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VOLUME XXXIV—NUMBER 41

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, July 24, 1931

ESTABLISHED 1898

## TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR COUNTY SCHOOLS CALLS FOR \$105,000 FROM N. C.

### INSTRUCTIONAL COSTS REDUCED ABOUT \$17,000.00

#### Figures Will Probably Be Changed by State Board of Equalization

Martin County will receive approximately \$105,345.57 from the State Equalization Board in the operation of its six-month schools during the coming term if the tentative budget prepared by Superintendent Jas. C. Manning this week is approved in its present form. The county budget, \$10,320.57 less than the one last year, calls for an expenditure of approximately \$127,320.57 for the operation of the six months schools in the county during the coming term. Martin county is required to levy a 15-cent rate on the basis of its 1930 valuation, and pay as its part for the operation of the six months schools around \$22,500, leaving the State to pay \$105,345.57.

The greatest reduction in the budget is traceable to the elimination of instructional service, a saving accruing there in the amount of \$11,968.84. In other words, a few individual teachers are very likely to suffer the loss while the several thousand taxpayers reap the reward. This amount is limited to what were known as regular teachers and does not include those who were paid out of local tax. Should the teachers, paid out of local tax and who are losing their jobs, be included, a saving in instructional service of around \$16,968.84 would result.

Insurance will result in an increase for fixed charges as many policies, issued three years ago, are now expiring and will have to be renewed this year. This increase will be \$487.01, the superintendent of schools stated. A sizeable increase is also noted in the cost of auxiliary agencies, the State having added several new provisions under that head. For health work among the school children; for aid to indigent children; for library equipment and books and for the operation of trucks, an increase in the tentative budget of \$2,318 was necessary, Mr. Manning stated.

Another increase is predicted in operating the several plants. A new building requires another janitor and fuel costs will be more, raising the budget by \$923.70. Other than the marked decrease caused by the elimination of a number of teachers, there is only one noticeable saving and that is in what is commonly known as general control. A saving there of \$1,631.22 is possible according to the preliminary study completed this week and forwarded by the superintendent to Raleigh for consideration in the office of the board of equalization.

Much work and study are being given the task of planning the operation of the Martin County schools next term, and Mr. T. B. Atmore, member of the State Board, who was here this week, is very well pleased with the progress that has been made so far. The task is a large one, and as it advances the more intricate it becomes. Three more budgets are to be prepared, including a summary of the various committee estimates, capital budget and a third that is commonly called the "broadening budget," whatever that is. These budgets are to be approved by the county board of education, the county commissioners, and then sent to the equalization board in Raleigh for final passage, and it will require much time and study to complete the work, it is believed.

### Ronald Whitehurst, of Parmele, Died Last Week

Mr. Ronald Whitehurst, of Parmele, died last week in a Greenville hospital, where he had remained for some time for treatment for Bright's Disease.

Mr. Whitehurst was 31 years old, the son of James Whitehurst, who with a step-mother, two brothers, Lee and Ernest Whitehurst, and two sisters, Mrs. Lanier Matthews and Mrs. Roy Clark, survive him. The funeral was held Saturday afternoon by Rev. Mc Pittman, assisted by several other ministers of the Free Will Baptist church, also the burial service of the Red Men, of which order he was a member, was performed. Burial was in the Robersonville cemetery.

### Home-Grown Melons On Market Here This Week

Home-grown watermelons appeared on the market here this week for the first time this season, the loading coming in on a large wagon. The melons are selling for around 25 cents.

### RECORDER HAD ONLY 3 CASES HERE TUESDAY

#### Two More Prisoners Are Groomed for Service on State Highways

In keeping with the times, the county recorder's court had a quiet and short session here last Tuesday when only three cases were called. One of the number was continued, the other two resulting in comparatively long road sentences for the two defendants.

The case charging George Purvis with abandonment, was continued until September 8, next.

Found guilty of committing an assault with a deadly weapon, Alton Hoyt Smith, colored, was sentenced to the roads to be worked under prison authorities during the next twelve months.

