

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 1,600 Homes Of Martin County.

VOLUME XLIII—NUMBER 75

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, September 17, 1940.

ESTABLISHED 1899

## Trial Of Criminal Cases In Superior Court Ends At Noon

### First of Civil Cases Will Be Called By Judge Burney Here Tomorrow

The trial of criminal cases in the Martin County Superior Court was ended here at noon today, the work of the court having been advanced when the defendant in the Manning assault case pleaded guilty and when the Ellis assault case was continued. There was some doubt if the criminal docket could have been completed today had the trial of those cases been handled as first planned.

Tomorrow, the court will call the first of a large number of civil cases according to a schedule previously arranged by the county bar.

A continuance was granted the defense attorney in the case charging H. W. Spruill with drunken driving. "The case will be the first one called in December and I'll be here," Judge Burney was quoted as saying to the defense attorney.

James Gilmore, Jamesville colored man who was convicted in the county court for alleged violation of the liquor laws, apparently made a costly move when he appealed to the higher court. Sentenced to the roads for a period of six months by Judge H. O. Peel in the county court, Gilmore had three months added to the term by Judge Burney in the superior court Monday. The man, unable to raise bond, has been in jail awaiting trial.

The case charging William Henry Coffield with larceny and receiving was not passed with leave.

Papers were issued for the immediate arrest of Ralph Dugger when he failed to appear in court and answer in the case charging him with violating the liquor laws.

No true bill was found by the grand jury in the case charging Densil Simpson with an attempt to commit rape.

Entering a plea of nolo contendere Abe Purrington was adjudged guilty in the case charging him with bastardy. He was ordered to pay \$1 a week for the support of the child.

Muriel Rascoe, the colored youth who allegedly stole a pocket book and an old-age pension check from Mrs. Jaunita Coltraine in the old hall of justice itself, pleaded guilty of larceny of property valued at less than \$20. Taking the check belonging to Mrs. Coltraine's mother-in-law, Rascoe forged an endorsement and obtained goods under false pretense. Judge Burney sentenced him to the roads for a term of two years. The sentence will be paid for three years, upon the condition that the youth pay the cost of the case and refund the \$16. Rascoe is not to be seen on any city or town streets after 7:30 p. m. and not before 6:30 a. m. and is not to take a drink of liquor or intoxicating beverages during that time.

Joe Rogers was sentenced to the roads for a term of 18 months in the case charging him with breaking into and robbing a filling station in Robersonville.

Joe Smallwood, charged with breaking into a chicken coop and stealing a blue rooster and a black hen from Fannie Perkins in Hamilton Township, pleaded guilty of receiving stolen goods. He was sentenced to the roads for a term of 12 months. He was placed on probation for three years and is to pay the court costs.

Charged with breaking into the home of Ike Mizelle and stealing a \$45 shot gun, Grover and Octavius Taylor were sentenced to prison for a term of from three to four years. The youths were placed on probation for five years. After stealing the gun the boys went to Norfolk and traded it for a motorcycle. Judge Burney ordered the boys to return the motorcycle, get the gun and return it to the owner and pay the costs of the case. Bond was required to guarantee the performance of the duty imposed by the court.

Harvey Short, the young Parmele

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

## Traffic Nearing Normal Over The Roanoke River Fill Here

Traffic, blocked for three weeks, is now approaching normal over the Roanoke River fill at this point, according to information gained from Hugh Spruill, bridgekeeper, early today. While the route is closed to heavy trucks, other types of traffic are increasing in numbers daily, Mr. Spruill said. A climax was reached Sunday when an estimated 2,000 or more vehicles crossed over the repaired fill. Most of them were viewing the damage for the first time and accounted for the heavy flow of traffic. However, daily travel is increasing from day to day, and little delay is caused by the one-way bridges and dirt drives.

Despite puzzling detour signs, foreign cars are using the route in fairly large numbers, Mr. Spruill went on to say. Busses are maintaining complete schedules without delay and are traveling the route with apparent ease.

## Tobacco Prices Hold Firm on Market Here

### Judge States His Position On Fifth Column Activities

Warning against fifth column activities in this country, Judge J. J. Burney in his address to the Martin County Grand Jury Monday stated frankly and forcibly his stand against practices designed to undermine this nation.

"If they do not like this country, there is only two ways to handle the fifth columnists. One is to send them back across the ocean and the other is to put them under the ground, and if they are put under the ground they can't come back from across the ocean."

The jurist stated his position after urging the grand jurors to report any and all subversive activities they detect or any called to their attention.

