

THE ENTERPRISE

Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Latchkey to Over 1,800 Homes of Martin County

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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, January 3, 1928

ESTABLISHED 1898

EVEN THOUSAND LICENSE PLATES SOLD SATURDAY

Largest Number Ever Sold By Local Bureau in a Single Day

INSPECTOR IS HERE

Cars With Old Tags Parked Until Owners Secure New Ones; Monday Also Busy Day

The sale of automobile license tags reached a climax here last Saturday when an even thousand of the plates were sold during that day. "It was the largest number the bureau ever sold in one day during its existence," Mr. J. D. Woodard, manager stated. The Saturday sale brought the number issued for the 1928 series here up to 5,066. The revenue from the Saturday business alone lacked a few cents of totaling \$14,000.

Yesterday, the bureau had another fairly busy day. Mr. A. MacKenzie, North Carolina Auto Inspector, was here and he caused many car owners to visit the bureau. While here he tagged practically every car carrying the old license. He was lenient, however, and failed to fine car owners when they would agree to leave their cars where they were parked and go to the bureau for the plates. It was no common sight to see the car owners attaching the tags to their cars on the streets here yesterday.

Mr. MacKenzie left for Washington today, and will go from there to Hyde county. Returning here the latter part of the week, he will make another check of the cars in this section.

METER READINGS SHOW GROWTH

Much More Power Used in Last Six Months Than in Previous Year

The light readings during the last six months in 1927 for the town when compared with those for the last six months in 1926 indicate a splendid growth in the town itself. In his report before the commissioners last night, Treasurer W. T. Meadows pointed out that the readings in the last six months in 1927 amounted to \$2,630.64 more than the readings for a similar period in 1926. The month of October, 1927 showed the greatest gain.

This additional revenue from lights and power was brought about, in the main, by power users and not so much by the increase use of current for lights in houses and stores. However, it is evident that a decided increase in current used for homes took place. As for profit during the two periods, Mr. Meadows pointed out in his statement that the six months in 1927 showed a profit of \$2,630.64 more than the six months period did the previous year. However, "Uncle" Buck's method of arriving at profits differs slightly from that of certified public accountants, but that doesn't have anything to do with the increase in business.

Plumber Was Popular Man Here Yesterday

Dunn, the plumber, was a popular man in town yesterday morning, for call after call reached his shop summoning him to many of the residences to mend bursted pipes and water tanks. Considerable damages were reported in several cookrooms where the hot-water tanks bursted and tore up the stoves. At the home of J. T. Price, the fire box exploded and damaged stove and house so badly that the stove was carried out in pieces. Many automobiles were on the frozen list, and alcohol was in great demand for car radiators.

STRAND THEATRE

TONIGHT AND WEDNESDAY

Your Last Chance To See The Greatest Moving Picture of All Time

BEN-HUR

Theatre Well Heated. Come Early

RECORD MONTH FOR MARRIAGES

Issue Licenses for 22 White and 28 Colored Couples During December

December was a good marriage license month, twenty-two white and twenty-eight colored licenses being issued.

The youth of the whites is very noticeable, for of the twenty-two women, only three have reached the age of freedom, 21 years, two are only sixteen, one seventeen, nine eighteen, and four nineteen.

The licenses issued by Register J. Sam Getzinger during the month of December follow:

White
Coy Harrell, 22-Nora Ewell, 18; Henry H. Gorey, 19-Sallie Ruth Harless, 19; J. Ernest Gardner, 22-Louis Wells, 18; Elmer Harrison, 19-Mavis Rogers, 18; Curtis Mobley, 19-Mattie Biggs, 18; John J. Manning, 61-Lena Mobley, 45; Ammon Rogerson, 7-Annie Rogerson, 7; George E. Peel, 22-Lillian Capps, 18; James Malloy, 36-Rosie Edwards, 30; B. B. Wynn, 24-Ethel Hobbs, 18; Herman Whitley, 20-Mary Stevenson, 16; David O. Cherry, 23-Blanche M. White, 21; William Cobb, 22-Viola Castello, 20; Coy Bullock, 23-Cora L. Whitehurst, 19; John A. Manning, 23-Christine Harrell, 19; Richard Miselle, 21-Nettie E. Gibson, 17; Mills H. Ayers, 39-Francis Savage, 20; Alexander Boyette, 21-Minnie Bryant, 18; Willie Gardner, 20-Eva Modlin, 18; William Bryant, 24-Allie G. Williams, 18; C. Malcom Barber, 21-Della Stevenson, 18; Thurston Williams, 21-Lada V. Laggett, 19.

