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# THE ENTERPRISE

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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, August 2, 1932

ESTABLISHED 1898

## New Developments In Barnhill Killing

### TOM BARNHILL IS IN JAIL HERE AND BOND IS REFUSED

#### Solicitor Expected to Start Investigation Here This Afternoon

Tom Barnhill, white man living in the Flat Swamp section just across the Martin line in Pitt County, was arrested last Saturday afternoon in connection with the mysterious murder of his adopted son, Jesse Barnhill, at a church there the 16th of last April. The man was placed in jail here that afternoon and is being held without bond until a hearing can be arranged today or tomorrow.

Officers are withholding facts supporting the man's arrest, but it is believed that recent evidence uncovered in the case indicates he is acquainted with the happenings leading up to the murder. Just how strong a case has been developed the officers stated yesterday they were not at liberty to disclose, but as the man was denied bond, it is believed that some new evidence has been found. Whether the recent findings connect any one else with the murder could not be learned. The time for a hearing had not been announced here yesterday afternoon.

Following the killing of the young man, several theories for the act were advanced. It was thought by some that Barnhill was lured to the church lot and murdered by an old enemy. Others were of the belief that he was killed as a result of a bootlegging quarrel. Since that time another theory is said to have been advanced in connection with the comparatively large amount of life insurance carried by him. It was unofficially learned that one \$5,000 policy had been paid to his estate with the double indemnity clause in effect. Another \$5,000 policy was paid, but payment of a third, for \$5,000, with double indemnity and payable to the boy's foster-father, was held up pending further developments in the case.

Just before the killing the young man, with his father, had been to Bethel, and when they returned home at 8 o'clock, his father is said to have stopped at home, the boy saying that he was going on to the home of a neighbor about 200 yards away to get his wife. He did not go for his wife, and 20 minutes later several residents of the Flat Swamp section heard pistol shots. Two or three people, passing along a short while after that time saw him lying on the ground, but thinking he was a drunk they passed by without making an investigation. About 11 o'clock, Mr. Leonard Taylor, a resident of the section, saw him and stopped. He reported him dead, and after officers reached the scene an inquest was held. The examination disclosed two bullet holes in his breast and three in the forehead. The bullets piercing the head continued on into the ground where he was lying, indicating that the man was down when the last three shots were fired.

According to unofficial information received here at noon today, Solicitor Clark will come here this afternoon to question the 74-year-old man. It could not be learned whether the questioning would be secret.

### Davis Pharmacy Holding Big Mid-Summer Sale

The Davis Pharmacy, located next to the postoffice is conducting a mid-summer sale with appealing prices this week. Drugs and articles used every day in the year almost are being sold at greatly reduced prices. A partial list of the many bargains offered by the store is carried in this paper today.

### Million and Half Pounds Tobacco Destroyed by Fire

Reidsville, Aug. 1.—Fire today destroyed three large tobacco sheds here, the property of the J. H. Burton Company, Incorporated, with damages estimated to be \$100,000.

The sheds contained approximately 1,500,000 pounds of tobacco in storage and two large trucks.

Two small dwellings nearby were also destroyed by the flames. There was a small amount of insurance carried on the tobacco sheds. The fire started in a Negro dwelling nearby, it was said.

### Kiwanis Club Will Hold Regular Meet Tomorrow

The local Kiwanis Club will hold its regular meeting here tomorrow at 12:30 o'clock when Carl Goerch, Washington newspaperman, will attend as a representative of the Washington Rotary Club. All members are urged to attend.

### HAIL KILLS BIRDS

Goldsboro.—Hail in Goldsboro Sunday night caused two lard-cans full of fatalities, according to F. E. Rouse, Goldsboro motorcycle policeman.

When Mr. Rouse, who lives on North Slocumb Street, came to police headquarters Monday morning he said that he and his young son had picked up two 50-pound lard cans full of English Sparrows in front of his home—sparrows that the hail had killed in three trees in the yard.

Chief of Police E. J. Tew, in relating Mr. Rouse's story, said that the latter came to Goldsboro from Kinston about five years ago. The chief refused to vouch for the story, but did say that Mr. Rouse had been away from Kinston long enough to have forgotten such habits.

