

HENRY MIZELLE FOUND DEAD IN HIGHWAY CAMP

Evidence Indicates Martin Man Was Murdered Near Conetoe

INVESTIGATING CASE

Funeral at Home in Bear Grass This Afternoon; Interment Will Be Made in Mobley Cemetery

Henry Mizelle, young white man of this county, either committed suicide or was shot to death in a highway camp, near Conetoe Creek, Edgecombe county, early yesterday morning. Following an investigation by Sheriff Bardin and the coroner of Edgecombe, the suicide theory was advanced, later action on the part of officers and the jury indicating that Mizelle had been murdered.

About ten o'clock yesterday morning, Mizelle went to the camp and entered his room. A short while later, the cook working next door, is said to have heard a shot and went to Mizelle's room and found him dead. Other members of the road force were called and an investigation was started.

First reports indicated that Mizelle had taken his own life, but after examining the body, officers were of the opinion that the man was shot by someone else. There were no signs of powder marks on his head, and there is a difference as to the pistol balls that were examined by the jury. In the back of the man's head there is a very small hole; on the front there is a much larger one, indicating that the shot entered from the rear.

A. T. Pinkom, of Washington, employe of the Highway Commission, said that Mizelle remarked to him just before the shooting: "I have something on my mind that I can't get off. I figure that I am going to kill myself some time." Pinkom said he told him not to do that, and Mizelle replied: "I figure I would be better off."

He said that he and Mizelle returned to their work of drilling in concrete and had drilled about three inches and found water necessary for the work and Mizelle went to get a bucket at the camp house. He had been gone five or ten minutes when Mr. Dunlap and an employe came running and said Mizelle had killed himself.

Funeral services and burial are scheduled this afternoon subject to postponement pending findings by the coroner's jury. Elder B. S. Cowin will conduct the services, and interment will follow in the Mobley Cemetery, in Bear Grass township.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Luke Mizelle, of Bear Grass township, the young man had been in the employ of the highway commission for two years. In a letter written the night before to his wife, he enclosed some money, but the note, it is said, gave no evidence of any rash act.

He is survived by his four children, his mother and father, three brothers and two sisters.

DIES AT HOME IN KENTUCKY

Judge W. Williams Was Son of Former Martin Man, Dr. J. G. Williams

Judge W. W. Williams, son of Dr. John Gamble Williams formerly of this county, died at his home in Prestonsburg, Ky. January 14th. Brother to the late Henry Williams and Miss Courtney Williams, and an uncle of Mrs. T. C. Cook and Joseph Roberson, of this place, Dr. Williams left Williamston when a young man and went to Kentucky where he married and made his home.

Born in Prestonsburg in 1877, Judge Williams overcame the many handicaps facing a youth of his day, and attained a high position in the Kentucky courts. He had no children, but the Floyd County Times, a paper published in Prestonsburg, credits him with educating fifteen boys and girls at his own expense, adding that he was highly esteemed for his philanthropic deeds, fine citizenship and up-right character.

Although Judge Williams never visited here, his work in Kentucky was known here by many of those having acquaintance with his father, the late Dr. Gamble Williams.

Local Scouts To Celebrate Twenty-first Anniversary

The local Boy Scout Troop is planning a big celebration of the twenty-first Anniversary of Scouting. Next week the boys will have on display at Margolis Bros. Many articles that they have made in their Merit Badge work. The public is invited to see this work which is of unusual quality. The celebration will be claimed with a community service to be held at the Baptist church Sunday February 8. Rev. John Barclay, minister and scoutmaster, of Wilson, will be the speaker.

Plans Nearing Completion For A Curb Market Here

The establishment of a county curb market here within a short time was practically made certain this week when Miss Lora E. Sleeper, home demonstration agent, announced that opening plans were nearing completion. According to a statement made by the agent yesterday afternoon, the market will be operated in the courthouse halls, provided the undertaking proves successful.

Field work is being carried on by the agent in an effort to perfect an organization among the farmers and farm women who will prepare their produce for sale.

Curb markets are functioning successfully in many counties under the supervision of county home and farm agents, and especially in our neighboring county of Washington. Under the sole direction of the agent, Miss Pratt Covington, the market there has meant much to the farming people of the section. In one year the market sold about \$8,000 worth of country produce.

Much effort is required in establishing a curb market and diligent work is necessary for its success once the market is established, but once in operation it serves well the seller and buyer.

