

MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE ENTERPRISE

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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, December 22, 1939.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Farm Bureau Renews AAA Program Stand

Farmers' Meeting Favors Reciprocal Trade Agreements

Farm Income Still a Billion Below Parity, Convention At Chicago Advised

Approximately 6,000 farmers attending the recent national convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago voiced a strong support for the administration in two of its most important undertakings—the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program and the Reciprocal Trade Agreements. The resolutions, adopted last week in the great farmers' meeting, voiced anew the stand the Farm Bureau has taken in support of the administration.

Arguments in defense of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, put forward by Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, in an address to the convention, were embodied in the resolution which held that "the net effect of the agreements has been helpful rather than hurtful to agriculture." An independent study made by the Farm Bureau Federation recently led the committee to similar conclusions, the resolution stated.

On the other hand, a second resolution on the subject, also adopted by the convention, cautioned the state department in regard to proposed reciprocal trade agreements with Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. Most of the products from these countries are competitive with American agriculture, the resolution pointed out. Regarding the proposed Argentine agreement, it held it would be extremely difficult to negotiate one which is not fraught with protection of agriculture if the state department that it must protect the interests of agriculture if it would retain Farm Bureau support of the fundamental trade agreement policy.

The charge that diplomatic considerations have had precedence over economic effects of the agreements was faced by the Farm Bureau members. To make sure that their economic effects would be given full

(Continued on page four)

Market Dull For Sweet Potatoes

Anticipating little demand on the northern markets during the holiday season, sweet potato buyers have been almost idle at this point during most of this week. Few of the sweets have been bought and shipments have been unusually light. A single car is moving out today, but it is likely that the receiving stations will suspend activities today until about Wednesday or Thursday of next week.

While there has been no immediate demand, the market has held fairly stable at about 85 cents, a few sales having been reported at that figure during the past few days.

So far approximately 6,000 bushels or eleven carloads of the current crop have been moved to the markets from this point.

Appeal Goes Out for All To Support Spirit of Christmas

A thoughtful people, attacking the problem that faces the less fortunate at Christmas time, are certain through their cooperative efforts to shed happiness and joy in many homes this week-end. But as extensive as their efforts may be, it is reasonable to expect that many homes will not and cannot be touched with a spark of joy by the sponsors of the Christmas Cheer movement. Realizing that fact, the sponsors appealingly urge neighbors to remember their less fortunate neighbors, to extend relief in whatever form they deem best.

The driving spirit of the Christmas Cheer movement is to create good will among all, to carry the spirit of the Christ to everyone and to prove to a doubting world that we in a land of plenty are our brother's keepers.

A liberal response has been made by the people of Williamston, the

HOLIDAY

For public office, workers and a few others, business activities are rapidly grinding to a halt, and workers are completing last-minute arrangements for a comparatively long and a hopefully happy holiday. Workers in the stores will continue at their posts until late Saturday night to serve the last-minute shoppers.

The schedule that will generally be followed calls for a two-day, air-tight holiday. Brief hours will be observed by filling stations and drug stores.

Stranger Is Arrested Following Robbery Here Last Tuesday

Colored Man Resists Officers And Threatens Their Lives Here

A stranger, giving his name as Zeb Dawson, of Greene County, was arrested Tuesday about noon for the alleged robbery of Darden's Department store here early that morning. Making the arrest near Windsor, Officer J. H. Allsbrooms and Patrolman Whit Saunders have been unsuccessful in their efforts to connect the 24-year-old colored man with the robbery of Jack Daniel's filling station the same morning.

Dawson's arrest came about in a very unusual way. Early that morning Jack Daniel whose filling station had been robbed without his knowledge started squirrel hunting. Mr. Daniel went to his station between 5 and 6 o'clock but did not detect the robbery. Traveling across the fill he saw Dawson walking and carrying clothes in his arms. Becoming suspicious, Mr. Daniel stopped his car and waited for the man, but Dawson climbed over the row of honeysuckle and was changing clothes when he (Mr. Daniel) backed his car and called to the man. Dawson declared he had done nothing, that he was only changing clothes.