### REPORT IS MADE FOR PAST MONTH BY HOME AGENT

#### Points Out Increasing Activities Carried On at Curb Market

By Miss Lora E. Sleeper

The largest girls' camp ever to be held in the Northeastern District was held this year at Neuse Forest, near New Bern. The County School Board of Education allowed the use of a school truck this year, and each camper from the county was given the few days at the camp for the small charge of \$1.31, which included transportation to and from camp. There were sixteen girls from the county. Five counties came together with a total of 132 girls. Courses of instruction were given in first aid, swimming, the making of bracelets, grooming, and manners. The campers were divided into tribes and each tribe scored for its cooperation, helpfulness, and camp spirit. We were proud to have a Martin County girl win out as the outstanding girl and have her tribe receive awards of club pins. Mary Wildman, of Parmele, was given a free trip to Raleigh to the girls' short course as a result of her splendid spirit in camp.

The home agent conducted 24 meetings during the month with women and girls in food preservation. Owing to the extremely dry weather there has been a scarcity of vegetables to can, even though nearly 100 jars were canned during the month at meetings. Two clubs canned 55 of these jars in one afternoon. The women of the Williams Chapel club and Oak City met and spent one afternoon canning for the school lunch. The agent traveled 1,124 miles, visited 13 different homes, wrote one circular letter during the month with 236 copies circulated.

This month was the best month for the sellers at the curb market. There were an average of 23 ladies selling each week on the curb market. The total sales for the month were \$219.02, an average of \$43.80 per week, or \$1.90 for each person per week. One lady sold over \$32 worth here during the month.

### JULY REPORT OF COUNTY AGENT

#### Work of Agent Centered Around Hog Treatment and Peanut Meetings

Work of County Agent T. B. Brandon during the month of July was centered around eight meetings held in an effort to form a peanut exchange in the county and the vaccination of hogs against cholera. The cholera outbreak was more noticeable in the county during the period than in several months before, it is understood, the agent treating 780 swine during the past month.

The agent's report, in detail, is as follows:

21 days in field work, 5 days in office work, 158 office conferences, 149 telephone calls, 125 letters written, 39 farms visited, 1,022 miles traveled on official duties, 4 articles written for local papers.

### Town Board Plans Meet for Next Monday Night

As two or three of the commissioners were away last evening, no meeting of the town fathers was held here, the mayor announcing at that time that a meeting will be held next Monday evening. The treasurer stated that the budget would be presented at that time.

## CHOPS HAND OFF WITH AX TRYING TO KILL HIMSELF

### Unable To Buy Gun Shells, Negro Makes a Brutal Effort To End Life

Brooding over family difficulties, Ernest Boston, colored man living in the Free Union section, near Jamesville, attempted to end his life at his poverty-stricken home there last week. Unable to buy gun shells, Boston took his ax, and, after telling one or two friends he was going to kill himself, went to the woodpile just back of the home. After rolling his sleeve back, Boston placed his left arm on a chopping block and struck it a few inches above the wrist with the ax. The negro lifted his arm, and, seeing that he had failed to cut off his hand, he chopped again, the blade of the ax cutting through the bone, leaving enough skin untouched under the bottom of the arm to hold the hand and wrist to the body. By that time the onlookers rushed to the man and took the weapon out of his hand.

Boston was carried to a doctor in Plymouth who advised that he be sent to a hospital. Much time was lost hauling the man around, and it was four hours after he attempted to take his life than Boston reached the hospital in Washington.

During the meantime, Boston had forgotten all his family worries and laughed and joked with Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, who carried him to Washington. He smoked cigarette and declared he felt no pain. When he arrived at the hospital and the doctors were removing the bandage from the arm, Boston caught his left hand with his right, explaining that if he did not hold it, the hand would drop off.

With nothing but a main artery and a small piece of skin holding the hand to the arm, doctors started sewing muscles and nerves together, later connecting the bones. Doctors handling the case were unable to say this morning whether Boston would lose his hand or not.

Following a quarrel with his wife about two weeks ago, Boston's actions were said to have been very queer, the attempt to end his life by cutting off his arm climaxing his activities. His wife left him shortly after the quarrel, and the children were taken from him about a week ago.

The suicide attempt is the most unusual ever reported in this section, it is believed, and no doubt would have proved successful had Boston's friends left him alone.

## CHILD DROWNED LAST THURSDAY

### County Girl Loses Her Life While Visiting Aunt In Baltimore

Marcia Bowen, 6-year-old daughter of Jesse J. Bowen and wife, of near Jamesville, and her little cousin, of Wilson, were drowned with hands joined in a small body of water at the home of their aunt, Mrs. Minnie Berry, in Baltimore, last Thursday. The body of the little girl was buried in the John Bailey grave yard, near Jamesville, last Sunday afternoon, Rev. Gilbert Davis, of Plymouth, conducting the last rites.

