

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

THE ENTERPRISE

Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Latchkey to over 1,000 Homes of Martin County.

VOLUME XL—NUMBER 102

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, December 21, 1937.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Mrs. A. P. Barnhill Dies Early Monday At Daughter's Home

Funeral Services Tuesday In Church at Bear Grass

Mrs. Crecy James Barnhill, widow of Abram P. Barnhill and one of the county's oldest and most highly respected citizens, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Nathan Rogers, in Bear Grass at 7 o'clock Monday morning, marking the close of a sweet life well spent.

The daughter of the late Lamberly and Bettie Wynne James, Mrs. Barnhill was born and reared in Cross Roads Township, and spent most of her life there. Shortly after the War Between the States, she was married. The trials of the Reconstruction days were met with much determination, and she willingly worked at the side of her husband to provide a home and accept the duties of remaking a section torn by war and strife.

Mrs. Barnhill was a faithful church member, holding membership in the Primitive Baptist church at Bear Grass at her death. She enjoyed a large friendship and was held in high esteem by all who knew her.

Following the death of her husband, 35 years ago, she spent much time with her children in Robersonville, Everetts, Bear Grass and Williamston, where she made many strong friendships.

Mrs. Barnhill was the last member of the immediate family, and is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Nathan Rogers, of Bear Grass; and three sons, Messrs. J. T. Barnhill, of Williamston, J. B. and Church Barnhill, of Everetts. She also leaves 24 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Accident Is Fatal To Martin Farmer

Little Harris, 45-year-old farmer of this county, died last Saturday at 11:40 o'clock from a head injury received in an automobile accident between Oak City and Speed in Edgecombe County two weeks before.

Harris was reported to have never regained consciousness during his stay in a Tarboro hospital where he was carried shortly after the accident. Walking along the highway near Oak City, Harris asked a ride with Tom Braswell, Tarboro man. The hitchhiker was going only a short distance and did not go to the trouble to get in the car, according to reports reaching here.

When he reached his destination and without warning to Braswell, Harris stepped from the running board of the car. His head, striking the rear bumper or some object along the road side, was hurt at the temple, but the injury did not appear to be serious. It was thought at first that the man was just in a drunken condition, but when he remained unconscious for several hours, his removal to the hospital was advised.

Injured In Wreck Near Jamesville Friday Night

Ed Cahoon, Columbia man, was painfully bruised and suffered a sprained back when he wrecked his car near Jamesville last Friday night. A companion of Cahoon's, a young man, was cut but not badly. The car was badly damaged.

Decorations Here Attracting Much Favorable Comment

Williamston's holiday decorations now rapidly taking final form, are attracting considerable and very favorable comment, some of the praise coming from people traveling this way from up in the New England states.

Numerous homes have taken on a holiday appearance and more are being decorated indicating that the town will wear its most complete holiday dress ever.

The courthouse gang came through with their decorations late last Saturday night. Competing with the gala dress on the town hall steeple, the keepers of the old hall of justice appealed to the likes of the little folks. Building a chimney on top of the courthouse tower, the gang had them a life-like Santa

Claus made and started him down the chimney. Indirect lights show the man up to advantage by night. A few more lights will be added, the courthouse group declaring they will not be left entirely in the dark. Decorator Allsbrooks for the town hall force eyed keenly the activities down the courthouse way, but he declared he was through, that traffic duties would prevent him from carrying the contest further.

Home decorations are really coming into their own, and reports state that additional and elaborate ones will be seen before the week is spent.

Plans are underway to judge the decorations the latter part of this week and to bring out-of-town judges here to award the prizes that total around \$40.

Says Frame-up Is Cause Of Slump

Frank P. Spruill, of Rocky Mount, president of the North Carolina Bankers' Association, said in an interview in Asheville recently that the recession in business was the result of a "concerted effort on the part of certain groups of business interests and newspapers" to force modification of the New Deal.

Spruill, president of the People's Bank and Trust company at Rocky Mount, related what he said was the experience of a veneer plant in that neighborhood to support his contention.

The plant, he said, had orders on hand sufficient to keep it busy for several months when, almost simultaneously, from various parts of the country came telegraphic instructions to hold up the orders.

The orders were not cancelled, he added, but were merely subjected to delay.

"Now, why," he asked, "did concerns all over the country, with contracts calling for use of that veneer, simultaneously find out they couldn't use it?"

The banker predicted that the recession would "wear itself out." There are now signs, he said, that the downward trend is slowing up in North Carolina.

"Business concerns, regardless of their attitude toward the administration, will realize that they might as well go ahead," he said.

At the outset of his interview, Spruill asserted that he did not consider himself an expert that "nobody really knows anything about it," but that "it looks to me like a concerted movement."

