

# THE ENTERPRISE

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

VOLUME XXXIII—NUMBER 2

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, March 4, 1930.

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## INMATES COST COUNTY \$3,444.89 IN THE YEAR 1929

### "Welfare Progress" States that System Is the Most Inefficient in State

**BERTIE SPENT \$2,594.53**

Marked Difference Is Recorded in the Costs for Maintenance of Many of the County Homes

Martin County spent \$3,444.89 in caring for an average of 12 inmates at the county home last year, according to figures advanced in a recent issue of the "Public Welfare Progress." This expenditure does not include the costs connected with the investment which are unusually high.

A marked difference in the costs is recorded among the several counties, Bertie spending only \$2,594.53 in caring for its 23 inmates. Clay county offers a unique record where one inmate was cared for in a \$10,000 home at a cost of \$2,400.

The home superintendent in this county is one of the lowest paid in the State, the keeper receiving \$675 a year. The keeper in Bertie receives \$1,500.

This county has approximately \$40,400.00 invested in property and buildings used in connection with the home. Upon the basis of these and additional figures, the "Welfare Progress" says, in part:

"The most inefficiently conducted public business in the state is the county home system. And in spite of the tremendous cost of the county home to the taxpaying public, most of the people have the mistaken idea that the county home method is an inexpensive way to care for the lonely aged pauper."

"This business annually costs the counties of the state half a million dollars. Around three millions are invested in county home property. From all this money we get appallingly meagre results."

"The average per capita cost without considering the investment in property is \$262.95 per year, or \$21.91 per month. There are very few men and women in county homes in this state who could not be taken care of by some relative for this amount or less. If we add the interest on the investment at five per cent, we find that each inmate of the county homes of the present system is costing the taxpayers \$346.12 per year. The poor could be maintained comfortably for a much smaller amount, if the expenditure of poor funds were properly supervised."

"The amount of money now spent for every old man and woman who is a charge of the county should buy the best of care. But it doesn't. The poor could be maintained far more comfortably for less money, if the expenditure of funds were carefully supervised by someone trained in the administration of poor relief. The public is not getting its money's worth, and doesn't know it."

"The hospital home which has replaced the Vance County poor house serves the whole community. In 1928, a total of 3,315 days of care were given to 166 in-patients. This means that 166 indigent sick persons were provided for in the county institution. Out-patients who made 375 visits to the hospital for various sorts of treatments numbered 102. In addition, the five bedridden aged poor were taken care of."

"One of the handicaps in the administration of poor relief is that frequently in those counties have a trained social worker the welfare officer is given no jurisdiction over the applications for admission to the county home. Often the county commissioners pass upon the cases and do not call upon the superintendent of public welfare for an investigation or report."

"Investigation will often show that a poor old man or woman could be better cared for in the home of a relative with a little assistance from the county. Often it will be found that there are relatives who are able to give their indigent kin a home, if they are reminded of their responsibility. One case was accidentally discovered by an agent of the state board that proves this point. A blind woman of about sixty is now a miserable inmate in a county home in Eastern North Carolina. In the neighboring town her brother is a successful salesman, whose family consists of only a wife and daughter. The girl is a college graduate, now earning \$100 a month as a school teacher."

"Bigger and better buildings will make for greater comfort for the aged, but the old man and woman in need of help will be happier in the home of kinsman or friends. And vast amounts of money could be saved if carefully supervised relief giving to the aged were to replace our present system of county homes. However, the necessity for close supervision of this form of relief cannot be too much emphasized."

### 221 Boys and Girls Enroll for Club Work in Davidson

Two hundred and twenty-one boys and girls of Davidson County have enrolled for Four-H club work. Poultry, corn, calves, and pigs are the major projects for the boys, while the girls are studying nutrition and clothing for health.

## Griffins Township Farmers Demonstrate Importance of "Living-at-Home" Program

The importance of living at home has been well demonstrated by the farmers of Griffins township, a review of the county records made yesterday revealing the fact that since the county was established, not one person has asked admittance to the home for the aged and infirm. Mr. John Bland, keeper, stated that inmates had been received from all parts of the county, but that Griffins has yet to send its first one to the home.

It is an accepted fact that Griffins raises more hogs, more feed and other general necessities of life than any other township in the

county. The farmers there, or at least a majority of them raise sufficient amounts of food for their own use and generally have much to sell.

