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# THE ENTERPRISE

Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Catchkey to Over 1,600 Homes of Martin County

VOLUME XXXI—NUMBER 97

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, February 5, 1929

ESTABLISHED 1898

## 4.64 PER CENT OF TAXES LEVIED IN 1928 ADVERTISED

### Martin County Has Good Record in Comparison With Neighbors

### 96 COUNTIES REPORT

Amount Advertised in Various Counties Varies from Less Than 1 to 32.44 Per Cent of Total

According to a study of land taxes advertised in North Carolina by the University of North Carolina News Letter, only 4.64 per cent, or 13,530, of Martin County's entire levy was put up for sale. The county was twenty-second in the list of 96 counties reported on and had a better collection record than did any of its neighboring counties, with the exception of Edgecombe, that county ranking eighteenth in the list. Bertie was thirty-second; Halifax fifty-fourth; Pitt, fifty-seventh; Washington, sixty-first; and Beaufort, seventy-sixth.

Four counties advertised less than 1 per cent of the levy, and six others less than 3 per cent of the levy. On the other hand, 34 counties advertised in excess of 10 per cent, and 5 in excess of 25 per cent. Northampton advertised the least, 42 of 1 per cent; and Pamlico the most, 32.44 per cent. The News Letter also stated that there were 11,325 land owners advertised as delinquent in the 96 counties which advertised by publication, and the amount of taxes represented was \$4,257,254. This is an average of 1,067 names per county, with an average tax of \$42.00. The latter amount includes, in most instances, the advertising cost, which varies considerably but approximately \$1.25 per delinquent tax.

In 33 counties the number of names exceeded 1,067 and in 62 counties there were fewer than this number; the number was not ascertained in one county. The largest number of names advertised was in Buncombe County, the number being 8,721; whereas the smallest number, 14, was in Camden. The amount of taxes advertised varied from \$458 in Camden to \$512,373 in Buncombe, and the average per county was \$44,780.

In classifying the delinquents, the paper says: "A comparison was made between urban and rural properties, and it was found that 42,153 of the properties advertised were town lots, and 53,700 represented farm land. The remainder could not be classified. Thus it appears that the farmer is no more inclined to be delinquent than the townsman. Another classification was made according to race, and it was found that negro taxpayers are only slightly, if any, more delinquent than white taxpayers. A further classification was made according to the size of the tax. It was found that \$1,427, or 31 per cent, of the 101,325 items were less than \$10 each, and this figure usually included the cost of advertising. There were 23,368 other taxes between \$10 and \$20, making considerably more than half of the total less than \$20 each. Only 19 per cent of the total number of items were in excess of \$50, and only 8 per cent in excess of \$100. On the other hand, there were 649 items in excess of \$500. These classifications indicate that delinquency is not confined to any one class and that in a majority of cases it is not due to the burdensomeness of the tax.

## Representative To Aid in Filing Income Tax Returns

According to a schedule of appointments made by the office of the collector of internal revenue in this State, a representative of the United States Internal Revenue Department will be in Williamston February 15 to assist taxpayers in filing their income tax returns. The representative will be here for one day only, and only one stop is scheduled for the county. The filing of income tax returns is

## Light Customers Figuring Up Savings on Their Bills

### JURY LIST FOR MARCH COURT

#### Drawn By County Board of Commissioners at Meet Here Yesterday

At their meeting held yesterday the commissioners drew the jurors for the March term of Superior court here and ordered the sheriff to summon the following persons to serve the first week:

T. H. Brown, Julian Fagan, J. L. Hardison, Jamesville; Harmon Roberson, N. S. Roberson, A. Dawson Griffin, W. J. Griffin, Griffins; Calvin Ayers, A. B. Rogers, W. S. Gurganus, W. K. Ward, Bear Grass; J. D. Lilley, D. D. Stalls, W. G. Peel, R. B. Brown, Williamston; Chester Beach, J. F. Wynn, Oscar Ayers, L. A. Clark, Charlie Beach, A. S. Edmondson, D. A. Ausbon, C. C. Bailey, Cross Roads; C. Arthur Roberson, J. H. Gray, N. O. VanNortwick, G. C. Taylor, J. Henry Roberson, A. D. Cherry, Robersonville; H. S. Johnson, D. G. Matthews, Hamilton; N. M. Hyman, N. C. Hyman, W. S. Bunting, Jack Smith, J. A. Rawls, Goose Nest.

