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ESTABLISHED 1898

Start This Week on New Phone System

More Than Two-Thirds Subscribers in Town Sign Petition

That Williamston will have new and modern telephone equipment was made certain last week when the number signing the petition asking for better equipment amounted to more than two-thirds of the town's telephone subscribers.

For the past several weeks the installation of the common battery equipment was in doubt, but it is now a certainty that the town will have a modern telephone exchange by the 15th of next month, the time set for the cutting over from the old system to the new.

Western Electric installers will arrive this week to begin the work, and about twenty days will be required to prepare for the change.

Service will be carried on practically as usual during the transfer, according to those familiar with the work. Once the installers get the new switchboard in and ready for connections a large number of men will be sent here to install the new stations. While this is going on there will be two switchboards in operation, one in the old building and the new one. Trunk lines will be run from the old office to the new to take care of the old stations until they can be connected to the new board.

The common battery system does away with the crank on the telephone and makes operating much more efficient since there are electric signals where there were none in the old system.

The rural telephones will remain the same since the common battery system cannot be used on party lines. Rural telephone subscribers will get the advantage of the new equipment, however, in that signals will be of a more distinctive nature than they are on the present board.

Memorial Proposed to Wright Brothers

Washington, Dec. 18.—(Special to The Enterprise).—Congressman Lindsay C. Warren yesterday introduced a bill in the House providing for the erection of a memorial on the sand dunes of Kill Devil Hill, Kitty Hawk, Dare County, where—just 23 years ago—on December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first successful airplane flight in the world. It was on the wind-swept banks of North Carolina that aviation was born. Since then Wilbur Wright has died, but his brother, Orville Wright, one of the outstanding men in America, lives in Dayton, Ohio.

Congressman Warren in the very beginning, has secured help from an unexpected quarter. On Yesterday Senator Hiram Bingham, of Connecticut, a noted aviator in the world war and former professor at Yale University arose in the Senate and delivered a lengthy speech on the heat of the Wright brothers. He concluded by introducing a bill almost identical with Mr. Warren's for the erection of a memorial at Kitty Hawk. The Warren-Bingham bill attracted much attention yesterday, and all of the papers carried long accounts of it.

STRAND THEATRE

WEDNESDAY

Marie Prevost in "Almost a Lady" Also 2 Reel Comedy

And a Free Ticket to Friday Night's Show

Always a Good Show

Noted Diva to Sing at Peanut Show Monday

Kathryn Meisle, Chicago Opera Contralto, to Give Recital

Local managers and music lovers in cities where Kathryn Meisle, the Chicago Opera contralto, is scheduled to appear, will no doubt be interested in knowing that Miss Meisle has on several occasions been likened to the great diva, Ernestine Schumann-Heink, to whom they have doubtless listened on many occasions.

After Miss Meisle's singing at the Newark, N. J., Music Festival in May 1925, the critic of the Star-Eagle wrote: "It seemed as if Schumann-Heink at her greatest never equaled the eloquent singing of the charming contralto in the immortal Schubert tone-poem (Der Erlkoenig)." The critic of the New Orleans Morning Tribune commented on Miss Meisle's recital there on March 5, 1925, as follows: "Miss Meisle's voice has the depth and tonal feeling of the type of Schumann-Heink, something of the pristine depths hidden in it, a connotation carried over from living and from watching the spectacles of life move in and out of crises."

The first comparison in the voices was made on the occasion of Miss Meisle's operatic debut with the Chicago Opera Co., as Erda in "Siegfried" in November, 1923, at which time the eminent Chicago critic, Herman DeVries wrote in the Chicago American: "If I am not mistaken, it was in 1898 that Ernestine Schumann Heink made her first appearance at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York as Erda and created an immortal standard for this role, one which has never been surpassed. I believe I can pay no better compliment to Kathryn Meisle than comparison with her great compeer." Later in that season, when reviewing another performance, Mr. DeVries reiterated his former statement by remarking: "Once again the timbre of the contralto reminded us of Schumann-Heink's grandiose organ in its prime."

Miss Meisle, aside from her operatic activities, has given recitals the length and breadth of this country with remarkable success, and her repeated engagements with the leading symphony orchestras all over the United States, are the most potent proof of her eminent standing in the concert world today.

