

# THE ENTERPRISE

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## MRS. BROWN ACQUITTED OF MURDER CHARGE BY JURY HERE WEDNESDAY

### Jury Out Only Few Minutes; Shot Her Husband May 30th

After being out only a short while, the jury in the trial of Mrs. Alma Brown, who was charged with the murder of her husband on Sunday, May 30, returned a verdict of not guilty in superior court here Wednesday. The prisoner was immediately discharged.

The trial began Tuesday afternoon, at 2:30, the jury was selected and the evidence for both the State and defense was in within three hours, when court adjourned until Wednesday. The argument by B. A. Critcher for the defendant, and Donnell Gilliam, for the State, together with the charge of Judge Calvert last only two hours Wednesday morning. The jury then took the case to say in what way and under what circumstances Mrs. Brown killed her husband.

The State had shown that Will Brown had been shot and killed on Sunday night, May 30, on the George L. Roberson farm, 3 miles south of Robersonville, by his wife, Alma Brown, who had taken a shot gun from her father's house at midnight and gone 75 yards to the car in which her husband was sitting and there blew the top of his head off with one barrel and emptied the contents of the other barrel into his right shoulder.

The defense claimed that Brown had taken his wife to see her mother Sunday. After dinner he drove away, taking one of the small children and the husband of Mrs. Brown's sister, Brown, who was a drinking man, was supposed to have gone to a moonshine still, where he hung up until late in the night, reaching the home of his father-in-law at 11:30.

Brown shouted to his wife to "come on and go home." She told him the three children which he had left with her were asleep and to wait until she could get them ready. Like drunken men frequently do, she claims, he became noisy, cursing and using abusive language, resulting in a fight in which she was choked. The drunken brother-in-law entered the game and was knocked down with a chair several times by Mrs. Brown, whose sister and mother had brought in the gun in the meantime and were procuring ammunition.

It seems that about this time there was a lull in the scrap, and the gun was abandoned. Brown went back to the car and got in it for the purpose of leaving. Some minutes after he had left the house for the car, Mrs. Brown took up the gun and followed after him.

The only difference in the testimony of the State and defense was as to what occurred at the car just as the shooting took place. The State contended that Mrs. Brown walked up to the car where Brown, the child, and drunken brother-in-law were and fired on him without warning.

Mrs. Brown claimed that she went to the car and demanded that she be given the sleeping 4-year-old child, who was about to be taken away at 12 o'clock in the night; that her husband slapped her down with his left hand and then started to climb out of the left side of the car, where there was no door. She said he threw his left leg over the side of the car and was turning around and crawling out of the car backwards when she shot him, and that she was still sitting on the ground and believed her husband meant to do her bodily harm when she shot him.

## STRAND THEATRE

FRIDAY

For those who like something pleasingly different.

### "Dancer of Paris"

Conway Tearable, Dorothy McCall  
25 and 50

THEN SATURDAY

You may get the lucky number for a—

### Two-Tube Radiola

Do not miss this chance—

## Dead Beats To Drive Us Into Garnishee Law

### Merchants Advocate a Law to Make People Pay Their Bills

Credit conditions existing in Elizabeth City are about the same as they are in Williamston, according to an article in the last issue of The Independent. We hear stories every day about people owing big bills at stores in this town and other towns in the community, and driving cars, some little and some big, while the merchants walk, ride bicycles, or in less expensive cars. Extracts from the Independent's article follow:

"North Carolina would have a garnishee law on its books if the merchants of Elizabeth City had their way about it. The business men, and especially the small merchants, express themselves as being heartily for such a law. It is the only protection and only salvation for us," they declare. "The dead beat is driving us out of the credit business, and making it harder for the honest man to get credit."

"Merchant after merchant, interviewed by this newspaper, without exception, declared himself in favor of the enactment of such a law. This week, briefly, a garnishee law is a law that permits a creditor to attach a portion of a man's wages for the settlement of his honest debts. It is the only protection a creditor has against the man who can and will not pay his bills.

"A poll of the merchants of the two busiest blocks on Main Street brought forth a pitiful story. 'We are slaves to the credit system,' the merchants declare. Credit is too easy but we have to give it, or our customers will go elsewhere. If a customer is slow pay we have to continue to extend credit to keep him paying on his account, or he will take his cash to some other town.'

"Other merchants report men making \$18 and less a week who buy automobiles, evading their debts for clothing and groceries to keep the cars going, because they must use their cash to meet the installments on the automobile or lose it. Every garage reports debts for repair bills on some of these cars that they never expect to collect."

ATTEND FUNERAL OF BROTHER IN RICH SQUARE

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Mobley went to Rich Square Wednesday to attend the funeral of Mr. J. C. Batton. Mrs. Mobley's brother who fell dead on Tuesday. Mr. Batton was a prominent druggist and a leading citizen of his section. He was 62 years old.