For the second week, the following jurors were drawn:

J. E. Hedrick, J. F. Jordan, W. S. Hardin, Jamesville; R. J. Hardison, J. B. Lanier, Williams; Jordan G. Peel, J. M. Griffin, Griffins; W. R. Roebuck, Javan Rogers, Jas. F. Terry, Bear Grass; John D. Biggs, W. J. Taylor, Williamston; Robbin Bailey, Cross Roads; A. D. Cherry, Vance Roberson, R. S. Everett, Hyman Warren, Robersonville; R. O. Purvis, Hamilton.

## THREE JAILED FOR CAR THEFTS

### Two Cars Stolen on Streets Of Robersonville Last Saturday Recovered

Charged with stealing automobiles, three young white men are in jail here waiting for their cases to be called at the March term of Martin Superior Court. Both thefts were made on the streets of Robersonville by Pitt County men last Saturday night.

Jesse Whitehurst, a farmer living near Bethel, took a new Ford belonging to a Mr. Rogers, of Robersonville, early in the evening and was captured in Tarboro. The car had been driven around 80 miles when the arrest was made. The other car, an old one belonging to Russell Rawls, of Robersonville, was said to have been stolen by Walter Keel and L. B. Whitehurst, of Bethel. The two men drove the car to the Gum Swamp section of Pitt County, where it caught fire and was burned. Keel and Whitehurst were apprehended and arrested Sunday by Chief William Gray, of Robersonville, and Officer Martin, of Bethel. Each of the accused men waived examination at a preliminary hearing and was bound over to the next term of superior court. In default of bond, all three of the alleged thieves are now in jail.

Keel is a married man, 33 years old, and has three small children. The other two men are single, Jesse Whitehurst being 22 years of age and L. B. Whitehurst 28 years old.

A nuisance to some, while to others it is a bitter pill. But anyway, the revenue representative will be glad to assist you in filling in the blanks.

## Appeal for Hard-Surface Highway to Hamilton

Declaring the Hamilton road one of the worst in the North Carolina highway system, representative citizens from Oak City, Hamilton and Williamston are making a strong appeal for the hardsurfacing of the route. Citizens from the upper part of the county and living on the route were scheduled to go before Commissioner Kugler today, but details of the anticipated trip have not been learned at this time. Representatives from here have called the matter to the attention of Mr. Kugler, stating that Route 125 was important link in the State's highway system and that it is believed to be one of the worst.

## Mrs. Mary C. Holliday Dies at Poplar Chapel

Mrs. Mary C. Holliday who lived in the Poplar Chapel section of the county died Thursday night at the age of 77 years. Mrs. Holliday retired after supper at her usual time and only a few minutes later she suffered a stroke of apoplexy, dying suddenly. She was the wife of John Frank Holliday who with several children survives. The funeral service was conducted by W. A. Davis, of Washington, and interment was made in the Davis Holliday graveyard near the home last Friday.

## TOTALS AS MUCH AS 40-50 PER CENT IN SOME CASES

### Small Power Users Do Not Fare As Well As Other Classes

## ONLY FEW PAY MORE

Total Savings To Townspeople Will Equal About One-Fourth Town Tax Assessment

Local light and power consumers were treated with their first dose of medicine by the Virginia Electric & Power Co. the latter part of last week when electric bills were forwarded to the patrons here. In an effort to determine the taste of the new company's medicine, the light and power consumers have carefully checked corresponding bills, as far as possible. While there is no way of checking the bills exactly, practically all of 30 people questioned in the matter report reductions in their light bills.