Capt. Ashe Recalls Christmas Of Old

Under this heading the December Progressive Farmer prints a remarkable article by Capt. Samuel A. Ashe now in his 97th year and possibly the only surviving officer of the regular army of the Confederacy. Spending his childhood on a plantation near Wilmington, Capt. Ashe was fully familiar with the traditional customs of the Old South. We quote these extracts from his article.

"White and blacks alike looked forward with joyful anticipation to the coming of Christmas. Preparations began weeks beforehand. In the kitchen, cakes, pies and puddings were stored away. Wild turkey, venison and other game were prepared and the cool weather preceding Christmas was utilized for the busy and happy time among the servants known as 'hog-killing time.'"

"According to old English tradition, churches and houses were wreathed with holly and mistletoe, and the making of these wreaths was the scene of delightful gatherings of young folks, the young men cutting the holly, which with their assistance was to be woven by the deft fingers of the ladies into wreaths. Much tender touching of hands resulted, and kissing under the mistletoe was not only permissible but expected.

"Later came the Christmas dinner. Looking back, I see again the long table spotlessly white, adorned with candles and holly, the long row of children, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and guests.

"There were driving and riding parties in which both ladies and gentlemen took part and much hunting.

"In the evening at Christmas, as at other times, the older people enjoyed whist or some other game, while the younger ones amused themselves with games and dancing, music and singing, sometimes plays, tableaux, and impromptu charades, and much of the now nearly lost art of amusing conversation.

"I must not forget the 'cooners' on Christmas evening— young people gaudily dressed in every describable garb who went from house to house singing carols and receiving in return cakes and apples.

"No matter how the evening had been spent it was apt to end in dancing. I do not recall having seen any waltzing, although we had the polka and schottish. Most of the dances were square, country, or contra-dances. Chairs were set back, the floor cleared, and father, mother, young people, and children danced. Somebody at the piano or some 'Old Black Joe' with his banjo furnished the music."

Observe Parking Request A request by the board of town commissioners urging local car owners to keep their cars at home during the holiday season is being observed with very few exceptions, a town official said today.

Mother Driven from Home, Children Roam Field for Food

A pitiful story came out of deep Concho last Sunday morning when Sheriff C. B. Roebuck arrested and jailed Eli Bryant, 70 years old. The officer traveled in a wagon four miles to get the old negro and bring him to justice.

Running his young wife away from their hovel after beating her unmercifully, Bryant dared neighbors to interfere with the children whose ages ranged from three to nine years. His wife's return would cost her her life, the old scoundrel had warned. Indifferent to their welfare, Bryant did nothing to provide food for the four children, and

during an entire week they roamed the fields and woods eating peanuts from the fields and persimmons from the trees. Neighbors, none living very near, were dubious about going to the home for Bryant would meet them with a loaded rifle. Day after day passed, and finally the case was reported to officers who rented a wagon to make the trip to the out-of-way place through deep mud.

Once Bryant was in the hands of the law, the mother made her way immediately to the home and to her children. Their names have been placed along with about 200 others on the Christmas Cheer list.

Thirteenth Life Lost On County Highways

William Hyman, 60, Is Killed Near Oak City Saturday Night

Geo. Joyner Exonerated by Coroner's Jury Sunday

The automobile claimed its thirteenth life on the highways of this county when William Hyman, 60-year-old colored man, was instantly killed last Saturday night near Oak City within sight of the scene where three people, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Davis and their little son, Charles, were killed just six days before.

Struck by a car driven by Geo. Joyner, express messenger on the passenger train operating through here, Hyman was killed instantly. His head was crushed, one arm torn nearly off and both his legs were broken.

Joyner, accompanied by Miss Evelyn Anthony and Mrs. Roderick Waits, was traveling toward Scotland Neck. At an inquest held by Coroner S. R. Biggs in Williamston Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, Joyner told the jury that he was driving his new Chevrolet at a moderate speed when he sighted the colored man lying in the road. The man and his clothing blended with the black surface of the road, Joyner explaining that he was right on the man almost before he saw him.

"I applied my brakes rapidly, causing the car to swerve. It skidded on the man and continued into a ditch," the death car driver explained to the jury. Joyner was the only party to the accident to be examined by the jury, but the testimony of Patrolmen Hunt and Rothrock was heard.

It was brought out at the hearing that Hyman had been drinking earlier in the evening, that he had fallen out of his cart and was walking the highway when he was struck. The belief was advanced by some members of the jury that Hyman

(Continued on page six)

LIBRARY DRIVE

The drive to establish a library founding fund here continues, reports stating that the movement is meeting with marked success. Complete reports on the drive are not available just now, Mrs. J. C. Cooke, treasurer, stating that the results of the campaign would be released tomorrow.

It is planned to continue the canvass during the next several weeks, and during the meantime plans will be formulated for opening the public library here.

Christmas Cheer Fund Totals \$91

The following is an account of those who have contributed to the fund for helping the needy this Christmas. Some of these have given to other funds or directly to those in need and others have not been seen but will contribute and acknowledgment will be made later.