The Bowen child, who had been visiting her aunt for a year or more, and her cousin, also six years old, were planning to go swimming about noon that day. Mrs. Berry told the children to wait in the yard until she could put on her bathing suit, but when she went out the children were gone. A search was started, and the little bodies were found, the hands still joined, about 8 o'clock that evening.

Marcia and her cousin had been in bathing there before, but that day the water was deeper than usual, and apparently they went into water over their heads before they realized just how far they had gone from shore. The body of the little girl was returned to grief-stricken parents in Wilson for burial, the double tragedy leaving their aunt, Mrs. Berry, almost prostrated.

### WHERE THEY PLAY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2nd

Elizabeth City at Edenton

Williamston at Windsor

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3rd

Edenton at Elizabeth City

Colerain at Williamston

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4th

Elizabeth City at Williamston

Colerain at Edenton

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5th

Williamston at Elizabeth City

Edenton at Colerain

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9th

Colerain at Elizabeth City

Williamston at Edenton

# Proposed County Rate Is \$1.28

## ROBBERS FAIL IN ATTEMPT TO ROB EVERETTS STORE

### Blow Open Taylor, Bailey Brothers' Safe Early Last Friday

Using a charge of nitroglycerin, thugs blew open the safe of Taylor, Bailey and Brother, Everetts merchants, early last Friday morning. Two men and their accomplice, a woman, were frightened from the town just as they were preparing another charge of the high explosive to blow off the second door to the safe. While no money or goods were stolen, much damage was done to the safe and to the store where an entrance was forced.

A large sledge hammer with the name of the Seaboard Air Line Railway staple on the handle and a crow bar were used in planting the explosive in the door of the safe. The tools were left by the thugs, and officers are making an attempt to have them identified.

Riding in a Buick automobile, three persons are said to have visited Everetts about 10 o'clock Thursday night. About 1:30 they were seen in Robersonville at a filling station by Officer Griffin. While there they are believed to have stolen the license plates from a car belonging to Jack Taylor, using them to cover their identity during the robbery and throwing them away later. Mr. Taylor's car was parked on Second Street, Officer Griffin reporting that the two men and a woman drove down that street before they turned and went in the direction of Everetts.

They entered the Everetts store about 2 o'clock and neighbors, hearing the knocking and explosion, turned on their porch lights and frightened the three away. The woman is said to have remained near the car on the highway, while the two men went into the store to crack the safe. All three were seen leaving town, but the witnesses were unable to identify them.

## CONTRACT IS LET FOR NEW SCHOOL

### Bids For Colored School Are Much Lower Than Expected by Board

A contract for the erection of a 4-room school building for negroes was let to Mr. Sylvester Lilly by the Martin County Board of Education at its meeting here yesterday morning. Seven bids were entered, Mr. Lilly's, the lowest of the seven, being for \$2,200. The highest, submitted by Mr. Louis Roberson, of Griffiths Township, called for an expenditure of \$2,892.40. Mr. Pearl Leggett was next to the lowest with a bid for \$2,250. Others bidding on the project were J. C. Gurkin, A. T. Perry, S. C. Griffin, and A. T. Gurkin.

The building will replace the structure destroyed by fire at Black Swamp about three and one-half miles from here on the Bear Grass Road. After the building was destroyed by fire last fall, school was held in a near-by church. The new school, with its four rooms, will be a frame structure.

## School Building Entered And Much Damage Done

Breaking into the high school building here last Sunday evening, vandals are said to have wrecked property valued at \$50 or more. School authorities are making every effort to learn the guilty parties, and it is believed two arrests will be made within the next day or two.

The vandals, believed to be two small local boys, entered by breaking a window glass. Once inside they tore open a number of classroom doors and upset everything that was not nailed down, destroying records and all the loose property they could get their hands on. An effort was made to trap the boys in the house, but before officers could reach the building, the invaders had escaped, it was stated.

## Fined \$6 for Drunkenness By Justice of the Peace

Hubert Wynn was fined \$6 and taxed with the costs in Justice of the Peace J. L. Hassell's court here yesterday when he was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly.

## Champion

The world's champion coffee-drinker is 73-year-old Joseph Peclat, of Newark, N. J., who averages 50 to 60 cups daily.