Booker T. Bradley, colored, was sentenced to the roads for a period of six months for dangerously assaulting Tom Dove here Monday last week.

The session held this week was one of the shortest presided over by Judge J. W. Bailey in some time.

### FARMERS MEET NEXT WEEK

#### Several From This County Plan To Attend Course At Raleigh

The twenty-ninth annual farmers' and farm women's convention will be held in Raleigh next week, July 27-31. It is hoped that more Martin County people will take advantage of this opportunity afforded by the State than there were last year. A large school truck has been secured this year and will leave Robersonville Monday afternoon, July 27, at 2 p. m. Those going on the school truck will divide up the expense of the gas and oil. This was made possible to cut the transportation expenses as much as possible. Fifteen women have expressed the desire to attend the woman's short course this year. All women interested in attending should see Miss Sleeper.

A very good program has been planned for the week, beginning Monday evening with a band concert by the Pegram Brothers Band at 7:15. Dr. Mary M. Sloop, of Crossmore, is scheduled for a talk at 7:45, "Training Mountain-Youth of Western North Carolina." The women receive a choice of seven different classes on Tuesday morning from 8 to 9, beginning with "Food Conservation," and including "Food Preparation," "Child Care," "The Beauty Shop," "Landscaping the Home Grounds," etc. The classes continue through Friday morning with a variety of subjects.

The men receive instruction during the week in "Caring for Bees," "Caring for Poultry," "Grading of Vegetables for Market," "Care of Forests," and "Livestock." Any man wishing to go to Raleigh to the farmers' meet and wishing to save expense in transportation will be permitted to go on the school truck.

### Sunday Services At The Local Christian Church

The Christian church will hold its regular services Sunday, Church school at 9:45, worship service at 11, and Christian Endeavor at 7 p. m.

The sermon of the morning will be, "What to Believe About Jesus," the Christian's Leader." At 8 p. m., we will join with the other congregations of the town in a union service at the Methodist church.

The storm Tuesday afternoon kept many of the children away from our Junior Endeavor meeting, and we trust that all will be present next Tuesday at 4 p. m.

## STRIKE HALTS WORK AT FERTILIZER PLANT HERE

### VALUES OF FARM LANDS IN U. S. OFF TWENTY BILLION

#### Size of 'Money' Crops Increase While Food Crop Acreage Decreases

Farm land values in the United States dropped more than \$20,000,000 during the past ten years, according to figures just released by the United States Department of Commerce. Production values suffered a heavy decline in the period also, the department figures show.

The number of farms operated by owners decreased 356,696, while the number of farms operated by tenants increased 209,561. The number of horses is less by nearly 6,500,000 and the number of cattle dropped 12,000,000 during the 10-year period. An increase in the number of milch cows was reported, the department listing the number at 20,469,329, as compared with 19,675,297 a year ago. The gain in the number of milch cows totals almost a million. The number of hogs fell from 59,000,000 to 32,000,000 during the period.

An increase of 9,500,000 acres was reported in the cotton acreage from 1919 to 1929, the increase probably having something to do with the low price of the commodity.

The tobacco acreage was increased by 26,915 acres, a very small increase, considering the gain in the cotton acreage. The drop in tobacco prices is even more marked than that of cotton.

In virtually all cases, food and feed crops were decreased during the period while those crops grown principally for money were greatly increased.

### ROAD POLICEMAN STATIONED HERE

#### To Start Field Work Here The Early Part of Next Month

Meeting in Raleigh yesterday, the State Highway Commission located thirty new patrolmen for duty on the highways throughout the State. Under the new system, there will be 66 on the patrol force, including 6 lieutenants, 12 sergeants, 12 corporals, and 36 patrolmen.

In locating the patrolmen, the commission sends one here, others going all over the State, some as far away as Murphy. Wiley Crawford, local young man, qualified for service, but it is not certain where he will be located.

### Presbyterian Services At Three Churches Sunday

Sunday, July 26, 1931. "The Church With an Open Door." True sayings: "Tis better to wear out than to rust."

Church school, 9:45 a. m. Mr. John L. Rodgers, superintendent. Worship service and sermon at 11 a. m.

