

FIRST OF THE 1931 AUTO TAGS SOLD AT BUREAU HERE

Three Counties Represented In Purchases Made Here Yesterday
PREDICT A DECREASE

J. Leonard Coltrain, Griffins Township Farmer, First To Buy License Tag in County

The first of the 1931 automobile license plates were sold at the bureau here yesterday, the managers reporting a fair sale for the opening day. Three counties, Hertford, Bertie and Martin were represented in the sales yesterday and many additional counties will likely be included today and throughout the selling period.

J. Leonard Coltrain, a Griffins township farmer, was the first to make a purchase at the bureau here yesterday, and he was followed closely by Jesse Harrell, local man. The sale yesterday was limited to a few dozen and no busy days are expected during the next several.

Mr. A. MacKenzie, State auto inspector was numbered among the first few making purchases yesterday, and while he predicted a trying season for him in carrying on the license work. He with Mrs. MacKenzie, was on his way to Hyde county where he will work during the next day or two.

"Nobody will be hung if he fails to purchase an auto tag, but the one who fails to display the black and yellow plate will be forced to leave his car under the shed after the old license expires," Mr. MacKenzie stated yesterday.

The inspector did not predict a bright future for the tag sale this year, but even though the times are unfavorable there'll be several hundred thousand of the tags sold during the period.

LOCAL STORES GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Large Stocks, Lower Prices Feature; Many Store Window Decorations

Local show windows and stores are beginning to take on a Christmas-like appearance. Merchants generally were busy this week decorating their places of business with the familiar red and green colors suggestive of Christmas, and on Tuesday workmen completed the installation of colored lights across the streets in the white-way district.

The lights were turned on for the first time this year Tuesday night. Current is being provided by the Virginia Electric and Power Company, while the material and part of the labor used to put up the wires were furnished by the town.

Judging from the appearance of stores, "hard times" have not so greatly affected the buying of Christmas stocks. There is a wide range of gifts on display at the various places, and it is quite noticeable that prices are lower this year. There are several special Christmas sales in progress, and, generally speaking, merchants are expecting to have good business during the next week and a half before the holiday.

The little folks are having the time of their lives wandering around "window shopping" and telling each other what they want Santa Claus to bring them this year. Their eyes glisten at the displays of toys, and while Saint Nick may not be able to be as generous this year as he has been in the past, it is thought that he will be able to get around to see most of the good little boys and girls.

MAN IS HELD ON LIQUOR CHARGE

Abner Bullock Arrested at His Home for Possession of Liquor

Abner Bullock, white man living near Robersonville, was arrested at his home there late Saturday afternoon and brought here to face a charge of possessing liquor. Armed with a search warrant Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, Deputy J. H. Roebuck and Chief of Police Gray searched the premises and took Bullock into custody. Before a United States commissioner, Bullock was given a hearing, is out under bond, and is scheduled to appear in the next term of federal court convening in Washington next April.

Arriving at the home, the officers were unable to execute the warrant before Bullock ran to the rear of his house and started pouring out liquor. A portion of the spirits was loosed on the back porch, and another jug was being emptied in a stone meat jar when the officers intervened and saved a quart.

Several complaints had been entered against Bullock, and when the officers arrived at his home they found several strange cars there.

Classification of Property Will be Assessors Big Task

PROPERTY BASE VALUE WILL BE FIXED IN APRIL

Meet Here Yesterday For Instructions For Revaluing Properties

30 ASSESSORS NAMED
Tax Supervisor Believes Variation In Property Listings Will Practically Be Eliminated Under New Plan

The proper classification of all properties will be the main task of the thirty tax assessors in this county during January, February, March, it was stated by Supervisor Slade at a meeting of the township assessors held here yesterday morning. In making the new assessment for the next four years an entirely new system will be followed and it was learned from the yesterday meeting of the assessors that the classification of property would be the most important feature of the work. Once the classification of all properties is made complete, the various assessors will meet here about April and determine the values according to the classifications. As a result of the adoption of the new system, the value of any piece of property will not be determined until some time next April.

It was Mr. Slade's belief that the variation in the listings so common in past years, would be practically eliminated under the new system. In other words, an acre of land in the far end of Jamesville township will be valued at the same figure as an acre at the far end of Goose Nest township, classification considered, of course.

Two separate forms, one for town property and another for farm lands, will be used, and each carried an ample number of questions. The town property owner will be asked to answer 326 questions only, if the citizen happened to own a half dozen houses. He will be asked the age of the building, type of roof, kind of floor, how heated and lighted, location and the other three hundred and more. Once all this information is gathered, the assessors will meet here in April and fire the big gun when they determine the values of the various types of property.