Colored
Charles Bellay, 19-E. M. Rogers, 18; Harry Clark, 52-Laura Roberson, 34; Lewis Jones, 23-Rosa L. Wicker, 18; Tobe Reddick, 29-Reba Stallings, 26; Will Crandle, 23-A. G. Salisbury, 20; John Best, 21-Fannie Purvis, 20; Will Moore, 21-Hattie Everett, 18; Peter Thompson, 69-J. Allie House, 69; J. H. Dickens, 21-Viola Edwards, 18; J. P. Powell, 18-Maggie Lee, 16; John Thomas Jenkins, 46-Martha Speller, 42; C. B. Price, 18-Dora Manning, 19; Gris Lloyd, 28-Feasie Purvis, 19; Jasper Andrews, 21-Louise Andrews, 19; A. Outerbridge, 21-M. Highsmith, 19; J. T. Erant, 21-Tilda Hodges, 18; George Purvis, 21-Della Hilliard, 18; J. Andrews, 21-Rose E. Eborn, 22; Jno. Purvis, 50-Cousetta Thompson, 30; Perie Roberson, 21-Stella Spruill, 18; John Freeman, 25-China E. Jones, 19; M. James, 18-Pauline Shepperd, 17; William Sutton, 22-Fannie V. Dunn, 18; John Barfield, 36-Ethel Hoggard, 28; David Battle, 31-Bettie A. Best, 22; James Ramsey, 22-John Contanch, 20.

ONE SHOT HITS BOY FIVE TIMES

Charles Peel Is Victim Of Unusual Accident; None Of Wounds Serious

A bullet, accidentally discharged from a .32-caliber pistol, caused an unexplainable phenomenon when it hit Charles Peel, son of Mr. H. D. Peel, in five different places and caused that many flesh wounds. The ball hit the boy on the arm first, but where it hit next Charles is at a loss to say. Anyway, there are four more wounds, one on the hand, one on the head and two on the neck. Clerks in the jewelry store, where the accidental shooting took place, made a thorough search for the ball, but were unable to find it.

Young Peel stated that he was waiting upon a customer and was bending over when the pistol fired in the hands of a colored man who was examining it. The ball followed a triangular route and after hitting the boy in five places, it disappeared. The colored man was so badly frightened that he could offer no explanation whatever, and the whole thing remains a mystery.

The pistol was in pawn, and was not for sale, but the Negro wanted to look it over and was examining the weapon when it accidentally fired.

"Ben Hur" Showing At County Theaters

"Ben Hur," one of the greatest pictures now on the screen, and one of the outstanding ones of the times, will be shown at the Strand Theatre in Robersonville Wednesday and Thursday nights of this week. Mr. J. M. Highsmith, manager of the theatre there, states that he had made special efforts to get "Ben Hur" for his patrons before, but that the picture was in such great demand that it was impossible to do so.

The picture ran here last night and will be shown again tonight and tomorrow night. The large crowd attending last night recommenced the picture very highly, and large crowds are expected to see it here tonight and tomorrow and at Robersonville Wednesday and Thursday.

CITY FATHERS REGULAR MEET MONDAY NIGHT

Review Work of Past Year And Make Plans For Improvements

TREASURER REPORTS

Permission for Dance Is Held Up For Time Being; Consider Buying Street Machinery

The happenings at the meeting of the own Commissioners here last night took on no definite form, but a general review of the town's business during the past several years was held, and plans to benefit from past experience were made. All of the commissioners were present, and it was the general opinion of the body that by close economy, the town might see the fiscal year out without neglecting the several departments.