In voicing his position the jurist expressed the sentiments of the crowded courtroom. "Fifth column activities are underway throughout the country," the judge said and added that he would not be surprised if there were such activities right here in this county.

## Invasion Threat Is Lessened By Bad Channel Weather

### Heavy Bombing Reported By Both Sides Over Wide Territory

Englishmen, while subjected to continued and barbaric attacks from the air, were heartened today as stormy weather swept over the English Channel area, lessening the threat of an immediate invasion. However, Prime Minister Churchill warned his people in an address today to continue on the alert, that danger of an attempted invasion still existed. He also warned his people to expect heavier bombardment.

Incomplete reports from the hornets' nest are a bit confusing, leaving doubt as to whether the invasion attempt was delayed by weather conditions over the Channel or by British raiders along the French and Belgium coasts. Hundreds of boats brought into use by Germany along the coast have been sunk or damaged, and destruction has been widespread in a number of ports along the coast, making it appear that Hitler was balked in his plans.

Heavy bombing continues on both sides. London has had four raids so far today, and other sections have been attacked. Damage was reported in all parts of London. British airmen, after bringing down an all-time high of 185 Nazi planes Sunday, are continuing costly raids in German occupied territory and also in Germany.

Italy is meeting with trouble in the Balkans.

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

Motorists are completely puzzled by road signs at the corner of Main and Haughton Streets. Placed side by side, one sign says that the road is closed to vehicles of over seven tons. The other sign directs through traffic around by the sound bridge, but gives the go-ahead signal to local traffic under seven tons. Hardly taking the meaning of the detour sign at its full value, few if any cars have turned off the route but continue to travel over the fill in large numbers.

Bridgekeeper Spruill and his family are now enjoying normal life. During the period that traffic was blocked on both the river and the highway, they could not sleep for everything was so quiet. Now they are sleeping soundly to the hum of motors in the rushing cars and trucks during every hour of the night.

It was reported here today that Harry A. Biggs had applied for a place on the draft board in this county. As far as it could be learned there will be little competition for the three places. The appointment of the board is expected shortly, but few details in connection with the draft plans have been made public.

The clerk of the court, chairman of the county board of elections and superintendent of county schools will, it is understood, be charged with the duty of appointing a draft board which is to include a business man, doctor and a lawyer. It is likely that the county election officials will handle the registration which is scheduled to get underway at seven o'clock and continue until 9 p. m. on October 16th.

## Well Over Million And A Half Pounds Sold Here To Date

### Large Quantities of Tips and Inferior Grades Being Offered For Sale

Tobacco prices were reported to be holding firm on the local tobacco market today, Sales Supervisor K. B. Crawford stating that he could detect very little difference in the market since it strengthened to reach the highest peak of the season early last week. Mr. Crawford did point out that large quantities of tips and inferior grades were being offered for sale, and that the general price average was not up to the high point reached a few days ago. "However," Mr. Crawford continued, "grade for grade tobacco is holding to a fairly stable point with the better grades bouncing right up to 31, 32 and 33 cents a pound."

That tobacco is selling just as high as it did a few days ago on the local market and higher than it is selling on at least one of the larger markets was well established this morning as the sales supervisor observed a sale of tobacco made for a Beaufort County farmer. Coming to the local market unknown and offering no advance information, the small farmer from Beaufort sold three piles of tobacco, one for 18 cents, one of 29 and one for 31 cents. The split grades offered for sale on the larger markets yesterday sold for 15 cents, 26 and 30 cents, respectively. The visiting farmer was well pleased with the sales, but he as well as many others are agreed that tobacco prices are not high. He did add that he found prices here slightly stronger than he had found elsewhere, that he was returning with more tobacco just as soon as he could prepare it for market.

Few tickets are being turned here, and farmers, after studying the markets first-hand, are holding to the one here stronger than ever.

It was reliably reported here today that a trucker, employed by one of the larger markets, had surrendered his contract and is advising farmers to haul their own tobacco to the nearest market. He explained that it was not worth the hauling fee and side commission to carry another fellow's tobacco a long distance and listen to the complaints.

Quite a few farmers from the upper end of the county are on the market here today, and it was apparent that some strong ties were being made, not through seconds but through the advantageous marketing of tobacco. And it's the sale farmer gets that counts and not the coaxing and promises of an agent.

The sales on the Williamston market are well over one and one-half million pounds, Sales Supervisor Crawford stating that 192,452 pounds were sold yesterday for an average of about \$15.40.

