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# THE ENTERPRISE

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VOLUME XL—NUMBER 38

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, May 11, 1937

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## Martins Take Over Top Roost in Loop After Four Games

### League Offering Decidedly Better Brand Baseball Than Many Expected

Playing a two-game series each with Tarboro and Snow Hill, Art Hauger's Martins last Sunday entered an undisputed claim to top position in the Coastal Plain standings, Goldsboro and Ayden following closely with only 1-2 game heading off their claims to top place. Williamston and Tarboro got out of step in the league march Friday, when the two teams battled 11 innings to a 6-all tie in Tarboro, and the Martins, by a scant margin, kept their slate clean with 3 wins, a tie game, but no losses.

While it is too early in the season to give the teams anything like an unofficial rating, developments so far show that the league is offering a better brand of ball than was expected by many. The Williamston club is showing up unusually well, and, while there may be some changes effected during the next few days, it is apparent that Skipper Hauger has a working organization already at his disposal that will furnish competition to any club in the circuit. Considerable power is being shown at the bat these days, giving the team, with its able pitching staff, a double-edged weapon against invaders. Fielding activities, though not disappointing from the start, are showing improvement as the season progresses.

Last Saturday afternoon it was Charlie Stevens' day, the Browns' recruit annexing honors when he hit safely 4 out of 5 times against Snow Hill, one of the blows being for the circuit. Grant Jefferson, relieving Gardner in the second, featured with his work on the mound and figure prominent in the 7-5 win. Lakotas, Deim and Earp, the trio holding down second, third and short territory, also figured with two hits each in the 15-hit attack against three visiting pitchers. Villeplique, with two official trips at bat, turned in a per centage of 500.

"Snake" Henry's Tarboro Combs offered some stiff opposition in the Edgecombe capital last Friday before a record opening-day crowd for that club, and the Martins were contented to come home with a 6-6 tie. It was an 11-inning contest, and Art Hauger divided the pitching work. Strunk started and held the Combs to 1 hit until the third, when a pass, 4 hits and 2 errors netted 4 runs. He was relieved by Fuller in the fourth, after 2 runs came in, and Wade took over in the sixth to work until dark. Lakotas, Sharkey, Villeplique and Strunk single in the third to register 2 runs for the Martins, and, in the sixth, the Martins made 2 walks, an error and a double by Stanley count for 3 tallies. Lakotas, drawing a walk in the seventh, scored the tying run without the support of a single hit. An error by Myers proved costly to the Combs in that frame.

Strunk, work on the mound against Snow Hill over in Greene County Sunday, was hit freely but kept enough in reserve to bear down in the clutches, and he and his teammates brought home an 8-4 victory, giving the Martins the top roost. McKay, going in for Ledbetter following a little "disturbance" warmed things up with his .667 hitting and took batting honors for the day with a single and double in three trips. Sharkey and Deim hit safely twice each to boost the Martins' total hits to 11.

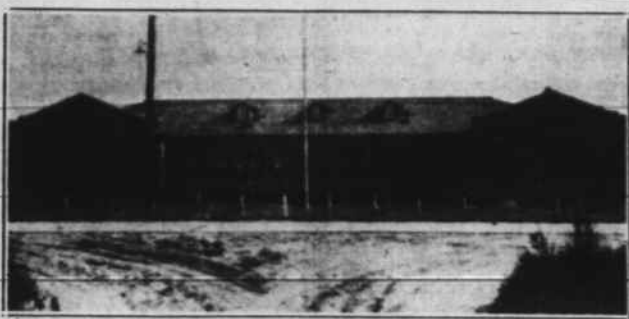
## Negro Held on Murder Charge

Richard Ewell, young colored man was formally charged by Justice J. L. Hassell at a preliminary hearing last Friday with murder in the second degree in the case growing out of the killing of C. B. Everett, also colored, near here Sunday before last. The trial justice ruled that the evidence offered would not justify a first-degree murder charge, but that there was probable cause to maintain the lesser charge. Bond in the sum of \$1,500 was required. Unable to raise that amount, Ewell was returned to the county jail, where he awaits trial in the Martin County Superior Court convening here the third Monday in next month.

### Revival in Local Church Attracts Large Crowds

Large crowds are attending the revival services that are being held nightly in the Pentecostal Holiness church here, and the undertaking is meeting with marked success. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## FINALS PROGRAM AT EVERETTS THURSDAY



Twenty-one girls and boys are completing their work in the Everetts School this week and will receive their certificates of graduation at scheduled exercises Thursday morning, May 12.