Miss Meisle will be heard at the Eastern Carolina and Tidewater Virginia Peanut Exposition at Windsor next Monday, December 27, at 8:15 p. m.

Sheriff Roberson Turns Coupe Over

When he was going to his farm on the Hamilton Road Saturday morning ex-Sheriff Roberson turned his coupe over and completely wrecked the top and body. She stated he was going a bit too fast and when his car hit a small rut he turned too quickly to the other side of the road. When he reached the other side of the road, the car appeared to be slipping on the frozen ground toward the ditch and sheriff applied the brakes. The suddenness of the act caused the car to turn over. Just how many turns the car made the sheriff was unable to say, for it was not long in going, and he did not have time to think about the car and its foolishness.

With the car on its side, Mr. Roberson crawled out, and was unhurt except for a small cut on his forehead. A new body will be required to put the machine in shape. Other parts were uninjured.

Bird Thieves Busy in This Section

Mr. F. W. Barnes will have to look elsewhere for a Christmas turkey, for some hungry thief swiped the one he had engaged for Mr. John Cherry last Sunday night off the roost at Mr. Cherry's home near here. To make the feat a big one, the thief or thieves took two more turkeys from Mr. Cherry's roost at the same time.

Mr. Joe Leggett missed two of his chickens yesterday morning from the roost. Joe immediately bought him a gun and several shells loaded with bird shot. He states he has fed chicken thieves all the year up until now, but they will be obliged to eat off someone else these remaining few days.

Coal Miners Suffer 20 Per Cent Cut in Wages

A large number of West Virginia coal miners suffered a wage cut of 20 per cent yesterday. The cut came because a heavy drop in the price of coal took place.

The miners affected by the decrease in wages were recently granted a substantial raise when coal went up in price; so the cut is partly cared for by the recent advance in their wages.

Mr. Sherwood Brockwell, who is chief assistant to Stacey W. Wade, insurance commissioner of North Carolina, was in town yesterday en route from Windsor, where he had been attending to matters of fire protection.

Mr. Boyd Hight, of Henderson, is spending the holidays here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hight.

Judge J. C. Smith, of Robersonville, was a business visitor here yesterday.

Mr. S. C. Collins leaves tomorrow for his home in Wilson to spend the holidays with his family.

What Christmas Really Is



By DR. FRANK CRANE

The Christmas season is the season of the horizon line. The earth and the sky, the clouds and the land, meet at the horizon line.

And so at Christmas time the practical and the ideal meet; what is, for the day, reached up and joins hands with What Ought to Be. Talk that is dubbed airy idealism during other seasons is the guiding plan of action when Christmas comes around.

On that day men think of others as well as themselves, they feast their bodies, but also their hearts.

Thoughts concern juicy brown drumsticks and heaped white mountains of mashed potatoes, but they also concern the welfare of the unfortunate and the relieving of want.

One deals with the so-called "practical" part of life, the other with the "ideal." They both have part on Christmas Day.

No other season comes nearer humanity. It deals with the needs of the present. It takes men as they are and tries to bring the best in them to the top.

It is the most kindly, human season. It doesn't censure or lecture. It doesn't attack or berate. It melts the ice from the springs of human kindness and refreshes the world.

The significance of Christmas is apparent to all. Its rites are simple. There is nothing of the mystic ritual which is comprehended by only a few initiated. It is for all, understood by all.

It comes down to earth and deals with practical things, translating kindly impulses into kindly acts.

It touches life as we live it and for one day lifts the world nearer what it should be. Like the parables of the Master, Christmas infuses idealism into the thoughts and acts of our everyday existence.

Those who look only at the sky, fail to see the earth, and those who gaze only at the earth do not see the sky. Only those who look at the horizon line appreciate them both and see them joined together.

During most of the year, in many minds the idealism of the Golden Rule and similar teachings and the practical actions of everyday life seem to stand far apart.

It is at the horizon line of the Christmas season that they are universally seen to draw together.