Bear Grass Sunday school, 9:30 a. m. Worship service and sermon at 8 p. m.

Roberson's Farm Sunday school at 4 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday night at 8 p. m.

### Baptist Announce Program of Services for Next Sunday

The sermon at the morning service Sunday evening will be delivered in the Methodist church by the Rev. Kolb, Baptist minister of Windsor. The pastor will preach Sunday morning, following the sessions of the Sunday school.

Throughout the months of July and August the morning services will be only 45 minutes in duration. The church and Sunday school attendance has held up remarkably well during the vacation period. The general public is invited to participate in these services.

### No Taxes To Be Levied in Town of Everetts for 1931

The town of Everetts, this county, will not have a tax levy this year, the municipality being the second town in the State to heed the call of the taxpayer for relief. Meeting recently, the town board of commissioners, Messrs. J. S. Ayers, J. B. Bullock, R. A. Phillips, and S. S. Bailey, and Mayor Paul Bailey were agreed that with a complete collection of 1930 taxes the town could operate without a levy this year. The 1930 levy carried a rate of 40 cents on the \$100 property valuation and provided ample funds to run the town government and create a surplus.

The elimination of the levy this year is due in part to the sale of the town's light and power franchise to the Virginia Electric and Power Company.

A town of 270 souls, Everetts is located in one of the finest farming sections of Eastern Carolina, and experienced a substantial gain in population during the past few years.

Eliminating the 1931 levy, the commissioners are urging all delinquent taxpayers to square their accounts as a complete collection is considered necessary for the success of the no-tax movement.

### Sweet Potato Curing House With 30,000-Bushel Capacity To Be Built by J. G. Staton

#### CONTRACTS ARE LET THIS WEEK FOR BUILDING

#### J. G. Staton Plants More Than 140 Acres To Sweet Potatoes

Sweet potato raising and curing on a large scale is being undertaken in this county by Mr. J. G. Staton, large farmer, and a member of the State Board of Agriculture. More than 140 acres have been planted to the crop by the farmer this year, and preparations are being made to store and cure them this fall, it was learned this week.

Anticipating a yield of 30,000 or more bushels this fall, Mr. Staton let the contract this week for a large potato curing house here. The plant will be located in units numbers four and five of the Union Storage Company, and approximately \$7,000 will be spent in alterations and installing a heating unit.

Contractor Wyatt was awarded the contract to make additions to the building and the Dunn Plumbing Company, both local concerns, has been given the heating contract. Work will be started within the next few days, and the house is scheduled to be ready for use not later than September 15, a few days before the harvesting of sweet potatoes is ordinarily started.

According to information gained yesterday from Contractor Wyatt, the storage rooms will be made almost airtight. The specifications, planned after the ones followed in curing oranges and the most modern in curing sweet potatoes, call for dead air spaces, a thickness of paper and plaster on the walls and ceiling. The floors will also be changed, it is understood. The partition, dividing the two rooms will not be removed, but a second brick wall will be constructed to permit control of the thermostat units, it was stated by the heating contractor, W. E. Dunn.

With an almost air-tight building, the potatoes can be properly cured, it is believed, by the use of a medium sized steam boiler and radiators, special fans being placed to control the air currents in either cold or warm weather.

During the past several months, special engineers, Mr. Staton, and County Agent T. B. Brandon have been studying the possibility of curing sweet potatoes on a large scale, and it is on a large scale that the farmer is working this year. With even a medium yield, the farmer will raise approximately 30,000 bushels of potatoes, and the house will only care for 30,000 or 35,000 bushels.

Harvested and housed in October, the potatoes will be ready for shipment to northern markets 15 or 20 days thereafter. The curing process, it is said, creates a market for the potatoes that ordinarily sell for \$1 and \$1.25 (Continued on page four)

### FEWER ARRESTS BEING REPORTED IN THIS COUNTY

#### Sheriff Is Having First Rest Since He Took Office; Few Paying Taxes

Reporting no arrests, no general disorders in Martin County for nearly two weeks, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck expressed his belief that the poorer we are and the harder we work, the better we are. The officer is having his first real rest since taking office, and he is enjoying the pleasure resulting from inactivity of would-be criminals. "Of course, something might bob up overnight, so we have to hold very close to the office and be in readiness for any call that comes our way," he said.