Just how the assessors will carry on the work is, to a great extent, optional, Mr. Slade told his assistants yesterday morning.

It is believed that practically all the various properties will have to be visited to secure accurate information.

Blanks will be in the hands of the various assessors by the first of next month when the work is scheduled to begin.

The assistants named by Mr. Slade to collect the data in the 10 townships include the following:
Goose Nest—J. F. Crisp, list-taker; J. A. Everett and J. C. Ross.
Hamilton—L. R. Everett, list-taker; D. G. Matthews and J. W. Edwards.
Poplar Point—L. G. Taylor, list-taker; L. L. Taylor and W. S. White.
Williamston—R. T. Griffin, list-taker; John Daniel Biggs and Warren Biggs.
Cross Roads—Gordon Bailey, list-taker; Henry D. Peel and J. T. Barnhill.
Robersonville—Eli Rogers, list-taker; J. P. House and J. B. Rawls.
Bear Grass—Javan Rogers, list-taker; R. L. Perry and Edmond Harris.
Griffins—N. R. Peel, list-taker; J. L. Coltrain and J. Dawson Lillye.
Williams—L. J. Harrison, P. E. Manning and B. L. Gardner.
Jamesville—Clarence Stallings, list-taker; E. Hoyt Ange and J. R. Knowles.

Local Firemen Enjoy Oyster Roast Last Night

Members of the local volunteer fire company enjoyed an oyster roast at the Murray-McCabe lumber mill last night. The mill owners made special arrangements for handling the several bushels of oysters, and the feed was greatly enjoyed by the company and a few invited friends.

Drunk and Disorderly Two Men Are Fined by Justice

T. W. Rogers was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs and Walter Bennett was fined \$4 and taxed with the cost by Justice of Peace J. L. Hassell here yesterday morning. The two men, both white, were arrested and placed in jail Saturday for being drunk and disorderly.

Kiwanians Meet Tomorrow
The local Kiwanis Club will hold its regular luncheon in the hall of the Woman's club tomorrow at 12:30 o'clock. This meeting will be the last one before the holidays and all members are urged to be present.

WHITE SERVICE AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY

To Make It a "Giving" Instead of a "Receiving" Christmas

There will be a White Gift Christmas Service and Christmas Cantata at the Memorial Baptist church Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

A twilight Christmas program that is thoroughly unique in Williamston is being offered from the auditorium of the local Baptist church next Sunday afternoon late, at the time, when no other service is being held in Williamston or its immediate vicinity. This service will be about one hour in length and to it the general public is cordially invited.

The members of the congregation and the Sunday school, feeling that it would not be the proper thing for them to have a Christmas tree at this particular time of depression, decided, on the other hand, to make it a "giving Christmas" instead of a "receiving Christmas." Therefore, when the hour strikes five o'clock next Sunday afternoon, the first feature on the program will be the presentation of gifts by the several Sunday school classes of the church. These gifts will be brought to the altar by the classes themselves. Wrapped in white they will make a pretty sight as they mount up higher and higher during that part of the service.

These gifts, mostly in the form of food supplies, will be turned over to the Ladies Aid of the church and these women will supervise, as wisely as they can, the distribution of these gifts to place where they are needed at Christmas time.

The concluding number of the program is a beautiful Christmas cantata which will follow the White Gift service. Members of other choirs in town have kindly volunteered to help make this musical number a success. Evening after evening the rehearsals have gone on. And under the able leadership of Mrs. Warren Biggs the choir will render one of the prettiest anthems heard in Williamston in a long time.

The church will be beautifully decorated for this service. Mrs. Groves Hardison is chairman of the committee on decoration and it is planned to make the decorations thoroughly in keeping with the white Christmas idea.

The entire town is looking forward to this service and it is confidently expected that the church will be filled to its utmost capacity for the special Christmas program.

8 COUNTY MEN SENT TO PRISON

Consignment Largest Ever Made from This County At Any One Time

Martin county slightly increased the population in the State's Prison, Raleigh, and the Edgecombe County Road camps last week when it sent six prisoners to the roads and eight others to the prison. The consignment to the prison was one of the largest ever made from this county at one time, and the sentences imposed on them varied in length from 18 months to 30 years. Six of the number were white men, two of them being of advanced ages.

The group going to the roads included, Loving Good Mordica, R. D. Spruill, C. C. Jones, Will Smallwood colored, and John Bonds, and D. L. Whitehurst, white. The prison group included, Alexander Taylor, W. C. Edwards, Ben Drew, and Jim Hines, white, and Joe Smallwood, Leroy Saunders, Edward Eason and Henry Edwards, colored.

