

Watch the Label on Your Paper, as It Carries the Date Your Subscription Expires.

THE ENTERPRISE

Advertisements Will Find Our Columns a Labyrinth to Over 1,000 Homes of Martin County.

VOLUME XL—NUMBER 77

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, September 24, 1937.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Special Program For Farmers At Fair On Wednesday, Oct. 6

Williamston Fair to Present Best Entertainment Ever Witnessed Locally

A special program for farmers of Martin and surrounding counties will be presented at the Williamston Fair on Wednesday, October 6, Resident Manager Harvey Walker announced today.

The fair will be held at Williamston October 5-9, with some of the features this section has witnessed in a local exposition.

R. S. Everett will be in charge of the Farmers Day program, and efforts are underway to secure a member of the North Carolina Congressional delegation to address the thousands of rural folks expected on Wednesday of fair week. Two harness races will be run Wednesday, with some of the nation's speediest trotters and pacers taking part. W. L. McDonald of Rocky Mount will be the official starter. Two additional horse races will be run on Thursday, which will be Martin County Day.

Agricultural exhibits, to which a big livestock show has been added this year, will be in charge of T. B. Brandon, Martin County farm agent. Agricultural premiums will total \$2,500, with all of the prize money limited strictly to producers in Martin and adjacent counties. Manager Walker explained that this policy eliminated the stiff competition of professional exhibitors who tour fair circuits over the nation. Premium books have been mailed at a rapid rate, indicating record-breaking interest in the agricultural angle of the fair, he said.

Tuesday, Oct. 5, first day of the fair, has been set aside as Children's Day, and all youngsters in Martin and adjoining counties will be admitted free to the fairgrounds until 4:30 p. m.

Outstanding entertainment features have been secured for the Williamston Fair by Manager Walker through the cooperation of General Manager Norman Y. Chambliss of Rocky Mount. These include a return engagement of Lucky Teter and his Hell Drivers on Friday, Oct. 8, and the colorful Continental Revue before the grandstand each night.

Number County Men To Serve On Jury

Fifteen Martin County men were recently drawn to serve as jurors in the federal court convening in Washington on Monday, October 4. This county is believed to be furnishing about the largest number of jurors as any in the district. A short session of only three days is planned, but reports state that a fairly large docket will be placed before the court for consideration.

W. J. Jones, Parmele; Jesse Rawls, Williamston; Marriot Britt, Williamston; S. H. Mobley, Williamston; Wade E. Vick, Robersonville; Harry Everett, Robersonville; J. Daniel Biggs, Williamston; John A. Manning, Williamston; Van G. Taylor, Everett; Geo. A. Peel, Williamston; David Grimes, Robersonville; James F. Terry, Robersonville; Chas. L. Daniel, Williamston; Jesse Keel, Everett; and John W. Manning, Williamston.

Criminal cases will be called by Judge Meekins on Monday, and Tuesday and Wednesday will be spent hearing civil actions.

To Enforce Health Laws At All Fairs

"Regulations, based on State hotel and cafe laws and governing the handling of food, will be enforced at all county fairs this fall by the State Board of Health," District Sanitarian Albert Worth Petty said today. Included in the regulations will be hand-washing facilities, health cards, fly control methods, waste disposal, the inspector pointing out these must be met for handling food, including hot dogs and hamburgers. No person will be allowed to open a booth unless these requirements are met, the inspector warning that any and all violators of the law would be prosecuted.

"The State Board of Health, however, does not wish to work a hardship on any one," Mr. Petty pointing out that he will be glad to offer any advice as to minimum requirements for those wishing to handle food at the fairs. Persons interested should contact the district sanitarian for the State Board of Health at his office on the second floor of Williamston's town hall each Saturday morning and on most any afternoon.

Williamston Tobacco Market Sets New High Price Record

New high price records for the season were established on the Williamston Tobacco Market this week as sales went beyond the four-million-pound mark and to almost equal sales of last season.

