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# THE ENTERPRISE

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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, July 22, 1930.

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## ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS BUSY IN THE SECTION

### Raids Are Centered in This and Hertford County During Two Days

## FIVE MEN ARRESTED

### While Lull in General Business Is Reported, Agents Have Period of Many Activities

While there is a lull reported in general business in this section, federal prohibitions in this section are progressing rapidly, according to a report filed this morning by Agents Coats and Roebuck.

Friday, the officers arrested Andrew Pierce and Herbert Keys operating a 150 gallon copper still in the Free Union section of this county. The still with 500 gallons of beer, was destroyed.

Later the same day, the officers raided in Poplar Point and found a small copper still. No arrests were made and the plant equipment was very limited.

Summoned by Hertford County of firing the still at the time the officers there last Saturday, finding a big still and several hundred gallons of beer. The operators, two colored men, were firing the still at the time the officers made the raid, but made good their escapes.

Leaving the woods, the officers went to the East End Filling station in Murfreesboro, owned by Fred Baggett but who was not there at the time. The officers found a dugout under the cement floor with seven pints of liquor in it. The operator, Henry C. Ewing, and Baggett were given hearings.

Returning to this county late that day, the officers raided the Silver Slipper Filling station, a short distance from here on Highway No. 90, where they found eight pints of liquor secreted in the woods nearby. Earl Mason was charged with the ownership.

Yesterday, the officers, accompanied by Sheriff Roebuck, entered the Free Union section where they found a 75-gallon still being operated by a colored man who outdistanced the whole force in a red hot chase. The still and 400 gallons of beer were destroyed.

Continuing their search in that section, the raiders found a 150-gallon capacity plant and 3,000 gallons of beer. Alexander Hill, colored, was arrested and given a hearing before a commissioner.

## RATIFY TREATY BY 58 TO 9 VOTE

### Vast Savings Estimated in Future Naval Construction Work

Washington, July 21.—A weary Senate ratified the London Naval Limitation and Reduction Treaty today by the overwhelming vote of 58 to 9.

A half hour later at 5 p. m. the Senate adjourned sine die its special treaty session. Three appointments by President Hoover for the new Federal Power Commission were blocked and must go over to the December session.

The agreement extends to all classes of warships the limitation theory applied to battleship by the 1922 Naval Pact. Great Britain is placed on a parity with the United States, treaty supporters hold, and Japan is granted lesser tonnage.

Savings in future naval construction are estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars; but some of its critics charge that the \$1,071,000,000 which will be required to build the American Navy up to parity in the five-year life of the treaty is too much.

Three of America's battleships, five of Britain's and one of Japan's, will be junked under the treaty. One of these from each nation will be turned into a training-ship, the others scrapped or junked. No new battleships are provided for under the treaty, which extends for five years more the capital-ship building holiday of the 1922 treaty.

The ratification vote came at 4:30 p. m. of the twelfth day of the special session of the Senate called by President Hoover for consideration of the treaty. The session met July 7, on the Monday following adjournment of the regular session of the seventy-first congress, and debate started formally on the following day.

## Justice of the Peace J. L. Hassell Hears Two Cases

John L. Hassell, justice of the peace, heard two cases here yesterday, one against C. L. Swain and a second against Ed Walston.

Swain was charged with the theft of roast ear corn, but the case was dismissed for a want of evidence.

Walston was adjudged guilty of disorderly conduct, the trial officer suspending the judgment upon the payment of the costs in the case by the defendant.

## Autobiography of Judge Asa Biggs

### In the Handwriting of Asa Biggs, the Original Is in the Possession of Judge Biggs' Daughter, Mrs. Anna Van Cleve, of Princeton, New Jersey

During the course of the next several weeks, this paper will carry the autobiography of Judge Asa Biggs, one of Martin county's most prominent sons. The autobiography, written at Dalkeith, Warren county, in March, 1865, is dedicated to his children, all of whom are now dead.

