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THE ENTERPRISE

Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Lethal Key to 1300 of Martin County's Homes

VOLUME XXII—NUMBER 26

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, April 19, 1921.

ESTABLISHED 1898

MARTIN COUNTY BEGINNING TO RECOVER FROM GREAT FINANCIAL BLOW

The frightful financial conditions prevailing thruout the County since the opening of the tobacco markets last fall, are gradually taking a turn for the better, and no doubt each month until the fall will be a continuation of this betterment.

The change is not due to better farm prices, or greater prospects for the future, but it is due to human nature itself. The people took the great financial shock unexpectedly, and temporarily it knocked everybody semi-conscious, but we are now using that great family remedy of "self-preservation" being the first law, and along with this, we have the great undying American grit and pluck to play its part.

It is not natural for a man to stand still in this day and time, and the people are beginning to get very active again; notwithstanding the fact that most every farmer or business man is loaded down with debt, he is, nevertheless, on the job again, and with a wealth of recent experience to help him in regaining normalcy.

We are saving a big amount of money this year by careful and more economical living, and more people are working themselves instead of hiring the work done as was the case in 1920. These two items together will save Martin county a million dollars this year.

The new administration will no doubt find some means of helping the farmer get better prices for his products next fall, or at least furnish funds with which to help hold the crop from being dumped on the market, and no doubt there will be a higher class of produce raised in this county which will also mean with itself a higher and better market.—J. S. P.

WATER SUPPLY POPULAR

With the turning on of the public waterworks, the city has taken a great step forward in municipal progress, and already a number of citizens are enjoying in their homes the advantage of city water.

It will only be a short time now when practically every home in Williamston will take advantage of this municipal offering, and the people will soon wonder how they ever got along without this great home advantage.

The citizens got along fairly well for a great number of years without electric lights, but should the light plant be put out of commission for even an hour some evening, it throws the whole town into disorder, and we have long decided we could not live without this advantage. It will soon be the same way with the water supply, and no home will be complete without bathrooms, kitchen sinks, etc.

The local plumbing company reports a rush of orders for connections to the city mains, and no doubt this rush will continue quite a long period as there are several hundred homes in the city to be connected up.

The water plant entailed a large outlay of money to complete, but it was built to take care of the growth of the town for several generations and will be no doubt in the long run prove cheaper than a smaller and less equipped one.

To keep from going backwards, a municipality has to keep going forward, and the next important step in the civic progress of Williamston is the paving of Main, Washington, Smithwick and Houghton Streets. The interest on the bonds issued for such work will no doubt compare favorably with the amount of street tax now being paid by the citizens of the town.—J. S. P.

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FATS AND LEANS GAME WAS A RIOT OF FUN

Last Thursday afternoon, the much talked of baseball game between the Fats and Leans, for the benefit of the Baptist Church Auxiliary, was pulled off in spectacular style.

The grandstand and bleachers as well as the side lines showed a large and enthusiastic gathering of spectators, and the game started with the supporters for each side about evenly divided.

Captains Rhodes and Crawford engaged their players in a short but lively practice, after which the game was called by referee S. W. Harrell, assisted by A. T. Crawford.

Spectacular playing by both sides were the main features of the game, and not until the last of the ninth inning could any one be sure of the final outcome.

The Fats had a formidable array of erst-while players, among whom were little Harry Meador, Gussie Harrison and Johnnie Cook; these boys furnished the major part of the amusement of the day, and Harry's record breaking slide back to first base will long be remembered by the fans.

The Leans, on account of their smaller size and greater activity carried off the honors of the day, outbating and outpitching the Fats, however by a change of pitchers in the seventh inning, the score was suddenly reversed and the ats showed more runs away up in the teens, at the close of the game.

Friday and Saturday morning on the streets of Williamston could be seen many of these "Stars of Yesterday," limping around and talking of their strained muscles and lame joints.

Report has it that Harry Meador could not get out of bed all day of Friday, but when seen by the writer late Saturday afternoon, Mr. Meador promptly made denial, and said he "just spent the day at home."—J.S.P.