While the record is an unusual one, the township also has records of other kinds. In the settlement of its taxes, it leads, not more than one or two pieces of property being offered at a tax sale hardly ever.

The district has more farmers owning their own lands than any other in the county, and a large percentage of them are white.

The town officials in this county are one of the lowest paid in the State, the keeper receiving \$675 a year. The keeper in Bertie receives \$1,500.

### TOWN OFFICIALS HOLD MEETING

#### W. T. Meadows Appointed To List Property of Owners for 1930

The board of town commissioners meeting in regular session here last evening discussed a number of questions, limiting, however, final action to a few minor problems. In the absence of the mayor, Commissioner L. P. Lindsley served as mayor pro-tem.

After discussing the sale of power and light equipment at the old plant here for sometime, final action was taken last evening when it was decided to dispose of all equipment not in use or needed.

Mr. W. T. Meadows was appointed tax list-taker for the town, he having served in that capacity during the past two years.

Asked for a report on the sale of town auto tags, Chief Daniel stated that only eight remained unsold, that the sale would be complete by tomorrow Thursday. Approximately 235 tags have already been sold, the completion of the sale carrying the number to around 243.

While the complaints to the water department have greatly decreased during the past few weeks, there are a few still coming in, the board passing an ordinance requiring all bills paid regardless of the complaints and refunds made, if necessary, following an adjustment made with the board at regular meetings.

Paving contractors met with the board and discussed the possibility of paving a few of the streets here, but no official action followed.

### SPECIALIST WILL VISIT IN COUNTY

#### To Hold Meeting At Oak City School at 2:00 O'clock Friday

Mr. E. B. Morrow, extension horticulturist at State College, Raleigh, will be in this county next Friday to assist in the garden contests now under way, it was announced this morning by Miss Lora Sleeper, home agent.

According to present plans, Mr. Morrow will work with County Agent Tom Brandon in the morning and that afternoon he will go to Oak City where a meeting will be held in the school auditorium at 2 o'clock. All interested in gardens are urged to attend the meeting, Miss Sleeper assuring all who attend that the specialist will offer some valuable information and aid in garden work.

### FIDDLERS MEET AT BEAR GRASS

#### \$30.00 In Cash Prizes Are Being Offered The Contestants

Entertainment features in the Bear Grass School will reach a fitting climax next Friday evening at 8:00 o'clock when a large number of fiddlers, banjo and other instrument performers gather in an ole time fiddlers' convention.

Approximately \$30.00 in cash prizes will be given the winners in the various contests, numbering thirteen, according to an announcement made recently by Principal S. M. Lee.

Many contestants are planning to take part in the convention, it is understood and a large attendance is expected.

### Few Cases Scheduled for Trial in Court here Today

Another small docket faced the recorder's court here this morning, only four cases having been scheduled for trial late yesterday afternoon. Three of the four cases were continued from previous sessions, only one new case having been added up until late yesterday for trial today.

During the past several weeks, the number of cases called by Judge Bailey in the court has been limited to a very few.

## M.G. TAYLOR DIES AT HOME HERE LAST SATURDAY

### Dies Following Stroke of Paralysis Suffered Early Friday Evening

Mr. G. Taylor died at his home here on West Main Street early Saturday morning following a stroke of paralysis. For six years he had suffered from a stroke which had greatly limited his activities. He was able to walk about most of the time and look after a few minor affairs. He was down town Friday and rode to Oak City during the day to look after a farm. He suffered the last stroke early Friday night.

He was 53 years old last June, the son of Eli and Janie Taylor. He was interested in public and political life and took an active part in them as long as he was able.

Up until his health failed him several years ago he successfully farmed near here, leaving the farm at that time to make his residence here.

He was married twice, first to Miss Bettie Jones, three children, Mrs. Louise Everett and Robert Taylor, of Robersonville and Clarence Taylor, of Williamston, surviving this union. His second marriage was to Miss Chloë Bennett, of Oak City, who survives.

He also leaves three brothers, Henry D. and W. J. Taylor, of Williamston, and J. L. Taylor, of Robersonville, and five sisters, Mrs. W. H. Edwards, Mrs. J. J. Manning, Mrs. B. R. Barnhill and Mrs. Daisy Purvis, of Williamston and Mrs. L. T. Waters, of Rocky Mount.