## Urging Road Work For Martin County

### DELEGATION IN RALEIGH TODAY TO SEEK ACTION

#### Ask That Hardsurface On Highway No. 125 Be Completed Soon

That Martin County might share in the \$6,000,000 Federal road building fund allotted to this state, Messrs. G. H. Harrison, E. S. Peel, and Clayton Moore are meeting with highway officials in Raleigh today in the interest of North Carolina Highway No. 125 and a road from Oak City, via Hassell, to Robersonville.

Neither of the roads was included in the first building program under Federal aid announced a few days ago, but it is hoped that the projects will be favorably considered in the second letting of contracts.

It is understood that highway representatives are considering recommending the completion of No. 125 into Hobgood, but are said to be unfavorable to routing No. 11 via Hassell. Highway No. 11, from Oak City to Bethel, is said to be the choice of the road authorities, but it is not known just what will be the outcome after various delegations present their claims. A meeting was scheduled some time ago when a delegation from the Hassell section was to have appeared before the officials in Raleigh, but it was postponed and has not been held as yet.

The county representatives, to get aid from the Federal fund, will have to seek the approval of both the national road representatives and the State commission, it is understood. The Federal government, it is understood, does not participate in any road construction, unless the projects are approved by a special representative.

If aid is procured for this county, there is some doubt whether Route 125 will be hardsurfaced or covered with a tar composition. There are two neglected links in the road at present, one from the Everett farm, 5 1/2 miles out of Williamston, to Hamilton, and another from Oak City to near Hobgood.

## 10 LICENSES TO MARRY ISSUED

### July Sale of Licenses Is Largest for Similar Period in Years

While the press of the county reported signs favorable to better times, Martin County was putting out signs of its own last month, when 10 marriage licenses were issued by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger. Seven white couples "shook off" the depression and procured licenses necessary to the tying of the knots. And while the number of licenses going to colored couples was only three, it was one more than the number issued in July of last year.

That the increase in number of marriage licenses issued in the county is not a radical one is shown by the records. Since last March, the number has been increased steadily, going from 5 in April to 10 in July.

Licenses were issued to the following couples during July:

White

George F. Hopkins and Lillie Beacham, both of Martin County.

Roland Thomas Silks and Lucille Stroud, both of this county.

Horace Mendenhall and Annie B. Cowen, of Martin County.

William Keel and Annie Lee Stalls, both from this county.

Charlie B. Cullipher and Snodie Taylor, both of Martin.

W. J. Ayers and Elizabeth Bullock, of Martin County.

Clyde Mason, of Washington, D. C., and Esther Davenport, of Greenville, Pitt County.

Colored

Willie Williams and Odell Ryan, both of Martin.

Walter Cherry and Vivian Gilliam, of Bertie County.

Richard Gajnor and Lucy Wynn, of Martin County.

Colerain at Edenton

Edenton at Colerain

### LOSES LEAD

North Carolina has lost a "first." For a decade it had the highest birth rate of any state in the Union. But in 1931, according to figures released through the State Board of Health, this state slipped into second place and barely escaped being third.

New Mexico's birth rate now heads the list, with a rate of 26.4 per 1,000 of population. On the same basis, North Carolina's rate was 23. Alabama had a birth rate of 22.9 per 1,000 of population to run a close third.

Babies born in this state in 1931 totaled 73,898, however, as compared with New Mexico's 12,148.

## NEGRO IS JAILED FOR ROBBERY OF LOCAL MARKET

### Run Down and Caught In Ditch By Chief Daniel A Few Hours Later

Alexander Smallwood, colored, was arrested yesterday at noon and placed in jail to answer a charge of robbing D. M. Roberson's market on the Jamesville road earlier in the day. According to Andrew Everett, keeper of the market, some one stole \$15 and a pistol from the store while he went to a near-by house for a bucket of water.

Chief W. B. Daniel was called, and while he was making an investigation he saw Smallwood running from him. He gave chase and found him in a deep ditch near Leggett's lane in New Town. In the meantime, Smallwood hid the money, but when pressed by officers he told them that it was in the ditch near the spot where he was caught.

Before leaving the market house that morning, the keeper pulled the rear door shut, but did not fasten the latch. Smallwood is said to have come out of a corn field just at the rear of the building and entered without difficulty, but not unnoticed. Albert Wilson, a young colored boy, saw the man enter, and when questioned by officers, described Smallwood to them. Tracks were examined and those found near the market corresponded with those made by Smallwood's feet. The man had a type of slipper that he could slip on and off very easily, and as he left the market house he would wear the shoe a short distance and then pull them off and go barefooted for a while.