To date \$91.00 has been donated as follows: Tom Brandon, 1.00; W. J. Hodges, 1.00; Mayor Hassell, 3.00; Rev. J. L. Goff, 1.00; Sheriff Roebuck, 1.00; Bruce Wynne, 1.00; Bill Spivey, 5.00; Branch Bank, 5.00; B. and L. Association, 5.00; A. G. Harrison, 1.00;

C. B. Courtney, 2.00; Dr. Winn, 1.00; Wheeler Martin, 1.00; C. D. Carstarphen, 1.00; D. K. Davis, 10.00; S. C. Griffin, 1.00; Frank Margolis, 1.00; Sam Woolford, 1.00; Bill Bobbitt, 3.00; Dr. Eason, 1.00; Dr. Mercer, 5.00; Garland Woolard, 3.00; Mrs. Stator, 5.00; Junior Woman's Club, 10.00; Thad Harrison, 1.00; N. C. Green, 1.00; C. H. Godwin, 1.00; Jesse Whitley, 10.00; E. F. Moseley, 1.00; Miss Kate Philpott, 1.00; L. T. Fowden, 2.00; A. Friend, 5.00.

The sponsors of the movement explain that more than 200 requests for aid have been received, and it is apparent the money in hand will not care for the needs.

Old Santa Smiles On East Carolina Tobacco Farmers

Nearly Five Million Is Paid to Farmers in Martin County

Martin County tobacco farmers along with nearly all other weed growers have good reason to have a prosperous Christmas this week, reports from W. H. Rhodes, chief statistician of the State Department of Agriculture, explaining that tobacco growers had received up to the first of this month a total of \$133,000,000 or forty-one million more than they received a year ago.

Nearly 20,000,000 pounds of the leaf were sold in Martin County, the two markets paying out nearly five million dollars.

Tobacco is still the king of North Carolina cash crops, bringing farmers more than twice the revenue obtained from cotton.

In order of their importance as cash-producing crops, based on 1936 returns, North Carolina land produced: (1) Tobacco valued at \$106,731,000; (2) cotton (lint and seed) valued at \$48,618,000; (3) corn at \$39,562,000; (4) commercial truck at \$14,271,000; (5) hay (all) at \$11,472,000; (6) potatoes at \$9,877,000; (7) peanuts at \$9,270,000; (8) sweet potatoes at \$6,426,000; (9) wheat at \$5,921,000; (10) apples at \$2,849,000; (11) peaches at \$2,700,000; (12) oats at \$2,230,000; (13) soybeans at \$1,534,000; (14) strawberries at \$1,453,000; (15) cabbage at \$1,146,000; (16) loperda seed at \$1,063,000; (17) sorghum for syrup at \$882,000; (18) cowpeas at \$601,000; (19) snapbeans at \$549,000; (20) sorghum for forage at \$504,000, and (21) rye at \$452,000.

Corn, the third most valuable crop, is valued at nearly \$40,000,000, or somewhat less than cotton, but if the tops and fodder value of corn were included, the cash-crop rating of corn would probably be fully as much as cotton," Rhodes said.

"While tobacco, cotton and corn are distinctly the leaders in the total production and value of North Carolina farm crops, yet there are several other little-known farm products that rank high in their total values," he added. "For instance, the commercial truck crop is valued at more than \$14,000,000."

However, adding the value of Irish and sweet potatoes, the commercial truck value would be about \$30,000,000, or almost the value of the corn grain harvested.

In the aggregate, North Carolina crops for 1936 were worth \$235,000,000 with the rank of fifth among all the states of the union. The value of the state's livestock added \$94,000,000 to the crops, but in comparison with most of the Middle Western states the livestock value in North Carolina "is quite low."

The Department of Agriculture authorities, following the crop surveys, pointed out that "the most intensively cultivated areas in North Carolina follow very closely the distribution of the cotton and tobacco acreage through the eastern and Piedmont counties of the state," and "the distribution of work stock also shows a correlation with the cotton acreage and the cultivated land areas."

"It will be found that the counties in the central Piedmont areas are the most diversified farming sections of the State, as they lie between the intensive cotton and tobacco counties and produce very little of either of these two crops," Rhodes said, adding that "therefore, small grains, dairying and live-at-home practices prevail."

Infant Died Last Week In Washington Hospital

Eula Ann, six-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Peel, formerly of this county, died in a Washington hospital last Wednesday evening from pneumonia. Two sisters, Elsie and Lorene and two brothers, Alvin and LeRoy, survive. The child was the granddaughter of Mrs. H. B. Peel, of this county.

Jamesville Man Charged With Possession Liquor

James Gilmore, Jamesville colored man, was placed under a \$100 bond after he was arrested at his home there last Thursday evening for the illegal possession of liquor. Gilmore was said to have ignored a search warrant and at first refused officers to search a trunk. He later stood aside and five quarts of bootleg liquor was found.