEN ARE ARRESTED

Unusual Spurt in Criminal Activities Reported in the County Over Weekend

County officers had a busy time during the past week-end when they jailed eight people for alleged violations of the various laws. Other than a housebreaking charge brought against Mayo Andrews, colored, of Robersonville, the charges appear to be of no serious consequence.

Five of those arrested and placed in jail were in a fighting mood during Saturday night, the officers jailing Edgar Parker, Roosevelt Parker, Arthur Daniel, and Lena Coburn, colored, and Walter Godard, white, for alleged assaults.

J. N. Simpson was jailed on a fornication and adultery charge.

Mayo Andrews is being held on a housebreaking charge.

Sadie Coburn was jailed on a fornication and adultery charge.

The cases have not been set for trial, but hearings will be held at the convenience of witnesses and the court it is understood.

Williamston Wins From Edenton Team 8 To 1

Williamston's high school nine struck its stride last Friday afternoon, when Edenton was defeated by an 8 to 1 count on the high school diamond here. Behind the stellar pitching of Matthews, the locals played one of their best games of the season.

Yesterday afternoon, the Chowan boys reversed the order and won from Coach Peters' boys by a count of 5 to 3. Matthews, working for the locals, allowed only six hits. Errors in the seventh cost Williamston the game. At that point, Williamston was leading 3 to 2, but several errors upset the situation.

Owners Asked To Keep Autos Off Ball Diamond

During the past few days, local automobile owners have been driving on the baseball diamond here, doing much damage to the grounds. To fence the field much expense would be incurred, so an appeal is made to drivers to keep their cars on the side lines. The request also applies to couples using the diamond and baseball field for a proving ground and courting.

Woman's Club To Hold Meeting Thursday at 3:30

The Woman's Club will meet on Thursday, May 3rd, at 3:30 p. m., in the club rooms. All members are requested to attend.

Time for Listing Property for Taxation Has Expired

Time for listing property for taxation expired yesterday, several of the list-takers remaining on the job today to complete the few odds and ends, it was stated.

About one-fourth of the owners in this district has not listed, it was learned today. It could not be learned, however, whether a penalty would be placed in effect or not, or just how the remainder of the world will be handled.

SEINES ARE PUT BACK IN RIVER

Jamesville Fishery Reports Fair-sized Catches All Day Monday

After remaining inactive during a greater part of the season, the seines were placed in operation at Jamesville yesterday morning. Reports stated that herring catches varying from two to three thousand were made throughout the day, that few of the larger fish were being taken. However, rock are expected to run in larger numbers shortly.

The fisheries will operate through May 10, and probably longer, depending upon the size of the catches and an extension of the season, it was learned today.

Fishing with small nets at this point was reported not so good today. However, record catches were reported last Saturday, when the herring started coming out of the swamps with the receding waters. Located at the other end of the river bridge, one man is said to have dipped up 186 herring in four minutes with a net hardly larger than a water bucket. Several thousand of the fish were caught there during the day. Individual fishermen reported catches as large as 16,000 for the day, it was said.

Operetta by Local Primary Children Is Well Received

Staged by the first five grades in the local school last Friday evening, the operetta, "Little Red Riding Hood," was a marked success. The event was witnessed by a packed auditorium, and to the enjoyment of all.

The sixth and seventh grade children will appear in the next closing event, an operetta, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," Friday evening of this week at 8 o'clock.

Club Leaders to Meet Here Tomorrow Morning at 10:30

Food and nutrition leaders in all home demonstration clubs are urged to attend the final leaders' school which will be held in the home agent's office Wednesday morning, beginning at 10:30. This meeting will be in charge of Miss Mary E. Thomas, extension nutritionist. The demonstration will be with summer vegetables. This will be an all-day meeting and all leaders are asked to bring their lunch.

Convict Two for Violation of Internal Revenue Laws

For the first time in a number of years, Martin County did not have a criminal case in the Federal Court, convening this week in Washington. One or two minor civil cases from this county are scheduled for trial there this week.

Two defendants from Edgecombe County were tried for violating the internal revenue laws, and were sentenced to 18 months in the penitentiary at Atlanta.

Regular Prayer Service at the Presbyterian Church

The regular mid-week prayer meeting will be held at the Presbyterian church Wednesday night at 8 p. m. You are cordially invited to attend these services.

Drastic Reductions Made in Both Pounds and Acreages

J. R. ROGERSON DIED SATURDAY

Funeral for High Respected Bear Grass Farmer Held Sunday Afternoon

John R. Rogerson, highly respected farmer of Bear Grass Township, died at his home near the Old Mill Inn, last Saturday about noon, following a stroke of apoplexy early that morning. Mr. Rogerson, suffering with unusually high blood pressure, continued his activities right on, and was working in a field near the home at 6 o'clock Saturday morning when he fell. Members of the family found him a few minutes after he suffered the stroke, and removed him to the house, but he never regained consciousness.

The son of the late Mr. and Mrs. King H. Rogerson, he was born in this county 61 years ago. He married Miss Nora M. Hadley, who with two sons, Jesse D. and Weeks B. Rogerson, survives. He also leaves one half-sister, Mrs. S. B. Lilley, of Williamston Route 1, and three half-brothers, Messrs. Alonzo Rogerson, of Williamston R. F. D. 1; Joshua Rogerson, of Speed; and Nicholas Rogerson, of Beaufort County.