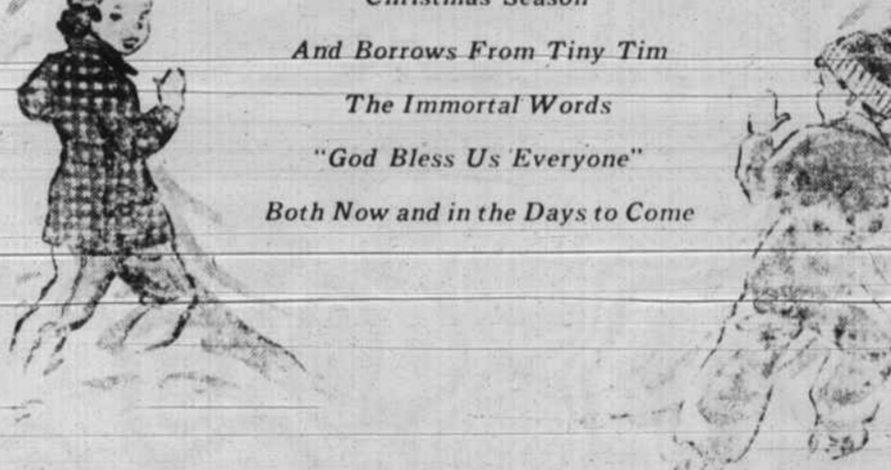
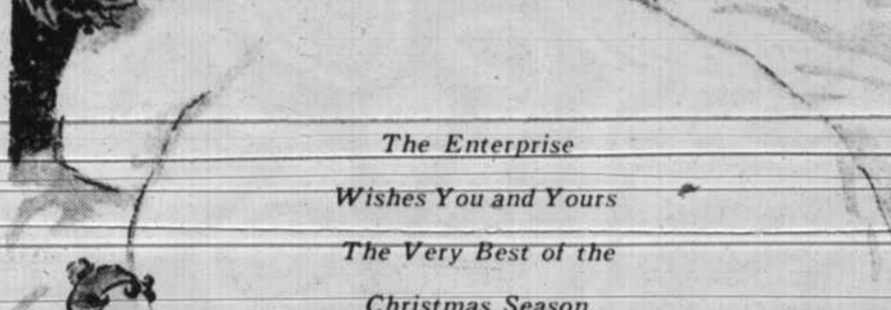
Mr. Daniel continued on his hunting trip. Returning here he learned about the department store robbery, and he reported to police who were quick in arresting the alleged robber.

Dawson was wearing two new pair of trousers and new shoes, carrying two new shirts, coats and an overcoat in his arms.

The officers had some difficulty in placing the man under arrest and when they brought him to the county jail, he was soon branded by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck as the meanest man he had ever seen brought in for safe keeping. Just after he was finger printed, Dawson darted across the room for a pistol, but Jack Hinton deputy revenue collector, blocked him and kept it out of his hands.

Reporting the robbery to headquarters Tuesday morning, Officers Ramie and John Roebuck stated that they heard the robber crash the store door, but before they could trap him there, he escaped.

Undergoing a change in attitude, Dawson admitted the store robbery but denied entering the filling station.



The Enterprise

Wishes You and Yours

The Very Best of the

Christmas Season

And Borrows From Tiny Tim

The Immortal Words

"God Bless Us Everyone"

Both Now and in the Days to Come

WON'T BE LONG

Once measured in long days, the 1939 Christmas shopping season is now to be measured only in hours. And although it won't be long now until the day of days comes into being, let's remember the home merchant during our shopping activities in the few remaining hours.

Reports from the carriers clearly indicate that goods even at this last minute, are moving into Williamston stores in large quantities hourly.

Blind Persons Need Not Beg In State

In a recent interview, the executive secretary of the Commission for the Blind, Dr. Roma S. Cheek, said that the State has provision for caring for blind persons who have been begging. She said that many of these have been forced to beg because they had no other support but that since the State complied with the Social Security law, they can be given blind aid grants to meet their needs. It was also stated that they would be given preference over other applicants.

The executive secretary reminded us that many of the blind beggars are farmed out by seeing people who reap large profits from the business. She stated that the majority of beggars on the streets of North Carolina are from out of the State. Others of the beggars are people who have refused to accept work offered by the Commission for the Blind, or who have found begging a really profitable business.

Dr. Cheek said that the blind people who are trying to work for their living like other people feel that the beggars make it harder for them by suggesting the association of blindness with begging in the public mind. They especially feel that since the needs of those who beg can be met by aid grants they should be kept from the streets. The general blind population, therefore, are staunch supporters of the law which prohibits begging on the streets.