Club Women Defend Home Agent's Office

WILL CARRY THE MATTER BEFORE COMMISSIONERS

Many Women Expected to Take Part in Discussion Here Monday

A proposed study advanced by the Robersonville Woman's club recently in an effort to reduce county expenses by discontinuing the office of home demonstrator in Martin county brought sure fire, practically every home demonstration club in the county rising to arms in behalf of the office. Opposition to the discontinuance of the home agent's office has been centered in the very few districts where the work has progressed, leaving more than 95 per cent of the taxpayers and citizens unheard from.

It is learned from the various clubs through expressions already made public or that are being made public today, that representatives will appear before the county board of commissioners here next Monday in behalf of the office. The Robersonville Woman's club will have representatives here favoring the discontinuance of the office, and it is understood that others will join the Robersonville representatives in their efforts. The matter had not been presented to the local Woman's club, and as the organization does not hold another meeting until the latter part of next month, no delegation is expected to appear before the commissioners either in behalf or against the office.

Martin County pays \$1,020 yearly to its home agent, a comparatively small sum, and a sum that is well repaid in the work accomplished. The per capita cost is slightly under four and one-half cents, and affects the tax rate around three-fourths of one cent. However, there has been some complaint directed against the office simply because its work was limited, ignoring, to a great extent, the average citizen who actually needs assistance. Various clubs, through their officers, express their views in following letters. The question is worth careful thought, and it is believed worthwhile results can be obtained through its study.

Dear Editor,

The Women of the Jamesville Club wish to sanction everything which was expressed by Miss Margaret Everett of Palmyra. We feel even though times are hard that it is better reason for a county not to take a backward step, especially when the tax rate per person is so small and this work is of value to all people in the county. Why should the farm family be not privileged to home opportunities equal with any one else? When such work is abolished there are many throughout the county who suffer. There is much talk about farm relief these times. Let's all help by continuing the work in this county, and we will have relief for the farm homes.

What would become of the club work of the Junior Girls and Boys? Signed by Mrs. W. L. Brown H. D. C. Pres.

Dear Editor:

We wish to sanction everything expressed in the letter appearing in Tuesdays Enterprise written by Miss Everett of Palmyra. At such times there is always a cry for relief from taxes. But why cut out things in our county of value to our people including men, women and children. This time above all times we need help and we feel we receive help through our Club meetings which helps our entire family. The attorney General ruled some time ago that when an appropriation put in the budget it can not be

(Continued on page two)

WILL NOT SHARE IN FARM LOANS

Government Feed and Seed Aid Limited to Eighteen Counties in the State

Martin County farmers will not share in the \$25,000,000 farm seed and feed loan fund recently established by the United States Government, it was learned here this week. Only eighteen counties in the State are eligible for aid under the act, a greater majority of the fund being scheduled for distribution in Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The nearest county to Martin sharing in the fund is Warren, near the Virginia Line. None of the eastern counties is included in the list, but no great disappointment is expressed as the farmers did not expect much aid from that source.

Last year, approximately \$5,000 was lent to about a dozen farmers in this county, it is understood. According to reports coming from those sharing in the \$8,000,000 loan fund last year, the benefit was marked. One of the farmers coming in for a loan remarked that he accomplished as much with the \$300 cash lent him as he had been doing with around \$700 worth of credit.

Practically all the loans have been paid off, bringing to a close Martin county's part in the farm feed and seed loan fund.

NEXT MONDAY IS GROUNDHOG DAY

Is Also Day When First Herring Usually Caught in Roanoke River

And now we have only to wait until Monday to find out what kind of weather we will have for the next 40 days. According to tradition, Monday, being February 2, is the day when the groundhog makes his first appearance after the winter hibernation. If the day is cloudy and the animal can not see his shadow, we will have 40 days of fine weather; where if the sun is shining the groundhog becomes frightened at his own shadow and retires to the recesses of his winter quarters, while poor mortals here above suffer every adversity that the weather man affords.

Infant Dies at Home of Parents Here Tuesday

Peggy Bell, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Jackson, died at the home of its parents on Smithwick Street here last Tuesday. Influenza was given as the resulting cause of its death.

Funeral services were held from the home Wednesday by Rev. C. H. Dickey, of the Baptist church, and Rev. W. F. Wiegmann, pastor of the Christian church. Interment was made in the Baptist cemetery. Formerly of Nashville, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have made their home here during the past several months, Mr. Jackson being connected in the management of the chair factory here.