"We are not collecting enough taxes to make change for business visitors to the county capital, and not near enough to feed the few prisoners in jail," Sheriff Roebuck stated. Once in a while a property owner visits the courthouse and squares his tax accounts, but those visits are unusually few, the officer explained.

Even though they reflect a stricter enforcement of the law, the sheriff was not so well pleased with the jail record during the first six months of this year as compared with that of the first six months in 1930. In the first half-year period of 1930, the county officers jailed 161 alleged law violators, while in the similar period this year, the officers arrested and placed in jail 203 prisoners. Several of the number were entered under federal warrants, however, and are not to be credited to the county jail record. Last month climaxed the season's record, but July, so far, will greatly offset the large June figure.

Comparative records for the first six months last year and the first half year of 1931 are as follows, by months:

January	28	24
February	21	18
March	31	34
April	48	23
May	25	25
June	50	37
Totals	203	161
	1931	1930

### LOCAL SCOUTS HEAR EXPLORER

#### Paul Siple Makes Interesting Talk at Scout Camp Wednesday Afternoon

Members of the local Boy Scout troop, traveling with Mrs. Wheeler Martin, Mrs. J. Sam Getsinger and Scoutmaster Wheeler Martin, heard Paul Siple, the explorer scout, at Camp Charles last Wednesday afternoon. Each of the boys going from here was greatly impressed with the young man who accompanied Commander Byrd and his party to the South Pole.

Three of the local scouts, Ben Hopkins, Billy Clark, and Wheeler Martin, Jr., had honor parts in the program that afternoon and they had interesting comments to make following Scout Siple's talk.

### Harry Biggs Loses Clothes In Suitcase Fire Yesterday

Harry Biggs, on his way to Canada yesterday lost many of his personal effects when on his suitcases, resting on the running board of his car, flew open and a lighted cigarette was accidentally pitched in the bag, setting fire to his clothes.

The damage was limited to the suitcase and the man's clothes therein. Insurance was carried on the articles destroyed by the fire.

### Agent Announces Market Prices Here For Saturday

The curb market will open its 18th week Saturday morning. The following prices will prevail this week:

Beets, 5 cents per bunch; butter beans 14c quart; cabbage, 1 1-3c lb.; corn, 17c dozen; okra, 12c lb.; watermelons, 25 and 35c; field peas, 5 lbs. 25c; pepper, 4 for 10c; tomatoes, 2 lbs. for 5c; squash, 3c per lb.; cucumbers, 4 lbs. 10c; eggs, 19c dozen.

### Four Remain On Job While Others Leave

#### 37 NEGROES QUIT

#### Threatening Note Received By One of Four Failing To Take Part in Strike

Operations at the Standard Fertilizer plant on Roanoke River here were brought to a sudden stop Tuesday morning when 37 negro workmen refused to go to work at the current wages offered by the company. The strike, perfectly organized and executed, was an orderly one, the workmen apparently preferring no work at all rather than exchange their labor for the price offered by the company. Four others remained at their posts, doing so at the protest of the 37 strikers.

While no violence has been reported at the plant, Lazarus Williams, deaf mute, and one of the four continuing work received a threatening letter signed "Bob Williams." A man by that name was not employed by the company, but it is believed that one of the 37 walking out Tuesday morning forwarded the message to Williams. "Please do not go down into the fertilizer plant tomorrow morning, the note received stated, 'because you might get hurt or killed.' Bob Williams." The note, poorly written on the back of an envelope, is said to have caused the deaf man some concern, but he still continues in the employ of the plant.

The strike, following the close of the company's busy season, has caused no great trouble for the company, but Captain Miller, owner and skipper of the barge "Pearl" was forced to stand by with only 30 tons of fertilizer left in his boat to be unloaded. In anticipation of completing the task of removing the fertilizer by Tuesday noon, the captain of the barge had made plans to leave Wednesday. But labor was not available, and his stay at the company's wharf was prolonged. White labor, assisted by five colored men, finished unloading the barge yesterday at noon, but Captain Pierce continues here with his barge to assist in raising the "Lynn."