The new company first read the meters December 19 and 20 and again on January 17, making it hard for the light and power patrons to make an accurate check, as heretofore the bills were rendered even months. Many of the patrons questioned yesterday stated that they burned more lights during the holidays than was ordinarily the case, and that even then their bills were smaller. All the merchants questioned reported a saving varying from 40 to 50 per cent in their bills. Similar saving were reported by householders using electricity for light only.

Small power users, while they made no loud complaints, were not so fortunate in the savings given them. In fact, several stated their bills were greater under the new company's rule than they were when the system was operated by the town. In those cases, it was learned that the consumers do not use a sufficient amount of power to equal the minimum charge made by the company on motors and other equipment.

Two householders operating electric cook stoves were divided as to the savings made possible by the new company, one stating that her bill was reduced by about one-third its usual amount, the other pointing out that her bill was about the same. Frigidaire users have not been questioned to the extent where a reliable statement can be offered.

Considering all the savings made possible for the light and power users by the new company, an amount almost equal 1-4 the town's tax collections will be left in the people's pockets at the end of one year.

Now that a base has been established and the real amount of current used by the individual determined, it is considered advisable for all users of mixed current to study the various ratings that they might get the most advantageous one. The majority of the customers here are under the straight house rating, and are paying 8-12 cents, while there are a few operating under the graduating scale which starts off at 9 cents for so many kilowatt hours, 6 cents for the next so many, and 4 cents for the remainder of the number used. A flat rate is also said to be in effect in a few cases.

## B. T. WYNNE DIES NEAR EVERETTS

### Was Prominent Farmer of Section; Pneumonia Caused Death

B. Thomas Wynne, 78-year-old citizen of the Everetts community, died at his home there last Friday evening following an attack of pneumonia. Mr. Wynne had been in feeble health for only a few weeks and died a short while after contracting pneumonia. His death marks the passing of one of that section's oldest families, J. Henry, a brother, having died last December.

Funeral services were held at the old home Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. N. D. Blackman, pastor of the Robersonville Baptist Church, conducting the last rites. Interment was made in the family cemetery on the home farm.

Mr. Wynne had been a member of the Missionary Baptist Church at Everetts for many years. He leaves two sons, A. D. and Joe Wynne, who live in the community. He was born at the place of his death, having farmed the greater part of his life. In his regular duties he was active up until about two weeks ago, when he was confined to his home.

Messrs. C. T. Peel, J. S. Peel, Jesse Keel, J. S. Ayers, S. E. Roberson, and Henry D. Peel served as active pallbearers. The honorary pallbearers included R. A. Bailey, K. L. Bailey, S. S. Bailey, and T. B. Crawford.

## TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC HERE ALL NEXT WEEK

### Is Sponsored by Woman's Club; Specialist to be in Charge

## FREE TO CHILDREN

All Children in Williamston School District Are To Be Examined; Approved by Authorities

Sponsored by the local Woman's club, a tuberculin clinic made possible through the cooperation of that body and health officials, will be held here next week, it was learned yesterday afternoon following a meeting of the club's executive committee. A specialist from Sanatorium with special nurses will be here Monday to start examining all the school children in this district. The clinic will be held in the Woman's club and will last all the week and, possibly longer, it was stated this morning.

The clinic meets the approval of the local school authorities, for Mr. Davis, the principal, in speaking about the generosity of the club and value of such a clinic to the school children says that it is one of the best things ever done for the health of the children in this town or district. He seems to think and expresses himself in no uncertain terms to the effect that such a clinic is much needed and praises the work of the club in providing this valuable service as both wise and worthy. It is hoped that all children under the age of 15 years will take advantage of this opportunity to find out whether they have any symptoms of that much dreaded disease, tuberculosis.

The slips that will be sent home for the parents to sign permitting the doctors to make the tests are designed only to avoid a come-back on the part of those parents who might hold the old-time notion that preventive medicine should never be practiced. All parents will see that their children get this opportunity for an early check up on the children's health condition. Franklin's adage certainly applies here that an ounce of remedy is worth a pound of cure. Parents who might not thoroughly understand the meaning of these slips are asked to take the matter up with the principal, Mr. L. H. Davis, at once.