A CAMERA WITH A HEART IN STARVING CHINA

The direct testimony of cable reports, written and verbal, and photographs show that the famine conditions in the stricken provinces of China are growing worse daily.

Chief, it is to result in saving a million lives, must reach China continuously and in great volume before the present time and July first.

Present funds from all sources are sufficient to save only two and a half million people, so the American Committee at Peking states. Many more millions are dependent on additional funds from America. It is almost impossible to exaggerate the greatness of the tragedy. E. S. Glines of the engineering firm of Lam, Glines & Co., New York, writes:

"Conditions were so pitiful that I did not have the heart to take pictures of such utter misery. Two things from which I turned away my camera were thirty thousand people in the last stages of starvation gathered in a bare field just outside of Tientsin and a roadside with the bodies of a whole family—father, mother and five children—stretched out along it."

Robert W. Clark, Y. M. C. A., Pao tingfu, writes:

"One awful fact pushes everything else into the background. That is the famine. In our one district alone we will need 50,000 tons of grain before June if wholesale starvation is to be prevented. Our district is only one of a dozen such, and not the worst one in the famine area."

The North Carolina Committee is appealing to every possible agency to assist in its mission of mercy. It is very grateful for the response already received from the press, the schools and the civic, professional and business organizations of the state but it is urging all to deny themselves yet more, to forego some luxury or pleasure if necessary that the spark of life may be preserved for one more of these helpless sufferers. It takes only three cents a day—three dollars to preserve a life from now until July.

Where there is no local organization contributions should be addressed to China Famine Fund, 310 Tucker Building, Raleigh, N. C. Mr. T. W. Bickett state chairman, reports that the contributions to date have amounted to a little more than fifty thousand dollars.

NO CHARGE FOR CONNECTING WITH WATER

There is an erroneous report of misunderstanding in circulation that the Town makes a charge for connecting to the city water mains.

The city does not make any charge, the only charge is for the actual use of the water.

There is, however, a cost of a few dollars for the making of the tap, and the material used, which is the charge evidently referred to. This naturally has to be paid for by the consumer, and the Town does not get one cent of profit out of the transaction.

CIVIC PROGRESS LEAGUE SHOULD BE ORGANIZED FOR BENEFIT OF TOWN

The writer is heartily in favor of organizing a Civic Progress League in the City of Williamston, for the purpose of putting out a Solid, Sane, and Substantial Ticket for Mayor, and Board of Commissioners. Then elect this ticket, and give the Officers the support of the members of this League.

Ever voter in Williamston is invited to join.

The Municipal Platform of this League to be as follows:

A MAYOR: Who will have authority commensurate with his Office. Who has the time, temperament and ability to fill the Office.

A BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Who immediately after election will appoint a committee to visit some nearby well-governed city, and learn from their methods of running a modern city.

Who will have audited and publish the accounts of the city in detail, to date, and publish quarterly thereafter.

Who will revise the antiquated present Town Ordinances, and make a net set commensurate with the conditions and the times, and then enforce said ordinance to the letter.

Who will have the city put in a sanitary condition. This means the cleaning up of vile and unhealthy backlots; unsightly trash piles removed, and a special place designated for city trash, where it can be burned, the appointment of a city sanitary inspector; the removal of exposed putrid streams of water running thru the city; and many other things which space will not allow to print.

Who will run the city's business on a strictly a business basis, and see that each dollar of the peoples' money is spent for value received.

Who will start off the plans necessary to having Main, Washington, Smithwick and Houghton Streets paved.

Who will call out the dead tree on the streets of Williamston, and replant new ones (preferably pecan trees). There should be no trees in profusion on every street.

Who will condemn the dangerous and unsightly railroad under crossing at the upper end of Main Street under the A. C. L. Rwy tracks, and have instead a decent concrete structure, and line the street up straight.

Who will see that vacancy does not exist in the city, and that there will be equal right to all and Special Privileges to None.