The funeral was held at the home Sunday afternoon by Elder, B. S. Cowan and John N. Rogerson, of the Primitive Baptist Church of which Mr. Taylor had been a member for a number of years. Interment followed in family plot on the Jones farm, near here.

### JURY IS DRAWN FOR APRIL TERM

#### Term Is First To Be Held Here In April Under Recent Law

Preparations were made by the county commissioners in session here yesterday for the first term of Martin Superior court to be held in April when they selected the jurors for the two-weeks term. The term, created by a special act of the last legislature, is the second to be held under the new law, the first having been held here last November. Only civil cases will be handled during the term.

The calendar for the session has not been prepared at this time as the court does not convene until the sixth Monday after the first Monday in March which is the 14th day of April.

Jurors for the first week include: Henry Robertson, W. A. Manning, Ira T. Hardison, M. B. Ward, W. H. Wynn, W. B. Watts, Herman Bowen, P. H. Brown, Alonza Hassell, L. B. Harrison, B. F. Perry, A. L. Hardy, George Keel, J. Haywood Everett, H. L. Hopkins, E. N. Harrell, B. A. Long and E. L. Glover.

Second week: S. L. Ellis, H. L. Davis, Clyde Williams, Heber Peel, W. W. Watts, Jr., B. M. Worsley, W. S. McKee, W. E. Dunn, J. J. Gregory, B. F. Coburn, Arthur Johnson, Eli Rogerson, A. S. Everett, N. F. Brown, Jesse Harrell, W. J. Harris.

### MRS. LEGGETT DIES AT STOKES

#### Interment Made In Family Plot Near Here Yesterday Afternoon

Mrs. Holland Leggett, greatly beloved woman of this county, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Zeno James, near Stokes, Pitt county, last Sunday afternoon following a three weeks illness, heart trouble being given as the cause of her death. Mrs. Leggett, 75 years old, had been in failing health for several years, but was able to be up until about three weeks ago.

Mrs. Leggett was a daughter of the late Kenneth Woolard, she was born on the Woolard farm, near Macedonia church, a sister of the late R. D. Woolard and Joseph L. Woolard, and Mrs. Mattie Peal.

In early womanhood, she was married to W. A. Green, two children, Kenneth Green, of Norfolk, and Miss Virginia Green, of near here, surviving this union. Her second marriage was to the late William U. Leggett, one son, James L. Leggett, of Georgia, and three daughters, Mrs. A. D. Wynn of near here, and Mrs. Zeno James, of Stokes, surviving.

Interment was made in the family plot at the Leggett home place yesterday afternoon. The funeral was conducted by Rev. C. B. Mashburn, of the Christian church, of which she had been a member for about 60 years.

### Lenten Service IS ANNOUNCED

#### Will Hold First Service In Local Church Tomorrow Morning at 10 O'clock

The Church of the Advent Lenten Service Ash Wednesday at 10:00 a. m.

Lenten Service, Friday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock.

The public is very cordially invited to attend these services which have been held continuously since the year 1925. A. D. when the Council of Nicea made the season of preparation for the Easter festival forty days long. The idea of a vigil or fast goes back to the days when Moses twice fasted for forty days on Mount Sinai and Elijah, six centuries later, kept a fast of the same length in the same locality. The King of Nineveh also kept a fast of the same length with his people and Jesus fasted for the same length of time in the Wilderness of Judea, and the Church has always, from the days of the Apostles even until now, thought it proper to keep the season of lent as a season of preparation and prayer and meditation and contemplation so that we can give more attention to our spiritual well being and make this season of Lent a season of revival and if we enter into it with the determination to give God what is His due and to put Him first in our thoughts and lives during this season of forty days we will be able to appreciate the great fact of Jesus' life of sacrifice and service and being risen with Christ we will strive the more earnestly to seek those things which are above where Christ is and where God is.

### Fire Destroys Pontiac Car Here Saturday Morning

The Pontiac sedan belonging to Mr. John L. Rogerson burned early last Saturday morning when he was backing it from his garage near his home on Main Street here.

Mr. Rogerson says that the car backed, the gas around the carburetor catching fire and soon the entire machine was blazing. Efforts to check the flames proved futile.