Plans mentioned last night are expected to lead to many improvements in the town, especially the improvement of the streets. Messrs. J. D. Woolard, of the Williamson Motor Company and Cox and Winslow, of the Cox Motor Company, Robersonville, showed the Board various types of machinery that could successfully be used in the maintenance and cleaning of the streets. The members of the Board expressed themselves as being very anxious to adopt a regular street maintenance program, and are considering the purchase of adequate equipment for providing better and cleaner streets. However, definite action was deferred until the spring. The possibility of opening up two streets was also considered, and it is expected that the commissioners will investigate the building of a street through the old Hassell property and another from Hutton to Main street. Definite action was also deferred in this matter.

The Board, after a short discussion, showered down on dances, and refused to grant permission for the holding of further dances here for the time being. The Board did not withdraw the permission granted Mr. Clyde Everett some time ago, but outside of that particular one, permission was withheld.

Collection of City Hall rents was turned over to Chief Daniel. A report of collection of all town monies will be made to the Board at each of its regular meetings. Mr. W. T. Meadows, treasurer, rendered his report for the past six months and it showed an increase in business over that of a similar period in 1926.

The long and cold night won for Night Policeman Allsbrooks a \$25 raise, bringing his salary up to \$100. The extra duty of collecting taxes made possible a \$25 raise in Chief Daniel's salary, bringing his up to \$150. The members of the Board are making every effort to serve the town in a most efficient manner, and it can be safely said that cooperation of citizens with the commissioners will make possible one of the best years in the town's history.

Resources of Local Bank Pass Million Dollar Mark

The statement of the Farmers and Merchants bank which appears in this issue shows resources over one million dollars. This is the first time since 1920 a bank in Williamston has been able to show a statement of resources over one million dollars. The statement also shows over \$95,000.00 in cash which puts the bank in a very liquid position. The gentlemen who are directing the policy of this bank are fully appreciative of the fact that though a bank's resources may be large there is always a liability side to the ledger and they have stood tests in the past years that show their fidelity to the depositors' interest as in a manner few directors ever have.

Bankers are the custodians of the community's pocket-book and should, at all times, have an eye for the safety of funds entrusted to them. The deposits of a bank reflect the general financial condition of the community which it serves and we are proud of the fact that our people are coming back.

Bitter Cold Weather General This Week

Bitter cold describes the weather from the Dakotas to Miami, Florida, during the past few days. In the Northwest and Middle West the cold wave started with a snow blizzard, resulting in more than forty deaths. From that section of the country, the cold wave traveled south and drove the temperature down to 21 degrees in Jacksonville, Fla. Georgia was colder than Virginia. Home, Ga. had a temperature of 2 while Richmond had a temperature of 10. Yesterday the thermometer registered 12 degrees here, and some say that it went as low as 10.

KILLS NEGRO HOLD-UP MAN

Son of W. W. Griffin, Of Near Here, Stops Robbery at Sims, N. C.

Will Smith, Negro, was instantly killed by William Clyde Griffin at Sims, five miles from Wilson last Friday night when he with another Negro, Haywood Knight, attempted to rob the store of Mr. L. P. Woodard.

Smith and Knight, two Wilson Negroes, entered the store in the little village just before closing time and ordered the ten or twelve people, clerks and customers there to hold up their hands. The people obeyed, and while Wilson held his gun on them, Knight emptied the cash drawer of \$150. Young Griffin, a son of Mr. W. W. Griffin, of near here, happened at the back of the store when the two men entered and escaped their attention and he slipped out a rear door, ran to his room thirty yards away and returned with his pistol. Just as he walked in the store, Knight was retreating from the empty cash drawer and Smith still held the crowd with his drawn pistol. Griffin fired on Smith and killed him instantly, but Knight escaped when Griffin's pistol snapped. In the escape from the store, Knight dropped the silver money and fled to a house in the community where he was arrested a short while afterward by officers.