Badly Burned Filling Lamp Near a Stove

Mrs. W. C. Ellis, of Bear Grass, was badly burned Saturday night when she filled a gasoline lamp near a stove. The fumes of the gas were ignited by the stove and Mrs. Ellis was seriously burned about her arms and face.

She had made a mistake and put gasoline in the wrong lamp and was transferring it to another when the accident occurred. While the burns are exceedingly painful, it is hoped that Mrs. Ellis will not lose her eyesight nor be seriously scarred by the burns.

We can never be too careful with gasoline and fire.

J. H. Spruill Practicing Law in Windsor Now

Mr. J. H. Spruill, of Windsor, was a visitor in town Monday. Mr. Spruill has associated himself in the practice of law with Moses Gilliam, of Windsor, under the firm name of Gilliam & Spruill, succeeding Gilliam & Davenport.

Mr. Spruill was in Williamston for several months some years ago with the Farmers & Merchants Bank, going with the State department of revenue later. He has since procured his law license.

New Store to Open Here in January

While no definite plans have been announced, it is understood that Williamston will have a new store here in January at which time preparations for the new store will begin.

Messrs. J. T. Barnhill and Garland Barnhill and Miss Nellie Fae Barnhill of Everetts were here yesterday.

Almost Runs Ford Under Man's House

While no explanation could be gotten, it must have been that Jule Elliott was playing hide and seek when he tried to run under J. H. Beech's kitchen with Dr. J. H. Saunders' Ford coupe Sunday night Elliott was evidently off in his thinking when he mistook the small path leading to Mr. Beech's wood pile for a street, and he pushed the front end of the coupe well under the kitchen.

Elliott was alone and escaped injury when the car hit a pillar supporting the house and hid its burst radiator and broken lights under the house. Damage to the car amounted to around \$25. The car had been borrowed only a few minutes when Elliott took the path for a street and ran the car into the house.

Colored Quartet in Contest Here Tonight

The famous colored quartet of Norfolk will sing tonight at the court house in a contest with the famous Alfours Quartet of Edenton. It is claimed that the Edenton four outclasses the Norfolk singers, but those who have heard the Norfolk quartet are unwilling to believe it.

There is a treat in store for all who enjoy real old Southern melody at the courthouse tonight at 8 o'clock.

Hope to Finish Work on Jail in February

To Be Modern in Every Respect; Also Offices in Building

Martin County's new jail will be ready for use the early part of February, according to information from those acquainted with the work. The Pauly Iron Works Co., of St. Louis, Mo., will finish its work on the latter part of next week, and the building contractors will complete their work in January.

While the contract called for the completion of the building the first of this month, the final limit is March 1, when a fine for each day thereafter will be charged against the contractors.

With ten cells, eight for men and two for women, an insane room, a detention room, another for fumigation purposes, and a kitchen, Martins' jail, when completed, will be most modern. The Pauly Jail Works will have their part of the job completed the latter part of next week.

To escape from the jail is just an impossibility, for there are levers to control the doors of the cells, and these levers are found in the passageway. The levers are well cared for, since they are in a steel box with a combination as well as a key lock on it. These levers are so arranged that as many as four doors can be opened at one time. The insane room will be equipped in the same manner as those found in the State asylums. In fact, Sheriff Roebuck's jail will care for all classes. Eight of the cells are found on the top floor while the two for women are located on the third floor. The kitchen occupies a large corner in the basement.

Besides caring for the jail the building will house the register of deeds and the clerks offices. New equipment has been bought for the two offices, and the filing and finding of records will be made easier once the change to the new building is made.

35,524 Deaths in North Carolina Last Year

The year 1926 brought 35,524 deaths in North Carolina. For every 1,000 persons, there were 11.86 deaths.

Nephritis, or Bright's Disease, was the cause of more deaths than any other cause, taking a toll of 2,915; heart disease caused the death of 2,638; tuberculosis, 2,750; apoplexy, 2,925; cancer, 1,201; pneumonia and influenza, 2,560; violence, 2,094; typhoid fever 277; malaria fever 123; small-pox, 7; measles 12; scarlet fever 310; whooping cough 150; diphtheria 310; mumps 9; rabies 7; tetanus 25; syphilis 166; gonococcus 8; pellagra 398; alcoholism 40; meningitis 143; epilepsy 79; pleurisy 29; asthma 60; appendicitis 309; hernia 249; cirrhosis of liver 88; childbirth 588; premature birth and birth injuries 1,745.