## SMALL BLAZE HERE SUNDAY

### Roof of Colored Baptist Church Is Slightly Damaged

The morning service at the Shiloh Baptist Church, colored, was abruptly brought to a close here last Sunday when sparks from one of the building's flues fired the roof and threatened the entire building. In giving the alarm, it was stated that the Methodist church was burning, and naturally the fire truck was carried to that part of the town just to find that there had been a mistake made as to the fire's location. Leaving the Methodist Church, the firemen returned to Main Street and started for the A. M. E. Zion Church near the cemetery when they saw the smoke rising from the roof of the Shiloh church.

While the flames were eating their way rapidly into the dry roof, ladders were placed and the new truck's booster tank was put into action, checking the fire in a few minutes. Two large-sized holes were burned in the roof, but including all damage the loss is not expected to run over \$100.

## J. K. Hoyt Member of Federal Buying System

If the mountain doesn't come to Mohammed, the logical thing to do is for Mohammed to go to the mountain. That is evidently what the individual retail stores of the country are beginning to find out.

For some time it has been noticeable that the so-called chain stores have been making great strides in various sections of the country. They have been steadily increasing their number of stores, and all of them seem to be thriving.

The chain stores are in a position to buy cheaper than we can possibly do so because they buy in so much larger quantities, it is what some of the merchants have said from time to time. But that handicap is being overcome by many of the stores. Among the latest establishments in this part of the State to take decisive action in this connection is the store of J. K. Hoyt. Mr. Hoyt has aligned himself with the Federal Buying System, which serves hundreds of other establishments. This system buys for all these stores, and, as a result, is enabled to buy at a lower figure than if each individual merchant bought for himself.

It sounds like a feasible and practicable proposition, and Mr. Hoyt explains the details in a special advertisement which appears elsewhere in this issue of The Enterprise.

## TOWN FATHERS HOLD REGULAR MEET MONDAY

### Proposed Industrial Survey Is Turned Down for Time Being

## WON'T WIDEN STREET

Little Probability of Widening Main Street in Near Future; Other Matters Before Board

The proposal of the Craig P. Gilbert Company of Washington City and presented by James Jenkins, representative, providing an industrial survey of the town and representation before manufacturers seeking new locations, was turned down last night by the Board of town commissioners here.

Mr. Jenkins explained fully the workings of his company, stating that for a \$300 fee an industrial survey of the town and community would be made and that the town's advantages would be placed before the northern manufacturers planning to move their mills and factories south. After considering the proposal, the town heads decided to table the matter for the present time, at least.

Membership in a town purchasing league was also turned down by the board when it was learned that the size and number of the town's purchases would not justify connection in the league.

With a \$137.00 water bill originating at the Tar Heel apartments during the past three months, Mrs. J. G. Stator went before the commissioners maintaining that there was some mistake and asking for a reduction. In entering her appeal she pointed out that the treasurer had failed to present her with the bill, that he hated to send it because of its size and that she had to call for the over-grown statement. In further presenting her cause, Mrs. Stator said that she had examined the water accounts of many of the householders here and found in a majority of the cases that the bills seldom ever exceeded the minimum amount of \$6, and that in no family of medium size did a bill ever run over that amount.

She went on to point out that two or three meters were never read during the quarter ending in March, 1928. Charges below the minimum were also made, according to Mrs. Stator in several instances. The commissioners assured her that there must have been some error in checking the records, that no favoritism was shown.

This information was offered and then the commissioners started out to effect a settlement of the account. The appellant's case was well prepared and when one of the commissioners mentioned that it was possible for the Tar Heel tenants to have used more water during the three months period than in the past, she stated that a personal call had been made to each of the ten apartments and she was sure from her visits that there had been no cause for the unusually large bill. She maintained that her thirteen renters, including the post office, two stores and ten apartments, had, on an average, used less than the minimum in each case, and figuring the minimum at \$6 her bill should not have been over \$78.