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

## Nation Will Call Out Its Manpower Middle Of October

### First Peace Time Draft Law Signed by the President Yesterday

The seriousness of the world situation was brought closer to home for United States citizens yesterday when President Roosevelt signed the country's first peace-time draft law. Today, sixteen and one-half millions in the 21-31 age limit, inclusive, stand subject to call for a year of military training.

Passed by Congress last week-end and signed by the President shortly after three o'clock Monday afternoon, the compulsory military training law will reach out for its first quota of 400,000 men this winter. On October 16, the more than sixteen million men within the inclusive 21 to 31 age limit will be required to register. Everyone falling in that age group will be required to register in life. The first call will take 400,000 this winter. Next year another 400,000 will be called. Since this country is not actually engaged in war, the call to service does not have the serious ring that the one back in 1917 had. However, the outlook is not at all encouraging, but as Judge J. J. Burney said in superior court this week, it would appear that the army affords a place about as safe as our highways are. And then in the war across the seas, more civilians, including women and children are being killed than soldiers.

It was reported here today that Harry A. Biggs had applied for a place on the draft board in this county. As far as it could be learned there will be little competition for the three places. The appointment of the board is expected shortly, but few details in connection with the draft plans have been made public.

The clerk of the court, chairman of the county board of elections and superintendent of county schools will, it is understood, be charged with the duty of appointing a draft board which is to include a business man, doctor and a lawyer. It is likely that the county election officials will handle the registration which is scheduled to get underway at seven o'clock and continue until 9 p. m. on October 16th.

## Roberson Assault Case Is Shifted In The Courts Again

### Superior Tribunal Upholds County Recorder in Case Continuation

The serious assault case brought by Farmer Arthur C. Roberson against J. A. Ellis is being shifted from one court to another in this county, Judge J. J. Burney in the superior tribunal upholding Recorder H. O. Peel in his order delaying the trial until September 30. Solicitor Don Gilliam insisted that "His Honor had taken the wrong slant on the action, but Judge Burney replied that he was like the tree planted by the side of the river, "I can't be moved." The judge added, "I will not stand for any action that will drag a defendant from one court to another. If the case is to be tried in superior court, it can be placed on the docket for the December term."

Attacked by Ellis on the evening of September 6, Mr. Roberson swore out a warrant charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon. The warrant was served later that night and the case was docketed for trial the following Monday in Judge Peel's county court. The recorder ruled that it was customary to continue cases originating on Saturday, but during the meantime the prosecution had asked to amend the warrant and charged the defendant with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. The plea for a continuance was granted even though the witnesses had been summoned.

Yesterday, the case was placed before the grand jury and a true bill charging the defendant with an assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill was returned.

This morning, Judge Burney upheld the lower court and the case goes back to the county tribunal for trial on September 30.

Aggravated by strong feeling in the community, the case has already attracted the attention of out-side attorneys, the defense employing Clay Carter and H. G. Horton. Clarence Griffin, local attorney, and H. S. Ward, of Washington, have been employed by the private prosecution.

## Fire Damages Filling Station Cafe Saturday

Fire starting from an over-heated chimney damaged the Paul Jones filling station cafe here early last Saturday morning. The fire was confined to the barbecue cook room, Mr. Jones estimating the damage at \$50.

The fire company was called out, but filling station attendants and others at the cafe brought the fire under control before it could spread to other parts of the building.

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)

## Assault Case Ends Abruptly In Court Here This Morning

### Edgar Harrell Pleads Guilty In Case Charging Assault With Deadly Weapon

The case charging Edgar Harrell, Oak City man, with an assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, was brought to an hurried close in the superior court at 10:15 this morning after the defendant through his attorneys, Peel and Manning, and tendered a plea of guilty to the charge of an assault with a deadly weapon.

Judge Burney, presiding, hurried the case to a close when he ruled that it was not necessary to examine the other witnesses, that he was not inclined to punish the defendant who had a good reputation, that he was well convinced that a man who looks for trouble will, sooner or later, find it. "Judgment of the court, Mr. Clerk, is prayer for judgment be continued for twelve months and defendant pay the cost."

At least eighteen witnesses, summoned by the defense, would not file for fees, saving Harrell well over \$60 in court costs.