Judge Biggs was the only man in Martin county to sit in the United States Senate, and his works as a judge and his interest in educational advantages do honor to him and the county in which he lived. Ten grandchildren survive, adding to the interest of the autobiography. They are, Messrs. Asa Thomas Crawford, Kader B. Crawford, of Williamston; J. Crawford Biggs, of Raleigh; Miss Jewett Biggs, of Oxford; Mrs. Lula McKeithen, of Fayetteville; Mrs. G. A. Van Cleve, of Princeton, N. J.; Dr. Henry A. Cotton, of Trenton, N. J.; Mrs. Lucy Leizeaux, of New York City; and Asa Biggs, assistant editor of the Baltimore Sun, Baltimore.

The autobiography is highly prized and we are sure it will be read with much interest.—Ed.

I, Asa Biggs, was born on 4th day of February, 1811, so that now I am in the fifty fifth year of my age; and although I have passed through many vicissitudes yet upon a general review of my history I have abundant cause of gratitude and thankfulness to Almighty God for His supporting and directing care—and for the eminent success with which I have been able to surmount difficulties and to attain among my fellow men my present distinguished position. I have concluded, my dear children, if time and opportunity are afforded me, to note for your instruction and information some of the incidents of my life, with the hope that this legacy of affection may prove useful and entertaining to you in the journey of life on which you have entered, and may stimulate you to a course of conduct in which, on the termination of your journey you may have as much cause to felicitate yourselves as your affectionate father. I shall not write with a view of critical composition, but to detail facts, with such lessons of experiences as may suggest themselves as I pass along. In February 1862 we were driven from our dear home at Williamston, (where you were all born) by the approach of the Yankee invaders up Albemarle Sound, after the fall of Roanoke Island. About six weeks we lived at a small Cottage about 2 miles south of Tarboro' and from thence we removed to a dwelling, 3 miles west of Rocky Mount, where we continued to reside until I purchased this place (Dalkeith, Warren County) in September 1863, and here we were all located in December 1863. Since the organization of the Government of the Confederate States of America I have been Judge of the Confederate States for the District of North Carolina. I selected this place as secure from Yankee raids and invasion, and although we have been excluded from society and the social intercourse to which we had been accustomed, and find it difficult with my limited means to obtain sufficient "food and raiment," yet so far we have not suffered, and the Lord providing for our wants we continue to this day, and I have confidence that He will still provide.

**Youth and Education**  
And now to recur to early scenes and to the dawn of life. My father, Joseph Biggs, was a small merchant in Williamston when I came into this world, and was a Baptist Minister. My mother, Chloe Biggs was his third wife. She was the daughter of William Daniel who resided on Smithwick's Creek. My father, by his two first wives, had several children, nearly all of whom had left him at my earliest recollection, and the children by my mother, who reached maturity, were 1 Joseph D., 2 Asa, 3 William, 4 Kader, 5 Louisa F. So far as at present advised all are now living. Our brother William, last heard from in 1862 had been driven from his home about 6 miles from Vicksburg by the Yankee invaders there. The others are all now residing at Hilliardston, being also refugees from their former homes and hearth stones, by the cruelty of the public enemy. My father died in the year 1844 then in his 78th year. My mother survived him until the year 1845, when she too fell asleep in her 70th year, in prospect of a better world. And here let me bear testimony to these dear departed ones. Through much difficulty did they rear their family; being poor and illiterate they had to rely upon their own indomitable energy and their moral and religious characters for support. They gave to us all the elements of education to the utmost of their ability and moral precepts and examples which