The jury brought in a verdict of acquittal after being out only minutes.

Practically every person in the courthouse expected an acquittal. In fact, most of the people, and especially the women, approved of the verdict.

It was a trial flooded with sympathy, one of the quietest and saddest trials ever held in the Martin County courthouse.

Mrs. Brown, a rather handsome young woman, only 24 years old, with four children, 2, 4, 6, and 8 years old, and again in expectancy, was accompanied by her father, who remained at her side throughout the trial. She was neat y but not extravagantly dressed. She sat during the pleading of counsel for both sides with her face down and her eyes cast to the floor. She did not stare nor flinch during the entire procedure; even the filing of the jury and announcement of the verdict, "not guilty" failed to arouse her from her apparent deep study, and her attention was gotten only when she was told by a friend that she was free.

The whole tragedy, the slaying of a human being; a man; a husband, is directly chargeable to illicit liquor. While neighbors said he was not of the best type of man, Mrs. Brown said he was kind when sober. Of course, high temper on the part of Mrs. Brown matured the fruits of his folly. Had she been a woman timid and afraid to assert herself, then she doubtless would now be plodding along life's highway with a sometimes drunken and cruel husband rather than a lonely woman mourning the loss of a husband and with the awfulness of the thought of having taken another's life always before her.

What a noble mission was theirs. But how strangely the events moved that brought it to fruition.

Church of the Advent Program of Services

Rev. C. O. Pardo, Rector  
Third Sunday after Trinity:  
8:45—Holy Communion.  
9:45—Church School; Mr. N. Carter Green, superintendent.

11:00—Morning prayer and sermon.  
8:30—Holy Trinity Mission.

### Hammer And Saw Again Active Here

THE noise of hammer and saw may be heard in many parts of town now. The enlargement of the Farmers Warehouse, which has been in progress for some months back, is already presenting a marked improvement in the Tobacco section and when the proposed alterations to the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse are completed will improve the warehouse equipment very much.

Work on the residence of Mrs. G. N. Gurganus on Watts Street was commenced several days ago, and will be completed in the early fall.

## The Enterprise Sunday School Lesson in Brief

June 20—"Judah's Plea"—Gen. 44: 18-34.

By C. H. DICKEY

Events move in such a strange way. We can not begin to understand them. It would be a wonderful thing if we should always remember that we are not able to fully understand. Presuming that we do understand often gets us into trouble; when admitting that we do not always leave the way open for God to carry on with us, for us, and through us.

When Joseph was sold into Egypt, there was none living who could see any good in it. But God took up the thread of events and wove them into a wonderful pattern. Joseph's going into Egypt was the initial step which issued, a long time afterwards, in God's chosen people emerging upon the theatre of national and international events.

Joseph, through sheer worth and because God was with him arose to a throne of power down in Egypt. We are slaves to the credit system; the merchants declare. Credit is too easy but we have to give it, or our customers will go elsewhere. If a customer is slow pay we have to continue to extend credit to keep him paying on his account, or he will take his cash to some other town.'

Joseph sent his sons there to buy grain.

About twenty years ago, these brethren had sold Joseph and sent him into Egypt as a slave. Now, they themselves are going down, crowded by a great famine. They do not know it, but they are going down to ask bread from the very brother whom they had sold in Egypt. What strange turns events take!

The context gives the account of how these events proceeded here.

In short, Joseph demanded a hostage and also demanded that his younger brother be brought down from Canaan as surety. And here comes in the noble speech of Judah.

Something seems to have happened to Judah in these years. He is a changed man. Now, he is mindful of his father; at one time he had no more regard for him than to sell into slavery his favorite son. Now, the thought of taking him from his other darling is too much for him. And he rushes forward with noble impulse and offers himself for surety—offers himself instead of his brother. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend."

In course of time, Joseph reveals himself to his brethren. How moving the story; what a tale this is! Stranger than fiction, moving the soul to tears.

During these years of exile Joseph's attachment for his old father never abated. Filial love did not die out in the human heart. He was more interested in the old man than he was in the Egyptian Empire.

The context closes with Joseph sending to Canaan for his father and bringing the entire family down to Egypt, where there was corn, a home protection, and where entire family relations could be resumed.

When they went down, about 72 souls, something was started for God: a chosen people, a peculiar people were placed in school, and their mission was to give the world a religion, or the religion, and eventually the Saviour.

What a noble mission was theirs. But how strangely the events moved that brought it to fruition.