This week 1,800 Aid to the Blind checks were mailed from the State Office to the counties. The total amount of money involved in December payments is \$25,531.08 and the average monthly grant per person for December is \$14.91 per blind person.

Gala Decorations Will Be Judged On Saturday Evening

Ole Man Gloom On The Run Before More Than Two Hundred Displays

Thousands of gala lights, carefully placed into striking decorative display, have chased gloom and darkness away, and today the holiday spirit shines forth from house tops, windows, and yards here. A preliminary survey of the extensive decorations Wednesday evening indicated that the judges will have a difficult task Saturday evening between the hours of seven and ten o'clock in determining the winners. There are some unusually attractive arrangements this season, critics noting a marked improvement in the artistic work of those who would brighten a spot here and there at this, the season of all seasons. Those competing in the contests are asked to have their lights burning in all their fullness between seven and ten p. m. Saturday when the judges come here from Robertsonville to declare the winners.

Almost over night the town was lit up for Christmas, the extensive yard and porch displays on various streets making the regular street lights look dark. Academy Street, for the most part, was acclaimed—the bright spot Wednesday evening. But way down the river hill, a doorway reflected the decorative spirit, proving that Christmas is general. Even in the little-traveled streets, the home folks are making the most of the Christmas season by making to shine little lights that seem to appear so much brighter at this particular season.

There were a few dark spots, especially was the one noticeable at the courthouse, but the decorative work is not yet completed, and it is apparent now that the decorative scheme will surpass that of last season.

Wreck Liquor Plant In Robertsonville Township

Operating in the Stingy Point section of Robertsonville Township on Tuesday, officers wrecked a sizable liquor plant of the steam type and poured out 200 gallons of beer. A small quantity of malt and sugar was confiscated.

NO EDITION

Following a long-established custom, and one that ranks high in the minds of all the force members, The Enterprise will not appear next Tuesday. The next issue will appear according to publication schedule on Friday, December 29.

Advancing the publication schedule a day this week, the force will turn its attention to the distribution of toys and other articles to the needy on Friday and Saturday.

Holiday Rush Is Nearing Climax

The holiday rush, getting underway a bit late in this section of the State, is now rapidly approaching a climax, reports stating that public conveyances are being taxed to capacity in handling the hundreds who are traveling here, there and nearly everywhere for the Christmas season. Sixteen bus schedules are being maintained through here, one schedule operating five busses on Wednesday to handle the hundreds of students leaving the colleges. Individual travel will undergo a marked increase late Friday and Saturday when the various offices close down for the holidays and the employees start moving to their home towns.

Shopping activities are increasing from day to day and with fair weather promised, the holiday trade is certain to tax clerks and store operators to capacity during the last remaining hours before Christmas.

Parking here has proved a big problem as usual, but local automobile operators have been very considerate and left their machines at home in the most part.

Local Man Continues Quite Ill In Richmond Hospital

Mr. C. A. Harrison, popular local man, continues quite ill in a Richmond hospital, Thursday morning reports indicating that his condition was not as favorable as it had been during the few days prior to that time. His many friends were earnestly hoping he would be able to return home for Christmas, but late reports indicate that that will hardly be possible. Mr. G. H. Harrison, his brother, and Mr. N. C. Green left Thursday noon to visit him.

Defer Appointment of County Health Officer

GREETINGS

Appreciative of the patronage and friendship they have enjoyed during 1939, local merchants and other business operators are extending cordial greetings to the people of this section through the little messages appearing elsewhere in this paper.

Without these greetings, the Christmas season would somehow or other appear a bit empty. Read the little messages and know that the local merchants and other business men are interested in your welfare and hope for you a joyous season this Christmas time.

Wholesale Liquor Trade Dealt Blow By Local Police

Officers Find Sixty Gallons Of Fluid To Close Long Search

The wholesale liquor traffic in Williamston was dealt what officers described as a death-dealing blow Wednesday afternoon when they dug up a sixty-gallon barrel of liquor under the home of Mary Lynn Spruill, colored, on the Plymouth branch of the Coast Line. The find brought to an end a tireless search started in December, 1935, officers pointing out that the capture was the largest reported here in recent years and dried to the bone the wholesale source for numbers of small retailers. No arrest was immediately made, but Officer J. H. Allsbrooms, leading the raid, stated that the Spruill woman and Oscar Hagan, her alleged common-law husband, would be called to answer.