## Several Hurt Last Saturday Night in Wreck Near Here

### Howard and Bryant Cherry, County Young Men, Are Victims of Accident

Several people were hurt, none seriously, and property damage estimated to exceed \$400 resulted when the old 1928 model Chevrolet car of Howard Cherry and a new Ford truck with a dump body crashed on the Windsor highway, near the end of the river fill, Saturday night about 11 o'clock. The car was headed for the junk heap right after the wreck, and it is estimated that repairs to the truck will run around \$400.

Howard Cherry, young white man of near here, and to use a thimble of near here, came out of the wreck with a 4-inch gash in the side of his head. Bryant Cherry suffered severe bruises and possible fractures of the hip and arm. John Beach, driver of the car, was bruised but not badly hurt. Perry Strickland, Powellsville man and driver of the truck, escaped with slight injuries, but Albert Lynch, a companion, suffered a 4-inch gash on the side of his head.

No explanation of the accident was offered, the drivers of the two machines stating that they did not know how it occurred, that they apparently sideswiped each other and a lot of twisting and turning followed. The drivers of the truck and car were said not to have been drinking.

## Mrs. Biggs Cox Dies At Home in Hassell Section Last Friday

### Interment Made In Family Plot at Ayden Sunday Afternoon

Mrs. Biggs Cox, highly respected and greatly beloved woman of the Hassell section, died at her home there last Friday afternoon following an illness of two weeks. She had been in failing health for several months, but was able to be up and visit with her children until about two weeks ago, when she was forced to her bed.

The daughter of the late Thomas and Mima Hart, prominent family of Pitt County, Mrs. Cox was born near Ayden 67 years ago, where she grew up and married while a young woman. When 13 years old, she joined the Christian church in Ayden, and was a loyal member of that faith until her death, or for more than half a century. In the latter part of 1915 she moved with her family to this county and made her home near Hassell, where she was soon recognized as a good neighbor and loyal friend, a good woman who found peace and joy in her kindly acts for others. Although she reared a large family of her own, she found time to help others and to hold her home open to the needy.

Eleven children, all of whom are now living, were born to the union, and in addition to caring for and rearing her own children, she adopted a niece, Miss Louise Cox, now of Speed, and took her into the home as one of her own children. Mr. Cox died about three years ago, and she was the last member of the immediate Hart family. The names of the children are Mrs. Zylphia McLawhorn and Mrs. Zula McLawhorn, both of Ayden; Mrs. Zedie Cannon, of Kenansville; Mrs. Zenobia Haislip, wife of County Commissioner R. A. Haislip; Messrs. Zadock Cox, of Speed; Zeber Cox, of Maclefield; George Cox, of Winterville; Rev. Thad Cox, of West Point, Va.; Lee and Desmond Cox, of Hassell; and Gaston Cox, of Ayden.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. C. B. Mashburn, of Farmville, a former pastor of the family. Interment was in the family plot in the Ayden cemetery.

## Transplanting Gets Started on Farms of County This Week

### Delayed by Blue Mold Damage, Work Goes Forward Slowly

Delayed by blue mold damage to their plants, Martin County farmers are starting the transplanting of their tobacco crops this week, reports stating that the work can be expected to proceed very slowly and continue nearly to June. Their beds just beginning to "grow out" of the blue mold, farmers are getting just enough plants, in most cases, to fill a few rows at the time. Half dozen or so farmers have completed the transplanting work, but it will be the latter part of next week before the task will be nearing completion, and weather conditions will have to be very favorable if the transplanting progresses at that rate.

### Reports state that farmers on the border have transplanted their crop, and that there is an increase in acreage there. While a decrease is expected here, it is impossible to predict with any degree of accuracy the extent of the decrease. Some farmers will curtail their acreage if they find it very difficult to get plants, but others will wander over the belt and pay fancy prices for plants that they may get their acreages even if they are until early June doing it.

No cases of plant stealing have been reported in this section, but in some counties it is said that rogues have invaded the fields and stolen plants already transplanted. In other sections, farmers are said to be guarding their plant beds with shot guns.

In this immediate territory, the plants are fast adding a green color, but they are growing unusually slow, the severity of the blue mold attack and cool nights being cited as the main reasons for the slow plant growth.