Who will assist Mr. K. B. Crawford Fire Chief, in having a first class up-to-date fire department for the city.

Who will put into proper shape the brick wall and crossing and street leading into Newtown below Dr. Knight's corner.

Who will lend a helping hand to the "deceased" Chamber of Commerce of Williamston in particular and Martin County in general.

This is only a part of the things which is expected of the new administration; all of which can be done without great effort.

Believe in your Town—Become a member of the Civic League—Mark off the Past—and start to living again in the present and future.—J. S. P.

PLAIN SPEAKING

When it comes to plain talk Saunders of The Independent of Elizabeth City is in a class by himself. In his writup of the Winder scandal last week he summarizes the Elizabeth City condition in a burning indictment as follows:

The Town of Winder

Is a rotten mess from start to finish. Where it will end no one knows. It isn't good advertising for a town that spends \$125,000 on one house of worship and votes to spend \$400,000 on public schools. It has given the public a nasty morsel of scandal to chew on and filled many impressionable minds with disease and dirt. The only good that can come out of it is the possibility that it may arouse the carless, indifferent, loveless, lazy, ignorant parents of the town to have an eye to their children. Several hundred parents in this town should be indicted along with L. L. Winder and put thru the same grilling ordeal of shame. It may be argued in the case of a widow who sends her children out to work, that she can't keep track of her children. But that argument doesn't apply to hundreds of parents who let their children run wild about the streets. Whether L. L. Winder is proved guilty or innocent will not destroy the fact that the child life of this town is not properly safeguarded, nor destroy the fact that girl children in Elizabeth City are surrounded by vicious and degrading influences. In this disreputable case the town finds itself on trial along with L. L. Winder.

Local News and Personal Mention

Mrs. Edgar E. Bundy and daughter, Martha Bundy of Wilmington have been visiting Mrs. L. E. Harrison and Miss Deborah Felming.

Be sure to register for Town and Graded School Elections. Books close the 23rd.

Miss Eva Peel of the Oak City High School Faculty spent the week end at her home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Peel.

Mr. and Mrs. Perley Brown, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Wynne and Mrs. Minnie Balance motored to Dunn Sunday and spent the day with friends.

Messrs. R. L. Smith and J. D. Mizel of Robersonville were in town yesterday. Miss Lalla Wynne of the Robersonville School Faculty spent the weekend at home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Wynne.

Mr. Clayton Moore is in Greenboro this week attending the meeting of the Good Roads Association.

Be sure to register for Town and Graded School Elections. Books close the 23rd.

Mr. Martin Carstarphen of Tarboro was in town yesterday to visit his mother, Mrs. Fannie Carstarphen.

Mr. Maurice Watts went to Fayetteville on a business trip yesterday.

Don't fail to attend the Women's Meeting at the court house, Friday afternoon at four o'clock.

Mr. J. T. Sykes of Parmelee was a Williamston visitor yesterday.

The last meeting of the Martin County Teacher's Association will be held at the graded school building in Williamston, on Saturday, April 23.

IMPORTANT MEETING THURSDAY AFTERNOON

There will be a very important meeting in the school building Thursday afternoon. The Mother's Club will meet then and there will be discussed a subject of vital interest to the women of the town as well as of great value to the county. It seems hard to impress upon our women the great need of attending these meetings, assisting and backing the school and public works of the town with their presence if not by actual suggestions and actions. It is a grave matter and one that the women alone can unravel so please let's have a good attendance Thursday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. Not only the mothers of the town but even the old maids are urged to be present. This problem doesn't concern children directly and we need the advice and help of the scores of prominent women of the town who do not belong to the Mother's Club.

WOMEN'S RALLY

There will be a meeting at the Court House Friday afternoon at four o'clock for the purpose of discussing the coming primary. Some of the ladies of Williamston need enlightenment upon the subject of the ways and means of voting. They know what they want, they realize what is best for themselves, their children and the town but they don't know how to go about getting these things. These subjects will be gone into thoroughly. It is necessary that the ladies attend and help fill out a program for the next two years government of our town.