The shop-keeper was gone only a few minutes, but did not miss the pistol and money until a customer made a purchase. Everett went to the money drawer to make change and found the money gone.

## NO GAMES WERE PLAYED FRIDAY

### Elizabeth City Said To Be Considering Dropping Out of League

A period of inactivity was experienced in the Albemarle League—the latter part of last week, when the Elizabeth City-Colerain game was rained out and the Williamston-Edenton game was called off on account of the death of a Mr. Webb, an uncle of three of the players on the Edenton team.

The existence of the league is now threatened according to information coming from Elizabeth City, where the team officials are peeved because they can not play their boys on Sundays. A dispatch from Elizabeth City reads:

"Close upon the heels of an announcement by the board of school trustees that there would be no more baseball games in the ball park here on Sunday, the management of the Jaybird team announced the contemplated dropping of the team from the Albemarle league. This action would be a virtual death warrant for the league, for two of the three other teams in the circuit have stated they will not play in a three-club league.

"Lack of interest and gate receipts too low to pay the expenses of the players were given as the reasons for the proposed action in dropping from the league." Elizabeth City is scheduled to play Edenton at Edenton this afternoon, and Williamston is slated to play Colerain at Windsor.

## WILL NOT ADOPT FINAL BUDGET BEFORE MONDAY

### Public Invited To Discuss Estimate With Board at That Time

Meeting in regular session Monday, the Martin County Board of Commissioners prepared a tentative budget for the year 1932-33, the estimate calling for a tax levy of \$1.28 for the year, or one cent less on the \$100 property valuation, than the old rate. However, this budget is not final, the board extending an invitation to all taxpayers to attend a meeting next Monday morning at 10 o'clock when a final budget will be adopted. No other business will be considered at that time, Chairman T. C. Griffin said this morning.

The tentative budget, appearing elsewhere in this paper, reflects many changes in the various funds, several of the general funds showing decreases while the fixed charges show an increase in one or two instances. An increase of 7 cents was necessary to care for the debt service during the coming year, and an additional one-half cent increase was necessary to create the school tax required by the State. This State school tax would be only 15 cents had the valuation remained the same as it was in 1930, but since that time more than a two-million drop has been reported in property values in this county. The State levies on the basis of the 1930 valuations, and to create the funds, the county had to increase the rate from 17 1/2 cents last year to 18 cents this year, the increase of one-half cent being considered very economical considering the large decrease in property values recently reported.

Decreases are noted in the health fund, and urgent expense and capital outlay funds established for the operation of the six months school term. The most marked reduction was in the health fund, the rate for that work dropping from 9 cents to 3 1/2 cents, a saving of 5 1/2 cents. In other words it there was no increase in the amount of interest and principal on bonds coming due this year, an 8-cent reduction in the rate could be effected. And while there is only a one-cent drop shown in the estimated budget, the total tax levy this year will be \$5,905 less than it was for the year 1931. This saving would have been multiplied many times had there been no increase in bond interest and principal to care for during the coming period.

Last year, the total levy amounted to \$183,825 as compared with \$177,920 called for in the proposed budget for the year 1932-33.

Just how many changes, if any, can be made in the proposed budget will be determined next Monday when taxpayers are invited to meet with the commissioners and suggest savings of their own. It is almost certain that no increase will result, and no decrease is visible at this time.

A petition was prepared, urging the State to complete the hardsurfacing of Highway No. 125, the commissioners pointing out the agreements entered into by the county and highway commission back in 1922. The board also expressed its thanks to the highway department for the reliable and successful maintenance of the roads in this county since the system was expended.

Several applications for aid from the county were filed, the board allowing Mrs. Bessie Davis, Jamesville, \$3 a month; E. G. Rogerson, Williamston R. F. D. 5, \$3 a month; and Effie Everett, colored, \$3 a month and increasing the allowance of Mrs. Mary Edmondson from \$2 \$3 a month.

## Former Martin Man Lives With His Neck Broken

Suffering a broken neck when he jumped head-first into shallow water at Sheppard's Mill Pond several weeks ago, Marvin Ayers, 30-year-old white man, continues to live, last reports stating that he was getting along very well in a Greenville hospital.

Ayers, son of Henry Daniel Ayers, moved from this county during the early part of this year. As he had not lived in Pitt County long enough to become a charge of that district, it is understood that Martin is responsible for a part of the cost incurred at the hospital.

Mr. J. G. Staton spent Friday in Raleigh attending a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture.