

# THE ENTERPRISE

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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, March 19, 1929

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## PLAYMAKERS TO PRESENT PLAYS HERE SATURDAY

Engagement Here Closes a Four-Day Tour of East

### TO PRESENT 3 PLAYS

Two Comedies by Paul Green and One Tragedy by Loretta Bailey Constitutes Program

Taking advantage of the spring holiday recess, the Carolina Playmakers, well-known original play group at the University of North Carolina, will present three plays in the city hall here next Saturday night. The engagement here Saturday night will bring to a close a four-day tour of the Playmakers. Tomorrow night the players will present their plays at Meredith College, Raleigh. Thursday they go to Smithfield, and after an engagement in Wilmington Friday they come here Saturday for an appointment that night.

The group will present three plays, "Quare Medicine," a country comedy of a quack doctor, by Paul Green; "Job's Kinfolks," a tragedy of mill people, by Loretta Bailey; "The Man Who Died at Twelve O'Clock," a negro comedy, by Paul Green.

The casts include Professor Hubert Heffner, assistant director; Neona Sturgeon of Wewoka, Okla.; Penelope Alexander, Charlotte; George Ehrhart, Jackson; and Helen Dorch, Howard Bailey, and T. P. Harrison, all of Chapel Hill.

## MRS. ROXIE LANE BARNHILL DIES

Had Been in Failing Health For Three Months; Lived Near Here

Mrs. Roxie Lane Barnhill, aged citizen, died at her residence near here on Highway No. 90 last Friday afternoon. While she had been in failing health for about three months, it was only a week before her death that she was found to be suffering from cancer and Bright's disease.

The funeral was held from the home Saturday afternoon by Rev. C. H. Diekey, of the local Baptist church. Interment was made in the family burying ground at the old home place, near Everett.

Mrs. Barnhill leaves seven children, her husband, James E. Barnhill, having died nine years ago. The children are, Messrs. Jodie, James E. and Harry, Blanch, and Ruby Barnhill, of Williamston; Fabian A. Barnhill, of Everett; and Kader Barnhill, of New York. Three step-sons, Henry Barnhill, of Conetoe, B. R. Barnhill and John B. Barnhill also survive. She also leaves three brothers, Messrs. Carl and Will Lane, of Kinston and Louis Lane, of Rocky Mount.

### School Bill Finally Gets Through Legislature

While the MacLean school bill was altered almost beyond recognition, the Legislature finally passed a measure last Saturday affecting the financing and operation of the schools. The bill passed provides:

Leaving the constitutional six-months term as it was and providing an equalizing fund of \$5,250,000 for it, of which \$300,000 is to be set aside and used as an emergency fund.

Setting up an aid fund of \$1,250,000 for eight-months term special district relief.

A 30-cent ad valorem participating level.

Elaborate administrative machinery which is hoped to effect savings of 10 per cent over former operating costs.

The right to county commissioners to levy a tax not exceeding five cents for additional teachers' salaries.

### SCENE FROM PLAYMAKERS' COMEDY



Scene from Paul Green's "Quare Medicine," which the Playmakers are playing on their special Easter tour into eastern North Carolina. In this scene Henry (played by T. P. Harrison) has just taken Dr. Immanuel's (played by Howard Bailey) "Quare Medicine" and is fast becoming a "new man in Israel." Old man Pa Jernigan (played by Hubert Heffner) looks delightedly on as Henry chokes his wife, Mattie (played by Nettie Strobach), into submission.

## Court Scenes of Today and Years Ago Not So Different

In his "Reminiscences of Elder Reuben Ross," a book published in the past century, James Ross describes a scene at the Martin County superior court years ago that offers a striking contrast to the session being held here this week. The author described the large crowds, how fights were handled without "meddlesome policemen" interfering, and how rum, beer, cider, oysters and gingerbread were sold under the high floor of the wooden hall of justice while the court was in session above.

With a few exceptions, the court of today is not so unlike the one described by Mr. Ross, for this week the crowds are gathering here, some by summons, others coming merely out of curiosity, and are reacting to a very great degree the scenes of centuries back.

While the rum and beer sellers have moved their quarters into more secret places, the medicine men continue shouting their wares before the crowds gathered around the courthouse. The sales are not so numerous as they were once in the years gone by, but right here this week the drug monger is making a fair-sized salary by the use of a stereotyped sales talk and appealing stories rather than on the merits of root juices prescribed by some famous Indian.

The general behavior of the crowds is commendable, but the appearance of those who have relatives in court vary but little from the appearances of those who had relatives up for trial years back, according to Mr. Ross' description of the throngs coming to sit in upon the trials.