After removing the 14 prisoners last week, the county officers are holding 14 prisoners in the jail here, three federal and 11 state. Seven of the prisoners are white and twelve of the entire group are men.

Officers S. H. Grimes with Special Deputies Ward, Rogerson and Taylor escorted the prisoners to Raleigh, traveling in two cars.

Thirteen Carolinians Lose Lives in Auto Accidents

Thirteen persons lost their lives in automobile accidents in North and South Carolina during the week-end of December 12-13, 1930. Thirty others were injured, some of them seriously, in auto accidents reported in the two states during the short period.

The accidents were well scattered, the nearest one here occurring near Greenville Sunday night when Bus Mills, of Blount's Creek, was killed as his car struck a bridge abutment. Only one or two of the accident victims were walking, the others operating or riding in the cars.

CAM MORRISON GETS SENATE APPOINTMENT

Takes Seat in Senate Today; Introduced to Body By Senator Simmons

SUCCEEDS OVERMAN
Governor Gardner Appoints His Old Rival To High Office of United States Senator

Raleigh, December 16.—Cameron Morrison of Charlotte was commissioned today by Gov. O. Max Gardner as United States senator from North Carolina to succeed Senator Lee S. Overman, who died Friday.

The commission for Mr. Morrison was carried to the former governor in Charlotte by Baxter Durham, state auditor.

The appointment of Mr. Morrison to succeed Senator Overman was announced at Salisbury late Saturday, following funeral services of the veteran legislator.

Mr. Morrison is expected to leave Charlotte tonight to go to Washington and present his credentials.

It is going to be United States Senator Cameron Morrison, Democrat, North Carolina, before long.

The former chief executive of the state, known to hundreds as "Cam" and to thousands as "Governor" Morrison, expects to leave tonight for Washington to take the seat occupied by the late Senator Lee S. Overman.

Morrison went to Washington by the grace of an appointment at the hands of Gov. Max Gardner, once his political rival. The governor appointed the Charlotte man in Salisbury Saturday—shortly after funeral services had been held for Senator Overman.

Morrison will go to Washington by train. He was accompanied by Mrs. Morrison, Miss Angela Morrison, the new senator's daughter by a former marriage, joined them in Sweet Briar, Va., where she is a college student.

FAMOUS LION TO BE AT THE WATTS FRIDAY

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Leo Makes Stop Here While On Tour of World

How would you like to pay butcher bills or restaurant checks for an appetite that required twenty-five pounds of beef as a daily diet? Yet when you consider that the owner of the appetite tips the scale at seven hundred and thirty-five pounds, it is not surprising that such a menu should be required to maintain his strength.

Leo, the proud possessor of this leonine appetite, will arrive in Williamston on Friday at 4:30 P. M. to visit the friends that he has in this city. Leo is a lion, the celebrated trademark of Metro-Goldwyn-Myer, who roars his supremacy from the "Ars Artia Artis" wreath at the beginning of all the motion pictures produced by that company. He is now embarked on a tour of the world to visit his millions of picture fans who have vicariously a desire to meet him personally.

Twenty-five pounds of raw beef per day is Leo's regular diet. This meal is given to him at about three o'clock each afternoon. In addition to favoring a strict meat diet as opposed to vegetarian principles, Leo is a staunch supporter of the eighteenth amendment, water being his preference as a beverage. This is most fortunate inasmuch as Leo's thirst is as great as his appetite, two gallons of water four times daily being his usual consumption.

When Leo arrives in his caravan of motorized vehicles, each of which exudes in magnificence any circus wagons we have ever seen, he will make a tour of the principal streets of the town which will terminate at the front of the Watts theatre at 4:30 P. M. There Leo will perform, under the direction of his trainer, Capt. Volney Phifer, who enters the cage with him, several of the antics that have been required of him in his motion picture career.

State and Nation's Fire Loss Increases in 1930

The nation's fire loss for the first ten months of this year was estimated at \$387,300,260, a decided increase over the \$353,426,921 losses reported during the first ten months last year, the Fire Prevention Bulletin reported in its current issue.

A decided increase in North Carolina's fire losses was also reported during the first ten months of 1930 as compared for a similar period in 1929. The loss in this State for the ten months was estimated at \$5,466,593, an increase of around three-quarter million dollars over the losses in the first ten months last year.