The matter was quickly settled when one of the commissioners asked Mrs. Stator if she positively knew that her tenants had not used that much water and when it was stated by her that the tenants had not used the amount charged. A motion was made to reduce the bill to \$90 and check the meter at the Tar Heel building.

Approximately ten water meters will be placed this week, and within a short time, it is believed that an accurate check can be made by meter for every customer. One or two customers were ordered discontinued for non payment of the last quarterly bill.

No action was taken at the meeting relative to the widening of Main street other than limit the paving of the business district sidewalks, provided the paving issue is passed, to within three or four feet of the curb. The commissioners were of the opinion that the street would be widened some time, and it would be unnecessary to connect the sidewalks with the street. The probability of its being widened in the near future was understood to be very doubtful.

## Robert N. Griffin Dies In Washington Hospital

Robert N. Griffin, of Williams township, died in a Washington hospital early last Saturday morning following an operation performed several days before. Mr. Griffin was 63 years old, the son of Frank Griffin. He leaves a widow, one son Frank and three daughters, Mrs. Vance Bennett, Mrs. Lee Hopkins and Mrs. Hoyt, Roberson. He was buried in the Eones cemetery Sunday afternoon, Rev. W. B. Harrington conducting the funeral rites.

## Paving Is Now Up To Property Owners

### COMMISSIONERS MEET MONDAY

#### Routine Matters Constitute Chief Business of the Meeting

Meeting in their regular monthly session here yesterday the county commissioners discussed a number of the county's problems and took final action in those cases where no great importance was attached. The regular routine duties were handled, and the following business was disposed of during the day's session:

The Everetts colored school, No. 8, was allowed \$55. per month to pay an extra teacher for four months.

A. C. Roberson was relieved from the payment of \$1.00 dog tax listed by error.

The allowance of Susan Morris was increased from \$3 to \$4 per month.

Gussie Taylor, of Goose Nest township, was allowed the sum of \$2.00 per month.

The allowance of \$6.00 per month now made to J. B. Roberson and wife was increased to \$8.00 per month.

Joe Everett of Robersonville was relieved from the payment of poll tax on account of physical disability.

As the result of an order passed by the board, C. W. Moore, of Jamesville township, was refunded taxes on \$900 property valuation listed by error.

C. G. Gurkin, of Jamesville township, was released from payment of taxes on \$60. valuation listed through error.

Upon the recommendation of Judge J. W. Bailey, of the county recorder's court, J. E. Moore was refunded \$16. court cost charged some time ago.

## NUMBER CASES OF PNEUMONIA

### Number of Deaths in Past Few Weeks Unusually Large in This Section

The number of deaths in Martin County during the last 10 or 12 days has been unusually large, according to reports coming from various sources. While an exact check of vital statistics could not be made, it is estimated that at least 20 deaths have occurred throughout the county during the past 10 or 12 days. Several causes have been assigned for several of the deaths, but in the majority of cases pneumonia was said to have been the direct cause.

After reaching large proportions, the influenza epidemic has about spent itself in the section. However, there are a few cases of the disease scattered around at the present time. As far as it could be learned yesterday, very few deaths have been traced directly to influenza, but in several cases the patients attempted to go out too early and suffered a relapse that resulted in death.

Last year about this time, measles was the popular disease, many schools having closed their doors on account of its widespread. Very few cases of that disease have been reported so far this year, according to health officials, and if care is exercised against influenza and pneumonia, it is thought that no further serious results will develop.

## TEACHERS AND PARENTS MEET

### Will Be Held at the School Building Thursday Afternoon

The local parent-teacher association will hold its regular meeting in the school building next Thursday afternoon, at 3:45 o'clock, it was announced this morning by Mrs. John F. Thigpen, president.

The president is urging the mothers and fathers of the school children to be present, a prize being presented to the grade having the largest representation present.