WESTERN UNION OFFICE DOWN TOWN

Several days ago a representative of the Western Union Telegraph Company was in Williamston and made a tentative contract for office space on Main Street in which to equip a model telegraph office, and put out the present office at the A. C. L. station.

This representative was enthusiastic about making the change, and stated he thought it would prove a good thing for both the Company and its patrons.

This downtown telegraph office is something very much needed by the citizens and visitors of Williamston and every effort should be made to have it installed at an early date.

In as much as the Official in charge of such matters has recommended this change, there should not be much trouble in getting this matter attended to, provided pressure is brought to bear upon the Company in the proper way.

We recommend the Chamber of Commerce take this in hand, as their recommendation could lay inert in the files of the general offices of the Western Union for year to come, as it actually means no pressing with them.—J. S. P.

THE PRESENT SCHOOL SITUATION AND BRIEF HISTORY OF ITS PAST

The present graded school ground was deeded to the Williamston Academy Company in 1817 and for many years was operated as an academy until the Company finally from loss of interest failed to pay certain indebtedness due, and the property was sold by the sheriff under an order of the court.

The late John D. Biggs through deep interest in better education bought the property and held it for many years, during which time it was used for school purposes without cost of rent. In the year 1901 Mr. Biggs stated to a number of the leading citizens of Williamston that he felt that he had carried the burden long enough and that he had good offers from buyers who wanted the property for residential purposes, but he felt unwilling to dispose of it to these buyers if the public spirited representatives of the people would buy it for a school. Whereupon a new corporation was formed with the late W. H. Harrell, President and Walter Anderson, Secretary. There were about twenty-three stockholders—and John D. Biggs and wife, Mrs. Fannie S. Biggs deeded this property to the new corporation August 12, 1901.

The Legislature of 1903 passed an Act creating the present Graded School District and the Board of Trustees appointed were William Slade, Eli Gurganus, W. C. Manning, C. D. Carstarphen and Dennis S. Biggs. Mr. Slade did not qualify and Mr. Wheeler Martin was appointed in his stead. The Academy Company deeded the property to the Board of Trustees in August, 1903, and the property for the first time became public. The old Academy was then a three room building and was not large enough to house the pupils. A \$5,000 issue was passed and a neight room building was erected. The school outgrew this building in 1916. Plans were made for a larger and better building and a \$25,000 bond issue was voted upon and carried by a practically unanimous vote.

The building was let at a time that prices of labor and material were going up faster than skyrockets, therefore, the cost of the building and fixtures were more than the proceeds of the bond sale, leaving a balance due of several thousand dollars. This amount has been carried by the Board of Trustees through their personal endorsement.

Why should we vote bonds now? The only demand we see is to issue sufficient bonds to pay the present balance due, which is \$8,000. Why the vote for the whole sum of \$30,000? Because the Act specifies not to exceed \$30,000 it does not mean that a greater amount should be issued than is actually needed. While there seems to be no demand for a teacher's home at the present for two years the teachers could not get board in town and the school suffered much inconvenience, consequently a great demand went up from every quarter of the town for a dormitory or teachers' home, therefore the opportunity and authority is given in the bill.

Will there be bonds issued for the purpose of building? No, there is no demand for such a building as many people are now glad to get the teachers to board, therefore, the bond will not be issued until the people need and demand the building which will very likely not occur any time soon.

How about the running expenses of the school? Reference is made in answering this question to the books of N. S. Peel, Dr. John D. Biggs and W. T. Meadows who have been the only persons serving as treasurer of the Graded School since it was established. Each of them has made a full and complete statement at the end of every year and every penny of income and every cent ever spent by the Graded School has been properly entered and faithfully accounted for. Further reference may be made to the State Board of Education, also the County Board of Education. Mr. W. T. Meadows, the present Treasurer, will take pleasure in showing the books for the past several years which show in detail the source of all income, as well as all vouchers paid. These vouchers not only give the name of the payee, but fully the sundry items. The crucifying rable are earnestly requested to visit Mr. Meadows, inspect his books and then talk.