## Several Fights in "Little Chicago"

County and town police forces were combined last Saturday night to handle disturbances on lower East Main Street, a section that is generally referred to in police circles as "Little Chicago." So complete was one assault that the undertaker was called to the scene, but the victim rallied in time to tell his rescuers that he thought there was a chance of recovery for him.

The first distress call was received about 7 o'clock Saturday night, when Janie, George and Leona Ruffin are alleged to have attacked Lera Mitchell. No great damage was done, and the case is now before the courts.

An hour later Abram Jones assaulted James Allen Moore with some kind of weapon, and it was thought at first that the victim was dead or dying. Jones is out under bond pending trial of the case.

Two hours later James Harris attacked Collis Bryant, colored man from New York, with a pocket knife. The assault left Bryant with one of his ears half gone.

Sunday night D. D. Hill assaulted Beatrice Rogers and Hester Williams with his fists. The damage was minor, reports stated.

All the participants were colored, and several of the disturbances were directly or indirectly caused by drinking, it was learned from one of the four officers participating in the round-ups. Officers Gurganus and Ramey, of the town force, and Sheriff Roebuck and Deputy Haislip, of the county force, made the arrests.

## Bertie Court Begins Trial of \$20,000 Suit

The trial of a \$20,000 damage suit brought by Mary C. Dail, administratrix, against Bidroughs and Daniels and T. Jarvis Griggs, as a result of the death of Glenwood F. Capehart, young white man, is to get underway in the Bertie County Superior Court today.

Capehart, young Bertie white boy, was killed when the car in which he was riding and a truck belonging to Daniels and Burroughs, fish-dealers of Belhaven, crashed on the Williamston and Washington highway in this county the 17th of last May. Capehart was killed instantly when the two machines crashed during a heavy fog early on Sunday morning a year ago next Monday.

Griggs, charged with manslaughter, was found not guilty in the Martin County Superior Court last June, the judge directing a verdict of not guilty in the case.

## FARM LIFE SCHOOL CLOSES TERM FRIDAY

### Class-day exercises Thursday evening of this week at 8 o'clock, followed by the commencement address the following evening at the same hour mark the close of the first term for the Farm Life School in its enlarged building. Nine boys and girls are graduating there.

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## School Closings Now Underway in County



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## YOUNGSTER STARS



Charlie Stevens, Californian sent here by the Browns for aging and to hold down first base for the Martins, is playing an able game in that position, but last Saturday his batting—four for five, including one homer—featured the play in a game with Snow Hill.

## Number Teachers in County Schools Are Resigning Positions

### Expecting Difficult Task in Filling Positions in the Short-term Schools

Unofficial reports this week indicate that many teachers in the Martin County schools are offering their resignations, a number of them stating that they planned to enter other professions, while others are planning to locate in other schools.

It was learned this week that six teachers in the Bear Grass school had resigned, that at least two and possibly more in the Williamston plant, four or more at Oak City, and at least two in the Everetts school were planning to change their teaching positions or quit the profession. No official reports have come from the several local committees, but it is quite apparent that the personnel in the county school facilities next term will be considerably different from that this year.

Many city and county schools have voted the ninth month, and naturally positions in those plants will receive first consideration by applicants, and it appears now that the election of teachers will be made with much difficulty to the positions made vacant by the numerous resignations in this county. "We have considered several applications and sought out available teachers, and we have learned that good teachers will be hard to find for this coming term," one principal in the county said yesterday.

## No Masonic Meeting To Be Held Here Tonight

James C. Manning, master, announced this morning that there would be no meeting of Skewarkee Lodge tonight in the lodge hall, due to the commencement exercises being scheduled at the same time in the high school building.

## John A. Griffin Ends Life at His Home in Griffins Township

### Prominent Citizen and One Of County's Leading Farmers

John A. Griffin, prominent county citizen and a leading farmer, was found dead late yesterday afternoon at his home in Griffins Township, the victim of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The body was found on a small bed of leaves under a tree just back of an outbuilding about 6 o'clock by his young son, a senior in high school. Mr. Griffin is believed to have ended his life about 3 o'clock and death was instantaneous. News of the tragic act came as a decided shock to the family and his many friends in the community and here, where he was well known and highly respected as an upright and progressive citizen.