The case got underway Monday afternoon after 15 minutes were spent in the selection of a jury. The prosecuting witness, G. H. Manning, who was critically shot by Harrell, took the stand and made the following statement:

"This boy Hyman had a truck he wanted greased. He drove for me, and he asked me about taking the truck over there to get it greased. I went to the service station and asked Charlie Smith if he would have time to grease the truck. He said he thought we would, and he went in the back, and I thought he greased the truck, and I went back there to pay him. When I went back in the back, this boy, Mr. Harrell, said I wouldn't get no dam truck greased. I asked why, and he called me a dirty name and said I didn't pay nobody. I told him I didn't owe him anything. I said 'I don't owe you anything.' He called me another dirty name. I said, 'Edgar, I stopped fighting five or six years ago, and I am not looking for any trouble.' I walked back to the front room and was leaning across the stove. Mr. Harrell walked back here and walked on past me and opened the cash register and shot me in the back standing behind me behind the counter. He walked across the floor, and when the bullet struck me I stiffened and then I didn't have any strength at all. I crumpled down to the floor on my elbow. He walked over to me and told me not to try to get up. He cursed me and said he had shot my dam heart out and would shoot my brains out. He shot me one time. I walked out the door and didn't see him any more until he came about 20 steps from my house when I got in the car to go to the hospital."

The court recessed until this morning when Dave Savage was placed on the stand. Savage stated that he was in the station, that Manning wanted a truck greased, that Manning started cursing and threatened to beat Harrell's brains out. Manning turned for a chair and then Harrell shot him.

Charlie Smith was in the back room of the station when Manning was shot, he told the court. He carried the victim home.

Taking the stand in his own behalf, he said that he and Manning had had an argument over an account. "I told him that we could not grease the truck because Mr. Faithful (the station owner) was not there. Manning cursed me and when he reached for a chair, I shot him," Harrell explained that he could not get out of the station without passing Manning, that he could have shot him more than once. After the shooting, Harrell stated that he went to W. E. Early, Oak City officer, and told him what had been done. On cross examination, Harrell said he had no court record of any kind.

During the trial Manning's record was read in open court. After a plea of guilty to the charge of an assault with a deadly weapon was accepted by the court, the defense started to offer the testimony of eighteen or more character witnesses, but Judge Burney ruled that additional evidence was not necessary, and the case was brought to a close at 10:15.

## Recruiting Party To Visit County

A special army recruiting party will visit this county next Friday morning to accept volunteers into the service, it was announced by Staff Sergeant John McMillan of the U. S. Army Recruiting Station, in Greenville. The party will stop at Robersonville at 9 o'clock and at Williamston two hours later. The party will stop at or near the post-office.

The recruiting party will be equipped with a movie projector, with sound equipment for showing the highlights of the new equipment and the work of the army today. This show should last about one hour. The army also is offering to the young men who enlist an excellent chance to attend the various schools and learn a trade.

## Advance Plans To Make Mattresses

Plans were announced virtually complete today by Miss Emelyne Evans, of the Farm Security Administration, for making several hundred cotton mattresses in this county. A training school will be held in Everett's Friday morning at 10:30 o'clock for 24 leaders who will direct and assist the work. Mr. Starnes of the States Extension Service will conduct the school.

Approximately 40 bales of cotton have been placed on location for the manufacture of the mattresses.

## Jurist Tells of Crime Conditions In Nation

Delivers Stirling Patriotic Address To Grand Jurymen

Stirling Figures Revealed By Judge Burney On Crime And Government Costs

In a stirring address to the Martin County Grand Jury here yesterday, Judge J. J. Burney placed a high value on freedom and the way of life in this country and offered some startling figures as they relate to crime, educational and government costs. During the greater part of an hour, the Wilmington jurist held the strict attention of the crowded courtroom, his talk, based on common sense and full appreciation of the American way of life, being well received by his listeners coming from all walks of life.

Addressing his opening remarks to the jurymen, Judge Burney pointed out that it is indeed an honor to serve as a member of a court jury. "Some day you may be wrongfully attacked, and then you will better appreciate good men as members of the jury to protect you and your rights," the judge said. It was his hope that the commissioners had and would continue to select men of good character and sufficient intelligence to handle the all-important task.

"It is important now that we are passing through one of the greatest trials in world history to guard our liberty and rights, the jurist declared. Glancing back to Old Glory as it formed a background for the bench, he said, "For 5,000 years the English-speaking people have been jealous of their rights and liberty—the right to worship as we please, of free speech, of free press, home protection and the right to bear arms to protect those rights."

"Trial by jury is one of those rights. Prior to 820, an accused man was tried by the hot iron or water method. The accused was required to pick up an hot iron. If it burned him, he was adjudged guilty; if he was not burned, he was not guilty. The jury system was established and in 1368 the grand jury was created, and today the oath subscribed to is very similar to the one of that olden period."