Mr. Rogerson was known as a quiet and unassuming gentleman. He was recognized as a good man, a thoughtful and accommodating neighbor. Although he had never enjoyed very many advantages in life, he worked hard and made a good living, meeting his obligations as he made them and in a fair and square way.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Interment followed in the Rogerson burial ground, near Macedonia church, in Bear Grass Township.

LARGE CROWD HEARS BISHOP

Confirms Class of Five In Church of the Advent Sunday Morning

A record congregation gathered at the Church of the Advent here Sunday morning to hear the Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Darst, Bishop of East Carolina. In addition to a full attendance of the local Episcopal church, friends from other churches in town and a number of friends from surrounding towns swelled the congregation. Bishop Darst preached a strong sermon on the subject, "Not the power without but the weakness within that destroys."

At the morning service, five persons were confirmed. They were, Jack Baker Saunders, Billy Biggs, Dick Dunn, James Robert Everett, Jr., and Jack Roberson. Mrs. G. H. Bryant, an invalid, was confirmed Saturday afternoon in her sick room in the presence of several friends.

On last Friday evening more than fifty members of the Church of the Advent gathered at the Woman's club for a supper at which the Bishop was the guest. After the supper Bishop Darst made a short talk regarding the opportunity of the church.

Committee Plans Program for Educational Meeting

Meeting in the courthouse here last Saturday morning at 11 o'clock, a committee of educators formulated a program for the meeting of the north-eastern district of the North Carolina Educational Association, to be held in Elizabeth City the 16th and 17th of this month. The program will be announced later.

The names of the program committee attending the meeting Saturday are as follows: Mrs. William Adams, of Four Oaks; Miss Hancock, of New Bern; Miss Crowder, of Elm City; Miss Ricks, of Rocky Mount; Mr. J. W. Norman, of Plymouth; Mr. H. M. Ainsley, of Oak City; and Mr. Jule B. Warren, secretary of the state association.

Fender Torn from Cobb's Ford on Roanoke Bridge

A rear fender on "Monk" Cobb's new Ford was torn off last Sunday when an Elizabeth City motorist crashed into the car on the river bridge here last Sunday. No one was hurt, and the visiting motorist agreed to repair the damage.

SOME GROWERS ARE TEARING UP CONTRACTS

Marked Variations Caused by False Claims In Many Cases, It Is Believed

Keen disappointment was registered with the office of the county agent this week following the assignment of tobacco production quotas to the individual farmers, a few farmers going so far as to tear up their contracts and openly protest the reduction made in their production quotas. The entire movement is in a precarious condition at the present, but despite the disappointment it is believed the reduction program will go through with few, if any, changes.

That the final production quotas assigned will effect hardships upon some farmers is certain, according to protests made by large numbers this week. However, the government has not reduced the total acreage and the total poundage for this county any more than the reduction agreement provided. It is apparent, however, that there were some errors made in preparing the contracts, and it is deeply regretted that corrections are not probable, if possible. And there is no doubt but that some farmers have better contracts than others, neighboring farmers in several cases reporting discrepancies as great as 500 pounds to the acre.

There are two main reasons for these discrepancies, the authorities say, and in advancing one cause it was clearly explained that no reflection is to be cast upon the farmer who possesses a contract favoring him with a large poundage and his neighboring farmer a comparatively small poundage. The difference is possible, and a careful survey of the contracts will prove the basis for the particular difference. A farmer who accepted a contract upon the three-year period, 1931, 1932, and 1933, and did not verify his acreage and poundage claims with actual records apparently is the one "holding the bag," so to speak just now. He took a horizontal reduction in 1931 of 12 per cent in acreage and 22 per cent in pounds. In 1932 he took a 2 per cent reduction in acres and a 21 per cent reduction in pounds. Last year, the farmer who did not substantiate his claims by presenting warehouse sales slips, took no reduction in acres but his poundage was cut 26 per cent. The acreage claimed for 1933 was only 588 units greater than the allotment, and the horizontal reduction for that year was not applied in this county. The large reduction for the 1933 poundage was due because many farmers presented their sales bills, leaving the others who did not present their bills to carry the reduction burden.

The next explanation has to do with the unscrupulous lying that was advanced on a large scale. Instead of robbing the government when farmers falsified their claims, those farmers, it is now clearly seen, were robbing their neighbor farmers who told the truth. The task of telling who was telling the truth was beyond the power of those handling the contracts, but when the contracts went in the government found in 1931 that the acreage was 2,461 units greater than was in actual production, and the poundage heavier by nearly five million. It has been three years since the 1931 crop was sold, and apparently many farmers could not remember very well. In 1932 there were 9,700 acres of tobacco in cultivation, producing a crop of 6,217,700 pounds. The farmers claimed 10,880 acres and 9,545,857 pounds, or 1,180 acres and 3,328,157 pounds more than were actually produced. Last year the poundage went over by nearly two million pounds, and to take care of the artificial boost, those farmers who failed to verify their claims with sales slips had to take the bitter medicine, and some of the reductions are bitter, very bitter.

A few neighbors reported discrepancies, but many refused to talk when asked, and while they told the truth others were reaping the fat of the contracts. So far, no one has advanced a way to correct the gross injustice perpetrated by false claims. The reduction basis was established by the government from several different sources, it is understood. One of the sources of information probably was the revenue end, where taxes on tobacco are paid. The authorities

(Continued on the back page)