## A ROYAL ENTERTAINER PERFORMS



Amir Bux, a genuine East Indian conjurer, produces a Liberty Bell from a reporter's hat. He is one of the artists in the India Building at the Sesquicentennial International Exposition, which opened in Philadelphia June 1 to December 1 to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

## Shoppers Asked To Help Clerks By Buying Early

### Many People of Town Work Hardship on Clerks in Local Stores By Waiting Until After 6 O'Clock to Do Their Shopping

Last year we carried an article in the Enterprise about people shopping after 6 o'clock, especially the town people, and many who had not thought of the hardship it works on the clerks were glad to and did get up town, do their shopping, and were ready to get out of the stores by 6 o'clock promptly.

But we have gotten into the same old habit again this summer, getting up town just about 6 in the afternoon and then begin shopping with a clerk who has been working—most of them—since 6 o'clock that morning.

### New Filling Station Opens Tomorrow

One of Eastern Carolina's handsomest and most up to date gasoline stations will be opened tomorrow on the corner of Main and Washington streets.

The Harrison Oil Co., owners and operators of the two stations extending from Haughton to Washington Streets and fronting on Railroad Street are the owners of the new station.

The service station property, which includes a large plot of land, is covered entirely by the station and concrete driveways, oil and washing pits, etc., extending from Washington Street to the Dunning residence property. The estimated cost of the new station, including the land, is around \$23,000.

The station will be run under the name of the Central Service Station, and will be conducted under the most up-to-date methods, with the most modern equipment.

Messrs. C. B. and Gaylord Harrison, who have operated the Texaco Station in the past, will be in charge of the Central. These young men give as complete service as it is possible to give and extend to every visitor and customer every courtesy.

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Sunday

9:45 a. m.—Sunday school.  
11:00 a. m.—Morning worship.  
8:00 p. m.—Evening worship, evangelistic service.

All are cordially invited to worship with us.

Miss Thelma Brown will spend the weekend in Kenly visiting Miss Mildred Darden.

### County Sunday School Meeting

THE Martin County Sunday School Convention will be held in Robersonville Wednesday and Thursday, June 23 and 24. The workers of all Sunday School in the county are invited to attend the sessions, which begin Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

Mr. James L. Roberson, who is the county secretary, urges the teachers and officers of every Sunday school in the county to attend, as important problems confronting Sunday school workers will be taken up and considered.

## Superior Court Term Short But Full of Interest

### Make Record By Granting Five Divorces in Forty Minutes

The June term of superior court was interesting, even if it was only a two and a half day term, one day of which was taken up in the trial of a net stealing case, resulting in a mistrial and a not pros with leave.

There was only one prison sentence made. James Salsbury, colored, who killed a man when he turned a car over, was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to the Edgecombe County roads for the term of 15 months.

The court was a record one for divorces, grinding out five in less than 40 working minutes, which is regarded as high-speed court procedure.

The civil docket was passed up without delay; suitors, attorneys, and the court all appearing willing.

### Sunday Services At Memorial Baptist

Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, the service will be held by and for the children of the Junior Church.

This church is making a large place in its program for the children. Frequently it is planned that a service shall be held for them and with their active participation.

Sunday morning, one of them will perform at the organ, two will render a duet, others will take the offering, while still others will do the ushering. The sermonette by the pastor will be aimed solely for the children to comprehend.

At the close of the service, three of the children will be baptized. The church members will want to be at this service.

There will be the regular sermon Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.

### Automobile Runs Into Railroad Embankment

Running down a hill about 50 yards long and facing a tall railroad embankment, the driver of a new Chrysler sedan failed to stop last night, and this morning his car was resting with its nose in the railroad bed back of W. P. Hall's residence.

The pastor has in mind the young people of the community, in the preparation of this discourse. It is they who should hear it; for it is they who could profit.

The "untouchables", the "diseased", the "unfortunates", the "wrecks"—it is they who should speak to us from their miserable plights.

It is the business of the church, and all forces of righteousness to save the youth from this pitiable wreck-age.

### Holiness Meeting to Start Next Monday

Rev. D. J. Little, pastor, assisted by Rev. A. H. Butler, of Falcon, N. C. will begin a meeting in the new Pentecostal Holiness church at the west end of Haughton street, Monday night, June 21.

This meeting will continue for about two weeks. All church people are invited to assist in the service and everyone is invited.

### Young Child of Mr. and Mrs. John Gurkin Dead

John Wilson, the eight months old child of Mr. and Mrs. John Gurkin, died Wednesday after several weeks of sickness. The funeral was held Thursday afternoon by Rev. A. J. Manning.

Burial was in the Gurkin cemetery at Lilley's Hall, a very large crowd attending both funeral and burial.

### Masons To Elect Officers Tuesday

It was announced last week that there would be an election of officers on June 8th, but this was an error.

The regular election of officers will be held Tuesday, June 22nd at 8:00 o'clock.

Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Burrell and daughter, Miss Beatrice