Griffin was exonerated by a coroner's jury. The Negro's body was turned over to a Wilson undertaker and it was recognized by people of that town who stated that Smith had been connected with many unlawful acts. Mr. Griffin had been working for Mr. Woodard since the middle of the fall and was commended by people there for reentering the store in the face of a pistol.

URGE CRIPPLES ATTEND CLINIC

Will Be Held in Washington Thursday, January 12th

Another of the orthopaedic clinics will be held in Washington, Thursday, January 12, according to an announcement from H. L. Stanton, Supervisor Vocational Rehabilitation, Raleigh. The clinic will be held between the hours of 9 a. m. and 12 M. in the Federal building.

Cripples in this and adjoining counties are invited and urged to attend the clinic. Since the clinic was held in Washington the first time, cripples from all over the counties in this part of the State have attended and in many cases they have been cured and in others they have been greatly helped. Very few have attended from this county, but they are extended a cordial invitation to do so and take advantage of the free treatment offered.

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEET

Only Routine Business Before County Board Here Yesterday

Few business matters faced the County commissioners at their meeting here yesterday, and aside from the drawing of a jury list for the special term of civil court, the work was negligible.

T. Lester Roberson, of Robersonville, was released from payment of poll tax listed through error.

The following were released from payment of special school tax charged in Robersonville as their property is located out of the school district:

S. T. Everett, \$3,180; Mrs. S. T. Everett, \$5,480; Mrs. Mary A. Everett, \$8,750; Thomas L. House, \$10,964; J. W. Warren, \$3,826; H. N. Coburn, \$3,830; Mrs. Sallie Williams, \$3,966; T. B. Williams, \$4,000.

The Board passed a resolution, asking that the State Highway commission pave Route No. 126 from Halifax to Williamston.

E. S. Peel was elected County attorney at a salary of \$150 per annum.

The jury list drawn by the commissioners to serve in the two weeks' special term of Martin County Superior court, beginning January 30, includes:

S. H. Mobley, A. T. Whitley, A. J. Harrison, S. O. Peel, N. R. Roberson, H. D. Cowan, A. F. Harrison, Clyde Roberson, J. G. Staton, N. K. Harrison, E. H. Smith, W. M. Bowen, W. L. Taylor, L. J. Creech, J. W. Belflower, J. T. Barnhill, S. R. Coburn, Chester Beech and W. J. Little for the first week and for the second week, S. S. Davis, C. E. Simpson, D. T. Griffin, Charles M. Peel, D. M. Roberson, B. S. Cowan, A. T. Perry, A. F. Taylor, John D. Diggs, W. J. Keel, W. B. Watts, George E. Moore, Joseph B. Cherry, Lester Peel, H. A. Jenkins, T. J. Roberson, W. S. White, and R. H. Weaver.

BIG CROWD SEES NEW CHEVROLET HERE MONDAY

Local Dealers Say More Than 3,000 People Visit Show Rooms

MANY IMPROVEMENTS

Longer Wheelbase, Bodies Made Roomier and More Beautiful; Also Improve Engine

Between 3000 and 3500 people saw the new Chevrolet at the Peel Motor Company's show room here yesterday, according to reports coming from officials of the company. The estimate was said to be a conservative one. The car, a Cobriole, was sold soon after the showroom was opened, and was delivered this morning to Dr. H. R. York.

The dealers stated yesterday that a carload of the cars would have reached here today had freight service not been discontinued by the railroads all over the country yesterday and today, and that that would delay the shipment two or three days.

At Robersonville, the showing was reported to be not as large as it was here, but that an entire car load of the cars had been sold, and that orders were accumulating rapidly. The large showing here yesterday was due, in part, to the sale of auto tags and the usual big crowds that visit the county seat each first Monday.

The hundreds who viewed the new models here and at Robersonville noted that the wheelbase was increased and bodies made roomier and more beautiful, also that the mechanical features had been developed to a measure heretofore unknown in the low-price class.

Outstanding developments in the engine and chassis that received widespread endorsement were the increased speed and power of the new car, easier steering, four wheel brakes of new design, shock absorber springs marking an advanced trend toward riding comfort, and smoother engine performance.