Various forms of violence resulted in the following deaths: Suicide 1,338; poison 66; burns 293; suffocation 81; drowning 97; firearms accidents 112; other accidents except railroad and automobile 314; railroad and street car accidents 368; grade crossing accidents 33; injuries by animals 18; starvation 2; cold 3; heat 11; lightning 31; electricity 18; and homicides 374.

A. Corey May Again Be Enrolling Clerk

Lieutenant Governor Elmer Long held a council in his office in Durham last week, at which A. Corey, of Martin, with several other senatorial clerks who served in the last session were present.

Lieutenant Governor Long says he will run things on a cheaper scale than at the last session, and expects to save in the clerical work about \$10,000.

Mr. Corey, who is a candidate to succeed himself as enrolling clerk, expects to perform his work with much less help than he had 2 years ago. So far, we have heard of no complaint about a little saving. The folks will be glad of another cut.

Claims to be Champion Hog Raiser of State

Mr. J. M. Tharington, of West Durham, is claiming the hog-raising championship of the State. He recently killed a hog that weighed 1,035 pounds after being dressed and cut up. The hog was nine years old the day killed.

Survivor of Ironclads' First Battle Is Dead

Colonel Wiley B. Fort was buried at Pikeville, Wayne county, last Sunday. He was 85 years old before his death.

Colonel Fort had the distinction of engaging in one of the world's most famous battles, that of the Merrimack and the Monitor in the Chesapeake bay. Up to that time there had been no dream of such destruction.

Absence Traffic Wrecks Marks Past Week End

Smallest Number of Accidents in County in Many Weeks

The absence of wrecks was the notable feature here over the past week end. Only two wrecks in as many days were heard from, and they were of little note.

For some time it has been almost an impossibility for a week end to pass here without an auto wreck happening.

A careful estimate places the number of wrecks during the year at 221. This number includes only those wrecks where the cars were carried to garages for repairs, and does not take into consideration the minor ones. To offer an estimate of any worth for all wrecks, that is the most minor ones as well as the major ones, is impossible.

The Ford was the main sufferer, and approximately 90 per cent of that make went into the list of accidents. Only one big car is known to have had a part, and that was when a Ford was knocked off the Jamesville road about five miles from here.

Ceep wagons, fish wagons, trucks, coupes and all the other types of cars have been to the garages this year as a result of careless driving. Liquor was on the job, for it more than sent its quota of cars to the garage, and many patients to the hospitals. Then there were some that were just unavoidable.

Two deaths have resulted from the wrecks happening in the county; one taking place when the Coast Line train hit and killed a colored man at the Standard Oil tanks here, and the other occurring just the other side of Robersonville when another colored man was thrown from a car to the pavement. Several people are wearing permanent scars and at least three have been crippled in some or other for life.

Senator King Attacks North Carolina Projects

Senator King, of Utah, in his attack on the rivers and harbors bill now being debated in the Senate, singled out several North Carolina projects and attacked them with great force. Most of the projects he mentioned were fostered by Representative Lindsay C. Warren, of this district, and have already passed the House.

This is a typical paragraph from Senator King's speech: "North Carolina has for many years occupied a favored position in river and harbor bills. Provision is made in this bill for various channels and for an interoceanic waterway, for Douglas Bay, for Fae-Creek and Devils Gut and Gardner's Creek. If it were not deemed improper, I might observe that perhaps there are other channels and riuylets and microscopic creeks that are so small as to be denominated intestinal. North Carolina has Runyon Creek, which is cared for as well as Smiths Creek and Deep Creek."

Several Gallons Liquor Captured by Officers

Deputy Sheriff Grimes and a helper captured several gallons of liquor, a number of kegs, jugs, and bottles at the home of Sylvester Coffield Saturday night. Coffield was arrested and furnished proper recognition for his appearance before the recorder today. It is thought that Coffield's son was the business man in the case, as the reports reaching officers implicated him.

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