## All Except Two Will End Work for Term Before Next Week

### Thad Eure Delivers Finals Address in Auditorium Here This Evening

All Martin County schools, with the exception of those in the Oak City district, will have closed the 1936-37 term by the end of this week. The colored schools completed the term last week, and finals programs are being held here this evening and at Gold Point and Hassell Thursday. Jamesville, Farm Life and Robersonville will hold their commencement exercises on Friday of this week, the finals programs at Hamilton and Oak City will be held on Friday of next week. Bear Grass, the first school in the county to close, completed the term last Friday.

Reports are not yet complete, but it is understood that the six high schools in the county are graduating about the same number of young boys and girls as they did last term. Commencement events held in several schools, including the annual sermon in the high school building here last Sunday morning, have been well attended and new attendance records are likely to be established as the larger schools hold their final events this week and next.

Rev. E. F. Moseley, local Episcopal minister, delivered an able sermon to the 25 members of the local senior class in the high school auditorium here last Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

## Everetts School Finals Thursday

Class-day exercises Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock and the graduation program at 11 the following morning will mark the close of a successful term for the Everetts school. Principal H. B. Russell announced today. Large crowds are expected for the two programs, the school man stating that the house was filled for the operetta by the primary grades sometime ago.

The class-day exercises Wednesday night will be in the form of a lawn party, the program following the activities of each of the graduates.

## Brown Breaks Into Cardinals Line-Up

Jimmie Brown, the Jamesville boy is holding his own in the big league line-up of the St. Louis Cards. The young man, appearing in the game for several days straight, featured a contest a day or two ago with a homer and two singles. In his first game he went in as a pinch hitter and delivered.

Hack Gakylord, another boy from Jamesville, is figuring in a number of wins up at Reidsville. Only a few days ago he and Herb Leary, both Martin-trained, won a game all by themselves.

Dick Cherry, of Everetts, is holding a pitching record with Reidsville to date, and it is beginning to appear that the diamond here is a right good training lot, as all these boys romped around on it at one time or another, several of them no longer than last season.

## John A. Griffin Ends Life at His Home in Griffins Township

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Said to have been brooding much of late over his health, Mr. Griffin, however, had closely guarded any intention to end his life. His home life was surrounded by understanding and pleasantness and, although he had plenty, he was downcast at times and seemed to worry unnecessarily over his health and the condition of his crops, possibly.

The family was away visiting relatives and short before 3 o'clock Mr. Griffin went to the home of Mr. Asa Griffin, a near-by neighbor, and borrowed a gunshell. He explained that he wanted to shoot a rabbit, and the mission of his visit was given little attention. The report of the gun was heard a few minutes later. The shot was fired into his body just below the chest and at close range. Part of the clothing was burned and death was apparently without a struggle.

Mr. Griffin, 53 years old last September 12, was born and reared in Griffins Township. He married there and is survived by his widow and four children, LeRoy, Leslie, Thurman and Mary Clyde, all of Griffins Township. He was the son of Mr. Simon Daniel Griffin, one of Griffins Township's finest and oldest gentlemen. Besides his immediate family and his father, he leaves five brothers, Messrs. Joseph, S. C., Ira, David and George Griffin, and one sister, Mrs. Ludie Roberson, all of this county.

Mr. Griffin was one of the county's most successful farmers. He worked hard, valued the trust behind his obligations, and was recognized as an upright and valuable citizen in his home, community and county.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at 3 o'clock from the late home. Interment will follow in the Tice Cemetery at Hayes Swamp in Griffins Township. Mr. Griffin's death was the second untimely one in the family, his brother, Jesse Griffin, having died suddenly three years ago the 29th of last month.

## Aerial Maps To Be Made of Farm Lands In Parts of County

### Department of Agriculture Plans This Method as Check on Compliance

Substantial portions of Martin County farmlands will be mapped from airplanes this coming season in checking compliance in the soil conservation program, according to unofficial information received here this week. The United States Department of Agriculture is receiving bids for the work, and contracts will possibly be let in ample time for the work to get underway within the near future.

The authorities plan to make complete aerial surveys in a number of counties, but in Martin only the upper portion will be mapped, it is understood.

The department announced this week that aerial maps, considered the most effective way of determining compliance, will be made of 250,000 square miles of farm land, including 1,870 square miles in North Carolina. These maps, which show distinctly every crop and every feature of a farm, will bring to 400,000 square miles the total amount of farm land in the country. The total farm land is approximately 1,650,000 square miles.

## Local Firemen Receive Call Sunday Afternoon

The local fire company was called out Sunday afternoon at 4:20 to extinguish a trash fire in the town trash dump just off Dinah's Hill on East Main Street.