With the arrest of John Jasper Black and Ralph Duggard, colored, of Robersonville, last Saturday night, the murder case of Jim Coffield, becomes more complicated; for it is understood that these two men assaulted Gus Knight, the alleged murderer of Coffield, shortly before the killing that took place about 11 o'clock Saturday night, March 9.

According to the information gained at the courthouse here yesterday Black and Duggard had assaulted Knight, who, to get even, set for them and by mistake killed Coffield. The case has not been heard, and it is thought that it will affect, more or less, the Knight case.

The two men were jailed here Saturday night by Deputy Sheriff Grimes. Their case has not been called for trial at this time.

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## MARTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT BEGAN MONDAY

Judge Walter H. Small, of Elizabeth City, Is Presiding

### TWO WEEKS' SESSION

Unusually Large Number of Cases on Docket; To Try Both Criminal and Civil Cases

With a docket surpassing in number of cases those of the past several sessions, the March term of Martin County Superior Court convened here yesterday for the trial of criminal and civil cases. The court will be in session two weeks, Judge Walter H. Small, of Elizabeth City, presiding.

The old-time court scenes came fresh in the minds of the older citizens, when the town was filled with folks from all quarters of the county. The only difference being that all came in on automobiles, whereas in the good old days of a quarter of a century ago they came on buggies, carts, some ox carts, and many walked, but the same interest is apparent now as then, the accused to beat the law or beg for mercy, or both.

Judge Walter H. Small, of Elizabeth City, is on the bench, and was promptly on time. The court was lucky in drawing a grand jury fully up to standard; in fact, from appearances, rather above the standard.

The charge to the grand jury was different from what is generally heard in a charge. It did not deal in technicalities, but was based upon citizenship and piety. The judge handled both lines well, and to good effect. He stated that our forefathers' zeal and interest for better things and conditions for their posterity was the basis upon which our modern conveniences and improvements, of which we are so proud, are founded. These were all the dreams of our fathers, who so faithfully worked for better roads, better homes, and a happy and prosperous people.

Judge Small said that less than 1-2 of 1 per cent of our State's population is foreign born, which accounts for peacefulness. Although we fuss and fume over politics and other things, we have no riots and troubles as in Chicago and other centers of mixed tribes. We soon forget and are friends again, and give every man the right to his own opinion.

The function of the courts was dealt with at length, and though they are not perfect, he said they are the products of the people, and no government can be better than its people. The laws are nothing more than the rules of conduct. The law of God says, "Thou shalt not kill, steal, bear false witness, etc.," the laws of our country say the same, and yet each of these laws are violated daily. A penalty is necessarily fixed for the violation of every law. People generally enjoy the privileges of the law without a word of praise, but when a violation occurs, then they begin to complain.

The home and the school have laws to govern those under their care, and the government, just as necessarily, has to have laws to regulate its subjects' conduct. The man who does not place a portion of his energies upon things that will help the coming generations will fall far down in the scale of citizenship, the jurist said. This applies not only to houses and lands and the material things that we have, but it also applies to obnoxious things in our society and in our dealings with each other.

The only violation of the law touched upon by Judge Small was the pistol, which he described as the most deadly of instruments in use, unless it is the automobile, and he said that the pistols cost Martin County no less than \$5,000 each year. The pistol was also described as the most useless thing a man can have. It is of no protection, in most cases; there being 99 deaths from the careless and deliberate use of pistols to every life saved by them.

John D. Lilley was made foreman of the grand jury and H. D. Taylor officer of the jury.

### Town Commissioners Hold Special Session

While the board of town commissioners, in special session here last night, discussed financial measures and the collection of taxes, only one official act was completed. The salary of the superintendent of the town's water department was fixed at \$100 per month.

### Moves to New Office

On Washington Street

Mr. John L. Rodgers moved his office from the station building on Washington street yesterday to the building adjoining the Peel Motor company property on the same street.

Mr. J. G. Staton will establish an office in the station building, it is understood.

## Togo Pulley To Go On Trial Tomorrow for Killing Jones

While the charge to be preferred against Togo Pulley, alleged murderer of Eugene Jones, policeman, has not been officially given at this time, it is understood that the case will be called here tomorrow for trial.

It has been rumored that Pulley has offered to submit to a second degree verdict.

The grand jury returned a true bill in the case this morning, but it is not known whether the evidence offered would point to a trial of first degree murder or one of second degree. However, it is said that the gun discharging bullets found in the dead man's body is in the hands of officers, according to a thorough examination of the ball and the weapon. The policeman's gun has also been located, according to rumors.