The last mentioned feature was achieved by the use of constant clearance alloy "invar strut" pistons which make for smoother, more efficient motor performance. Further contributions toward this end were gained by raising the compression ratio and by stepping up the valve lifts. Through these changes maximum power is developed, Mr. S. C. Peel, a member of the local firm, pointed out.

Other changes in the engine are the addition of a breathing system to eliminate the annoyance of engine fumes; a new two-port exhaust, and a sumping engine enclosure.

The four-wheel brakes are of non-locking design—the product of Chevrolet laboratories plus the facilities of General Motors laboratories and proving grounds. Front brakes are two-shoe unenergized internals, while the rear brakes are the energized external, self wrapping type. Front and rear brakes have been proportioned to prevent side drag or pull. Each brake has an individual adjustment at the wheels, while "stops" have been provided to make the adjustment process especially easy. Easy initial pedal application throws the front brakes into action. Further application throws front brakes harder into action and play, so that it is possible to slide the rear wheels on dry pavement by using full pressure but not the front wheels.

The springs also are of extraordinary interest. Realizing that all uncomfortable spring action is the result of rebound after striking a bump, Chevrolet engineers set about to increase the friction of the springs and thus check the rebound.

So much has the spring friction been increased by this new device that the car is said to ride 50 percent better than with old type springs. The rebound checks also offer greater resistance to bumps.

Parents-Teachers To Meet Thursday Week

The regular meeting of the parents-teachers association has been postponed and will be held Thursday of next week instead of next Thursday. The meeting was postponed on account of the absence of several officers from the city.

Attention of the members of the association is called to the meeting next week, and it is hoped that a large number will attend.

Accepts Position Here With Harrison Brothers

Mr. H. F. Vaughan has accepted a position with Harrison Brothers and Company and began work here yesterday.

Mr. Vaughan has been with Burroughs-Pittman Company, Scotland Neck, for a number of years and he will be in charge of the gent's furnishing department at the local store.

RAILROAD AGAIN ASKS PERMIT FOR REMOVING 2 PASSENGER TRAINS

County School Board To Meet Thursday

The special meeting scheduled to be held by the County Board of Education for the discussion of a site for the new school building here tonight has been postponed and will be held next Thursday at 7:30 p. m.

The local school committee will meet tomorrow afternoon at 2:00 to discuss the question of locating the high school building.

OYSTER ROAST HERE MONDAY IS BIG SUCCESS

Many Attend Festival Given by Fertilizer Company Despite Cold Weather

JUDGE WINSTON HERE

Makes Principal Address of Occasion And Leads First Set in Square Dance Following

The oyster roast given by the Standard Fertilizer Company at its new plant on the river yesterday evening was well attended in spite of the wintry weather. It was a real house warming even if the mercury did almost hide itself at the zero mark.

Numbers of people began arriving at the plant as early as two o'clock, and until near the mid night hour many continued to go down. Many went to see the factory, some to get oysters, some to hear Judge Winston speak, others to dance and still others to see it all.

The Company had made extensive preparations to care for its visitors. Oysters by the hundreds of bushels were poured steaming hot on long tables where a crowd, estimated as high as two thousand, first and last, came and helped itself.

After the oyster roast, the visitors assembled in the large store room, heated by two large stoves, where they heard Judges Moore and Winston. Judge Moore was master of ceremonies, and he made a short talk.

Judge Winston, orator of the day, was introduced, and he, taking for his topic, "The five cardinal points of advantage which the Williamson section possesses" made a splendid but short talk. For his first point, Judge Winston mentioned spirit, that spirit in men which agrees on questions that make for the building of a community. This point was stressed as one of the greatest assets of any people to work together.

Our transportation advantages were pointed out. The roads coming from North, South, East and West with our water and railroad lines put us in touch with a great territory and give us natural advantages that are bound to make the section grow.

The best prices for our farm products are made possible by the markets where quantity is a main factor. The power which is brought down from the mountain sides in the shape of electric current puts us in a more favorable position for manufacturing than the up-hill Piedmont country, because of our cheaper transportation and our excellent and superior agricultural advantages.