Mrs. Thigpen stated in her announcement that the school and community are justly proud of the outstanding work being done by the grade mothers this year. Their earnest efforts have beautified classrooms and put necessary equipment there for the children's use, she stated, and they are anxious to cooperate still further, asking the teachers to call for anything they need for school. The grammar grade pupils will entertain at the Thursday meeting and the association officers are asking each member to come early and bring a friend that the votes might be classified and given the proper grades.

## COMMISSIONERS PUT MATTER UP TO TAXPAYERS

### Petitions Are Ordered Prepared and Submitted to Those Concerned

## DECIDE ON 60-40 RATIO

### Town Would Pay 40 Per Cent and Property Owner on Either Side 30 Per Cent Each

Out of a long drawn-out session made weary by minor business, two petitions, one for paving the sidewalks of the town and another for paving a few of the principal streets were ordered circulated among the property owners here during the next few days by the commissioners in their regular meeting last night. For several months a tentative paving program has featured the regular meetings of the town councilmen, and often special sessions have been called for a discussion of the matter, but tired out with investigations and discussions the board members last night ordered the matter passed on to the people for settlement.

The last recommendations were made relative to the program at the meeting last night, and as it now stands the people can choose either sidewalks, or sidewalks and streets, or streets, or they can kick the whole thing aside and have neither. A 60-40 ratio was established for paying for both sidewalks and streets, and payments will be spread over a period of 15 years, according to the motion made introducing the circulation of the petitions. To pave a sidewalk, 51 per cent of the property owners will have to sign the sidewalk petition, and these property owners will necessarily have to represent 51 per cent of the property on that street. If, then, the petition meets with favor, the town will pay 40 per cent of the paving cost and the property owner will pay the other 60 per cent. The amount, depending upon the size of the property affected, will be paid in annual installments, averaging around \$2.50 a year, according to figures advanced at the meeting last night. The same procedure will be followed in the case of the petition for streets. The same number of property owners or more will have to sign and 51 per cent or more of the property will have to be represented by that number. The town will, provided the petition meets with favor, pay 40 per cent of the cost and the property owners on each side of the street will pay 30 per cent, the two together paying 60 per cent of the entire cost, exclusive of street intersections, which cost the town will necessarily have to pay.

It was recommended that only the streets running perpendicular to Main be considered for street paving, and practically all the sidewalks be considered. Petitions are being prepared today and will be given to town employees for circulation as soon as possible. Action upon the part of the board will follow, if necessary, after the petitions have been circulated and returned.

## Two Men Arrested on Housebreaking Charge

Jim Johnson and Arthur Williams, two white men of Oak City, were arrested there last night charged with entering the home of Williams' uncle. At a hearing before Judge Bailey today it was learned that Johnson and Williams became hungry and entered the house where they helped themselves to cooked backbones, but did no other harm. It is easy to understand why hungry men, will eat corned backbone, and it is perfectly natural for Mr. Williams when he found his good eats gone to issue a warrant.

Probable cause being found in the case, the two men were bound over to the March term of Martin County Superior court.

## Reuben Speller, 86, Dies at Home Here

Reuben Speller, one of the town's oldest colored citizens, died at his home below the river hill early Saturday morning at the age of 86 years and two months.

Speller moved to Williamston more than 20 years ago from Bertie county where he was born in slavery. He opened a little store below the river hill here and prospered until six years ago when he was struck by an automobile and badly crippled. Since then he has been a semi-invalid, but held his business together until the end. In the passing of "Uncle" Reuben, one of the old landmarks carrying the antebellum culture and politeness is removed.

Interment was made Sunday on the farm where he was born.

# WATTS THEATRE

Wednesday, Feb. 6  
TIM McCOY in "BEYOND THE SIERRAS"  
Also Comedy

Thursday, Feb. 7  
RICHARD BARTHELMES in "SCARLET SEAS"  
Added—News Reel

Friday, Feb. 8  
BUSTER KEATON in "THE CAMERA MAN"  
News and Comedy

Shows at 7:15 and 9 P. M. Daily  
MUSIC BY PHOTONE