Authentic reports supported by statements coming direct from the growers themselves clearly show that prices on the Williamston market this week are the best of the season to date. Everyone possessing tobaccos of any quality are more than pleased. Averages in many cases are exceeding forty cents, and the prices are ranging above 50 cents. The advance adds encouragement to the outlook for

marketing during the next few days, at least.

To date, the market has sold approximately four and a quarter million pounds, and large sales are expected here next Monday. "Come early and avoid the rush," the warehousemen are advising their customers.

Reports received at noon indicated that the market had approximately 300,000 pounds of tobacco today, that a block would be missed by a matter of a few minutes.

More farmers are selling on the Williamston market than ever before and the reputation of the market for being one of the best in the belt continues to spread far and wide.

County Farmers' Vote Favors Potato Control

POTATO VOTE

Assistant County Agent J. F. Woodard will hold an Irish potato referendum in Hassell Saturday afternoon from 2 to 3:30 o'clock when any farmer meeting the requirements will have the opportunity to vote in favor or against having that crop included in the 1938 farm program.

Arrangements to hold the referendum were made when it was learned that many farmers failed to receive ballots that were to have been delivered through the mails last Saturday.

Finds Pocketbook

And Part of Money

The pocketbook lost by Miss Verdie Heath on the main street here early last Monday morning was recovered yesterday along with \$30 of the \$41.75 in the purse at the time it fell from the running board of Miss Heath's car.

Reading The Enterprise story of the loss, Mr. Jim Bowen Wednesday evening recalled seeing a colored man pick up a pocketbook two days before. He thought little of the man's find until he saw the account of the loss, and he reported to Sheriff C. B. Roebuck. The man's name wasn't known, but Sheriff Roebuck picked him up from the description offered by Mr. Bowen.

Frank Cross, colored man, admitted finding the pocketbook, and willingly surrendered it and that part of the money he had not spent. There is a possibility Cross will be prosecuted for concealing property found by him.

Sheriff Roebuck left this morning for Raleigh and will turn the purse over to Miss Heath who is working with the WPA there. Miss Heath's home is in Elizabeth City, and she was on her way to Raleigh about 5 o'clock last Monday morning when she stopped here to rearrange some baggage in the car and dropped the purse on the running board.

Infant of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Roberson Died Wednesday

Sarah Adeline, 2-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Roberson died at their home in the Cross Roads community of this county Wednesday of colitis. Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon and burial was in the family plot on the home farm.

District Employment Offices Experience Delay in Opening

For a short time, until the office equipment and furniture can be installed, the work of the Williamston branch offices of the N. C. State Employment Service, is being conducted from the Edenton district office headquarters, and service is being given to the counties of Martin, Beaufort, Washington, Hyde and Tyrrell, out of the office there, C. W. Bazemore, manager, said today.

The plan calls for the location of the Williamston offices in the town hall building here, and the personnel will be located here as soon as the set-up can be arranged, equipment installed, etc. C. W. Bazemore, manager of the Williamston branch, to serve the above named five counties, has been located at Edenton for the past week, and extension

Not One Ballot In Opposition During First Days of Vote

Both Producer and Consumer Would Benefit by Government Plan

Martin county farmers voting on the question of acreage control for Irish potatoes have registered an overwhelming sentiment in favor of the government program.

Approximately two-thirds of the farmers who are eligible to vote have done so and not a single vote has been cast in opposition to the proposal, Mr. T. B. Slade in the county agent's office, said today.

With similar sentiment reported in other counties of this section and throughout most potato growing areas of the country, it is expected that the necessary two-thirds vote required to put the plan into effect will be easily obtained.

If, as a result of this referendum, the Irish potato is made a basic commodity and given government aid like that available for cotton, peanuts, and tobacco, production will become more stable and both producer and consumer would benefit, government experts maintain.

Two factors enter into the price of potatoes, according to County Agent T. B. Brandon.

"First there is the supply available for sale; and second, the purchasing power of the consumers. The amount of demand is about the same from year to year.

"As a result, when production is excessive, a substantial portion of the crop is not needed for human consumption, and it is that excess which has a depressing effect on the entire potato market.