"Just Imagine" at Watts Monday and Tuesday

"Just Imagine," the movie hit competing with "Sunny Side Up" for fun and real entertainment, has been booked for showing at the Watts theatre, Williamston, next Monday and Tuesday nights. El Brindel, Americas joy friend and comedian with the Swedish brogue has a prominent part in the cast along with many other popular cinema stars. Produced by Fox, "Just Imagine" had not been booked up to date for showing in this section other than at the Watts, and large crowds are expected at each of the showings Monday and Tuesday.

SUPREME COURT PASSES ON TWO MARTIN CASES

Affirms Decision In One of Two Cases From The Superior Court Here

In the largest group of opinions ever handed down by the North Carolina Supreme Court at one time were two affecting Martin County cases, W. A. Roebuck against National Surety Company, and that of N. D. Matthews against C. Arthur Roberson. Judge Clayton Moore tried the two cases in the court here last April. Appeals were made, and the higher court heard the causes last September. In their decisions handed down this week, the first case was affirmed, the court reversing Judge Moore in the second. Unusual points of law are involved in the first case, Attorney B. A. Critcher said, and we don't know yet what the higher court means in its answer to the second appeal, he added, as the review has not been received here at this time.

When the old Martin County Savings and Trust Company suspended operations here, it was acting guardian for W. A. Roebuck, young white boy. A case was perfected to collect the money carried on the books from the National Surety Company. In answer the surety company maintained that it was a preferred claim and should have been paid by the bank's receiver. Judge Moore ruled that the surety company was liable, and his decision was affirmed by the higher court. Roebuck is the nephew of J. S. Harrison, of Washington County, moving from Martin some time ago.

Under a mortgage bearing date of 1901, C. A. Roberson, of Robersonville, bought a farm near there two years ago. Prior to that time N. D. Matthews borrowed money on the farm from the Joint Stock Land Bank. Ejectment papers were prepared by Roberson and the case was carried to court. The defense pleaded the 15-year statute and maintained that the amount, \$300, paid by Roberson for land worth \$5,000 was not adequate compensation, and the court decided in favor of the defendant. Its status is not definitely known here, and the case is a very peculiar one.

B. F. GODWIN DIES AT HOME HERE

Was Town's Mayor Several Terms; Funeral Held Wednesday

Benjamin Franklin Godwin, for many terms mayor of Williamston, died at his home on West Main Street here last Tuesday afternoon following a long illness of tuberculosis. He had been ill for almost ten years, and was confined to his room during the past several months.

Born near here 75 years ago, Mr. Godwin was reared on a farm, and after establishing his residence here, he continued and supervised his farming operations until his health failed him. He was an active member in the Baptist church here for many years.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Wednesday afternoon by Rev. W. R. Burrell, his former pastor, of Murfreesboro, and Rev. C. H. Dickey, pastor of the local Baptist church. Interment was made in the Baptist cemetery.

Mrs. Godwin, with five sons, V. D. Godwin and C. H. Godwin, of Williamston; L. W. Godwin, of Farmville; Dr. G. C. Godwin, of Asheville; and Lieutenant Commander D. C. Godwin, U. S. Navy, survives.

LARGE POULTRY SHIPMENT MADE

Record Loadings Made at Three Towns in The County This Week

Poultry loadings in Martin county this week broke all records, incomplete figures received from three of the loadings indicated. Approximately 18,000 pounds were loaded at Jamesville, Williamston and Robersonville, bringing a cash revenue of about \$3,000.

Farmers in the Jamesville section loaded 1,949 pounds and received \$1,468.25 for their offerings. Figures were not complete on the loadings yesterday in Robersonville, but it was Agent Brandon's opinion that more than \$1,000 in cash was paid out. The car was completely filled at that point, and a second car was placed by the agent, cooperating with the Division of Markets. Loadings are being made in Oak City today.

Several more cars are scheduled for loadings in this county, the next to cover the same towns the latter part of February.

Twenty Dozen Pheasant Eggs Available in County

Twenty dozen pheasant eggs are available to residents of this county for hatching, County Game Warden Hines stated yesterday. Any one desiring to hatch a dozen of the eggs can secure them by forwarding to the game warden an application. The eggs will be shipped from the game preserves direct to the one applying for them.

Those securing eggs are at liberty to raise and use the pheasants themselves or to release them as game. Many have been raised in this county and released in the fields and woods the warden stated.