have survived them, and can enable me to say with truth, no better parents ever lived than your grand father and grand mother Biggs. By the exertions of my father and others an Academy was established in Williamston about 1820 and in that Academy I received all the educational advantages I ever enjoyed. I grew very rapidly and at the age of 15 was of manly stature weighing 180 and about that age left school and substantially the home circle, to complete my education as a merchants clerk. In 1825 I resided a short time with a Mr. Martin, a merchant in Washington. In 1826 I resided at Hamilton and was Clerk for a Mr. Edwards, a merchant at that place. In June 1827 I engaged with Mr. Henry Williams of Williamston, to superintend his mercantile business at that place for one third of the net profits and so continued for two years. My income by this arrangement I think was about \$500 per year. About this time I concluded to read law and for the next two years until June 1831 I acted as Clerk for Mr. Williams at an annual salary of \$350, he furnishing me board. I note this to show my beginning, and it certainly was small and yet, it no doubt, was exceedingly useful to learn me economy, diligence and perseverance. I had no legal instruction, and consequently labored under many disadvantages in pursuing my studies, but I applied myself diligently in reading, whenever I could, consistently with my duties as Clerk. I determined to apply for license and in July 1831 visited Raleigh for that purpose. In addition to doubts as to my legal qualifications I needed six months age to make me 21, and altogether my anxiety as to success was great. The judges however (Henderson and Hall who examined me) greatly to my relief treated me very kindly; omitted to ask me any question as to my age and gave me license to practice law in the County Courts and I returned home with a light and joyous heart. The County Court of Martin County was held in a few days after I reached home and during that week I realized in fees about fifty dollars which was a good beginning and gave me much encouragement.

\*Roanoke Island was captured by an expedition under Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, February 7, 1862.  
(Note: Martin County people will be interested in the next installment of Mr. Biggs' autobiography in which he describes his practice at the bar among old and able lawyers.)

**Here from Roanoke Rapids**  
Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Chase and children, of Roanoke Rapids, are visitors here today. Mr. Chase coming here in the interest of the Virginia Electric and Power Company.

**Sketch Of Peter R. Rives' Life During The Civil War**  
As the fifth and last brief sketch of Civil War Veterans now living in Martin county, the life of Peter Richard Rives, of this place, carries with it many interesting happenings occurring during that hectic struggle between the States.

Born in Pitt county July 17, 1847, Mr. Rives was the son of one of the leading farmers in that county. As a boy, Mr. Rives worked on the farm of his father seven miles north of Greenville. Although the educational facilities of his day were very limited Mr. Rives attended school at Robertsonville under the late Seven W. Outbridge. After studying there he went to Dameron's High School in Caswell county, later going to Horner's Military Academy, Oxford, where he remained until 1863. It was while he was there that he reached the age to enlist in the Junior Reserve, running away from the institution to join the army. He was enrolled in Company K, 67th North Carolina Regiment under Captain Joe Myers, Colonel Wharton and Colonel Whitford being his regimental officers.

Mr. Rives never engaged in any battles, remaining in hospitals much of the time. He was in Pitt, Beaufort and Martin counties during the greater part of his service.  
While serving on a detail with the late Matthew Shaw to pilot the "Montgomery Blues," an artillery battalion—from Washington to Fort Branch in Martin county, they camped at Old Ford, Mr. Rives sleeping in a grape vine near the church. Starting early the next morning, the forces found their cannon mired down, the twelve horses being unable to move it.

## SEVERE HEAT WAVE SWEEPS OVER COUNTRY

### Mercury Reaches the 116 Degree Mark in the Neighboring Town

## RECORD AT WINDSOR

### Accidental Drownings, Shootings and Suicides Follow Heat Wave Over the United States

Prohibition discussions were pushed into the background and an apparent show-down was forced on the Naval Pact when the mercury soared to almost unbelievable heights, causing the whole country to talk and complain of the heat. Sweltering temperatures were reported all over the country, accidental drownings, shootings, suicides and queer escapades being attributed to the heat.

One drowning was reported in this county at Hamilton and other lives were lost in various waters when the throngs retired to the beaches and streams seeking a refuge from the sun's output.

Carolina mercuries commanded a high place in the readings, and promised to surpass the mark established yesterday. Officially, the highest mark recorded was 98, but a "report" found its way into the State papers this morning, giving the mercury reading in the sun at Windsor yesterday at 116 degrees.

"Several old people at Windsor, where the record report for the country originated, said it was the hottest day they ever experienced, and that their memories went back to the antebellum days."

Charlotte turned in a card of 98, the highest reading among the official entries.

## LOCAL SCOUTS GIVEN BADGES

### Several More of the Local Scouts Are Eligible for Merit Badges

Seven merit badges, the first ever to be earned by a Boy Scout here, were received from the national organization, New York City, today by Scoutmaster Wheeler Martin for distribution among the local troop.