"Available figures show that both potato acreage and yield per acre fluctuate materially from year to year.

"But there is no doubt that the total crop produced is influenced to a great extent by variations in acreage. Therefore, some program for preventing substantial yearly fluctuations in acreage appears to be a promising method for bringing about greater stability.

"American potato growers have an outlet for from 360,000,000 to 370,000,000 bushels under present conditions.

"Reliable studies show that potato producers in the United States could expect to receive approximately \$75,000,000 more for a total crop (Continued on page six)

County Farm Group Plans Petition For Committee Hearing

To Support Their Appeal for a Crop Control Program Next Year

Their attention centered on the United States Agriculture Committee hearing in Winston-Salem in November, directors of the Martin County Farm Bureau Federation framed a petition for circulation throughout the county to support their appeal for a crop control program next year. Action taken by the group, led by Mr. Sam T. Everett, president of the farm organization in this county, was unanimously advanced at the meeting, the farm leaders pledging their support in seeing that the dirt farmer would be considered by "Cotton Ed" Smith's committee.

The petition: Considering the fact that the prices of major farm commodities are steadily declining while there is an equally steady increase in the prices of things which farmers must buy, and

Believing that a general, nationally-enacted and enforced farm program which includes parity of price for farm commodities, Ever Normal Granary, equitable distribution of bases and crop control for the avoidance of excessive surplus in all major commodities would be beneficial to agriculture directly and to business generally;

We, the undersigned farmers of Martin County, North Carolina, do hereby petition, request and urge the Senate Agricultural Committee, and through them all the members of the National Congress, that they use every effort to enact such a measure with control features and penalties at the earliest possible date and in ample time for its provisions to apply to the crop of 1938.

Members of the board of directors attending the Wednesday evening meeting are: S. T. Everett, J. Marion Griffin, E. C. Harrison, L. N. Hux, W. R. Everett, K. B. Etheridge, W. S. White, C. A. Roberson, C. L. Daniel and C. O. Moore.

The farm bureau is appealing for members, and it is hoped that hundreds of Martin farmers will offer their support of the organization. The petition, however, will receive farmers' names regardless of membership, it was stated. Secretary T. B. Slade stated this morning that many Martin farmers had already joined the bureau, but that hundreds of others are needed to assure the organization necessary support in its work of representing agriculture.

Grand Jury Report Filed With Court

Completing its work, the Martin County grand jury filed a report on its activities and went on Tuesday afternoon, making only two recommendations. A few school buses were found to be operating with inadequate brakes, and the jury members directed the authorities to have repairs made at once. The long-time leak in the county home cellar floor again attracted the attention of the jury who ordered repairs made.

All justices of the peace in the county had filed their reports and fines had been turned into the county treasurer. The county home, jail, county offices and prison camp were found in good condition, the jury pointed out in its report.

It is understood that the jury, headed by Mr. C. L. Nelson, of Hassell, found true bills in all the cases coming before it for consideration.

Young Roberson never broke his (Continued on Back Page)

Martin Teachers To Get Added \$1,000.00

Approximately \$11,025.40 will be paid the 106 teachers in the white schools of this county next Thursday, according to estimates offered by the office of the superintendent of schools here today. The estimates were based on unofficial figures, and a small variation can be expected. County school authorities have not been notified of the salary increases, and any delay in the delivery of the new salary schedule may hold pay checks back over the week-end.

The total salaries for white teachers in the schools of this county will be about \$1,900 greater than they were a year ago, it is estimated. Colored teachers will not receive their pay checks until about October 7 or 8, their schools having started a week after the white schools were opened.

Superior Court Clears Criminal Docket Early This Morning and Starts the Trial of Civil Actions

Mother And Son Get Long Prison Terms For Brutal Assault

Begin Sentences Today of Not Less Than 5, Not More Than 7 Years

Adjudged guilty by a Martin County Superior Court jury here last Tuesday evening at 6:20 o'clock, Mrs. Annie Roberson, wife of Jesse Ben Roberson, of Robersonville, and their 19-year-old son, George Ben Roberson, are being transferred to Raleigh today to start sentences of not less than 5 and not more than seven years. Sentence was imposed Wednesday afternoon at 3:15 o'clock by Judge Walter J. Bone who said in open court that the case was the hardest to come before him during his brief experience on the bench.