The question of why the Graded School is running behind in operation can be answered easily. Five years ago we were collecting around \$5,000 a year an paying teachers from \$50.00 to \$60.00 per month. This year we collected a Graded School tax of about \$6,000 and are paying \$110 to \$135 per month. This means a 20 per cent increase in funds and more than a 100 per cent increase in salaries, all other items of expense are in proportion. The reason for not hiring teachers cheaper was because it

FIGHTING FOR LOWER RATE OF INTEREST

Southern Congressmen and Senators in Washington are vitally interested in getting a lower Federal Reserve charge on discounts of Southern banks.

As conditions now exist it is practically impossible for a bank in this community to get loans from Northern banks, or the Federal Reserve for less than six to eight per cent, and even then these home banks are forced to carry a large balance, and it means either charge the same rate to the farmer down here plus the overhead charges, or be close up the bank, neither of which helps to overcome the general financial apathy now existing.

Eight and ten per cent is a ruinous rate of interest to pay for legitimate loans, and unless one uses sharp business judgment, there is a likelihood of this rate of interest putting the borrower out of business.

One of the greatest stains on American history is the action of the Federal Reserve Banks, and Secretary Houston, during the past year.

At one time the Federal Reserve was calling in loans on Liberty Bonds, in order to force the sale of these bonds, thus allowing the Government to buy them in at reduced prices; a course distinctly vile and distasteful to the real American citizen, who purchased these bonds in a spirit of loyalty to the country and of times at self-sacrifice. Then again the Federal Reserve Banks made large dividends for the government last year, whereas it was solely created for any other purpose than to be a money-maker.

It is to be hoped that the present Administration will overcome these narrow and selfish policies of government operation, and return to us more of the old time Americanism.—J.S.P.

BURIED TREASURE NEAR WILLIAMSTON

A Great Fortune Lying Untouched for 100 Years

A very prominent lady in Williamston, who is an authority on the happenings and events of Martin county a hundred years ago, or more, is responsible for the story told the writer, that on the immediate outskirts of the city there lies hidden far from prying eyes, and unknown to any one, a large fortune in coined gold, valuable jewelry and priceless bric-a-brac of a century ago.

Way back when North Carolina was a colony, a great favorite of the king of England built an immense colonial home in the outskirts of what is now Williamston. This home was built of wood, but a great cellar over which the house rested was built of brick, and secretly built underneath this cellar was a sub-cellar, where the family, unknown to their servants or visitors kept their wealth.

Finally the head of the house living alone became miserly, and slowly carefully concealed all the actual gold procurable, and a great bit of the family jewels and house ornaments into this hidden room, then burned the house up, and moved to another plantation.

Nothing was ever known what became of this reported great wealth, and the family has long since been forgotten. But recently, among some old papers the secret was revealed by documents written by the head of the household before his death, and placed in a envelope with some receipts.

This old cellar has long since been covered up, and ploughed over for many generations, but the lady re-exact location from her early childhood, but hesitates to make excavations, for sentimental reasons.

The Enterprise is ready to commence digging today, and we hope this pleasure will be given us, but the questions first of all settled is who would the property belong to, the seventeenth cousins of the former owner, the present owner of the land or the persons who actually discover the treasure. After this matter is settled likely, "digging" will begin.—J. S. P.

could not be done. Nor shall we go backward in our educational program. We cannot afford to. It costs about \$35.00 per year to send each child to school in Williamston which is only 65 per cent of the average cost in the United States. It costs about three times as much to go to the moving picture shows in Williamston than to go to school. Intelligence is the only thing that will lead us out of the wilderness. Don't strike down the institution that elevates your child and places it in position to face the battles of life.

Remember C. B. Hassell, Judge Asst. Biggs and the many other patriotic citizens of the pre-Civil war period who gave Williamston a school. Remember John D. Biggs, who not only furnished the building and grounds free but furnished teachers practically free for several years. Are we as good as they? Time will tell.