The speaker explained how the rights of the weak and the strong are protected in the courts. "No one is guilty of a crime until he is tried and adjudged guilty. If acquitted, the accused is free. If he is found guilty, he has the right of appeal, the county accepting the cost of the poor man's defense in capital crimes. "Law is man's best friend. It protects one before he is born. It guards him through life, and in death it stands a last watch."

Touching on one of the greatest problems facing this nation today, Judge Burney appealed to the jurymen to help solve the problem presented by crime. "The situation is appalling," the jurist said, and went on to offer some startling comparative figures.

"There were 32 million children in school last year. It cost \$2,978,000,000."

(Continued on page four)

## Jurist Tells of Crime Conditions In Nation

### SECRETARY



H. Flake Shaw, progressive farmer and member of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, made a stirring appeal to Martin farmers in an address here last week. He urges a large attendance upon the meeting here tomorrow night.

## Lone Reportable Disease Case In County In August

### Long Siege Of Whooping Finally Broken In The County

Health conditions approaching the perfect state as far as the number of communicable disease cases is concerned were reported in this county last month, according to records filed in the office of the county health department during the period. A lone, communicable disease case was reported to Poplar Point Township where a white person fell victim of tuberculosis.

For the first time since the all-time health department was established almost three years ago no case of whooping cough were reported in the county. At one time last year the cough approached the epidemic stage, and Dr. F. E. Wilson, health department head at that time, quarantined certain areas. Since that time the number of cases has reflected a gradual decline, but month after month, one or two and sometimes three or more cases were reported. The long siege apparently has been broken. More than a hundred cases were reported in a single month, and it is estimated that more than 1,500 "barked" their way to immunity during the past three years.

The county schools opened yesterday with a clean health slate, but despite the health department and its control work, communicable disease cases are certain to flare up and tear down attendance records.

Extra precautionary measures against a possible outbreak of typhoid fever were taken by the department last month when 450 persons were immunized because they had come in direct or indirect contact with the flood waters along Roanoke River and its environs. The vaccine was dispensed as follows: Hamilton, 160; Williamston, 280; Williams Township, 60, and Jamesville, 50.

While the flood waters created a health menace, no outbreak of disease has thus far been reported in this section.

## Enrollment Gain In Local School

An examination of the records of the local schools reveals that a total of 813 students have been enrolled in elementary and high school departments of the Williamston schools during the first week of the 1940-41 school term. A net enrollment of 594 elementary, 208 high school and 11 post graduate and commercial, combine to give the school the largest opening in its history. While the grade distribution is nearly the same as last year, an enrollment of 98 children by the two second grade teachers creating a serious teaching problem.

Last year's record for the heaviest teaching load was in the third grade where two teachers enrolled 94 at the beginning of the term.

The enrollment by grades is as follows:

First, 113; second, 98; third, 81; fourth, 83; fifth, 85; sixth, 65; seventh, 66; eighth, 58; ninth, 59; tenth, 48; eleventh, 43; post graduate and commercial, 11.

An interesting comparison of the sexes enrolled reveals that there are 314 boys enrolled in the first seven grades as compared to 280 girls, a difference of 34. In the high school and post graduate departments this difference is reduced slightly by an enrollment of 114 girls to 105 boys, but a final comparison of the combined enrollments shows that the Williamston schools have in attendance 25 more boys than girls.

It is rather interesting to note that 435 students, approximately 52 per cent of the total number enrolled, are transported to school by bus. Six busses serve the local schools by daily trips, one bus making two trips and bringing to school a total of 90 students.

## Advance Plans To Make Mattresses

Plans were announced virtually complete today by Miss Emelyne Evans, of the Farm Security Administration, for making several hundred cotton mattresses in this county. A training school will be held in Everett's Friday morning at 10:30 o'clock for 24 leaders who will direct and assist the work. Mr. Starnes of the States Extension Service will conduct the school.

Approximately 40 bales of cotton have been placed on location for the manufacture of the mattresses.

## Meeting

An important meeting of the Martin County Farm Bureau membership will be held in the agricultural building here tomorrow night at 7:30 o'clock. All members are urged to be present and every farmer is invited.

Several well-known speakers are to address the meeting and several important topics will be discussed. C. Abram Roberson, president of the county organization, said today.

## BUSINESS

Increased activities on its Plymouth branch line has made necessary a seven-day operating schedule over the route by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. The new schedule, seldom maintained on the line heretofore, was placed into effect Sunday when two trains operated through here.

The Sunday holiday left the trains with more work than they could handle on Monday and schedules were delayed. By operating on Sunday a better service is offered, Station Agent V. D. Godwin said here yesterday.