The trial, pathetic in its every detail, marked the close of one of the most brutal attacks reported in this county in a decade. Only the seriousness of the attack that nearly cost the life of the aged husband-father cleared the way for Judge Bone to perform his duty.

The State completed its evidence in the case Tuesday afternoon when insurance men explained that Mrs. Roberson had bargained for an insurance policy, and was eager to learn if the double indemnity clause would apply should her husband be killed or burned to death. It was also pointed out that the premiums were to be collected at a nearby tenant house and not at the Roberson home.

Attorney J. C. Smith addressed the jury for the defense, and Solicitor Gilliam demanded a verdict against both the mother and son. Judge Bone used a greater part of an hour in his charge to the jury. The case went to the jury at 5:10 Tuesday afternoon and the verdict was returned at 6:25. The court delayed passing judgment until the following afternoon.

Pathetic facts in the lives of the large family were cited in open court by Attorneys Smith and Justice Everett, of Greenville, when they addressed appealing pleas for mercy to the jurist. "Mrs. Roberson has given birth to 20 children in twenty-one years to the day, and her life has been hades on earth," Judge Smith said, the court spectators perking up their ears when he explained that three single births followed in a period of 24 months. The "startling" fact apparently had its weight with the audience. Seven of the children are now living, he explained to the court. The sanity of the defendants was questioned, and the plea suggesting possible insanity had its weight when the judge passed a conditional sentence.

"There's no criminality in the blood of this family," Attorney Justice Everett said in explaining that "the whole trouble is traceable to unfortunate circumstances. A challenge to society was advanced when he cited the atmosphere in which the youthful defendant had been reared, adding, "You can't expect much of a boy reared under those conditions." He appealed for a protective sentence, the mother weeping as the lawyer pointed out the unfortunate conditions that could lead to nothing but crimes and misery.

Young Roberson never broke his (Continued on Back Page)

Swift Justice Available To Alleged Law Violators Here

That the wheels of justice turn rapidly and surely was evidenced here this week when five people were arrested, tried and four of them started serving sentences about twenty-four hours following their arrests.

Barthonia Bennett, long-time employee of Harrison Brothers and Company, and his fellow worker, Ben Ward, started serving eight months sentences on the roads Wednesday about 24 hours after they were arrested for the theft of a large quantity of flour from their employers. Julius Williams, a third defendant, was cleared by the trial jury, and he was back at his old job with the store after a few hours of rest and serious meditation. Joe Mobley and William Clayton

SEEKING SELLERS

"The department is anxious to receive offers from everyone who has property suitable for Williamston's proposed postoffice building," Postmaster Leslie T. Fowden said today. Anyone who wishes to offer for sale a lot for the building may procure forms for preparing their offers at the local postoffice, it was pointed out.

To date only two owners have applied for the blanks and asked instructions for offering their property for sale, it was learned. The offers will be publicly canvassed on Saturday, October 2, at the postoffice.

Corey Damage Suit Is Finally Closed In The Superior Court

Total Cost of Case Believed To Be In Excess of Six Thousand Dollars

The final chapter in the \$65,000 damage suits brought by H. F. Leavister, administrator of John Leavister, and Roy Andrews, administrator of Marshall Andrews, against J. Lloyd Corey, Pitt farmer, was finally closed in the superior court of this county this week, authentic reports stating that the defendant had satisfied the judgments and will pay the court costs probably before the last of this week.

The combined judgments allowed by a jury in the superior court last April amounted to \$4,000. It is estimated the court costs will total \$750, and when the defendant's time, lawyers' fees and other items are considered, the total cost will exceed \$5,500.