Four of the badges go to Wheeler Martin, jr., and three were earned by John Hatton Gurganus, the two boys having met all the required tests to gain the particular honors.

Several more of the local scouts are eligible for one or more of the honor badges and the awards will be made at a regular meeting to be held in the scout quarters here this Friday evening in August.

Reporting on the scout work here Mr. Martin stated this morning that at no time has there been a more active interest in scout activities than there is now. "The boys are really doing a valuable work," Mr. Martin declared, "and interest in the organization is growing locally."

## PEANUT PLANT ALMOST READY FOR OPERATION

### Construction Work on the Main Plant Already Completed

With the construction work on its main plant completed and the installation of machinery being made rapidly, the Columbian Peanut Company will be in readiness to start operations at the local unit within the next thirty days, it was learned yesterday. The factory power plant was almost complete yesterday, the workmen raising the smoke stack today.

The main factory of the plant is so crowded with machinery, including belts, pulleys, and shaftings, that the casual stranger is made to wonder how the employees will find room to work.

Approximately 50 cars of peanuts are already in the factory, and according to present plans the company will start cleaning them the latter part of next month.

Construction work is now under way on the storage units, and the plant will be complete in ample time to bid for the crop now growing.

## MAKES THE 11TH TAX TURNOVER

### \$265,640.70 of the \$301,000 County Levy For 1929 Collected To Date

A last turnover of tax money will be made to the county treasurer here this week, it was learned in the office of the sheriff yesterday afternoon. The turnover, amounting to \$7,910.03 is the eleventh one made on the 1929 levy, leaving a final one to be made when the books are closed.

The turnover about to be made runs the total tax collections on the county's 1929 levy up to \$265,640.70, leaving approximately \$34,858.00 in the uncollected column. A fair portion of that amount represents uncollected personal property tax; it was stated. The exact amount of uncollected taxes on real estate is not accurately established at this time.

According to Deputy S. H. Grimes, the greater part of the \$7,910.03 turnover was paid just prior to the sale made on July 7, settlements being very limited in number and in amounts since that time.

## Prisoners in Local Jail Find It Warm in 'Cooler'

Ten county and federal prisoners are finding the weather unusually warm in the jail here this week according to reports coming through the sheriff's office. Couped in their small cells, the prisoners are transferred daily that they might escape the sun rays that have borne down unmercifully on all during the past few days.

Four of the ten prisoners are awaiting trial in the federal courts. Three others are serving sentences and one is waiting entrance into a reformatory. Two are to be tried in the county superior court.

## PETER R. RIVES

### FARMER TELLS ABOUT TOBACCO GRADING WORK

### Government Grading Is Entirely Optional With The Growers

### WANT SERVICE AGAIN

### Smithfield Warehouseman Gives Several Reasons for Wanting Service Continued

Following the announcement that a government tobacco grader would be on the local market this coming season, many reports have been made, many of them being of an erroneous nature.

The assignment of a grader to the market here does not mean that he will have anything to do with a farmer's tobacco, for the grading is optional. The grower's tobacco will be handled as heretofore, the grader only carrying on the work at the request of the farmer.

The auction system has long been considered by many to be the wrong one in selling tobacco, and it is too often the case that the warehouseman and buyers will grade one-half of a split pile as 15-cent tobacco and the other half 20-cent. Frequently a much greater difference is noted. Especially is the difference noted on "net markets" where one farmer gets more than his neighbor. Government grading will alter such conditions, it is stated.

As the grader comes here for the first time, farmers in this section know very little about the work. That some idea of the value of the grading might be had, we quote a farmer and warehouseman who were acquainted with it at Smithfield last season.

Mr. M. C. Hooks, one of Johnston county's best farmers said: "I had all my tobacco graded last fall, and I know the prices were more uniform than any I ever before obtained on the auction market. Sometimes last fall the buyers varied right much in prices of the same grade, but nothing to compare with the ungraded tobacco. In 1928 before we had government grading I sold one pile of tobacco three times on the Smithfield market the same day for 7, 9 and 17 cents. But this never happens with government graded tobacco, I think it would be a great help to the farmer if all tobacco were government graded and sold by grade, instead of the auction system."