The accused man is being represented by D. L. Ward, Jr., attorney of New Bern, who was hired by Pulley's relatives. So far as it can be officially learned there will be no private prosecution, Solicitor Don B. Gilliam handling that alone.

Orders to call a special venire for jury service have not been issued.

If the case is called tomorrow, and it is likely that it will be called, the court will be well attended from people all over this and Pitt county.

### PROCEEDINGS IN SUPERIOR COURT

Eleven Cases Called Up To Noon Today; Mostly of Minor Importance

Eleven cases had been called by Judge Walter H. Small up until noon today in the superior court now in session here, practically all the cases called being of minor importance and attracting very little attention. Work in the court this afternoon points to a busy day tomorrow, when one or two of the most important cases are scheduled to be called.

The minutes of the court procedure up until noon today:

Kader Barnhill, seduction, capias issued, and case continued. Johnson Corey, assault, pleads guilty, and case is continued three months upon payment of cost.

Isiah Sherrod was found not guilty in the case charging him with larceny. Pleading guilty of temporary larceny of an automobile, Jesse Whitehurst was given a four-months road sentence, suspended for two years.

A nol proa resulted in the case charging Jim Johnson and Arthur Williams with housebreaking and larceny.

Raymond and B. C. Council, found guilty of larceny, were given four months on the roads each.

A nol proa was returned in the case charging Dennis Everett with driving an automobile while he was intoxicated.

Judgment was suspended in the case of Thomas Mayo who pleaded guilty of larceny. Mayo, a boy under 16 years of age, was placed in the jail here more than two months ago for stealing a pair of over-shoes.

While sentence has not been passed, William Ellis and Henry Page were both found guilty of larceny.

Under a suspended sentence, Augustus Wynne, charged with an assault, was ordered to jail. No final disposition of the case has been made at this time, but an eighteen months jail sentence is in order, it is understood.

Thurman Hyman and Charlie Smith pleaded guilty of larceny and each was sentenced to the roads for four months.

## LOCALS DEFEAT NEW BERN, 22 - 11

Game Played in New Bern Saturday Night; Last Of Season

Winning over the New Bern All-Stars in New Bern last Saturday night, 22 to 11, the local high school five brought to a close one of the most successful basketball seasons in the history of the school. Throughout the season the locals tasted only two defeats, one at the hands of Middleburg's team and the other at the hands of Mebane's five in the tournament at Raleigh.

Brown and Getsinger, of Jamesville, played with the locals against the all-stars Saturday night when several of the local boys dropped training a few days before. Holding led the locals in scoring, registering 11 of the 22 points in one-half of the game.

### Number Citizens Urging Pacing of Highway 125

Interested in the paving of Highway No. 125, a large number of people here and others along the route from Halifax to the end here, left for Washington this afternoon to talk the matter over with Commissioner Kugler in his office there.

### Sunday School Association Will Meet Next Sunday

The Williams Township Sunday School association will hold its regular meeting at Fairview church Sunday, March 24 at 3 p. m., according to an announcement made today. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend the meeting.

## TO HOLD CLINICS FOR PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Will Be Held in Jamesville, Williamston, Robersonville Next Week

### IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Additional Clinics for Other Parts of County To Be Held Later; Urge Parents to Send Children

In an effort to prepare the pre-school child, from a standpoint of health, for his years of scholastic work, clinics for the examination of all children planning to enroll in the 1929-30 session will be held in this county next week, according to a schedule prepared by the State Board of Health and Dr. W. E. Warren, the county health officer. The first series of the clinics will be held in Williamston Monday; Jamesville Tuesday, and Robersonville Wednesday. Additional clinics for other parts of the county will be determined upon the success of the three that will be held next week, it was stated by Dr. Warren yesterday.

The examinations will be made in the school buildings of the three towns on the days mentioned, a special nurse and a physician starting the work soon after the school opens in the mornings.

Speaking of the clinic, Dr. W. E. Warren, county health officer, stated, "It is of the utmost importance that your child or children be physically fit to enter school. Very few children can progress satisfactorily in studies if handicapped by bad health. Most of the causes of bad health in children can be removed or remedied. These causes should be removed or remedied before your child enters school so that he or she may make the most rapid progress possible."

"It is unfair to the child to place him in school with such physical defects as to make study a hardship, and the attempt to progress a disappointing struggle. The time to consider this problem is now. Clothing, shoes, books, and other things considered necessary for a child to enter school are usually given the most careful thought by the parent. Why neglect the most important part of the preparation?"

## PLAY AT FARM LIFE FRIDAY

Well Attended Despite Bad Weather; \$4