## COMMISSIONERS HOLD REGULAR MEETING HERE

### Minor Business Is Handled By County Officials at Yesterday Meeting

#### APPOINT TAX HEAD

Mr. J. D. Lilley Will Have Charge of Tax Listing; List-takers Will Be Appointed By Him

Holding their regular monthly meeting here yesterday, the Martin County Board of Commissioners handled no important matters in their short session other than the appointment of Mr. John D. Lilley as county tax supervisor. Several persons were named as possible list-takers for the several townships, but final selection of the takers will be made by the supervisor.

The constable bond of Mr. D. Pearson, of Goose Nest township, was received and accepted.

It was ordered that the allowance of Isaac Wallace be increased from \$2.14 per month, and the \$25 allowance that has been allotted to Mrs. Effie Smith for the aid of her mother was reduced to \$12.50.

Abram Bennett was relieved of \$4.10 poll tax in Hamilton township as he was declared a non-resident.

Otis Bennett, a patient at the N. C. Sanatorium, was allowed \$10.00 per month for a period of four months with a provision that other funds be provided.

Eli Wynn, of Cross Roads township, was admitted to the care of the county home.

Messrs. Worsley and Everett were given a relief order for property value of \$1,900, listed in Goose Nest township through error in the tax books. Relief orders were given to R. L. Rogerson, of Jamestown township and W. M. Harrison, of Bear Grass township. Taxes in the amount of \$340 were improperly listed against Mr. Rogerson while, on account of an error, \$5.00 road tax was returned Mr. Harrison on a truck.

Jesse Bowen, of Jamestown township, was relieved of poll tax due to his blindness.

## LOCALS WIN IN Y TOURNAMENT

### Defeat Fort Bragg Team In Consolation Finals By 38 To 31 Score

Coach Hood's basketball five clinaxed their season's play last Friday and Saturday when they shared, to a large extent, honors in the tournament sponsored by the Rocky Mount Y. M. C. A. there.

In their first game Friday afternoon, the locals defeated East Carolina Training School's quint by a 69 to 16 score. Coach Hood used all his players in the game, all starting. Holding led in the scoring attack with 30 points, Shearon following closely with 28 points.

Saturday morning the local boys faced the strong Y team of Rocky Mount and barely nosed out a win, defeating their opponents 33 to 32. Holding and Shearon were forced out of the game on account of fouls, but the reserves filled in to assist the team to victory.

After a strenuous morning's match, the locals faced the strong Fuquay Springs team at three Saturday afternoon and lost 39 to 29. While the boys were exceptionally tired they were leading the Fuquay boys 17 to 12 when Holding was forced to retire.

After a short rest, they went back that evening in the consolation finals and defeated Fort Bragg's team, said to have been one of the best teams in the tournament, 38 to 31.

McBane, the winner in the tournament, defeated Fort Bragg by only 2 points.

The locals received gold basketballs for their part in the play. Coach Hood was well pleased with the showing his team made in the tournament, and accredits the loss to a strenuous schedule.

## Rosenwald School Day To Be Observed Next Friday

Raleigh, March 3.—Friday of this week, March 7, has been set aside for the observance of "Rosenwald School Day" in the Negro public schools of the State, it was announced today at the office of the State Department of Public Instruction. The day is the second annual Negro School Improvement Day, the first being observed on March 22 last year.

To date there have been constructed 750 Rosenwald buildings in North Carolina costing \$4,587,813. Of this amount the Rosenwald Fund has given \$464,726, and the Negroes themselves have raised \$466,616 by private subscription.

This year for the first time, the Fund is aiding in the purchase and operation of busses for the transportation of Negro school children. As a result of this aid there are now 44 busses transporting 1,649 Negro school children in the State, traveling 1,146 miles daily.

## Explosion Kills Two Near Robersonville

### BURSTING TANK INSTANTLY KILLS L. JOE ROBERSON

#### Body of Mr. Roberson Is Dragged From Fire By Wife

#### COLORED BOY VICTIM

#### Mr. Roberson Was One of County's Most Highly Respective Citizens and Successful Farmer

Mr. L. J. Roberson, prominent farmer of near Robersonville, was instantly killed, and Fred Harrison, 14-year-old colored boy on the farm, was fatally injured when a carbide tank exploded at the former's home last Saturday morning, several children, playing nearby, barely escaping injury. The explosion, described as one of the worst ever reported in this section is believed to have resulted from excessive pressure in the tank and wet weather.