Hagan waited around the home for almost two hours as officers, sure of their scent, dug under and around the house. When they reached the spot where the barrel was buried, Hagan slipped away, late reports stating he was still missing.

Officer Allsbrooms, Patrolman Whit Saunders and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck pumped 21 gallons of white liquor from the barrel before they could lift it from its old resting place.

Hagan, a frequent defendant in the courts of this county, has baffled officers for years. They would search his place and find small quantities of liquor, but some how or other Hagan wiggled out of the charge and gained his freedom by paying fines.

"We believe we have the goods on him in a big way now," Officer Allsbrooms said in describing the unique place where Hagan hid the liquor.

The first substantial clue to the hiding place was found when one of the officers found an electrical outlet loose in the wall. Removing the electric fixture, the officer sighted the ends of two tubes, one of them arranged to fit the end of an automobile pump. Unable to trace the hose lines at first, the officers attached a pump to the hose line and when pressure was applied liquor spurted out of a half-inch hose. Continuing their investigation, the officers found that the hose lines had been run through holes bored through a solid house support.

Busy Times Reported These Days on Martin County Farms

Hardly before the 1939 tobacco marketing season is brought to a close, Martin County farmers are making plans for another crop, reports from the field stating that quite a few growers are preparing land for seed beds. Comparatively few have planted seed, but the work will get underway on a fairly large scale soon after the Christmas holidays and during the month of January.

Their 1940 allotments not yet definitely known, farmers in this county are said to be planning for adequate plant beds. The allotments, tentatively determined by the local and county committees last month, are in Raleigh awaiting attention, reports from the office of the county agent stating that the individual quotas should be made available some time during next month. Unofficial reports indicate that the State committee is finding it difficult to hold the allotments in line with the acreage allowed the state.

In addition to preparing land for tobacco plant beds, farmers of the county are getting busy with their hog killings and with their sweet potato marketing. Some few farmers are still busy marketing their peanuts. Comparatively few hogs have been killed in the county so far, but killings are scheduled day after day following the holiday season. While the meat supply is hardly as large as it was last season, it is generally reported that there will be no meat shortage, and with ample supplies of meat, corn and potatoes, Martin farmers are entering the new year in pretty good shape. The available cash supply is a bit low, probably, but as one farmer explains, "You can't eat that," and in that light this section is sailing along.

Board Of Health To Hold Meeting On Friday Night

Action Delayed Because All Members Of Board Were Unable To Attend

The appointment of a health officer for Martin County to succeed Dr. F. E. Wilson, resigned, was deferred at a scheduled meeting of the board of health here Wednesday afternoon, Chairman John E. Pope explaining that all members of the board were unable to attend the session and that no action would likely be taken until every member was present. The board is slated to meet again Friday evening and name Dr. Wilson's successor.

Three applications were placed before the Wednesday meeting, and while no formal action was taken the board members did discuss a possible appointment, it was unofficially learned. Dr. Williams, a native of Beaufort County and until a short time ago head of the public health department in Asheville; Dr. J. S. Chamberlee, who did special work with the Martin department last summer, and Dr. Pruett, now of Chapel Hill, were said to be interested in the position. It is possible that additional applications will be placed before the next meeting of the board.

His resignation becoming effective January 1, Dr. Wilson leaves for Tarboro where he will head the Edgemore-Greene district health work after serving almost a year with the department in this county. His successor is slated to take over the work here on or about January first.

Board members J. E. Pope, W. C. Mercer, V. A. Ward, John L. Hassell and J. C. Manning were present for the meeting. Dr. J. S. Rhodes, a sixth member of the board, was called out of town and was unable to attend the session. A special request is being directed to the members, urging them to be present for the meeting Friday night.

Four For Lieutenant Governor In State

With four candidates already in the race an interesting contest for the office of lieutenant governor is assured this State in the next May primary. W. Erskine Smith, Albemarle attorney and president pro-tem of the State Senate, this week formally announced his candidacy after it was rumored several days ago that he was considering running for the office of lieutenant governor.

"I am a candidate for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor of North Carolina," Senator Smith's formal statement read. "I have represented my senatorial district in every session of the Senate since 1927 in which Stanly County was entitled to a senator, with one exception. I feel that this legislative experience will be helpful to me in the discharge of the duties of lieutenant governor. If nominated and elected, it will be my ambition to discharge the duties of this high office fairly and impartially to all, having in mind at all times the best interest of North Carolina and its entire citizenship."