Reopening of Planters and Merchants Bank Assured

Town Sells \$15,000 Bonds At Premium Here Friday Night

Issue Floated To Complete Paving of Principal Streets Here

The town floated a \$15,000 bond issue here last Friday night to complete a street improvement program started here several months ago. R. L. Durfee and Company, of Toledo, one of two companies entering bids, purchased the issue at par and giving a premium of \$161. The sale was said by Bond Attorney J. S. Peel to be equally as good as the two others issued during the past few months for street improvements here.

The three issues, \$40,000, \$35,000, \$15,000 denominations, completes an extensive street improvement program here, and several thousand of the \$90,000 will likely go into a sinking fund, according to a statement made by a member of the town board yesterday. Plans for street maintenance have not been completed at this time, but an investigation shows that the cost of up keep will be decidedly less than it was before the thoroughfares were paved.

No assessments were placed in the 1930 tax levy, and the first of the ten installments will be due on the new year.

Unable to forecast weather conditions, members of the Clark Paving Company stated yesterday that they could not tell when the work would be completed, that with warm weather they could complete the job within a few days. With the completion of William Street, where the contractors are now carrying on their operations, practically every one of the principal streets of the town will have been paved.

THE UNUSUAL IN CARS SEEN HERE

Auto Hardly Larger Than Baby Carriage Attracts Much Attention Here

The unusual in automobiles was seen here yesterday afternoon when Roy Albright drove his midget car through the streets. And it attracted ever so much attention. The little Austin accompanying the midget car, was so large in comparison that it received very little attention when Mr. Albright was along with his motored carriage. The machine, with a 58 inch wheel base and a 33 inch tread wasn't as high as a baby carriage.

The car, made in Indianapolis in 1923, has a speed of 60 miles an hour. One gallon of gasoline will run it 42 miles and on its trips from Florida to New York it uses one quart of cylinder oil. Weighing 475 pounds, the car has four cylinders and is of all steel construction. During the past several years, it has crossed the continent several times and has been driven in more than half the states.

GIVE PRESENTS MADE IN STATE

Would Acquaint the Public with Manufacture of Goods in State

Christmas gifts from the kitchen will be sure to please. A few jars of jelly or preserves or pickles—some of your most appetizing cookies—a fruit cake or a tasty layer cake—some homemade candies—are all good last minute remembrances. Dainty wrappings make them reflect the spirit of the season.

Here are four good rules on the care of milk in the home: First, provide a receptacle on the porch, in which the milkman can place the bottled milk, to protect it. Second place the milk in the refrigerator as soon as possible after it is delivered. Third, leave cream to the bottle. Keep it, covered, in a separate container.

If your rooms are covered with a figured wall-paper, choose a plain colored curtain material. If the wall-paper, and most of the furnishings, including the rug, are plain, the curtains may be figured, preferably with a background the same color as the walls, or slightly deeper than the walls. In choosing figured materials, choose conventional designs that will stand the test of being looked at day after day. Don't forget that stripes tend to increase the height, and if used in excess, tend to give a stiff, uncomfortable effect. Sprawling designs make windows look shorter and broader.

Tobacco Market Closes For Holiday Tomorrow

The local tobacco market closes tomorrow for the Christmas holidays, and will re-open for sales the early part of January, it was announced following a meeting of the tobacco board of trade held today.

Fair-sized sales were reported on the local floors this morning, and it is believed that a quantity of tobacco will be offered here when the market reopens after the Christmas holidays.

SCOUTS HOLD HONOR COURT HERE FRIDAY

Kiwanians Recognize Advancement Made By Local Scouts

A Boy Scout Court of Honor was held in the Court House last Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

The general meeting was presided over by Bill Weigman, and the Court of Honor was presided over by Herbert A. Stuckey, of Wilson, North Carolina, who is the general Scout executive and acting commissioner for the Martin County district. Associate members of the Court of Honor were Bill Weigman and Charles H. Dickey, local ministers.

This meeting was held primarily for the purpose of recognizing the advancement made by several of the local Scouts in the troop which has for its efficient Scout Master, Wheeler Martin, local attorney. For about two years now Mr. Martin has given an unusual amount of his time to this troop and has had the pleasure of watching these many boys gradually advance from one scout honor to another in rather rapid succession.

At this Court of Honor meeting several of the boys who had done the required work were given due recognition by having presented to them by the Court of Honor badges distinctive to their particular grade. It took almost an hour to present these merit badges and awards. And it was highly gratifying to those present to witness the advancement and promotion so many of the Scouts had made.