BODIES OF THREE MARTIN COUNTY SOLDIERS BURIED IN NATIVE SOIL

Last Sunday brought to many people of our county fresh memories of war, when three of our young men who had left home not quite three years ago were brought from the tombs of the battlefields of France to be placed in the silent graveyards of their fathers. Some think it best to let the dead bodies of our soldier boys rest in France but somehow we feel just as the people have felt throughout all the ages, we wish to be buried with our ancestors, our kindred and our friends. We are glad that the American mothers are being permitted to behold the biers of these martyred sons.

James William Clark, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Clark who live one mile from Everett, was buried Sunday afternoon by five of his ex-soldier comrades, E. L. Hardy, R. L. Taylor, E. G. Bailey, R. N. Grimes and Mayo Peck. Rev. J. M. Perry conducted the funeral service.

James Clark was killed on the 4th Sunday of September, 1918 in that great drive on the Hindenburg Line. He was a member of Co. H., 120th Infantry, 30th Division. He leaves a father, mother and several brothers and sisters.

Simon Seth Griffin was the first volunteer from Griffin's Township going to Warrenton under Captain Graham. He was soon transferred to Camp Sevier and went to France from there, as a member of Co. H., 120th Infantry, 30th Division. He was killed in action by machine gun fire September 29, 1918, one young man who acted as pall bearer saw him fall on that fatal Sunday on which he died.

He was buried by the side of his father last Sunday. The funeral service was conducted by Asa J. Manning, and the casket was borne by his uniformed comrades led by the Flag of his country. He was twenty four years old and leaves his mother, father and one sister.

Lindsay David Harrison was buried at his home Sunday, the funeral services held by Rev. A. J. Manning. The pall bearers were those of his friends who had marched with him to the marshes of war. They were in full uniform.

He was the son of John A. Hodges who died only a year ago and Albert Hodges and is survived by his mother and five brothers and sisters. Lindsay Hodges was one of the first drafted from Martin County and left Martin County in September 1917. He was trained at Camp Jackson and was placed in Company M, 120th Infantry. He left camp for France in May 1918 and was killed near Bellucourt, September 29, 1918. He was a member of a machine gun squad.

All these young men were members of the famous 30th Division and their blood washed away the strongest battle lines ever laid out by man. We honor them.

TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

The Martin County Teachers Association will meet at the graded school auditorium in Williamston, at 10 a. m. Saturday, April 23.

Matters of importance to be discussed: First—Salary schedule for the coming year. Second—Closing up of Reading Circle Work. Third—County Summer School.

It is important that all teachers be present.

A. J. MANNING, Supt.

JULIUS PEEL NOT A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

Julius Peel wishes to make announcement through the columns of this paper that he is positively not a candidate for any public office in Williamston at the coming elections in May.

In a recent issue of this paper we stated that he was a possible candidate for Mayor, which announcement at that time was authorized; however, Mr. Peel informs us that for obvious reasons he cannot at this time accept any public office.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of John R. Harrison, late of Martin County, N. C., all persons indebted to said estate are hereby notified to come forward and settle same at once. All persons holding claims against said estate will present same for payment on or before April 16th, 1922, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery.

This April 16th 1921.

G. H. HARRISON, Administrator.

MAMMOTH YELLOW STOCK PEAS

For sale. Phone or write James R. Knowles, Dardens, N. C. M 4 4wks

Now is the time to buy your fertilizer for 1921. See Leslie Fowden first.

STRAND THEATRE

—THURSDAY—
ETHEL CLAYTON in "THE LADDER OF LIES"

—FRIDAY—
BUSTER KEATON in "NEIGHBORS"
Mack Sennett Comedy—
"SWEETHEART DAYS"
"Thunderbolt Jack"—Episode 1

—SATURDAY—
WM. S. HART in "APOSTLE OF VENGEANCE"
SNUB POLLARD in "ALL DRESSED UP"