Announce Service Program at Local Baptist Church

Aimee Semple McPherson, Billy Sunday, Doctor S. Parks Cadman and an obscure Country preacher, and others, will be featured in the concluding paper the pastor is to read to his congregation next Sunday evening.

These papers are briefs and about three minutes devoted to each person in the biographical sketches.

Sunday morning the text for the sermon will be this one: "Put on Thy Beautiful Garments, O Zion." The regular schedule of services will be carried out for the week, in all the departments of the church.

School Bill Passed by Both Houses of General Assembly

ASK FOR REFUND ON STATE ROADS

Bill Would Return Money To Counties Spent for Highway Building

A bill to provide for the State repaying counties that constructed State highways out of dirt allotments to those counties, the allotments to be made with regard to population and size, was introduced in the Senate this week by Senators Ward, of Beaufort; Peel, of this county; and Blount, of Pitt.

Several of the counties in the State provided various sums for highway construction several years ago. Other counties waited for the Highway Commission to do the work, and did not go to any expense in the construction of their roads. The passage of the bill would return to this county approximately \$500,000 spent on the Roanoke River bridge and Routes 125, 90 and 30, it is understood.

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PLYMOUTH TO HAVE CANNERY

Martin Farmers Will Have Opportunity of Tomato Market This Season

Martin County farmers, especially those in the lower part of the county, will have an opportunity of a tomato market in Plymouth this year, it was learned following a meeting of farmers and cannery officials held in that town yesterday morning. A few farmers in Martin planted several acres to tomatoes last season and patronized the cannery at Plymouth, and it is believed that a small acreage will be given to the crop in this county again this year.

Cannery officials and others interested in the business are extending a welcome to Martin farmers to join those of Washington in handling the crop this season.

Approximately 700 acres have been signed up by Washington County farmers so far, and additional contracts are being made daily. Mr. John Darden, of Plymouth, stated yesterday.

Prices on tomatoes delivered are as follows: Green tomatoes: June 10 to June 20, 35 cents; June 20 to July 4, 30 cents; July 4 to July 12, 25 cents; July 12, 25 cents; July 12 to end of season, 20 cents. Ripe tomatoes: June 10 to July 12, 25 cents; July 12 to end of season, 20 cents.

Income Tax Blanks Are Received In This County

Although practically all of Martin County's taxpayers center their complaints around county and town tax payments, there are a few who come under the State and Federal income tax schedule. Blanks have been received, but the outgo is likely to be much smaller from Martin this year than it was last.

Comparatively few blanks are filled out in this county and still fewer are filled out subject to the tax after the exemptions are considered.

Critically ill Mr. John M. Bowen, prominent farmer and merchant of this place, is critically ill in a Washington hospital where he was carried following an attack of appendicitis.

Find Key to Martin County's Smokehouse

The key to Martin county's smokehouse found in the Roanoke River, was near Jamesville, this week when Ira T. Coltrain pulled three herrings from the waters. Mr. Coltrain, a fisherman of many years experience, is a little ahead of the season as he did not wait to go out at the same time as the groundhog next Monday, the day the first herring is generally caught in this section.

Mr. Coltrain caught three of the fish, it was reported, the catch reviving the hopes of those who will find a ready food in the stream within the next several weeks.

TAX MEETING IN RALEIGH TODAY

Messrs. H. S. Everett and Cox of Robersonville Represent County

A meeting of the North Carolina Tax Relief Association, Larry Moore, president is being held in Raleigh today, representatives of the various county associations going there in the interest of legislation favorable to tax reduction.

In urging representatives to attend the meeting, Mr. Moore stated that the prospects were very favorable for the passage of both the measures, State maintenance of all roads and support of the schools, advanced by the tax relief association. Continuing, Mr. Moore said, "What we need now is that during the entire session there shall, from time to time, be members from every county who will take occasion to visit the legislature or write letters to their senators and representatives urging the adoption of these plans."

Mr. G. H. Cox, a member of the county association, and Mr. H. S. Everett, county commissioner, both of Robersonville planned yesterday to attend the meeting.

HEARS 4 CASES IN COURT TUESDAY

No Session of Recorder's Court Will Be Held Next Tuesday

The period of little activity in the county recorder's court here continued this week, the tribunal calling only one case last Tuesday. There'll be no session of the court next Tuesday, Judge J. W. Bailey announced this week. James Hawley, found guilty of transporting liquor, was sentenced to jail for a period of 90 days, the county commissioners have leave to hire him out.