Reports indicating that the explosion resulted from a lighted match are believed unfounded, however, no exact cause can be assigned to the blast, it is understood.

According to information received at the scene of the tragedy, Mr. Roberson with the boy had just finished charging the tank and were in the act of replacing its lid when the top was hurled high into the air, tearing off part of Mr. Roberson's head and knocking the colored boy unconscious. Fire started instantaneously, covering both the body of Mr. Roberson and the colored boy. Mrs. Roberson, the only other grown person near at the time, rushed to the scene and dragged Mr. Roberson's body from the flames, suffering painful burns about her hands. Returning for the colored boy, who lay helpless in the carbide flames, she found, after removing him from the fire, that he was critically burned. While he was badly injured in the blast, the boy is believed to have died from burns received and not directly from the injury resulting from the explosion. He died three hours following the blast in Robersonville where he was removed for medical attention.

The carbide tank, supplying gas for lights at the home, was out in the open and damage to property was limited.

Mr. Roberson, one of the county's most successful farmers, was the son of Mr. T. W. Roberson and the late Mrs. Harriet Everett Roberson. He would have been 45 years of age at his next birthday, March 31.

Twenty-one years ago he married Miss Callie E. Brown, daughter of Alexander and Fannie Moore Brown, of Pitt county, and she with five children, Miss Carrie Lee, who is teaching in the Bear Grass School, Misses Brownie and Christine, pupils in the Robersonville School, and Hoke and Kenneth Roberson, the young being five years of age, survive.

Funeral services were held at the home Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock, Elder B. S. Cowin conducting the services. Interment followed in the Everett burial ground, near Robersonville, Rev. C. B. Mashburn, conducting the services at the grave. The services were largely attended.

Mr. Roberson, one of the most highly respected citizens in this section, was an all-round farmer, taking a marked interest in livestock breeding.

Young Harrison, son of a tenant on the Roberson farm, was a favorite in Mr. Roberson's employ. His body was interred near Spring Green Sunday afternoon.

### WILL PRESENT PLAY TONIGHT

#### Large Number Expected to Witness Performance Beginning at 8:00

According to reports coming from the rehearsals, the "Whole Town's Talking" at the high school auditorium tonight promises to be one of the best home-talent productions ever staged here. Complete dress rehearsals were held last evening, and a favorable presentation is expected.

The cast has been carefully directed by Mrs. John D. Biggs during the past two weeks in preparation for the performance this evening at 8:00 o'clock.

While the play is being sponsored by the Philatheas of the Baptist church, the undertaking is a community one, the funds going toward the purchase of a truck to transport rural children to the Sunday schools here.

A large attendance is expected to witness the performance this evening, according to a report made on the advance ticket sale.

## POULTRY CAR IS SCHEDULED

### Prices Continue About the Same; Small Increase Is Effective, However

The third poultry car of the season will be operated in this county next week, it was announced this morning by County Agent T. B. Brandon.

While there is no marked change in the prices, the scale has been slightly increased for certain types of the fowls. "A one-cent increase is effective on leghorn-hens, while colored-hens continue at the same figure, 22 cents per pound.

The car will make its first stop at Jamestown next Tuesday. After a day here Wednesday, it goes to Robersonville Thursday morning, completing the loadings in Oak City Friday of next week.

The car will be operated on freight train schedules, according to present arrangements.

Loadings have been comparatively light in this county so far, and while an increase is expected next week, no marked change is forecasted, according to information offered by County Agent Brandon today.

### Farm Life Schools Wins Over Belhaven Team

Farm Life, Feb. 28.—(Special to the Enterprise)—Coach Grime's Farm Life basketball team took sweet revenge of a 16 to 17 defeat of a week ago at the hands of Belhaven by defeating the same team tonight by a 19 to 6 score. The victors showed superior strength throughout, both defensively and offensively. Belhaven failed to register a single field goal while the Farm Life lads chalked up 7. Fouls were numerous and 11 of the two teams' points vacated by the free-throw route. There were no individual stars of the game as each player shared scoring honors. The Farm Life boys also defeated Jamestown earlier in the week.