### ROBERSONVILLE HAS ROBBERIES

#### Homes of Mrs. J. M. Sparks and Mrs. Mittie Keel Are Entered

Robersonville was again infested with housebreakers and robbers last Saturday night, when the home of Mrs. J. M. Sparks was entered and \$10 or \$15 was stolen. The thief entered the home through a screened window and escaped without being detected.

On Sunday morning the home of Mrs. Mittie Keel was entered and \$4 taken from her purse. The thief entered the home while Mrs. Keel was in the kitchen and the children were attending Sunday school.

Similar robberies have occurred here in the last few months, and officers are of the opinion that the stealing is being done by thieves living in or around Robersonville.

### Georgia Tobacco Markets Open Season Wednesday

An attempt to postpone the opening having failed, the tobacco markets will open in Georgia next Tuesday, as scheduled. Tobacconists from this section are leaving almost daily for the season in Georgia and South Carolina.

Price prospects have not been mentioned very much and a true condition of the crop is not known here. However, dry weather is said to have affected the crop, giving cause for one to believe that the poundage will be less this year than it was last season.

Because of its brilliant vegetation, the little island of Madeira, off the northwest coast of Africa, is known as the "Flower Garden of the Atlantic."

### Federal Agents Get Only Three Stills Last Week

The second week in July was rather uneventful for prohibition work in this section. Federal agents working out of here reporting the capture of only three stills and the arrest of one man. One of the plants was found in Free Union, this county, and the other two were destroyed in Beaufort County, where Isaac Godley, colored, was arrested at one of the plants.

### Episcopal Services In Two County Churches Sunday

Church of the Advent Rev. A. H. Marshall, rector. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Morning prayer and sermon at 11 a. m.

St. Mark's, Hamilton Holy Communion, 4 p. m. Evening prayer and sermon, 8 p. m.

## Barge Loaded With Fertilizer Sinks in River Here

Seven hundred and thirty-one tons of costly fertilizer material were lost in Roanoke River here early last Wednesday evening when the barge "Lynn," of Baltimore, struck a log and sank near the docks of the Standard Fertilizer Company. An estimate of the loss has not been made, but it is believed that damage to the boat and its cargo will amount to more than \$30,000. No one was injured when the

barge struck the log and gradually went to the bottom of the river.

Brought here by the tugboat "Hampton," the barge was being docked when it struck the log, but at that time the master, Captain Pearce, of New Jersey, did not consider the damage to be of any consequence. About 8 o'clock, two hours after it struck the log, the "Lynn" started sinking. Efforts were made to hold the heavily laden barge close to shore, but as the water reached the fertilizer the weight

became too great for the anchor posts, and the boat slipped down the muddy bank and went down with the bow and the cabin left above the water. Captain Pearce moved as many of his personal effects as he could to the second deck of the cabin and remained with the boat. All Wednesday night the big barge gradually settled, reaching hard bottom about noon yesterday.

Mr. Robert Wathen, part owner of the vessel, is here today making ar-

rangements to raise the craft, but actual work will hardly be started within the next several days or not until pontoons and other salvage equipment can be brought here. Captain Pearce, part owner of the boat, stated yesterday that he had no idea what it would cost to refloat the craft, but he did say it would be done at private expense, as no insurance is carried on barges used for inland service.

Insurance companies, now owners of the cargo, will handle the fertilizer, but

what they will do with it had not been definitely decided upon this morning. The barge "Pearl," unloading its shipment of material yesterday at the fertilizer plant, is being held here, and it will figure in the salvage work, according to information gained today.

The "Lynn" is one of the largest boats to go to the bottom of the Roanoke in this section since the sinking of the old steamboat "Hamilton," several years ago between here and Hamilton.

Washington Lodge, No. 1, of Wilmington, Del., one of the country's oldest Masonic bodies, was chartered December 27, 1769.