Mr. Dixon Wallace, a warehouseman on the Smithfield market stated: "After closely observing the results on the Smithfield market, we have many reasons for wanting the service next season. We like it and can recommend it for two reasons. First, having learned the various grades, we can start each pile of tobacco more intelligently, after looking over the government price report of the previous week. Second, we find that our customers, generally, are better satisfied with their sales on government graded tobacco. This is true because by observing government price reports of previous weekly sales giving averages on each grade of tobacco, they can quickly determine when they are getting fair market prices. In our opinion it will only be a matter of time until the majority of the tobacco on Smithfield market will be government graded.

"All tobacco on every market should be graded by government experts."

The Smithfield Herald has the following to say on the question: "Smithfield will again have government grading of tobacco. This was the only market served last year by government graders, but the farmers and warehousemen were so well pleased with the service that it is to be continued. Two other North Carolina markets will have government grading this year—Williamston and Tarboro. Smithfield has received a good bit of advertising because of this service, which had a beneficial effect upon the prices received by the tobacco growers. Farmers paid more attention to preparing their tobacco for market, which probably helped the price. It is expected that a much larger quantity of tobacco will be government graded this season."

## NEGRO DROWNS IN THE ROANOKE

### Body of Hamilton Colored Youth Still Lost In the Stream Near There

The Roanoke River claimed another life yesterday afternoon when an 18-year-old colored boy named Peterson, unable to swim, ventured too far from shore.

The young negro was bathing with several other comrades when he carelessly waded to the brink of the stream and went into twenty feet of water. His comrades, unable to swim, stood by helplessly as the boy grappled for his life. Several white men on the shore at the time were helpless in an attempt to render the boy assistance, it was stated.

Dragging for the body was started soon after its disappearance, but up until this morning the body was still lost in the yellow waters.

## FAIL TO LIST, 3 MEN INDICTED

### Colored Property Owners Scheduled for Court Hearings Today

Three colored property owners, Joe Taper, Isom Vines and Joe Wheeler James, all of the Free Union section of this county, were indicted last Saturday when it was learned that they had failed to list their property for the 1930 tax levy. They are scheduled for trial before Judge J. W. Bailey in the recorder's court here today.

The three men offered all types of excuses in an attempt to escape the courts, but their pleas proved worthless and Deputy Grimes ordered them for trial today.

According to unofficial reports, there are several other indictments to be served on property owners failing of refusing to list their properties. It could not be learned just when the warrants would be served, but it is believed that the subjects will be haled into the court within the next few days.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CROPS REPORTED

### Crops Said To Be In Best Condition at Any Time During the Season

With the mercury running above 90 in the shade and as high as 110, if not higher, in the sun, crops in this section are showing a marked improvement, causing farmers to entertain a new hope. Since the rains of last week, the crops as a whole are in the best condition they have been in this season. Practically all the crops have apparently recovered from the effects of the June drought, present indications being more favorable than at any time so far this season.

However, farmers of much experience say that the heavy growth of late tobacco often proves disappointing, that the quality is generally very poor. The most marked improvement is reported in the corn crop, practically all farmers anticipating a fair crop and many others expecting heavy yields. Reports indicate an average peanut crop, with a good stand reported.

## Discuss Property Valuation At Meeting Here Today

Meeting in special session here today, the Martin County Board of Commissioners discussed with officials of the Virginia Electric and Power Company the valuation of the company's holdings in this county. A proposal listing the property at 75 per cent of the actual value was made by the company, but up until shortly after the noon hour, no definite decision had been reached in the matter.

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## OPEN BRANCH IN COLUMBIA

### Branch Bank There Highly Welcomed by People, Reports State

Columbia, July 19.—The exchange bank which was opened in Columbia during June to provide banking facilities during the harvesting of the potato crop will be continued permanently here it has been announced by the Branch Banking and Trust Co., of Plymouth, who provided the office here during June.

Citizens of Tyrrell found the branch bank a great convenience during the harvesting of the potatoes, and the announcement of the permanent opening of the exchange office here was very much welcomed, according to comments heard this week.