In addition to the scouts who were present and the Court of Honor there were a number of the town's citizens who came out to see the Scouts in session. Several of the town's business and professional men, as well as some of the parents of the scouts were in their places from the beginning and watched with mounting interest the proceeding of the evening.

It is the conviction of those who are familiar with Scout work that the Williamston troop is one of the best to be found anywhere. And Mr. Stuckey told the writer that the boys of this troop were doing as valuable work, under the leadership of Mr. Martin, as the boys in any troop under his jurisdiction. And if the community as a whole has been slow to acknowledge the splendid work that is being done by its own boys it is because the people have not been familiar with the nature of Scouting and have not known the values to be derived from its activities.

But by now the troop is well organized and is moving along on a solid basis and is gradually forcing itself upon the attention of the community and winning for itself the good will of all and the support of more and more people. It may be said without fear of contradiction that among all the good work that is being carried on in the community, few more distinctive bits of service are being rendered than the fine work that is being done with these Scouts. And if the work maintains

Jesse W. Harrell First To Purchase New Town Tag

Town of Williamston auto license tags, 300 of them, were placed on sale at the treasurer's office in the city hall here yesterday, Jesse Harrell making the first purchase.

Patterned after the State tags, the town plates have a black background with the numerals in yellow. No slogan appears on the tin this year. The price, \$1 per tag, is the same as it has been ever since the town required local auto owners to display a tag on their cars. Only one plate is necessary, however.

DEPOSITORS TO HOLD MEETING TOMORROW 7:30

Plans For Reopening Bank Meet With a Hearty Approval

PLANS ARE APPROVED
Seventy-Five Depositors Pledge Their Support of Proposed Plan At Meeting Held Last Night

That the Planters and Merchants Bank, Everetts, after suspending operations temporarily last Thursday, would reopen for liquidation and business within a very short time, was made certain last night when around 75 depositors, representing a substantial majority of the deposits, met and agreed to support the liquidation plans advanced.

Meeting in the school building, the depositors listened with a marked interest to a plan that bids well to result in the full payment of deposits back to the owners, a plan that will be followed at a minimum cost.

Tomorrow night at 7:30 o'clock, the depositors will hold a second meeting in the Everetts school building to further the re-opening plans it was announced today by Cashier Paul Bailey.

Plans for re-opening the institution were underway last week when officials of the bank went before the Corporation commission with their problem. The commission and the chief State bank examiner listened to the proposal carefully, later approving and endorsing the undertaking. Returning home the officers again met a ready reception from the depositors, and it was apparent from the beginning that the confidence maintained in the institution had not wavered but little. Depositors readily backed the plan, and last night a number of them representing well over a majority of the deposits signed contracts.

In brief, the depositor signing the contract, agrees to leave his money in the bank until a certain date, or until 10 per cent installment of the deposited amount is within the bank. When the collections have reached that point, the bank, under the law will pay the first of a series of deposits. After paying the first, a second dividend will follow as the collections again equal ten per cent of the amount deposited. Mr. Paul Bailey will handle the work, according to the present plans, and it is predicted that the work will meet with success from the beginning. Signatures of the depositors are being secured at this time and other arrangements are being made for the reopening, which, those in charge think will be about next Monday. The requirements of the corporation commission and state bank officials have been met in every particular and as soon as signatures of as many depositors as possible can be had, the institution will start its operations.

To leave the bank in a position to handle regular business, the depositors having their accounts in the institution prior to December 10, agreed not to set up claims against deposits made after the 10th of the month. The following paragraph in the contract makes this point very clear:

"And for the same consideration, I further agree that any new deposits made in said bank after December 10, 1930, and any new assets thereafter accruing to said bank shall be kept entirely separate, apart and distinct from the assets belonging to said bank prior to December 10, 1930, and that depositors having claims against said bank prior to December 10, 1930, shall have no claim or demand whatsoever against any deposits made or assets accruing after December 10, 1930."

The plan proposed is looked upon very favorably by all, and simply means that the depositors have a very good chance to recover almost 100 cents on the dollar if not every cent on the dollar.

Express Thanks
In an important resolution offered last night, the officers and directors of the bank expressed their sincere appreciation to the stockholders, depositors and friends who had remained loyal to them. "The expressions of confidence in our honesty is especially appreciated, and we hope to be able to so act and walk among our fellowmen and business associates in the future as to merit a continued confidence," the resolutions read, in part.

Miraculous Escape

Four men riding in two cars, miraculously escaped serious injury when a 150-foot span in the Cape Fear River bridge, near Lillington, fell 42 feet to the water with them. A big truck barely missed going to the river's edge by only a few inches.