The \$65,000 suits, \$50,000 by Administrator Leavister and \$15,000 by Administrator Andrews, were the outgrowth of an automobile-truck wreck on the Robersonville-Stokes road in September, 1934. John Leavister and Marshall Andrews lost their lives in the accident and two Williamston girls, Misses Holloman and Williams, were injured but not badly. The case charging Ollie Page, colored driver of the Corey truck, was not prosed.

A new trial was ordered by Judge Clayton Moore in March, 1935, when the jury allowed \$200 judgments to each administrator. The case was continued and continued, one trial blowing up for no known reason.

Parents-Teachers Will Reorganize Next Week

The reorganization of the local parent-teacher association will be effected at a meeting of the teachers and interested patrons to be held in the high school building next Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Principal D. N. Hix announced this morning. Mrs. J. F. Thigpen, retiring president, will preside over the meeting, reports stating that Mrs. W. K. Parker, now vice president, is in line for the presidency of the organization.

During the past year, the P. T. A. handled a splendid work, and those leaders interested in the welfare of the little folks are anxious that a strong organization can be perfected and that the worth-while work will continue on a larger scale.

Capps Sentenced To Roads For 2 Years For Serious Assault

Verdict of "Not Guilty" Is Directed by Judge Bone in Murder Case

Considering the evidence insufficient, Judge Walter Bone early today directed a verdict of "not guilty" in the case charging Miles Grimes, colored, with the murder of Gus White, colored, on Williamston's East Main Street on August 7, the action marking the completion of the court's criminal docket for the term. The trial of civil cases was started immediately, and the court will continue its work through next week.

The Grimes case came to a quick end when the court ruled evidence offered by Gus White on his death bed was not acceptable as he was not under oath. Grimes is believed to have escaped possible death by a narrow margin.

The strong desire to administer justice fairly and squarely has kept the court machinery turning slowly but steadily all the week. At no time in recent years have more than three days been spent on clearing a criminal docket in the court. Every bit of evidence has received careful attention by the court. Judge Bone showing much patience in the pinches and listening intently to both sides in every case. The colored defendant received the same consideration along with his fellow-man in crime, but in all cases the law was applied in strict accordance of the statutes.

Clearing the Roberson assault case from its docket, the court called the one charging Will Capps with felonious assault with intent to kill Mrs. A. T. Lilley, Williams Township citizen. Mrs. Lilley, victim of the attack, was the first witness to take the stand, and she reviewed the happenings leading up to the shooting. "On the afternoon of July 31, Capps came to my field and said he was not going to permit his wife to work for a woman like me," she told the court. She admitted cursing Capps and ordering him from her field. She told how she was shot early that evening as she sat in the dining room.

Louis Gardner, seated at the supper table, was the next witness called and he told about the shooting, and added that he went for help and passed Capps walking along the road toward the Capps home with a gun under his arm.

Joe Perry, next witness, told the court he was walking toward the Lilley home and met Capps, who told him that he had shot Mrs. Lilley and wanted him (Perry) to call a doctor.

Dr. J. S. Rhodes, the victim's attending physician, stated that an X-ray showed more than 200 shot entered Mrs. Lilley's arm and chest just above the heart, that he considered her permanently injured.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck who arrested Capps a short while after the shooting, stated that Capps, soon after the arrest, asked if he had killed Mrs. Lilley, that if he did there was just one more he wanted to get. (No name was mentioned, however.)

(Continued on Back Page)

Mrs. Esther Wynne Died Late Tuesday

Mrs. Esther Bennett Wynne died at her home on the Hamilton Road, near here, last Tuesday about 8 o'clock following a long period of declining health.

The daughter of the late Calvin and Matilda Strawbridge Bennett, Mrs. Wynne was born in this county 59 years ago and lived all her life in this section where she had many friends.

Funeral services were conducted at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Daniel Lilley, on North Houghton Street here yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Rev. Jas. H. Smith, Baptist minister, conducted the last rites. Interment was in the Baptist Cemetery here.

Mrs. Wynne is survived by six children, Grover Wynne, of near Jamesville, and Dillon Wynne, Irving Wynne, Calvin Wynne, James Wynne and Mrs. Daniel Lilley, of Williamston.