The case charging Raph Peel with trapping without license, was not pressed.

Charged with hunting without license, Henderson Jones was found not guilty.

Going into court, William Cherry and Bernie Wynn pleaded guilty of a simple affray. The charge connecting Robert Edwards with the case, was not pressed. William Cherry was given a 30-day jail sentence which was suspended under certain conditions. Wynn was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

School Attendance Here Shows Slight Decrease

Attendance in the local schools reached its lowest point in many months last month when 90.47 per cent of those enrolled attended daily. The drop was 3 per cent below the 1929-30 average and around two per cent below the figures for the first term of the 1930-31 session, Principal Watson stated this morning.

There is very little difference in the enrollment figures for last year's session and the present one, but the average daily attendance is lower, the principal stating that poverty was one of the main causes for the decrease. During last month there were 659 pupils enrolled in the schools here, 597 of the number attending regularly.

Install Private Telephone Exchange in Hotel Here

The Atlantic Hotel, recently under new management, is installing this week a private telephone exchange, offering a modern service and connections to each room.

The installation of the PBX, as they are often called, is just one of the many improvements now under way to the hotel building.

ASSURES STATE SUPPORT OF THE TERM AND HOW?

Houses Passes Bill By 86 To 32 Vote; Senates Favors It 33 to 17

REJECT AMENDMENTS

Looked Upon As First Real Victory For Property Owners In North Carolina

The State of North Carolina accepted the task of supporting the six-months school term last night when the Senate by a 33 to 17 vote, passed the MacLean Bill committing the general assembly to state support of the six months constitutional term, thus enacting the measure into law as it had been previously passed by the House by a vote of 86 to 32. The House passed the bill last Tuesday afternoon, the Senate enacting the measure late last night after much debate and opposition.

Action last night assures State support of the six months term, giving rise to the question, How? Raising the necessary funds for supporting of the schools will bring forth much oratory and resulting wrangles, it is believed. But, for the property owner, a victory has already been won.

The bill went through untouched by damaging amendments, the House and Senate each turning aside certain qualifications advanced by those who would take the teeth out of the bill. Oratory was somewhat limited in the house, but over in the Senate, it one time looked as if the session would end leaving the opponents and proponents still talking. This district's senators, Messrs. Ward and Peel, took part in the passage of the bill, Senator Ward making the longest address of the term yesterday.

The difference in the school tax rate—low in the wealthy counties, high in the poor counties—was stressed by Senator Peel. "The State has realized the injustice of this and has provided the equalizing fund, but that is not enough," he said. "We have borne down on one species of property until we have destroyed it. This burden is destroying the little homes of North Carolina."

Senator Peel said that when he came to the legislature he thought that no one would object to a sales tax on luxuries at this time. "But when I got here my good friend Willard Dowell flooded my desk with his reasons why I should not vote for it."

"They call it a nuisance tax, but if that's a nuisance tax, what is the tax that causes old men and women to lose the homes they have labored for throughout their lives. What we have been doing is taxing people's savings instead of what they earn and spend."

Tobacco Companies

"Where else could we get a little revenue?" he asked.

"The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company! I would not single them out, but they issued a challenge to this legislature to tax them by spreading across the front pages of the newspapers the fact that they made \$2,000,000 more this year than they did last year," he declared.

When the State built its road system, said Senator Peel, it "sounded the death knell of the small town," and though he believed in good roads the cities and the centers of wealth they built up had their responsibility to the other counties that are helping to build them up.

"All I am asking for is simple cornfield justice in this matter of taxation. If you vote against this bill, go back home and tell your boy that you voted to close North Carolina's schools, for if land is to continue to carry the burden of the schools, the schools will be closed."

Value Store Liquidating Its Stock of Goods Here

The Value Store, operating here for more than a year, is liquidating its stock at a big sale now going on, the management stating that the business would be suspended here within the next thirty days. Goods have been reduced as much as 33 per cent in some cases and as much as 50 per cent in others. It is believed that a quick clearance will result.

One Per Cent Penalty on Taxes In Effect Monday

The one per cent penalty on taxes will be in effect Monday, leaving only one more day for property owners to settle their town and county accounts at par. Collections are coming in very fast today, and a further increase is expected tomorrow in both the town and county collection offices.