Agriculture has always been and is now the base of our prosperity, and we must make this base even greater by pushing aside the old-time hoe work and not depend upon muscle power in competition with an intelligence developed to a high degree.

We must work the streams, the lightning and the gasses which are so easily handled by the mere pushing of a button. The advantages the community offers in hunting and fishing were pointed out by the Judge.

Mr. Winston reviewed the past progress of the section and told of the men who had gone on before, but he stated that we are only in the beginning of what we are to be. He predicted for Williamson 10,000 people before so very long.

After the close of his speech, Judge Winston led the first set in the square dance.

All the visitors, representing twelve counties in this part of the State, seemed greatly pleased with the "get acquainted party" and are interested in the workings of the plant.

The factory, equipped with all the modern machinery for mixing and handling fertilizer, has a daily capacity of about twenty-five car loads. With shipments leaving here on boats and by rail and with material coming in by the hundreds of tons in barges, the commercial affairs in this section will undoubtedly increase.

OPPOSITION IS EXPECTED

Request Was Withdrawn Before On Account of Strong Protests

According to reports, the Atlantic Coast Line railroad is asking permission to remove trains 56 and 57 from the regular schedule affecting Tarboro and Plymouth and intermediate towns. It is understood that the railroad officials are insistent in their demand upon the Corporation Commission for the discontinuance of the two trains, and that the request might be granted.

It could not be learned when the request was made by the company, and so far as it is known here no protests have been entered against the railroad's proposed action.

A similar request was made by the Coast Line several months ago, but in the face of protests coming from the chambers of commerce in many of the towns along the route, permission to discontinue the service was denied. When the matter was settled then, it was generally thought that the Coast Line would make no further requests for permission allowing the discontinuance of the trains.

Passenger traffic handled by the two trains has been of little consequence since connection with other trains at Tarboro was made impossible by a change in schedule between Wilmington and Norfolk. However, the two trains handle a majority of the mail along the route, and the train reaching here shortly after the noon hour handles practically all the express billed to this and other points between Tarboro and Plymouth. It was on account of the mail and express handled that the civic organizations and chambers of commerce enter their protests against such action when the railroad company asked for permission to take off the trains.

It is the general opinion here that these various organizations in the several towns along the route will again enter protests against the discontinuance of the service.

FINDS SNAKE IN BANANAS

J. O. Manning, Local Grocer Has Exciting Experience Saturday Night

A snake, of the boa constrictor species, caused much excitement when it was found in a bunch of bananas in a grocery store here last Saturday night. Mr. J. O. Manning who found the snake was pulling bananas from a stalk when he heard a hissing noise. He turned the banana stalk and the few remaining bananas on it around and saw the three-foot reptile curled up in a small knot. In a few minutes the store had a regular snake side show crowd in it, but not one in the crowd could name the snake—he was too far from home for correct identification.

Several people in the store stated that the snake was not a poisonous one, but even that did not provide a way to get it out. A red hot poker was brought in but that was dismissed as being a too cruel a method of removing the snake. A peanut bag was inadequate, for not one would hold it around the snake and banana while another could shake the reptile into the bag. A big box was pushed directly under the bananas and the snake was pushed in that. The crowd ventured closer, but it took a cowboy who happened in town at the time to handle the snake.

The stalk of bananas was placed in the store last Thursday and from that time until Saturday night, various clerks had pulled bananas from it.

A close inspection of bunches of bananas is expected from now on by the store owner and the clerks.

Everetts Bank Presents An Excellent Statement

December 31st brought to a close one of the best years in the history of the Planters and Merchants bank at Everetts. As does the statement of the Farmers and Merchants bank here the statement of the progressive Everetts institution shows the upward trend of business in that section.

The bank is thanking its patrons for the business given it during the year and is trusting that they might help to make this year a little bigger than last.

Cold Weather Is Cause Of Many Dirty Faces

More than one man rushed to his business here yesterday morning with a dirty face. Frosts upon relieved them of the early morning ordeal.